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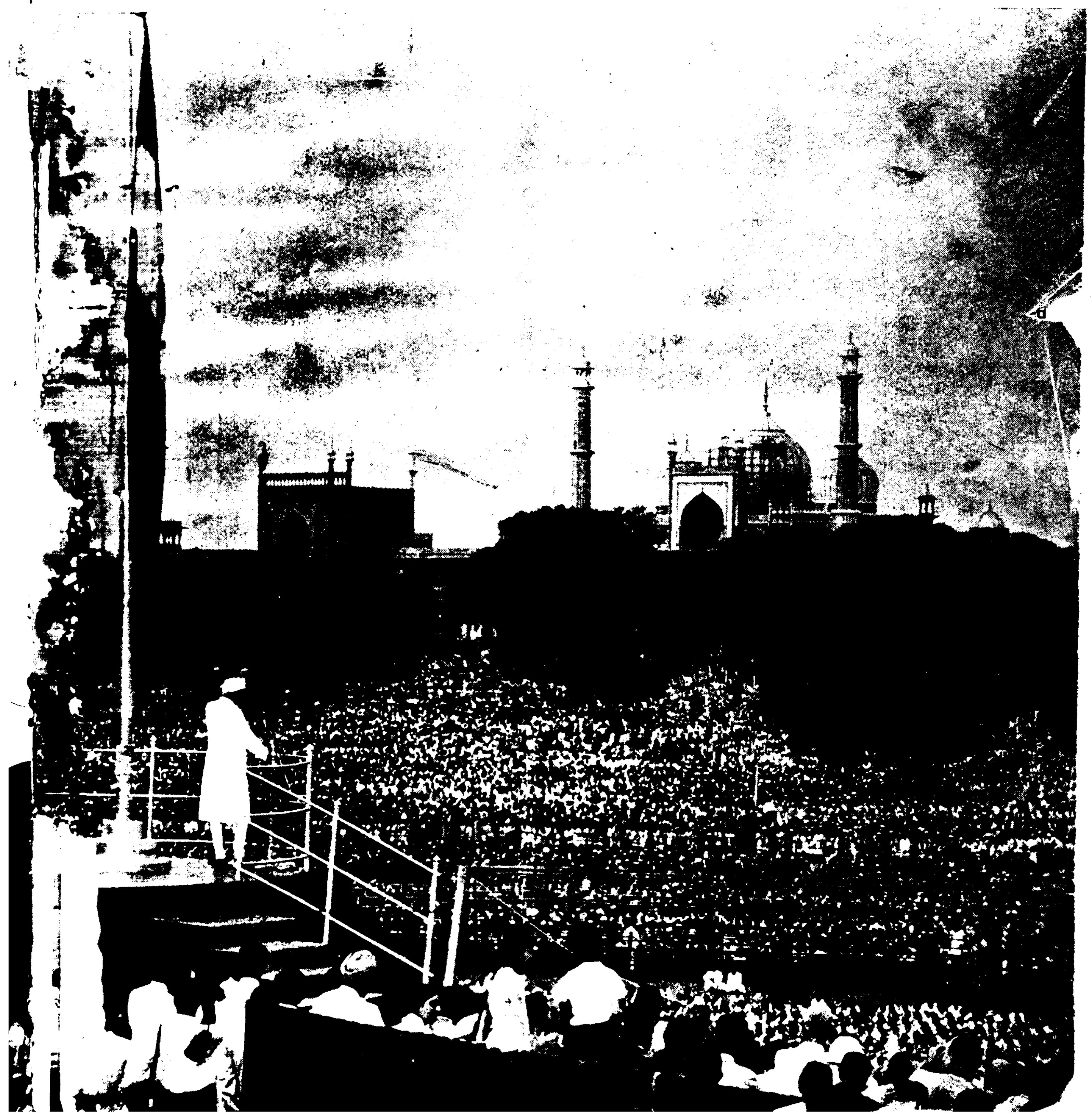

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, receiving Mr. Phagna Bouasy, Ambassador-designate of Laos to India, in New Delhi on August 7

Shri M.C. Chagla, Ambassador of India in Washington, Mr. Eugene R. Black, President of the World Bank and Shri J. Dayal, Financial Commissioner, Indian Railways, signing in Washington the documents of a loan of $ 50 million, recently made by the World Bank for modernisation and expansion of the Indian Railways

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, at the inaugural session of the 17th International Scouts Conference in New Delhi on July 29

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MAIN CONTENTS

COVER: The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, addressing Independence Day gathering after unfurling The National Flag on the ramparts of Red Fort, Delhi on August 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

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON INDO-PAKISTAN FINANCIAL TALKS

The following is the joint communique issued on August 3 after the conclusion of the talks between the Finance Ministers of India and Pakistan:

The Finance Ministers of India and Pakistan, assisted by officials of the two Governments, met in New Delhi from July 31 to August 2, 1959, to discuss various monetary and financial issues outstanding between the two countries. They went over the whole ground, and, while there was a meeting of minds on many matters, it was realised that for an overall settlement it was necessary to obtain further details, particularly, in regard to the partition debt before the discussions could be carried any further. It was accordingly agreed that representatives of both the countries should meet and discuss details as often as necessary so as to enable them to obtain an agreed picture before the end of this year. The two Finance Ministers would meet shortly thereafter to take final decisions.

The officials took the opportunity of reviewing certain other outstanding matters and it was found possible to clear a number of them. In particular, it was agreed that in respect of persons who migrated from one country to another after June 30, 1955 but before June 30, 1959, arrangements should be made either through the respective High Commissioners or through the normal banking channels for the payment of their pensions. It was further agreed that Provident Fund moneys of such Government servants and employees of Local Funds and semi

Government institutions also should be allowed to be transferred likewise. These arrangements would also apply to migrants who belong to the partitioned Provinces.

There was a full and free exchange of views in a very cordial atmosphere and it is hoped that this will be a prelude to an early and satisfactory settlement between the two countries.

FINANCE MINISTER'S STATEMENT

The Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, made the following statement in the Lok Sabha on August 6 on the outcome of the financial talks held recently between him and the Finance Minister of Pakistan:

The House will remember that I made a statement on the floor of the House on the 7th May, 1959, in which I gave a short account of the various major items in dispute between the two countries and the order of the sums involved in each. At our meeting, we broadly reviewed the various items in an effort to arrive at an overall settlement. I believe it was common ground between us that these disputes should be settled as soon as possible in the interest of both the countries, that considering the magnitude of the sums involved in some of the claims it would be difficult to take individual items separately for settlement and that our efforts should be directed towards the simultaneous settlement of all the major issues. It was really not a question of holding up one matter because something else was held up. Ultimately, whatever one country has to pay to another has now to be paid in foreign exchange and when claims are outstanding on both sides, a simultaneous settlement of these claims is more or less inescapable.

While on a number of items the sums involved are either easily ascertainable or could be estimated with a fair amount of precision, the real difficulty arises in connection with the partition debt due to India of which seven annual instalments are already overdue while a further instalment will fall due on the 15th of this month. It is obvious that some agreed estimate, however tentative, of this debt is necessary if an overall settlement of the various items has to be made. Honourable Members will remember that certain figures of how the debt should be worked out were sent to Pakistan some years ago. There was some correspondence on these figures but the matter was not further pursued. We both realised that it was essential to get the dimensions of the debt before further progress could be made. At the last meeting, officials of the two Governments got down to the real task of getting the figures originally prepared, checked and agreed. Obviously, in the short time available, it was not possible for them to make more than a good beginning in this essential process. We both agreed that both countries should proceed vigorously with the checking and finalisation of these figures so that in the next few months at least a close approximation of the sum involved would be available on the basis of which a settlement would be reached. It is our intention to see that this is vigorously pursued.

A number of points of detail also arose during the discussions about which further information had to be obtained by either side. This will all be collected so that when we next meet we shall have as full a picture as possible of the various issues.

INDO-PAKISTAN CANAL WATERS DISPUTE

The Union Minister of Irrigation and Power, Hafiz Mohammed Ibrahim, made a statement on the latest position regarding the Indo-Pakistan Canal Waters dispute in the Lok Sabha on August 3. On the basis of the understandings reached by the President of the World Bank with the Governments of India and Pakistan on the dispute, discussions would be resumed on August 5, 1959 in London between the representatives of India, Pakistan and the World Bank, with a view to working out Heads of Agreement for an International Water Treaty.

The talks, the Minister continued, would also cover matters connected with the regulation of supplies from the Eastern rivers during the transition period and with the uses which must be reserved for India in the upper reaches of the three Western rivers before they entered Pakistan.

Features Of Indian Plan

Recalling the statement made by him in the Lok Sabha on September 1, 1958 concerning the negotiations on the Indo-Pakistan Canal Waters question, the Minister said:

I brought to the notice of the House that the plan of replacement works submitted by Pakistan at the London meeting of July 1958 was under examination. Our comments on the Pakistan plan were conveyed to the Bank when the talks were resumed in Washington in December 1958. Along with our comments the Indian representative put forward an alternative plan of replacement works.

An important feature of that plan was the diversion of the waters of the Chenab at Marhu through Indian territory for supply to Pakistan at suitable points. It was much less expensive than the Pakistan Plan and had the merit of enabling the replacement works to be completed in a relatively short period. But it was not acceptable to Pakistan.

Although in the course of the discussions in Washington Pakistan signified, for the first time, its unconditional acceptance of the division of waters as suggested by the Bank in its proposal of 1954, it continued to have reservations on some of the other features of the Bank proposal.

As there was no prospect of an agreement between the parties, the Bank felt that it should put forward, for consideration by India and Pakistan, its own proposals for a settlement of the dispute.

World Bank President's Visit

In May 1959, Mr. Eugene Black, President of the Bank, visited New Delhi and held consultations with the Prime Minister and the Ministers for Irrigation and Power and Finance.

In the course of the discussions he put forward certain general principles as furnishing a basis for the implementation of the Bank proposal of 1954 for the division of waters of the Indus Basin. He also visited Karachi and held similar consultations with the representatives of the Pakistan Government.

The position as it has emerged from Mr. Black's discussions in Delhi and Karachi may be briefly summarised as follows:

(a) The Government of Pakistan have conveyed to the Bank their willingness to go forward with a system of engineering works to be constructed by Pakistan, one of whose purposes would be the replacement, from the three Western rivers, of the prepartition supplies of those canals in Pakistan which were dependent on supplies from the three Eastern rivers. Particulars of these works have not been furnished to India as India will have no concern with their planning, construction, costs or operation.

(b) The Bank has reached an agreement, in principle, with the Government of India on the amount of financial contribution to be made by India.

(c) The transition period, that is to say, the time required by Pakistan to construct and bring into operation the works mentioned in (a) above and after which India would be entitled to the exclusive use of the waters of the three Eastern rivers, will be approximately 10 years.

(d) These elements of agreement are contingent on the Bank being able to secure for Pakistan adequate financial assistance from friendly Governments for the construction of these works in Pakistan.

The House will recall that the Bank Proposal of 1954 provided for a transition period of 5 years. This estimate was based on a system of replacement works which consisted mainly of link canals and did not include any storage.

It was later felt that this estimate was somewhat optimistic and limited storage may be necessary. The engineering works now proposed are materially different from the replacement works formerly contemplated and, according to the Bank, they will also provide for replacement of the waters now drawn by Pakistan from the Eastern rivers though it will take about 10 years to construct and bring them into operation.

Rajasthan Canal

We would not have accepted a transition period of 10 years as the basis of a settlement if it was calculated to postpone unduly the date we had in view for the opening of the Rajasthan canal. We have agreed to it on the clear understanding that the link canals, already constructed in Pakistan, would be operated from 1960 onwards to their full designed capacities.

We have also been assured that the Bank would try to obtain the necessary financial assistance for the construction of a dam on the Beas to make available perennial supplies to the Rajasthan canal well before the expiry of the transition period now suggested.

The running of the link canals in Pakistan to full capacity will enable India to adhere to the target date for opening the Rajasthan canal in 1962 or, even earlier, if the canal can be completed earlier. But for the first few years this canal, like the Bhakra canal, will have to function largely on a non-perennial basis.

The Beas dam may take 7 or 8 years to complete but limited perennial supplies will be available for the Rajasthan canal in about 6 years when the dam can be expected to begin impounding water, although not to its full capacity.

CANAL WATER DUES FROM PAKISTAN

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 4 regarding the result of further correspondence with the Government of Pakistan on settlement of the disputed as well as the balance of undisputed charges and the latest position of outstandings on these accounts, Hafiz Mohamed Ibrahim, Union Minister of Irrigation and Power, stated that Pakistan Government had made another payment of Rs. 16,21,370 representing 'undisputed' charges for the period from October 1, 1957 to September 30, 1958.

The Minister also stated that the amounts outstanding from the Government of Pakistan, both 'disputed' and 'undisputed', up to the period ending September 30, 1959, were, as follows:

Disputed ..	Rs.	1,08,92,340
Undisputed	Rs.	21,76,561

He added that the matter was under correspondence between the two Governments.

India's Protest On Mangla Dam Construction

Following is the text of a letter sent, on August 7, 1949, by Shri C.S. Jha, India's Permanent Representative at the United Nations, to the President of the Security Council:

I have been instructed by the Government of India to invite your Excellency's attention to a further violation by the Government of Pakistan of the sovereignty of the Union of India and of its territory in Jammu and Kashmir, and of the resolution of the Security Council of January 17, 1948. The violation was broadcast in its various transmissions by Radio Pakistan which is an official agency, on July 17, 1959 in the following words:

The pace of construction of the Mangla Dam is to be stepped up this year with the capital grant of two crores and twenty lakhs of rupees. The work to be executed includes the construction of a railway line and road links with hinterland. The total cost of the project was originally estimated at 23 crores of rupees but subsequently revised and raised to 140 crores of rupees. The dam will be 365 feet high and nine thousand feet long. Its reservoir will have a capacity of over four million acre feet.

Started in August 1955 the project is expected to be ready in 1966. On completion it will provide irrigation facilities to about thirty lakhs acres of land and generate three hundred thousand kilowatts of hydroelectric power.'

Your Excellency will recall that India first protested to the Security Council against the Government of Pakistan's unlawful decision to go ahead with this project as far back as August 21, 1957 (S/3869), and once again on January 20, 1958 (S/3939) when the Government of Pakistan signed an agreement with certain foreign engineering firms in connection with this project.

On its own admission, as recorded by the U.N. Commission in its report and its resolution of August 13, 1948, the Government of Pakistan committed aggression on the Indian Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Under the resolution of 13th August 1948, the Government of Pakistan was asked to vacate this aggression and that Government agreed to do so. The aggression has, however, not been vacated so far and, what is worse, the Government of Pakistan is, by going ahead with the construction of Mangla Dam in this part of Indian territory which they have occupied by force of arms, changing the topography of the area and exploiting the resources and the people of the area, who are Indian nationals, for the benefit of its own territory and nationals. Pakistan's unlawful occupation of Indian territory is further aggravated by this latest act of exploitation which is not only in violation of the resolutions I have already mentioned above but also contrary to the categorical assurances which the U.N. Commission gave to the Prime Minister of India on behalf of the Security Council.

The Government of India would like to make it clear that they cannot accept a position which implies that all these violations committed by Pakistan and their consequences are to stand condoned in total disregard of international law and the practice of civilized nations.

I request that this communication may kindly be circulated as a Security Council document and be brought to the notice of the members of the Security Council.

INDIANS IN TIBET

The Deputy Minister for External Affairs, Smt. Lakshmi Menon, made the following statement in the Lok Sabha on August 11.

According to our latest information, there are 97 registered Indian traders in Yatung, Phari and Gyantse and about 2,000 seasonal traders who are currently visiting Western Tibet. The Government of India, however, have no exact information about the number of Kashmiri Muslims and Ladakhi Lamas in Tibet. As far as we have been able to ascertain, there are 124 families of Kashmiri Muslims with a total number of 583 persons in the Lhasa-Shigatse area. We are also informed by Shri Kushak Bakula that before the recent disturbances nearly 400 Lama students from Ladakh were studying in various monasteries in Tibet. There were approximately 40 Ladakhi Lamas among the refugees who came to India from Tibet. The rest are presumed to be still there.

Lack Of Precise Information

The reason for lack of precise information about the number of Kashmiri Muslims and Ladakhi Lamas in Tibet is that previous to 1954 travel between the Ladakh region and the Tibet region of China was practically free. Traditionally hundreds of Ladakhi Buddhists used to visit the Tibetan region and join the monasteries there for their religious education. Similarly, Muslims from Ladakh also visited Tibet for trade in Shigatse, Lhasa and elsewhere. Some of these Muslim families have been resident in Tibet for more than one generation. The 1954 Agreement for the first time provided that traders travelling between India and Tibet should possess certificates issued by the local Government of the country of origin. Pilgrims were not required to carry documents of certification but were to be registered at the border check-posts by the other party and receive permits for pilgrimage. Such check-posts however existed at only a number of specified passes. People from Ladakh who travelled to Tibet by the other passes in the Western Tibet area even after 1954 did not therefore possess either traders' certificates or pilgrims' permits. There is also no question of those who had been residing in the Tibet region before 1954 and have not since come to India possessing any certificate of identification.

Instructions were issued by us after the conclusion of the 1954 Agreement that Kashmiri Muslims and other persons of Indian origin must be registered as Indian citizens under Article 8 of the Constitution. Registration under this article was, however, not obligatory and most of the traders and Lamas who were accustomed to traditional freedom of movement and privilege of study in the Tibetan monasteries did not take the trouble of registering themselves as Indian nationals. In fact only 21 persons in Lhasa and Shigatse have registered their names with the Indian Consulate General. The result is that the majority of the people of these categories did not possess any valid travel documents or any other document of identification.

Official Representation

When the recent disturbances began, a large number of persons of Indian origin expressed their desire to register themselves with the Indian Consulate General as Indian citizens. Certain difficulties were placed in their way by the local Tibetan authorities. We, therefore, took up the matter informally with the Chinese authorities in Lhasa and followed up our representation with a request in writing both in Lhasa and through our Embassy in Peking. We explained to the Chinese authorities that since these persons came to Tibet when there was no obligation on them to take out any travel paper or document of nationality it would not be fair to draw an adverse conclusion against them that they are not Indian citizens. We also pointed out that there was no obligation on these persons to register themselves as Indian nationals with our Consulate General in Lhasa.

In a note dated July 17, 1959, the Chinese Government suggested to us that these persons who had been residing in Tibet for long periods were to all intents and purposes Chinese nationals. We have instructed our Embassy in Peking to take up the matter again with the Chinese authorities and urge that persons of Indian origin from Ladakh and other parts of India, who consider themselves Indian nationals and wish to seek the advice and protection of our Consul-General, should be permitted to do so, or, in the alternative, they should be allowed to return to India. We have not yet had any final reply. Meantime, according to our information, two Indians were registered with our Consulate General and three other Indians who were not registered are held in custody by the Chinese authorities.

The Government of India will continue to press their views on the Chinese Government.

Foreign Aid To Missionaries

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 10, Shri G.B. Pant, Union Home Minister, stated that the Christian missionaries in India received Rs. 370.2 lakhs from abroad in the first four months of this year.

Country-wise, the contribution was (Rs. in lakhs): United Kingdom — 68.3; Malaya — 0.3, Others from Sterling Area — 1.4; U.S.A. — 264.2, Canada —— 11.6, Others from Dollar Area — 0.1; West Germany — 7.9; Switzerland — 1.6, Others from O.E.E.C. area — 14.6; and rest of non-Sterling Area — 0.2.

Sanskrit And Persian Scholars Honoured

The President has awarded Certificates of Honour to four eminent scholars in Sanskrit and one in Persian, says an announcement of August 15.

The Sanskrit scholars to get this recognition are: Dr. Gopinath Kaviraj; Pandit Shripad Damodar Satwalekar; Panditraj Phurailatpam Atombapu Sharma and Shri Uttamur Tirumalai Nallan Chakravarthi Vira Raghavachariar. The Persian scholar is Dr. Hadi Hasan.

The scheme of awards introduced last year is intended to accord recognition to eminent Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian scholars and to encourage advanced study in these languages. The awards are made to those persons who have distinguished themselves in these fields of Oriental learning and have made a substantial contribution in such fields.

Along with a Sanad, the scholars are granted a sum of Rs. 1,500 per annum for life and a Robe of Honour.

National Professorships In Humanities

According to an announcement of August 14 the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs has created two more posts of National Professorships of India with effect from August 15. Dr. Radhabinode Pal, the eminent Jurist, has been appointed as a National Professor of Jurisprudence and Dr. P.V. Kane, M.P., the well-known Sanskrit Scholar, as a National Professor of Indology, with effect from the date on which they may assume their duties. This is the first time that posts of National Professorships have been created in humanistic and cultural subjects.

The first post of National Professorship was created in February 1949 and Dr. C.V. Raman was appointed as the National Professor, which post he still holds. In 1958, two more posts of National Professorships were created and Prof. Satyendranath Bose and Dr. K.S. Krishnan were appointed as National Professors in Mathematical Physics and Physics respectively.

The National Professorships carry a salary of Rs. 2,500 p.m. and have been created so that the holders may devote their entire energies to research work, which they may carry on in any university or institution of their choice.

All National Professorships will be open not only to University men but also to other Indians who have made significant contribution to research in their special field of study.

Ashoka Chakra Decorations

The President has approved the award of 10 new Ashoka Chakra decorations, eight of them to Service personnel and the remaining two to village guards for acts of gallantry, reads an announcement of July 31.

The Service list includes three officers, one JCO and four ORs. Capt. G.K. Krishna Iyengar, Naik Lal Singh and Rifleman Madho Singh Negi (posthumous) have been awarded Ashoka Chakra, Class II, and 2nd Lt. R. Narasimhan, Havildar Daulat Ram and L/Nk. Renugopal, Ashoka Chakra, Class III, for gallant action in the Naga Hills.

Squadron Leader R.A. Rufus gets an Ashoka Chakra, Class II, for the safe and perfect landing of the Air Force plane carrying the Prime Minister in February 1957, and Warrant Officer G.A. Paddington, who was Flight Engineer in the plane, has been awarded Ashoka Chakra, Class III.

Ashoka Chakra, Classes II and III have been awarded respectively to Sepoy Aymo Lotha (posthumous) and L/Havildar Nkosao Lotha, both belonging to the Village Guards in the Naga Hills.

Award Of President's Police Medals And Bar

A New Delhi announcement of August 8 says that the President has awarded the Police Medal for gallantry to Shri Bhanwarpal Singh, Sub-Inspector of Police, Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

The Bar to the President's Police and Fire Services Medal has been awarded to Shri Taddi Subba Rao, Driver Operator, Andhra Pradesh Fire Service, already a recipient of the same medal for gallantry on an earlier occasion.

President's Awards To Police Officers

On the occasion of Independence Day, the President has decorated 49 police officers for rendering distinguished and meritorious services.

Among the recipients of the President's Police and Fire Service Medal, awarded for distinguished service, are the Inspector-General of Police, West Bengal; Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Uttar Pradesh and Madras; a Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Bureau; an Assistant Inspector-General of Police, Andhra Pradesh; Superintendent of Police, Andhra Pradesh and Mysore and an Assistant Commandant of the Border Security Force, Assam.

Officers who receive the Police Medal, awarded for meritorious service, include three Deputy Inspectors-General, six Superintendents of Police, eleven Deputy Superintendents, four officers of the Intelligence Bureau, nine Inspectors and three Sub-Inspectors.

Govt. Action On Election Commission Report

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 5, the Deputy Minister of Law, Shri R.M. Hajarnavis, said that the following recommendations made by the Chief Election Commissioner in his Report on the Second General Elections in India had already been implemented:

(i) Deletion of section 55 A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which permitted the contesting candidate to retire after the last date of withdrawal of candidatures until ten days before the commencement of the poll; (ii) prompt intimation to the Election Commission by a Tribunal or a court pronouncing an order declaring an election void; (iii) checking of impersonation, Section 61 of the 1951 Act had been amended and new rules inserted in the Preparation of Electoral Rolls Rules, providing for the production of identity cards by voters before Presiding Officers at elections in specified constituencies in municipal areas. Compulsory vaccination of electors as suggested by the Election Commission would require further careful consideration; and (iv) provision in Section 158 of the 1951 Act had been clarified in relation to forfeiture of deposits made by candidates at elections held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

The other recommendations of the Commission were under consideration of Government in consultation with the Election Commission, the Deputy Minister added.

Expenses For Development Of Union Territories

On an average, says an announcement of August 2, more than Rs. 2 lakhs per day have been spent in the last three years on the development of India's Union Territories: Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur and Tripura. During the current year, the expenditure will go up to almost Rs. 3½ lakhs per day.

The Centre has assured liberal grants to the Territories. For instance, the local revenues of Himachal Pradesh, Manipur and Tripura do not contribute even 35 per cent towards their total expenditure. In Himachal Pradesh, the Centre's share is almost 65 per cent, in Manipur about 80 per cent and in Tripura more than 90 per cent. The Second Plan's allocation has trebled: Rs. 4,641.7 lakhs from Rs. 1,630.3 lakhs in the First Plan.

Year-Wise Expenditure

Year-wise, the expenditure has been: 1956-57 — Rs. 570.31 lakhs, and 1957-58 — Rs. 747.64 lakhs. For 1959-60 the provision is Rs. 1,126.03 lakhs.

The per capita expenditure has also gone up. In Himachal Pradesh, it was Rs. 36 in 1956-57, but it went up to Rs. 58 in 1957-58 and was almost Rs. 62 in 1958-59. Similarly, in Manipur it came to only Rs. 29 in 1956 but it was more than Rs. 47 in 1958-59. In Tripura the figure exceeded Rs. 70 in 1958-59.

The Union Territories — almost equal to Ceylon in area, 24, 148 sq. miles, and to Ghana in population, 45 lakhs — are administered by Parliament through the Union Home Minister who has an advisory committee of M.P.s and a few others in each Territory to assist him in matters of general policy, legislation and budget. The Territories have larger representation in Parliament, unlike the other federal Governments which have virtually disfranchised the directly-administered areas.

Shifting Of Government Offices From Delhi

Replying to a question the Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, Shri Anil K. Chanda, laid a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on August 11 on the progress made in the shifting of Government offices from Delhi since August 11, 1958.

Offices already shifted out of Delhi and place to which shifted (in brackets):

Office of the Custodian-General of Evacuees' Properties, Ministry of Rehabilitation, (Mussoorie); Central Claims Organisation, Ministry of Rehabilitation, (Mussoorie); Appellate Officer (Separation) Ministry of Rehabilitation, (Mussoorie); Excavations Section. Pre-history Section and Atlas Section and Muslim Epigraphy Section of the Department of Archaeology, Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, (Nagpur); Office of the Chief Inspector of Explosives, Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, (Nagpur); Directorate of Agricultural Marketing and Inspection, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, (Nagpur); Office of the Salt Commissioner, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, (Jaipur).

The office of the Narcotics Commissioner (Central Board of Revenues—Finance) and the Western Command (Defence) were shifted to Simla in 1952 and 1954 respectively.

APPOINTMENTS TO HIGH COURTS IN 1958 59

Out of the 23 Judges appointed to the various High Courts in 1958-59, 15 were from the Bar, says an announcement of August 4. The other eight were from the Judicial Service, including three from the Indian Civil Service.

The procedure followed in appointments is that the Chief

Justice of a High Court makes a recommendation to the Chief Minister, who consults the Governor. The names then come to the Home Ministry which consults the Chief Justice of India before making a final recommendation to the President, who is the appointing authority.

Since 1950, when the Constitution came into force, 176 appointments have been made. Except one, 175 appointments have been made on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of India.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF CALCUTTA HIGH COURT

The President, says an announcement of August 10, has been pleased to appoint Shri Justice Surajit Chandra Lahiri, Judge of the Calcutta High Court, to be the Chief Justice of that High Court *vice* Shri Justice Kulada Charan Das Gupta appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

VACANCIES IN CENTRAL CLASS I SERVICES

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 12 Shri B.N. Datar, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, said that the practice of filling subsequent vacancies arising after the initial allotment in the Central Services, Class I, from amongst the lower ranking candidates, had been resumed.

The Minister added that it was decided in 1956 that vacancies caused in the various Central Services, Class I, due to the medical unfitness of the candidates initially allotted, should not be carried forward but should be filled by lower ranking candidates who were not considered initially for allotment to any Central Services, Class I. Retrospective effect could not be given to the decision since all such vacancies had been filled up on the results of subsequent examinations.

Merger Of Customs And Excise Class I Services

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 10 the Minister for Revenue and Civil Expenditure, Dr. B. Gopala Reddi, said that it had been decided in principle to integrate into a single Class I Service two existing Class I Services, namely, the Indian Customs Service and the Central Excise Service which formed two wings of the Indian Revenue Service. The integration was designed to improve administrative efficiency. He, however, added that there was no proposal at present to merge the Customs Department and the Central Excise Department.

The Minister further said that in regard to the two Class I Services mentioned, they were on the same scales of pay. On integration, matters of detail like relative seniority of officers, recruitment procedures etc. would be worked out, having due regard to all relevant rules and procedures in force. It was the Government's intention to ascertain the views of the Associations concerned also in this connection.

A subsequent announcement of August 15 says that the Government of India have decided that the two existing Class I Services, viz., the Indian Customs Service and the Central Excise Service should be merged into a single service with effec tfrom the same date. The combined service will be designated as the Indian Customs and Central Excise Service, Class I.

The service will initially be formed from amongst all the existing Class I officers of the Customs and Central Excise Services who will henceforth be borne on a single combined cadre for all purposes. The members of the combined service will be liable to be posted to either of the two departments.

Allegations Against Govt. Officials

In a statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on August 5 in reply to a question, Shri B.N. Datar, Minister in the Ministry of Lok Sabha, stated that it had been decided that when allegations were made in the Press or by individuals against a Government servant in respect of his conduct in the discharge of his public functions, a preliminary confidential enquiry by a senior officer should be ordered by Government. If the result of such enquiry was that the allegations were based on ignorance, insufficient information or even malice, it was to be considered whether any action in a Court of Law was necessary to vindicate the Government servant's conduct and whether such proceedings should be initiated by the Government or by the Government servant.

If, on the other hand, the result of the enquiry indicated that there were grounds to doubt the propriety and correctness of the conduct of the Government servant or if the enquiry was not conclusive, Government might entrust the case to the Special Police Establishment for investigation or 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 Government decided to initiate criminal proceedings themselves, the provisions of Section 198 B of the Criminal Procedure Code were to be made use of. In cases where Government decided to institute civil proceedings, the usual procedure for this purpose was to be followed.

Quarterly Report Of Special Police

According to the quarterly report of the Special Police Establishment of the Union Home

Ministry, 44 firms and persons were debarred from obtaining import and export licences in the three months from April to June, 1959. Another 17 cases were recommended for inclusion in the black list. Eleven private individuals, including a business magnate involved in an insurance fraud case, were sentenced to imprisonment.

Government employees punished by department or court numbered 112, including seven gazetted officers. Fine imposed totalled more than Rs. 33,000 and imprisonment was up to three years.

Among the Government employees convicted were an ex-Deputy Director of the Central Tractor Organisation who was charged with attempting to obtain advance increments on false certificates and a Sleeper Passing Officer of the South-Eastern Railway who entered into a conspiracy to make over-payment.

Departmental action was taken in 78 cases involving five gazetted officers and 79 other employees. Eighteen persons, including a Surveyor of Works, were either dismissed or removed from service or had their services terminated. Two gazetted officers had their increments withheld while another two were punished otherwise. Among the non-gazetted staff, 11 were reduced in rank or pay, 21 had their increments withheld and 30 were otherwise punished.

Decline in Serious Crimes In 1958

According to an announcement of August 6, there was a perceptible decline in more serious forms of crime, rioting, dacoity, robbery, kidnapping and abduction, house-breaking and thefts in the country during 1958. The cases of dacoity—4,451 — were lower than those registered in the last five years. As compared to 1957, there was a reduction of 1,100 cases, almost one-fourth. Under the head of robbery, the figure stood at 7,224 in 1958 as against 7,618 in 1956 and 7,408 in 1957. Similarly, cases of kidnapping and abduction dropped by 400 since 1956 and 300 since 1957.

House-breaking and thefts, which made the bulk of the cases registered, decreased by more than 8,000. The total figure in 1957 was 4,30,678 as compared to 3,42,491 in 1958. The number of murder cases came down from 10,523 to 10,149.

The total number of cognisable crimes, however, remained more or less the same as in 1957. The figure stood at 5,81,371 in 1957, while it was 5,91,788 in 1958.

Planning & Finance

RESERVE BANK LOANS TO CO-OPERATIVE BANKS

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 5, the Finance Minister laid a statement on the Table of the House showing the short-term and medium-term loans granted by the Reserve Bank of India to the State Co-operative Banks at concessional rate (2% below Bank Rate) during July 1958 to June 1959:

Answering another part of the question, the Minister placed on the Table of the House a statement showing long-term loans sanctioned by the Reserve Bank of India to State Governments for contribution to the share capital of co-operative credit institutions during July 1958 to June 1959:

States	*LOANS* Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Drawn
Bombay	132.04	132.04
Madras	21	15
Andhra	61.30	61.30
Orissa	35.07	35.07
Bihar	6.40	6.40
Mysore	62.45	62.45
Rajasthan	1.96	1.96
Madhya Pradesh	56.80	56.63
Assam	14	14
Punjab	33.85	33.85
Uttar Pradesh	110	110
Kerala	25	24.50
West Bengal	44.70	21.29
Total	604.57	574.49

Replying to a further question whether the Reserve Bank of India had undertaken to assist the agriculturists in any way other than by granting the loans as aforesaid, Shri Desai added that besides providing short, medium and long-term loans for agricultural operations and the processing or marketing of crops, the Reserve Bank of India also assisted land mortgage banks by subscribing to the ordinary and special debentures issued by them.

Kerala Government Float Loan

The Government of Kerala have announced the issue of their 4% State Development Loan 1971 for Rs. 400 lakhs at the issue price of Rs. 99.00 per cent, reads a Press Communique issued by the Reserve Bank of India on August 6.

The loan will be repaid at par on August 19, 1971.

The loan will open for subscription on August 19, 1959 and close on August 25, 1959 or earlier without notice. The loan will bear interest from August 19, 1959. Interest will be liable to tax under the Indian Income Tax Act, 1922. Subscriptions may be in the form of cash/cheque.

Applicants tendering their applications at the offices of the Reserve Bank of India will, in the event of over-subscription, be given the option of transferring their cash refunds to any of the other State Government loans which are being simultaneously issued and which may be still open, provided they complete the *Special Option Form* copies of which are obtainable on application from any of the offices of the Reserve Bank of India.

WORLD BANK LOANS TO INDIA

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 10 the Minister of Finance, Shri Morarji Desai, stated that negotiations with the World Bank had been concluded and agreements signed. Negotiations with Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and West Germany were yet to be completed. He further said that the World Bank granted three loans aggregating \$ 85 millions (Rs. 40.47 crores) for the Koyna Hydro-Electric Project (\$ 25 million), Railways Development Programme (\$ 50 million) and the I.C.I.C.I. (\$ 10 million). The U.S. Development Loan Fund had so far extended a \$ 20 million credit for steel purchases.

Loans From West Germany

Replying to a question on the utilisation of the West German loan of DM 168 million, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shri B.R. Bhagat, said that a sum of DM 96 million had so far been drawn from the loan. Further sums would continue to be drawn in coming weeks.

He added that the object of the loan was to enable the Government of India to obtain the funds for meeting the payments due on imports from West Germany. The actual imports from West Germany after the relevant date had been in fact more than the total value of the loan. Under the agreement, the loan, however, could be drawn upon only for reimbursement to the Government of India of 80% of payments for Indian imports made to German suppliers after August 31, 1958 and that too, only of those payments that were under contracts covered by the German Federal Government guarantees of insurance. The rate of drawal of the loan was governed by these limitations in regard to its availability, principally by the condition that only imports covered by German Federal Government guarantees or insurance were eligible to be considered.

Termination Notice Under Indo-Nepal Treaty

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 10 the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shri B. R. Bhagat, said that His Majesty's Government of Nepal had given a notice of termination under Article 10 of the existing Treaty of 31st July, 1950 between India and Nepal. They also indicated their desire for a fresh Treaty at such time as would create no gap between the expiry of the old Treaty and enforcement of the new one. Negotiations regarding the nature of a fresh Treaty were going on.

NATIONAL PLAN SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on August 14 says that Under the Savings Certificates Rules, 1959, National Plan Savings Certificates can be pledged as security deposit, etc. A fee was hitherto being charged by post offices both at the time of making the pledge and on its release. The Government of India have now decided that no such fee should hereafter be charged.

Amounts Subscribed Under Small Savings Scheme

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 5 about the amount of money subscribed under the Small Savings Scheme State-wise during the current financial year so far, and that subscribed last year, the Minister of Finance, Shri Morarji Desai, laid the following statement on the Table of the Huse:

State/Union Territory.	*Net collections* (Rs. in lakhs) 1958-59	*April to June*, 1959
Andhra Pradesh	3,84	32
Assam	2,74	40
Bihar	6,04	71
Bombay	21,63	4,83
Delhi	2,40	75
Himachal Pradesh	13	1
Jammu & Kashmir	31	8
Kerala	1,33	24
Madras	2,66	(-) 8
Madhya Pradesh	2,13	25
Manipur	4	2
Mysore	1,81	32
Orissa	1,33	27
Punjab	5,24	(-) 50
Rajasthan	1,64	30
Tripura	4	3
Uttar Pradesh	7,77	(-) 1,59
West Bengal	8,93	1,42
Base Post Office	2	1
Total	70,03	7,79

NOTE: Last year's collections exclude interest on Post Office Savings Bank deposits amounting approximately to Rs. 6,92 lakhs for which State-wise break-up is not yet available.

L.I.C. Premium Rates In East Africa

In a statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on August 5 in reply to a question, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha, informed the House that the Life Insurance Corporation of India recently effected a reduction in premium rates in East Africa, but there had been no change in the premium rates in Malaya and Singapore. The rates of commissions to agents in East Africa, Malaya and Singapore were increased recently.

The statement added that as regards the reduction in premium rates, owing to the high average sum assured per policy in East Africa (Rs. 13,500 against Rs. 3,500 in India), expenses were lower. This enabled the Corporation to pass on the benefit to the policy-holders in the form of a lower premium. In fact, the reduced rates offered by the Corporation were but he same as those quoted by the leading companies operating in that country.

As regards commission rates, the scale of commission in any particular territory would depend on a variety of factors like the pattern of organisation, the nature of services rendered by the agent and the conditions in the market. Unlike India where the renewal commission was payable to an agent throughout the currency of a policy and under certain conditions to the heirs of the agent on his death, in East Africa, Malaya and Singapore, the payment of renewal commission was restricted to only the first few years of the currency of a policy. Moreover, there were no Field Officers between the Branch Officers and agents in these countries as in India and for this reason also, the commission rates paid to agents in these countries were higher than in India. The Corporation's rates of commission payable to agents in these countries were not higher than those paid by their comtors.

Replying to another question the Deputy Minister said that on the recommendations of the Life Insurance Corporation the Government withdrew the ban on payment of cash bonus other than profit sharing bonus to the supervisory, clerical and subordinate staff of the Corporation drawing a basic pay of less than Rs. 500 p.m. The Life Insurance Corporation had entered into an agreement with the employees to pay 1½ months' basic salary as annual bonus to the above staff for five years from 1957 to 1961, in lieu of the Free Insurance Scheme. In addition, the Corporation had decided to give the benefit of a Team Assurance Scheme.

Reasons for L.I.C's action were: (i) continuation of a practice common to most erstwhile insurers; (ii) opposition of the employees to the Free Insurance Scheme in lieu of cash bonus; (iii) their insistence on payment of cash bonus; and (iv) need for the maintenance of cordial relations with the employees in the interest of the smooth running of the Corporation.

Expenditure and Wealth Taxes

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 5, the finance Miniser, Shri Morarji Desai, stated that Wealth Tax collected from individuals during 1958-59 amounted to Rs. 3,71,31,400. The collections from companies totalled Rs. 5,61,95,900 during the same period.

Replying to another question the Finance Minister said that 7,774 assessees had been registered during 1958-59 under the Expenditure Tax Act. The amount of Expenditure Tax levied during this period was Rs. 69.04 lakhs.

TAX RESEARCH UNIT

The Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 13 that it had been decided to set up a Tax Research Unit as part of the Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance. The Unit which would be initially a small one would function broadly on the lines suggested by the Taxation Enquiry Commission. He added that the Unit was expected to start functioning shortly.

Foreign Exchange Utilized By Public Sector

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 10 about the amount of foreign exchange that had been utilized by the public sector so far during the Second Plan period for industrial development, the Minister of Finance, Shri Morarji Desai, said that the estimated foreign exchange expenditure upto the end of March 1959 amounted to Rs. 250 crores approximately. The expenditure during 1958-59 is estimated at Rs. 134 crores as against Rs. 86 crores during 1957-58, he added.

EXCHANGE CONTROL VIOLATION CASES

According to an announcement of August 4 during the months of June and July, the Enforcement Directorate in the Union Ministry of Finance adjudicated 47 cases of contraventions under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, and imposed an aggregate penalty of Rs. 60,900 on various parties, including proprietors' and partners' confiscation of foreign currencies worth about Rs. 7,146 under Section 23(IB) of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. Besides, some parties have been directed to repatriate the credit balance standing to their accounts in foreign countries.

Foreign Exchange For Haj Pilgrims

Replying to a question on the amount of foreign exchange allowed to be taken by Haj pilgrims with them this year, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shri B.R. Bhagat, said in the Lok Sabha on August 5 that ceilings had been fixed or Haj pilgrimage this year as follows:

Adults going by air	Rs. 1,700/-
Adults going by sea (first class)	Rs. 1,800/-
Adults going by sea (deck class)	Rs. 1,200/-

Children below the age of 16 but above three were allowed half the rates while those below three years were not allowed any foreign exchange. The ceilings for 1959, he added, were somewhat reduced compared to past years. Government considered that the present ceilings were adequate for a comfortable pilgrimage.

Commerce & Industry

INDO-AFGHAN TRADE AGREEMENT

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on August 11 says that negotiations for the renewal of the Indo-Afghan Trade Agreement concluded in New Delhi on the same day.

Letters were exchanged between Mr. M.R. Younossi, Leader of the Afghan Delegation, and Shri K.B. Lall, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, setting out the arrangements agreed upon between the two countries for the development of trade.

The two Governments have reaffirmed their desire to promote trade between India and Afghanistan, and to take such special steps, in terms of the Treaty of Friendship and Commerce between the two countries, as might be found practicable in this regard.

An important feature of the Agreement is the understanding between the two Delegations on the measures necessary to achieve, within the framework of their respective import, export and foreign exchange regulations, a balance of trade between the two countries.

It has been agreed that facilities will be afforded to registered importers for import into India of dried and fresh fruits, asafoetida, cumin seeds, inedible animal and vegetable crude material and medicinal herbs from Afghanistan. These facilities are intended to strengthen and streamline the traditional trade between the two countries, which is financed by traders in Indian rupees.

In addition to traditional payment and trading channels, it has been agreed that a special self-balancing account will be opened by the Da Afghanistan Bank with the State Bank of India. The import of hides and skins from Afghanistan is proposed to be licensed freely, and its sale proceeds will be credited to the special account which would be used for financing Afghanistan's expenditure in India including that on Afghan purchases from Indian sources.

The Government of Afghanistan will, on their part, afford facilities for import from India of goods such as cotton and woollen textiles, tea, coffee, dried fish, vegetable products, agricultural products, chemical products, soaps, engineering goods, electrical goods, household and building requirements, hardware, rubber manufactures, leather manufactures and products of handicrafts and cottage industries.

It has also been agreed that the Government of India will afford facilities for the export of Afghan goods through India to other countries.

The two Governments will consult each other periodically to review these arrangements with a view to improving upon them to the advantage of the two countries.

The provisions of the new Agreement take effect from July 21, 1959, the date on which the old Agreement expired. It will be valid for a period of one year, but will be automatically extended for a further period of one year unless either of the contracting parties gives notice to the contrary two months prior to the expiry of the Agreement.

During the period, July 1958 to June 1959, India imported Rs. 4.38 crores worth of goods from Afghanistan while India's exports to Afghanistan amounted to Rs. 3.26 crores.

The Afghan Delegation, which had been in New Delhi since July 27, left for Afghanistan on August 13, 1959.

TRADE BETWEEN U.A.R. AND INDIA

An agreement on payment arrangements between India and the United Arab Republic was reached in New Delhi on August 1, says an announcement issued on the same date. Shri K.R.F. Khilnani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, signed on behalf of the Government of India, and Mr. T. Labib, Deputy Superintendent of the Central Exchange Control Department of the Government of UAR, and Mr. Y.S. Abady, Commercial Counsellor in the UAR Embassy in New Delhi, signed on behalf of the UAR Government.

According to the terms of the agreement, the proceeds of Egyptian cotton imports into India would be utilised for payment for Egypt's imports of tea and jute goods and such other commodities as may be further agreed to between the two Governments and also for repayment of loan. For this purpose, a Special Account would be immediately opened in Indian rupees with the State Bank of India in the name of the National Bank of Egypt. Funds in this Account would be fully utilised for purchases in India or payments in respect of loans in India.

In view of the new Account being opened, the Egyptian Pound Realisation Account would be closed and all the rights and liabilities of that Account transferred to the new Account Invoices.

Invoices for cotton would be in Indian rupees and prices would be those ruling in Alexandria market, after being adjusted according to the discount ruling on the date of contract and converted into Indian rupees according to official rates.

Regarding exports other than tea and jute goods from India under the arrangement, the list of commodities would be settled from time to time by mutual agreement. In respect of these commodities purchased from this Account, if Egyptian Government desired to charge any premium for rupees, it would be subject to mutual agreement.

The present 'H' Account would be continued on the same terms as before. The proceeds of Egyptian goods other than cotton could be utilised for the purchase of such goods other than tea and jute goods as might be determined by mutual agreement from time to time for governmental and non-governmental purchases and Egyptian Government would continue to issue licences to persons or Government according to the funds available in 'H' Account without any delay.

In respect of such licences and purchases no premiums should be chargeable for getting Indian currency permits for imports. The commodities thus agreed to so far were pepper, tobacco, electric fans, diesel engines, dry batteries, centrifugal pumps, other engineering items, spare parts for Indian machines, artificial dentures, chemical and pharmaceutical products, mica, coir hair, coir rope, medicines, medical instruments, surgical instruments, sewing machines, sandalwood chips, tamarind, perfume oil, bicycles, sports goods and turmeric.

Goods entering into trade between both the countries would not be re-exported by either country. Egyptian importers who were given sterling licences valid for import on payment of sterling would be permitted to utilise such licences for purchases of goods from India against payment in sterling, provided India could offer such goods competitively.

Achievements Of Indian Delegation To U.S.S.R.

In reply to a question regarding the achievements of the delegation led recently by Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel, to the U.S.S.R., the Minister laid the following statement on the Table of the House:

In June 1958, the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel, Sardar Swaran Singh, received an invitation to visit the Soviet Union. It was not possible to accept the invitation in that year. Early in May 1959, it was decided that the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel should accept the invitation and visit the Soviet Union, accompanied by the following:

Minister of Industry; Secretary, Department of Mines and Fuel; Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and Deputy Secretary, Department of Iron and Steel.

The delegation left for Moscow on the 14th of May 1959. The main delegation consisting of the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel, Secretary, Department of Mines and Fuel and Deputy Secretary, Department of Iron and Steel returned to India on the 30th of May 1959. Minister of Industry and the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry left the U.S.S.R. on the 30th of May for Czechoslovakia and Japan.

The delegation took the opportunity, provided by the visit to the U.S.S.R., to review the progress of projects already undertaken in collaboration with the Soviet Union, resolve difficulties, if any, and explore in a general way the prospects of collaboration with the Soviet Union in technical, scientific, economic and industrial fields.

Significant progress was made in two important pending matters which were discussed at length during the visit of the delegation. An agreement was signed on the 29th of May 1959 by the Minister of Industry representing India and the Chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations U.S.S.R., representing the Soviet Union, for co-operation in establishing enterprises for the manufacture of drugs, medicines and surgical instruments in India. As a result of talks towards an agreement for the oil refinery to be constructed at Barauni, a Soviet team has arrived in India for technical discussions and negotiation of an agreement.

In exploring prospects of further collaboration, the delegation discussed in general terms with the Soviet leaders the problems of development during the next few years. Members of the delegation visited various industrial centres and obtained first-hand knowledge of a number of these industries in the Soviet Union. The impression which the delegation gained at the conclusion of the visit was that India could count on Soviet assistance, during the Third Five Year Plan, particularly in certain industries.

Following the visit of the delegation, the Soviet Union has made an initial offer of fresh credit of 1500 million roubles (about Rs. 180 crores) to be utilised towards the implementation of the Third Five Year Plan. This welcome offer of assistance has been accepted. Details are still to be discussed.

More Coal For Pakistan

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 10, about Indo-Pakistan trade talks held of late, Shri Satish Chandra, Deputy Minister for Commerce and Industry, said that as a result of the recent review, the declining trend in the trade between the two countries would be reversed.

Answering a further question, he said that India had agreed to supply additional quantity of 35,000 tons of coal per month by rail to Pakistan during the period August-October 1959 on an *ad hoc* basis. Pakistan had agreed to consider India's offer for the export of 50,000 tons of cement by rail to East Pakistan.

Supply Of Sugarcane Seed To Pakistan

An announcement of August says that the Government of India have agreed to permit export of 25,000 maunds of sugarcane seed for experimental cultivation in East Pakistan. The seeds are to be supplied from sugar mills and estates in Bihar

direct to the East Pakistan Branch of the Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation.

India's Foreign Trade In January-June

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 14, Shri Satish Chandra, Deputy Minister for Commerce and Industry, said that the total value of India's exports during January-June, 1959 was Rs. 266.55 crores. The comparative figure for the first six months of 1958 was Rs. 250.58 crores. The value of imports during the same period of 1958 was Rs. 418.62 crores.

EXHIBITION OF INDIAN GOODS AT RIO DE JANEIRO

An exhibition of Indian manufactured goods and handicrafts was opened yesterday in Rio de Janeiro says an announcement of August 5.

Import-Export Advisory Councils Reconstituted

According to a Press Note issued on August 11, by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the terms of the Import Advisory Council and the Export Promotion Advisory Council, which were constituted in May 1957, having expired, the Government of India have reconstituted these bodies for a period of two years.

The structure of the two Councils continues to be the same. They will consist of the Minister of Commerce and Industry as Chairman, and the Minister of Commerce as Vice-Chairman. The Presidents of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India will be *ex-officio* members of both the Councils, with option to send a nominee, if they so choose. The Secretary-General of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry will also be a member of both the Councils. In addition, there will be 19 non-official members nominated by the Government of India on the Import Advisory Council. The number of such members on the Export Promotion Advisory Council has been increased from 25 to 30 with a view to providing wider representation to the export promotion interests.

The Export Promotion Advisory Council will have a Standing Committee consisting of not more than 10 members to meet frequently to advise the Government on day-to-day export problems.

DRAWBACK OF CUSTOMS DUTY ON LUREX YARN

As a measure of export promotion, reads a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on August 5, the Government of India have decided to allow drawback of customs duty paid on imported Lurex Yarn used in the manufacture of fabrics exported and on the export of certain additional categories of steel products. Rebate of customs and central excise duty paid on materials used in the manufacture of electric power and distribution transformers has also been provided for.

Export Of Agricultural Commodities

A Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on August 5, says that the Government of India have reviewed the existing restrictions on the export of certain agricultural commodities, which have mostly been imposed in the interests of domestic consumption.

It is considered that instead of placing quantitative restrictions on exports, internal requirements should as far as possible be met by stimulating and augmenting production in the country.

It is proposed that as a first step the following commodities, the export of which is at present regulated within overall ceilings, should be licensed freely without any quantitative limit for a period of three years.

The commodities are niger seed, kardi seed, sesamum seed and their oils, salad oil, niger cake, kardi cake, maize oil cake and meal, undecorticated cottonseed oil cake, other oil cakes (excluding groundnut cake, linseed cake and coconut cake) and green coconuts. It has also been decided that the export of fish meal should be licensed freely for a period of two years.

The trend of exports of these commodities will be reviewed from time to time so that such promotional steps as may be found to be necessary in the field of production and trade may be considered and taken by the authorities concerned.

Import Of Coloured Raw Stock

The policy for the import of unexposed coloured cinematograph films under the Export Promotion Scheme has been modified, states an Import Trade Control Public Notice of August 5. It has been decided that coloured raw stock can be licensed under the above Scheme even for starting a new picture provided acceptable contracts are entered into or guarantees for exports are produced to the satisfaction of the licensing authority.

Coloured raw stock was licensed till now under the above Scheme in the proportion of 4:5 and this facility was given only to the extent to which such stock was required for completing the picture in question.

Import Of Car Spare Parts

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 14, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, Minister for Commerce, stated that the value of the licences for import of car spare parts issued to car manufacturing firms during 1958-59 was Rs. 227.40 lakhs. He added that import licences for spares were issued to vehicle manufacturers in bulk to cover the requirements of both cars and trucks.

Manufacture Of Small Cars

Replying to a question Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, said in the Lok Sabha on August 11 that 4,311 small cars were produced in the country during the first six months of 1959. The production in the latter half of the year was expected to improve considerably as sufficient foreign exchange for the import of components and raw materials needed for indigenous manufacture had been released. It was estimated that the production for the whole year might reach 12,000, the Minister added.

Manufacture Of Bicycles

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 14, the Minister for Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, stated that the production of bicycles had risen from about 0.49 million in 1955 to over one million in 1958. The capacity so far licensed, in the large scale sector, was for the manufacture of 1,277,500 bicycles per annum. In the small scale sector, approval had been given for a capacity of 385,500 bicycles.

Shri Shah added that there was no programme set for further expansion in the Second Plan period as the licensed capacity was considered to be adequate to meet the present internal requirements. The Government had licensed several ancillary units to produce bicycle components such as free wheels and chains for supply to bicycle manufacturers.

CYCLE FACTORY AT MYSORE

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 3, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, said that a scheme from the Government of Mysore for the establishment of a Central Workshop and Production Centre for the manufacture of bicycles in the Industrial Estate, Mysore, had been approved by the Government of India and the factory was expected to go into production shortly.

The Central Government would bear 75 per cent of the total cost of the scheme in the form of loan to the State Government. The total cost of the scheme was estimated to be Rs. 11.73 lakhs. The factory would produce 6,000 bicycles per year.

Production Of Motor Tyres and Tubes

Answering a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 10, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister of Industry, said that the shortage of giant tyres particularly in the size 9.00-20 had been of a marginal nature.

Explaining the measures taken by Government to check blackmarketing in tyres, Shri Shah said the production of motor tyres and tubes had been stepped up. Supplementary licences were being granted to established importers for a value equal to one-fifth of the face value of the basic quota licences which would be valid for import of tyres and tubes for trucks in all sizes.

He added some more supplies were proposed to be imported by the State Trading Corporation. The Corporation was also exploring the possibilities of obtaining supplies on rupee payment basis.

NEWSPRINT FROM BAGASSE

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 6, the Minister for Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, said that arrangements had been made to despatch about eight tons of bagasse to Japan for examining the feasibility of manufacture of newsprint from bagasse. He added that the results of the experiment would be available only after necessary tests were completed on the samples.

Manufacture Of Printing Machinery

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 6, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, said that negotiations by an Indian firm for setting up a factory with foreign collaboration to manufacture printing machinery at Titagarh had been finalised. Under the agreement the foreign firm would grant the Indian firm the patent rights and also supply technical data, for the manufacture, assembly, test and selling in India of flat bed presses and components and spare parts against payment of royalty for a period of seven years. It would also make available to the Indian company the services of one or more technical personnel for guidance in the manufacture of the articles.

Manufacture Of X-Ray Equipment

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 13, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, said that in pursuance of the recommendations made by the Industrial Panel for X-Ray Equipment, Government of India had approved three schemes in the large scale sector and one scheme in the small scale sector for the manufacture of X-ray equipment and also the terms of foreign collaboration for all these schemes.

The Minister added that Government were exploring the possibilities of getting high tension cables manufactured through existing units or from new units in the line. The question of manufacture of timer would be pursued further when precise information was available regarding the requirements from the approved manufacturers of X-ray equipment. He said that it would be investigated with Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore, who had recently been licensed for manufacture of valves for radio receivers, in collaboration with a Holland firm to undertake manufacture of tubes and valves.

Plant For Caustic Soda

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 6, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, said that the Government of India have approved a scheme of an Andhra firm to establish a plant for the manufacture of caustic soda. The Government had also agreed to the proposal made by the firm to import plant and machinery from the German Democratic Republic against rupee payments.

Dolomite Brick Plant

An announcement dated August 4 says that the first dolomite brick plant in India was commissioned at Rourkela recently. Considered to be the most modern in the world, the plant has been supplied by two West German firms.

Dolomite bricks are used for lining the converters in the special steel making process in the L.D. steel plants. The bricks are manufactured from burnt dolomite and tar.

In this plant burnt dolomite will be crushed and screened to proportion, mixed with tar and pressed into bricks.

Indian Investment In Oil Industry

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 5 regarding the amount of foreign investment and the extent of Indian capital invested in the oil industry at present, the Union Minister for Mines and Oil, Shri K.D. Malaviya said that the investment in companies distributing major petroleum products and the refineries in the country (including the Assam Oil Company which had exploration and production activities also and the investment of the Standard Vacuum Oil Co. in the participatory scheme for exploration in West Bengal) as on January 1, 1958 was Rs. 183.70 crore of which Indian investment amounted to Rs. 16.32 crore, Indian loans Rs. 21.78 crores, foreign investment Rs. 135.96 crore and foreign loans Rs. 9.64 crore.

In reply to another part of the question on the steps taken for increasing the Indian investment in the industry, the Minister added that the Government had already gone in for investment themselves in the petroleum industry. They were taking action to set up two new refineries in the public sector. Further, they had made considerable investment in the oil exploration programme in the public sector through the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, and that programme was being intensified. Government had also a 25% share with the Standard-Vacuum Oil Company in the participatory scheme for oil exploration in West Bengal and were also having 33% share in the Rupee Company incorporated with the Burmah Oil Company/Assam Oil Company as partners for production and transportation of crude oil from the Nahorkatiya oilfields in Assam. Recently, a new company, 'Indian Oil Company Limited', which was purely Government-owned and which would undertake the distribution business of POL products in the country, had been registered with an authorised capital of Rs. 12 crores, he added.

Coal Controller To Issue Certificates Of Shipment

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel on August 12, the Government of India have decided that the Coal Grading Board (Repeal) Act should come into force from August 14, 1959. By this Act, passed in the last Session of Parliament, the Coal Grading Board, constituted in 1925 for purposes of grading of various categories of coal produced from the mines in India for export, has been dissolved and the assets and liabilities of the Board have now been transferred to the Coal Board.

The facility of certificate of shipment from the Coal Grading Board will, however, continue to collieries who will now obtain such certificates from the Coal Controller, Calcutta.

The following procedure will accordingly be introduced from August 14, 1959 in connection with the issue of certificates by the Coal Controller:

(i) On application by any graded colliery (i.e. a colliery of which the grade or grades of all or any seams, or section of a seam, has been determined by the Coal Board in pursuance of the provisions of the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Rules, 1954), desiring to export coal from India, the Coal Controller shall, if he is satisfied after such inspection as he may deem necessary with the quality and condition of the coal, grant a certificate of shipment in the form that has been prescribed by the Government for the purpose;

(ii) for the purpose of the issue of such certificates, the term 'export' shall be interpreted as meaning the shipment of coal as cargo from a port in the Indian Union to a port outside the Indian Union;

(iii) every application for a certificate of shipment shall state the name of the colliery at which and the quantities in which the coal intended for export are to be loaded. The Coal Controller shall arrange for the coal to be inspected both at the colliery and at the docks where it is to be shipped. by such officers of the Coal Controller's organisation as may, from time to time, be specifically authorised in this behalf by the Coal Controller, and a certificate of quality and condition of coal;

(iv) each certificate of shipment shall be granted by the Coal Controller and shall be signed by such suitable officer as the Coal Controller may, from time to time, authorise in this behalf;

(v) with a view to ensuring that the expenditure incurred by the Coal

Controller's organisation in connection with the performance of such services is realised by the Government, the Coal Controller will recover from the collieries applying to him for the grant of such certificates, an amount calculated at the rate of 3 nP. per ton of coal inspected at the port of shipment, calculated at the Surveyor's figures, or where such figures are not available, on the railway weighment figures. No certificate of shipment shall be granted by the Coal Controller unless the amount calculated in the manner indicated above, has actually been realised by him from the collieries concerned.

IRON ORE PRODUCTION IN JUNE 1959

According to the Indian Bureau of Mines the total output of iron ore during the month of June 1959 was estimated at 575,000 metric tons. This brings the total production since the beginning of 1959 to 3,771,000 metric tons as compared with 3,078,000 metric tons in the corresponding period of 1958.

The largest output was reported from Bihar and Orissa with 263,000 metric tons and 187,000 metric tons respectively. Among the minor producing states, Mysore and Madhya Pradesh accounted for 59,000 metric tons and 32,000 metric tons respectively.

During the month despatches of iron ore to iron and steel plants and export market were 440,000 metric tons and 126,000 metric tons.

ADDITIONAL CAPACITY IN SUGAR INDUSTRY

The Government of India have decided to license additional capacity in the sugar industry, reads a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on August 7. This additional capacity to be installed will be for the expansion of existing units and for the establishment of new factories.

This decision has been taken in view of the likely increase in consumption of sugar in the country during the Third Plan period and the time required for establishment of new capacity.

ALLOTMENT OF AUTOMATIC LOOMS

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 3, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Minister for Commerce and Industry, stated that 6,665 automatic looms had so far been allotted to 84 mills. Allotments, under the scheme for installation of 3,000 automatic looms for export purposes only, would be considered in due course.

Shri Shastri said that no decision had yet been taken with regard to import or the types of automatic looms to be imported. There was a proposal to manufacture automatic looms in India, he added.

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 10, the Minister for Commerce, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, said that 571 additional automatic looms were installed in the textile mills during 1958-59 and 38 additional automatic looms thereafter up to the end of June 1959. He added that approximately 1282 automatic looms had been installed so far in replacement of plain looms.

Cotton Textile Mill Production In June

The cotton textile mill production for June, 1959, amounted to 136 million lbs. of yarn and 405 million yards of cloth equivalent to about 2.70 lakh bales, reads a Press Note issued by the Office of the Textile Commissioner of Bombay on August 13. At the end of June, 1959 the composite units of cotton textile mills carried a total stock of 3.99 lakh bales of cloth comprising of 2.04 lakh bales of unsold cloth and 1.95 lakh bales of cloth sold but not lifted.

The total production during the first six months of the current year was 841 million lbs. of yarn and 2,445 million yards of cloth. The corresponding figures for the first six months of 1957 and 1958 were 891 million lbs. of yarn and 2,709 and 2,451 million yards of cloth, respectively. The production for the month of July 1959 was provisionally estimated at 146 million lbs. of yarn and 424 million yards of cloth. The estimated stock of cloth with the mills at the end of July, 1959 worked out to a total of 4.12 lakh bales consisting of 2.07 lakh bales of unsold cloth and 2.05 lakh bales of cloth sold but not lifted.

AJODHYA TEXTILE MILLS TAKEN OVER

In exercise of the powers under Section 18A of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, the Government of India have taken over the Ajodhya Textile Mills Ltd., Delhi, and have authorised Messrs Karam Chand Thapar and Brothers (Private) Limited to take over the management of the undertaking and have appointed them as the managing agents of the Mills, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on August 13.

The re-starting of the Mills is expected to commence from Thursday, August 20, 1959.

Floor & Ceiling Prices Of Indian Cotton

The Government of India, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on August 8, have decided that the floor and ceiling prices of Indian cotton for 1959-60 season should be maintained at the same level as are for the current cotton season 1958-59, except for a few modifications. The changes are more in the nature of allowances for better varieties and qualities rather than specifying increase for existing standardised varieties. The Price Schedule with necessary amendments as approved will be issued in due course in conformity with the above Policy.

The fixing of floor and ceiling prices for extra long staple cotton are under the consideration of Government and a decision will be announced shortly.

Japanese Experts On Small Industries

A Japanese Team of Experts on small industries led by Mr. T. Iwatake, Director General for Small Enterprise Agency of the Government of Japan, arrived in New Delhi on August 4 to advise the Government of India on the lines on which further development of small scale industries in the country might be undertaken.

The Team was sent by the Japanese Government in response to an invitation extended to it by the Minister for Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah

During their four-week stay the Experts would visit a number of important centres and make a study of cottage and small industries with particular reference to their current difficulties, the functioning of the Industrial Extension Service, schemes for institutional and in-plant training, supply of machinery, establishment of common facility workshops, credit facilities, marketing assistance, industrial estates, development of industrial co-operative societies, industrial survey and methods for the collection and maintenance of statistics.

Productivity Technique Training Courses

The National Productivity Council, says an announcement of August 5, has organised a series of training courses on various productivity techniques throughout the country.

The first course in the series on work study has been inaugurated under the auspices of the Delhi Productivity Council at the premises of the Delhi Polytechnic under the supervision of Prof. R.F. Bruckart — T.C.M. Productivity Specialist.

These training courses, which will be introduced in the different regions with the help of Local Productivity Councils and the National Productivity Council Regional Directorates, have been specially prepared, with the help of foreign experts attached to the National Productivity Council and its Specialists, to suit Indian conditions.

The courses in the training programme include work study, production control, incentives in industry, quality control, materials handling, job evaluation and merit rating, and will be imparted to trainees drawn from industrial units including workers' representatives. These training courses are expected to result in increased manufacturing productivity at lower cost, more efficient industrial controls and better management.

DECISIONS ON HOTEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Government of India have accepted the recommendation of the Hotel Standards and Rate Structure Committee that "the hotel industry should, by and large, be left to private enterprise, but where the private sector is unable or unwilling to fill the gap, Government should step in".

Government of India's decisions on the principal recommendations of the Committee have been announced in the form of a resolution.

CLASSIFICATION OF HOTELS

The Committee has recommended that hotels in India should be classified into five categories under the internationally understood 'star' system after giving sufficient time to hoteliers to improve their standards before classification is actually introduced. In order to give the hotels adequate time, Government have decided that a three-man committee, to be known as Hotel Classification Committee, will be set up by June 1960 so that by the end of 1960 they can complete inspection and classification of these hotels.

FINANCIAL HELP

According to the recommendation of the Committee that the hotel industry should be recognised under the Five-Year Plan and given financial assistance by the State Corporations and banks and that a Government fund of Rs. 10 crores should be created for the purpose of financing loans to deserving hoteliers, Government have decided to give all reasonable financial assistance by way of loans to hoteliers both for starting new establishments as well as for improving the standards of existing hotels, and to take steps to make hotels eligible for getting loans from finance corporations established by Acts of Parliament or other credit corporations. It is not considered feasible at the present stage to create a separate fund directly under Government control for this purpose.

FOREIGN CAPITAL FOR HOTELS

On the question of foreign investment in Indian hotels, the Government of India have decided that where there are clear and obvious advantages in permitting foreign collaboration in the setting up of any hotel, such collaboration will be permitted by examining each case on its merits, provided that foreign capital does not ordinarily exceed 49 per cent of the total capital invested in any venture.

PROHIBITION

Within the broad policy of prohibition and the existing framework of law on this subject in the various States, relaxations to the extent considered reasonable have been, and will be allowed, and the Government of India have already endeavoured to meet all reasonable needs of foreign tourists in obtaining drinks.

Rate Control

Endorsing the recommendation of the Committee, the Government have decided to withdraw the rate control on hotel rates as at present imposed in Bombay and elsewhere and to ask the State Governments concerned to consider modification of the laws on the subject. The rate structure in hotels should be governed by the widely accepted Hubbart formula with slight modifications to suit Indian conditions.

Import Facilities

The Government of India have accepted the suggestions made by the Committee that the hotel industry should be given direct import licences for essential equipment and provisions to enable it to maintain proper standards of hotel keeping and that hotels should be encouraged to aircondition private as well as public rooms with a view to attracting more tourists in the summer and to spread out tourist arrivals throughout the year, and that Government assistance and facilities for the import of necessary equipment should be given.

Mal-Practices

The Committee has recommended that since the hotel industry is a highly specialised industry, interests like the jewellery and silk trade, whose main motive is to attract customers for the purpose of selling their wares at high and exhorbitant prices, should not be allowed in this field. In their resolution, the Government of India state that since the number of people who are exclusively hoteliers is extremely small in this country and since the hotel industry has to attract capital from every available source in order to meet the needs of ever-expanding tourist traffic, it may not be advisable to close the doors to financiers, other than hoteliers, interested in investing in this industry. Steps will, however, be taken to check all malpractices in the hotel industry and particularly for preventing inter-locking arrangements between hoteliering and shop-keeping.

Craft Training

Government have also accepted the recommendation on the opening of craft and managerial hotel training schools and efforts will be made to open a first-class hotel training school as early as possible. Encouragement will also be given to schools which are already in existence and are doing useful work in the field.

Government have taken note of the recommendation that a common fund should be created for the hotel industry which should be augmented by the levy of a two per cent surcharge on all hotel bills, and in view of the possibilities it offers for assistance to and improvement of hotels, will examine the proposal in consultation with the authorities concerned.

More Hotels Needed

In its recommendations, the Committee has pointed out that Government and the hotel industry should take urgent notice of the impending jet era in air travel and help enlarge hotel and other accommodation facilities in India. It has also made certain specific suggestions for augmenting hotel facilities at important tourist centres. Government of India agree with these recommendations but since the hotel industry is mainly in the private sector, they hope that private enterprise, given the necessary support, will be able to put up new hotels to meet existing and potential requirements.

Government have also accepted the recommendation for introducing suitable legislation covering all relevant aspects of the hotel industry.

Conference Of Company Registrars

Inaugurating the third conference of Regional Directors and Registrars of Companies in New Delhi on August 12, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Minister for Commerce and Industry, observed that it was proposed to give additional powers to Registrars so that they could summon books and papers from the companies. Some of the major amendments suggested in the Companies Act, Shri Shastri pointed out, were meant to plug various loop-holes and devise ways and means to prevent and check abuses.

Referring to the desirability of giving more powers to auditors, observed Shri Shastri, the auditors had no authority of going into the merits of various transactions or investments entered into by the companies. Not only in India, but in the United Kingdom as well opinions had been expressed by high judicial authorities that the scope of work of the auditors was limited and prevented them from recording their views on the merits of various transactions of different concerns.

It had been suggested that the accountants and auditors should be able to ask for additional information from the companies over and above the examination of the balance sheets. He said that this point deserved very careful consideration.

Shri Shastri emphasised the need for the services of auditors and accountants in an increasing manner. He said that if there was a proper system for internal accounts and audit, most of the inconveniences of the companies would be removed and the work of the auditors would become much lighter.

The Minister disclosed that it had been decided to have whole-time official liquidators in Bombay, Calcutta and possibly Madras and part-time official liquidators in other places. This would help avoid delay, especially in the disposal of liquidation cases.

He suggested that all Government companies should be requested to appoint company secretaries. This profession, he added, had to be put on a sound footing.

Emphasising the need for Government interest in the proper management of companies, Shri Shastri said that companies had enormous responsibilities towards their shareholders. Unless there was some check and regulation, the companies were liable to make mistakes if they only kept in view the limited interest of either the managing agents, selling agents or the main investors in the company.

The Minister said that quite a considerable amount of Government moneys in the form of loans etc., was being advanced to the private companies. Sometimes the loans were being guaranteed by Government. Government, therefore, appointed directors on the Boards of such concerns to guard their own interests. It was also necessary that Government should get the eligible taxes from these concerns.

Communications

ANNUAL REPORT OF POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPT. FOR 1957-58

The annual report of the P & T Department for 1957-58 shows a record of continued expansion of postal, telegraph, telephone and wireless services in the country.

The number of post offices increased from 58,871 on March 31, 1957 to 61,886 on March 31, 1958. The number of telegraph offices increased from 10,052 to 10,723, telephone exchanges (including PBXs) from 6,202 to 6,472 and the number of telephones from 309,000 to 335,000. On the trunk tele-communication network, underground cable was increased from 1,236,340 miles to 1,365,236 miles — an increase of 10.4 per cent; carrier and voice frequency telegraph channels rose from 558,363 miles to 597,604 miles and the overhead wire network increased from 909,798 miles to 953,785 miles.

The total number of postal articles increased from 3,262 million in 1956-57 to 3,356 million in 1957-58 and telephone trunk calls from 20.8 million in 1956-57 to 23.1 millions in 1957-58. Telegrams (excluding those on P & T service) registered a decrease from 34.5 millions in 1956-57 to 33.2 millions in the year under review.

Financial Review

The revenues of the Department increased from Rs. 56.8 crores in 1956-57 to Rs. 61.6 crores in 1957-58. The total expenditure, on revenue account, registered an increase of Rs. 7.40 crores over the previous year's figure of about Rs. 50.52 crores, chiefly on account of larger payments to railways etc. for conveyance of mails (increase: Rs. 224 lakhs), increased allowances (increase: Rs. 193 lakhs), and increased contributions to Renewals Reserve Fund (increase: Rs. 125 lakhs). The total surplus of the Department in 1957-58 was Rs. 3.71 crores as against Rs. 6.32 crores in 1956-57 and Rs. 3.47 crores in 1955-56.

Out of the net surplus, an outright contribution of 50% amounting to Rs. 1.85 crores was made to the General Revenues and the balance has been added to the department's surplus (which is also merged in the general revenues), raising the accumulated surplus on March 31, 1958 to Rs. 2,391.82 lakhs. The department will get a rebate on interest on this balance in the following year at the rate it pays to general revenues on its capital outlay.

The telephone branch yielded a surplus of Rs. 5.38 crores against Rs. 4.96 crores in the previous year. The surplus in the telegraph branch increased from Rs. 12 lakhs in 1956-57 to Rs. 42 lakhs in 1957-58. The postal branch showed a loss of Rs. 2 crores in the year under review as against a surplus of Rs. 1.33 crores in the previous year. The loss in the wireless branch was Rs. 9 lakhs — the same as in 1956-57.

Capital Expenditure

The total net expenditure on fixed assets in 1957-58 (excluding projects financed from the Telephone Development Fund), after allowing for credits to capital due to sale and abandonment of assets, was Rs. 9.38 crores. Of this amount, Rs. 680 lakhs was spent on telephone projects, Rs. 190 lakhs on telegraph projects, Rs. 56 lakhs on Post Office buildings and mail vans and Rs. 12 lakhs on radio projects. The bulk of the outlay was on projects relating to erection of more lines and telephone systems to provide additional telecommunication facilities. The total interest-bearing capital outlay in 1957-58 was Rs. 10.83 crores and the progressive capital outlay till the end of 1957-58 amounted to Rs. 110.64 crores.

During the year under review a contribution of Rs. 250 lakhs was made from the revenues to the Renewals Reserve Fund Withdrawals from this fund were Rs. 114 lakhs. Interest of Rs. 23 lakhs on the balance in the fund was also credited to the fund which closed with a balance of Rs. 771 lakhs on March 31, 1958. The advance rentals realised under the 'Own Your Telephone' Scheme are credited to revenue receipts while an equivalent amount is contributed from working expenses to the Telephone Development Fund During 1957-58 a contribution of Rs. 66 lakhs was made to this Fund. Withdrawals amounted to Rs. 34 lakhs and the fund closed with a balance of Rs. 362 lakhs on March 31, 1958. The Department received interest of Rs. 11.60 lakhs on the balance by credit to Revenue receipts.

Five-Year Plan Projects

Out of an allocation of Rs. 975 lakhs available to the Department for Plan projects during 1957-58, an amount of Rs. 951 lakhs was actually spent. Of this, the local telephone service accounted for Rs. 572 lakhs, public call offices Rs. 20 lakhs, open wire trunks and carriers Rs. 68 lakhs, trunk cables and cable carriers Rs. 34 lakhs, trunk exchanges Rs. 10 lakhs, telegraph services Rs. 54 lakhs, projects required to meet demands from other administrations Rs. 90 lakhs, buildings Rs. 71 lakhs, and miscellaneous projects Rs. 32 lakhs. Aiming at a larger measure of expansion of telecommunication facilities in the interior of the country, the liberal policy for the provision of telegraph and telephone facilities in the rural and underdeveloped areas continued to be implemented during the second year of the Five Year Plan.

Towards the modernisation of telegraph working in the country, a Tape Relay Exchange providing for mechanised transmission of telegraph messages and speedy disposal of transit telegraph traffic was installed at Bombay in June, 1957. Subject to the availability of Rupee and foreign exchange resources, similar mechanisation of the Telegraph Offices at Calcutta, Delhi and Madras is proposed during the Second Plan.

The automatisation of the Calcutta Telephone system was completed at a cost of about Rs. 1,289 lakhs, bringing into commission 15 Automatic Exchanges in Calcutta and its suburbs with a total equipped capacity of 55,000 lines.

A new scheme for laying Coaxial Cable between Calcutta and Bombay, linking Delhi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Agra and Patna enroute, has also been taken in hand.

Telecommunication Research

Considerable progress has been made on research and development in the Telecommunication Research Centre of the P & T. A number of research and development projects was successfully completed, the aim being not only to develop new equipment that could be manufactured from indigenous materials with minimum of imported items but also to provide for more economic and efficient utilisation of the existing assets of the Department.

The Indian Language Telegraph Service was extended to 140 telegraph offices bringing the total number of such offices to 1,285 at the end of 1957-58.

To enable better disposal of telegraph traffic a number of post and telegraph combined offices were converted into departmental telegraph offices. Of the total of 10,723 telegraph offices in India on March 31, 1958, 130 were departmental telegraph offices, 5,781 were combined post and telegraph offices and 4,812 were railway and canal licensed offices.

Of the total inland telegraph traffic of 29.16 million telegrams, State telegrams accounted for 14 per cent, private telegrams for 85.2 per cent and press telegrams for 0.8 per cent. The number of inland greetings telegrams delivered showed an increase from 798,589 in 1956-57 to 802,961 in 1957-58. The number of telegrams booked and delivered by phonogram in 1957-58 was 2,481,155 and 476,692 respectively against 2,480,202 and 502,425 respectively in 1956-57. There was a decrease in the volume of foreign telegrams, the number handled being 3,993,145 containing 72 million words as against 4,372,802 telegrams containing 83 million words during 1956-57.

During the year under review, teleprinter working was introduced on seven more routes with a view to speeding up the transmission of telegraph traffic. Direct working was introduced between 83 telegraph offices during the year. Twenty-two more long distance teleprinter circuits were provided to Government departments, the press and industrial concerns.

The total number of complaints against the telegraph service received from the public was 60,227 as against 53,910 in the previous year. The percentage of the number of complaints to the total number of telegrams was 0.18 as against 0.16 in the preceding year.

Trunk Network

During 1957-58 12 channel carrier systems were installed between Kanpur and Nagpur, Bombay and Jodhpur and Bombay and Madras. The single link operator dialling procedure which substantially reduces traffic delays in the maturing of telephone trunk calls was introduced on 24 additional circuits. Similarly single station ticketing, aimed at simplifying procedures for booking of trunk calls, between various exchanges, was introduced on 14 more routes.

During the period under review, 176,961 written complaints about the telephone service were received. Of these 172,468 related to the local service and 4,493 to trunk lines.

In 1957-58 a radio teleprinter link was opened between Calcutta and Gauhati, replacing the hand-morse wireless telegraph circuit. A wireless station was opened at Leh to provide a stand by telegraph circuit to Srinagar. Five wireless telegraph stations in the catchment area of river Sutlej for flood warning purposes were opened for the Bhakra Dam authorities. Wireless stations were also installed at Uttarkashi and Kedarnath during the pilgrim season. A hand-morse wireless telegraph

circuit was opened between Mangalore and Minicoy island.

The total number of broadcast receiver licences issued in the country increased from 1,284,041 in 1956-57 to 1,474,822 in 1957-58.

Postal and R.M.S. Services

Reviewing the postal and railway mail services, the report says that 92.2 per cent of new post offices opened during the year were in rural areas. The increasing number of rural branch post offices called for the opening of a large number of sub-offices not only for better administrative control, but for more efficient mail arrangements and better financing and accounting. The Department had, therefore, authorised the Heads of Circles to convert branch offices into sub-offices on a no-increase-in-cost basis or where the annual loss did not exceed Rs. 500 per annum, provided that the new sub-office did not have less than 7 hours' work after upgrading.

The Department had appointed a Committee on postal development to indicate what changes, if any, should be made to meet the needs of additional postal facilities to the public and to suggest measures for consolidating the expansion of the postal network with the object of achieving maximum efficiency and economy.

In pursuance of the policy of providing better and more expeditious mail service in rural areas, 265 runners' lines, covering 2,146 miles, were converted during the year to speedier modes of conveyance. Excluding air routes, there were 275,719 miles of mail routes out of which 20.5 per cent was covered by railways, 25 per cent by motor service and 52.7 per cent by runners, 1.8 per cent by other means such as steamers, boats, horses, camels and ekkas.

Direct air parcel service was introduced during the year to Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and Zanzibar.

Traffic Statistics

The aggregate value of postage stamps and postal stationery issued from treasuries to post offices during the year was Rs. 30,80,44,536. Though the total number of postal articles handled increased from 3,262 millions in 1956-57 to 3,356 millions in 1957-58, the number of registered articles posted decreased from 96.8 millions to 93.4 millions and the number of insured articles from 4 millions to 3.8 millions. The total number of money orders, inland and foreign, also decreased from 69 millions to 68.2 millions, though the value of these money orders increased from Rs. 262 crores to Rs. 276 crores. The number of Indian potal orders decreased from 3.19 millions to 2.72 millions and the total value also declined from Rs. 1.78 crores to Rs. 1.45 crores.

During the year under review, the dead letter offices handled 15,343,000 articles as against 14,304,000 articles in 1956-57. In 1957-58 10.4 per cent of the articles handled in dead letter offices were finally deposited as 'dead', most of the remaining having been either returned to the senders or delivered to the addressees. The report reveals that on an average 476 articles are posted in India daily without any address.

Postal Complaints

During 1957-58 the number of public complaints regarding postal articles was 491,470 against 468,184. The percentage of complaints to the total traffic in respect of postal articles other than money orders showed a slight decrease from 0.0085 to 0.0082, while the percentage of complaints to the total traffic in respect of money orders showed an increase from 0.2809 to 0.3218.

Small Savings

During the year under review 1,315,034 new accounts were opened in the Post Office Savings Bank, while 779,658 accounts were closed. The number of active accounts at the end of the year was 6,920,235 as against 6,384,959 at the end of the previous year. The balance in the bank increased from Rs. 322 crores at the end of 1956-57 to Rs. 340 crores at the end of 1957-58. The average balance at the credit of a depositor on March 31, 1958 was Rs. 490.8 as compared with Rs. 504.4 at the end of the previous year. During 1957-58 a total sum of Rs. 77.5 crores was collected from the sale of various types of savings certificates. From June 1, 1957 the seven and twelve years' national savings certificates and 10-Year National Plan Certificates were discontinued and a new 12-year National Plan Savings Certificate was introduced from the same day. Of the total of Rs. 77.5 crores, Rs. 71.4 was collected from the issue of these new certificates.

During the year under review, the post office issued 8,094 Life and Endowment Insurance policies for an aggregate sum of Rs. 19,626,100 as against 10,861 policies of an aggregate value of Rs. 22,073,700 in the previous year. The total number of policies in force on March 31, 1958 was 146,534 for an aggregate amount of Rs. 342,217,885. The post office insurance fund opened with a balance of Rs. 1,275 lakhs on April 1, 1957 and closed with a balance of Rs. 1,381 lakhs on March 31, 1958.

Telephone Trunk Call Charges

The Union Minister of Transport and Communications, Shri S.K. Patil, laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on August 4, a copy of a notification, making certain amendments to the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951. The amended rules are proposed to be brought into effect on October 1, 1959. The proposed changes relate to the calculation of charges for telephone trunk calls in terms of decimal currency. Under the existing rules the charges for telephone trunk calls are calculated to the nearest anna, fractions of half anna and above being rounded upward and fractions below half anna being ignored. The rules are proposed to be amended so that the final charges are arrived at to the nearest multiple of 5 nP. Where, however, the amount calculated works out to a multiple of 5 nP. plus 2.5 nP., the 2.5 nP. will be ignored.

The method of arriving at the charges for particular person calls for half rate and one-third rate calls is also sought to be modified. Under the amended rules, particular person charges are required to be calculated direct from the unit charge, thus avoiding multiple rounding off.

Under the existing rules the minimum charge for half rate or one-third rate call is prescribed as six annas. It is now proposed to change it to 40 nP. under the amended rule.

Construction Of Bridges At Rly. Crossings

In a written answer to a question, in the Lok Sabha on August 7 the Deputy Minister for Railways Shri S.V. Ramaswamy, confirmed that the Government contemplated drawing up a 10-year programme for the construction of road overbridges and underbridges at railway crossings throughout the country. The State Governments had recently been requested to draw up programmes for provision of road overbridges or underbridges considered necessary to replace existing level crossings, during the remaining period of the Second Plan and during the Third Plan. It had been decided in consultation with the Planning Commission that all such schemes should form part of the State Plans. The State Governments, after making necessary provision for funds to meet their share of the cost of such schemes, were to advise the railway administrations concerned, as well as the Ministry of Railways, about the details of such schemes, and the priority according to which they would desire the works to be progressed.

The State Governments the Deputy Minister continued, might meet their share of the cost, after obtaining the prior approval of the Planning Commission, from the loans which the Government of India might grant to the State Governments for miscellaneous development schemes under the State Plans. The cost might also be met from the State Governments' share of the tax from railway fares. On receipt of the information, the railway administrations would prepare a co-ordinated programme for construction of the bridges.

He added that Himachal Pradesh, Mysore and Madras had so far submitted their schemes. The requirements of the first were nil, Mysore had given their requirements only for the remaining two years of the Second Five Year Plan while Madras had given its requirements for 1959-60 only.

BARASET-BASIRHAT RLY LINE

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 4, Shri S.V. Ramaswamy, Deputy Minister of Railways, Stated that the work of land acquisition for construction of Baraset-Basirhat broad gauge railway line had not been completed.

Replying to another part of the question, he said that 686.284 acres out of 691.801 acres of waste and arable land and 41.955 acres out of 96.860 acres of homestead land had so far been handed over to the Railway by the State Government. He added that the Government of West Bengal had intimated that possession of all lands would be delivered to the Railway by August 1959.

DELHI-SARAI ROHILLA SECTION ON N. RLY.

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 4, Shri S.V. Ramaswamy, Deputy Minister of Railways, stated that entire section between Delhi-Sarai Rohilla and Garhi-Harsaru, already opened to goods traffic was expected to be opened for passenger traffic by November 1959. The section between Khalilpur and Rewari also was likely to be opened to all kinds of traffic by the end of December 1959, he added.

SURVEY FOR NEW LINE ON WESTERN RAILWAY

The Railway Board has ordered the final location survey for a new railway line from Guna to Maksi on the Bhopal-Ujjain Section, on the Western Railway, *via* Shajapur, says an announcement of August 11. The survey, which is expected to cost about Rs. 4 lakhs, will be carried out by the Western Railway.

The new line, about 134 miles in length, is expected to provide an alternative route for the movement of increased coal traffic from the Central Indian coalfields to the Western Railway. It will also help to develop a new area.

World Bank Loan For Railways

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 11, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Deputy Minister for Railways, said that an agreement had been signed with the World Bank whereby a loan of $ 50 million had been made available to India for the development of Indian railways. The loan was repayable in 20 years in 34 half-yearly instalments commencing from January 15, 1963. The rate of interest was 6 per cent.

The Deputy Minister added that the amount of loan was to be used for meeting the cost of purchases abroad of electric locomotives, overhead equipment for electrification, plant and machinery for workshops, and such other railway materials and equipment as were essential for executing the Railways' Second Five-Year Plan and were not indigenously available.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT ON NORTH-BANK EXPRESS

The Government Inspector of Railways, Calcutta, who held an enquiry into the derailment of No. 5 Up North-Bank Express at mile 112/7-6 between Sonili and Jhaua stations of North-East

Frontier Railway on May 20, 1959, has submitted his preliminary report, says a Press Note issued on August 8 by the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

His provisional finding is that the accident was caused by tampering of track by some unknown person or persons. As a result of the derailment, one person was killed and 37 were injured, of whom 4 were grievously hurt.

ACCIDENT ON SOUTHERN RAILWAY

According to a Press Note issued on August 8 by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Government Inspector of Railways, Bangalore, who held an enquiry into the head-on collision between No. 247 Up Katpadi-Dharmavaram Passenger and leading engine of No. 3168 Goods at Dharmavaram station on Guntakal-Bangalore Metre Gauge Section of the Southern Railway on June 25, 1959, has submitted his preliminary report.

His provisional finding is that the accident was caused by the failure of railway staff.

As a result of the accident, one person was killed and five persons were injured of whom one received grievous hurt.

'CRACK' GOODS TRAINS

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 11, the Deputy Minister for Railways, Shri S.V. Ramaswamy, said that the scheme of running 'crack' goods trains had been introduced on five Zonal Railways. On the other Railways, fast goods services existed, though not under the nomenclature "crack goods trains".

The main features of the scheme, he added, were:

(i) Crack goods trains were fast trains run to scheduled paths like passenger trains to fixed timings; (ii) they were worked by selected engines, crews and guards; and (iii) a special watch was kept by divisional officers on the running of these trains.

AIR DELEGATION TO U.K.

An Indian Air Delegation led by Shri M.M. Philip, the Communications Secretary, left New Delhi on August 14 for London for discussions with the U.K. Government for reviewing the arrangements for the operation of air services under the India-U.K. Air Services Agreement.

Import of Cars By Tourists

According to an Import Trade Control Public Notice, dated August 11 the Government of India have decided to exempt cars, jeeps and station wagons imported by tourists under the 'Triptyque' system from import trade control restrictions. This is subject to the condition that the vehicles shall be re-exported within the period stipulated in the 'Triptyque' or 'Carnet de passage'. The sale or retention of such vehicles in India in violation of the stipulated condition will entail penal action. Vehicles registered in the names of tourists will also not be allowed to be transferred to other parties in India.

OCEANOGRAPHY OF WESTERN COAST

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 10 regarding the steps taken to study the Oceanography of the Western Coast of India, particularly, Bombay Coast and the results thereof, the Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, said that at present, limited studies in Oceanography of the Western Coast of India were being carried out by the following organisations:

(i) *Indian Meteorological Department* — Collecting surface temperature data and water samples with the help of the Indian Merchant Navy. (ii) *Central Marine Fisheries Research Station, Mandapam* —Collecting Sea Water Samples and their analysis with the help of the Indian Naval and Indian Merchant Naval vessels and with its own fishing vessels. (iii) *Geodetic & Research Branch, Survey of India* — Maintaining tide gauges at the Indian ports. (iv) *The Oceanographic Research Wing of the Central Board of Geophysics* — Undertaking studies in the fundamental aspects of Oceanography including temperature, salinity, density, microseisms in the waters off the Cochin coast in close collaboration with the Indian Naval Physical Laboratory. (v) *The Naval Hydrographic Office*, Dehra Dun — Survey of the Arabian Sea for mapping the sea floor. (vi) *Kerala University* — Carrying out Oceanographic Studies in the in-shore waters of the Cochin Coast. (vii) *Institute of Science, Bombay* — Mainly marine biological work.

The following results of the studies undertaken by the above organisations were stated by the Deputy Minister:

(i) Records of salinity at different depths were regularly maintained in Bombay harbour. Observations of the density of sea water at the surface were taken by the Indian Meteorological Department almost daily at Colaba and at Alibag (18 miles off Bombay) and it had been observed that during monsoon the density fluctuated widely. Intensive data on temperature and salinity were kept by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Stations at Calicut, Cochin and Madras. Water samples collected by the vessels were sent to Mandapam for study along with temperature readings.

(ii) As a result of the Drift-card measurements carried out by the Indian Naval Physical

Laboratory as well as the Central Marine Fisheries Research Station it had been possible to get some idea of the coastal currents. The observations on upwelling on the Western coast showed that upwelling began earlier in the season in the south than in the north.

(iii) The wind and wave observations over the Arabian sea had been analysed by the Indian Meteorological Department. With winds upto 17 knots, most common wave periods were in the range of 5-7 secs. With higher winds upto 32 knots, the range was 7-9 secs. Some photographs of the sea surface had been analysed at the Indian Naval Physical Laboratory with a view to arriving at a quantitative definition of the sea state.

(iv) Routine measurement on microseisms had been carried out at Cochin and the records showed that the intensity was repeatedly built up in the morning with a maximum in the forenoon and fell to very low values in the afternoon.

(v) Studies on fouling organisms and associated temperature and salinity conditions were progressing at the Indian Naval Chemical and Metallurgical Laboratory at Bombay and also at Andhra University, Waltair.

(vi) Separate tidal pamphlets were published for Bombay and the Ports of the Hooghly and Rangoon rivers, in addition to the tide tables published for all the other ports by the Survey of India. In a number of cases there was evidence of significant changes in the sea-bed, local configuration of the land in river estuaries which had a considerable influence on the tidal concurrences.

Food & Agriculture

REPORT OF INACCESSIBLE AREAS COMMITTEE

The Inaccessible Areas Committee, appointed in September 1958 by the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture under the chairmanship of Raja Surendra Singh of Nalagarh, to study the question of deficiency in the food production of inaccessible areas and to suggest ways and means of increasing production in order to make them self-sufficient within the next two years of the Second Plan, has recently submitted its report to the Government of India.

In course of its tour the Committee covered 6,384 miles by air, 1,621 miles by rail, 120 miles by sea and 2,290 miles by road — some of it on foot. It visited pockets in the far-flung corners of the country which remain closed for several months in the year by foul weather, snow and mountain torrents.

The inaccessible areas reported on by the Committee are the Ratnagiri district of Bombay, the hill districts of U.P. and Assam, Tripura, NEFA, the Kulu Valley of the Punjab and the Chini and Pangi areas of Himachal Pradesh. These comprise a total area of 91,610 square miles with a population of 68.4 lakhs. Almost all these areas except Assam, NEFA and Tripura, consist mostly of barren eroded hills with soils of exceedingly low fertility. Most of them produce foodgrains sufficient only for two to four months of the year.

"Any attempt," the Committee opines "to extend or intensify cultivation in an indiscriminate manner in these areas will, intsead of helping to solve the problem, aggravate it."

Development Plan

It has, however, recommended a 4-pronged programme of development along the existing lines:

Accelerating the existing road development programmes after reorientating them where necessary to suit local needs and conditions; maximisation of local production of foodgrains in areas where intensified agriculture can be carried out without causing soil erosion; horticulture and other plantation crops in areas where agriculture is causing erosion of soil, and implementation of other non-agricultural programmes to supplement the local inhabitants' purchasing power; and executing effective soil conservation measures in close coordination with road, agriculture and horticulture development plans and implementation of afforestation schemes on an extensive scale.

National Problem

According to the Committee till lately these areas were subjected to prolonged neglect both in respect to administration and development programme. Though National Plans have given special attention to the development of these areas, yet these are hardly commensurate with the gravity of the problem.

The report refers to the "staggering disparity" between the country's better developed parts and these inaccessible areas, and says that the solution of the problems of these areas is definitely beyond the scope and resources of existing Plans. Apart from Ratnagiri, all the areas touch international border-lines and the problem posed by them should be dealt with as a national problem. Special development plans should be launched over and above the existing Central and State Plans.

On the Government of India's efforts in recent years to accelerate the development of border areas, the report points out that only the extreme border-line areas are dealt with, thus creating a relatively under-developed belt between the border areas and the better developed hilly regions neighbouring the plains. It is the inhabitants of these under-developed belts who are the worst off.

The Committee holds that the problems of the inaccessible areas do not present an all-India picture. It has, therefore, submitted general report covering the common aspects of all the areas. It will submit detailed reports with specific recommendations for individual problems of each area later.

Soil Conservation

The Committee is of the opinion that any development programme in these areas will have to be continued over a planned period of time. Referring to the menace of soil erosion, it points out that in some areas hardly four inches of soil are left for cultivation. In certain places in the interior hills of U.P., Himachal Pradesh and Punjab the depletion of soil and denudation of forests have continued to such an extent that the farmer cannot look forward to anything more than the recovery of seed. Under such conditions any short-term programme aimed at making these areas self-sufficient in food would be neither advisable nor practicable.

In the inaccessible areas of the extreme North- eastern region, soil conservation problems are mostly posed by the *Jhum* (shifting cultivation) system of cultivation. This needs study, and definite plans should be prepared for these areas.

The Committee recommends that legislation banning all further deforestation in the immediate future is essential. The State Soil Conservation and Land Utilisation Boards, wherever constituted, should frame and implement special schemes to check the menace of erosion. Where they do not exist, such boards should be constituted early. The Central Soil Conservation Board should take up special studies in these areas and help develop pilot schemes, keeping in view local requirements.

Making Areas Accessible

Recommending implementation of an accelerated programme of development of transport and communications, the report says, "the most obvious solution for the inaccessible areas is to make them accessible". A programme for adequate facilities of accessibility by sea, rail or road and internal communications by bullock-cart, mule track or foot path is of the foremost importance, because food supplies may reach these areas cheaply and in time local produce may be brought within the reach of marketing and processing centres. In the absence of such facilities, the cultivator is deprived of the profits due to him and has no encouragement for incurring heavy investment and for implementing special development programmes. Citing an example, the report says that there have been occasions when cultivators in the Assam Hills have been forced to part with their pineapples for the "ridiculous" price of 25 nP per two hundred fruits, while in some of the interior areas of Ratnagiri district Alphonso mangoes have been sold for Rs. 5/- per hundred. Development programmes, and even day-to-day administration, are handicapped in these areas by inability to tranpsort essential materials. "Any programme for the economic uplift of these areas has, therefore, to include a major transport development programme", the Committee emphasizes.

As the cost of road construction is abnormally heavy in these parts, the Committee feels that special exemption from the normal formulae of financial justification will be needed. It stresses the importance of mule-tracks and foot-paths, apart from motorable and jeepable roads.

The Committee points out that a high degree of co-ordination between the P.W.D. and the Soil Conservation Department is necessary to prevent soil erosion due to incorrect road alignments. Administrative convenience for the location of the road should not earn priority over economic considerations. Further, roads should be built, more with the idea of linking the interior of the hills to the plains than of linking one point in the interior to another equally remote one.

Horticulture & Cover Crops

Regarding development programmes for maximising local production, the Committee recommends that intensive food-grain cultivation with the best scientific methods should be planned only for areas which are in valleys or on plateaus where soil erosion can be kept at bay. In those areas where cultivation is aggravating or is likely to deepen soil erosion, the cultivators should be persuaded to switch over to horticulture and "cover" crops, the general pattern which, as suggested by the Committee, is: Mangoes and citrus in the foot-hills, stone fruit in the lower hills, apples in the higher hills and dry fruit in mountainous ranges. To compensate the farmer for the loss incurred during the time-lag of the switch-over, grants may be given for every acre diverted from foodgrains to non-food-grain crops. Additionally, the cultivator should be given an adequate loan, preferably interest free, to act as an incentive.

In certain areas, extensive plantation of cashew, pepper and other plantation crops holds great promise. If marketing and processing programmes are implemented in advance, these crops will eventually increase the purchasing power of the local population, enabling it to procure foodgrains from neighbouring areas.

Cottage Industries

The report states that special programmes for the development of cottage industries, such as sericulture and apiculture, P.W.D. labour co-operatives and Forest labour co-operatives can also provide appreciable economic relief. For exploiting the mineral and herbal resources of these areas, scientific surveys should be carried out at an early date. Unskilled earthen work of local road construction should synchronise with the off-season of the cultivator so that villagers could contribute *Sharamdan* — the payments due being made available to panchayats for village improvement.

According to the Committee, every area seems to have one or two promising resources for special development. In the Lahaul area, for example, increased cultivation of *kuth* (Saussurea Lappa) — a foreign exchange earner — could bring about rapid economic betterment of the people. In Ratnagiri, extensive mango and cashewnut development is possible. In Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and U.P. hills horticulture, dry fruits and potatoes have great potentialities. In Assam Hills, NEFA and Tripura pepper, cashew and other plantation crops are a source of potential wealth. In Himachal Pradesh and some other hill areas, pasture development combined with a livestock industry would be the best.

Discounting the idea that all inaccessible areas in the country should rapidly become self-sufficient in foodgrains, the report says that it is not a correct approach as increased cultivation of foodgrain crops will not only result in further depletion of the soil but also worsen the economic backwardness of the inhabitants.

Realistic Staff Pattern

The Committee disapproves the general tendency to apply to inaccessible areas the same staff pattern as is in vogue in better developed areas. It needs reorientation to suit local conditions. Officers and service personnel for these areas must be specially selected from among willing people with the right aptitude for work in arduous conditions; and, to compensate for the difficulties of living in these areas, higher rates of pay and adequate allowances to cover additional expenditure and compensatory allowance for one's family should be granted as an incentive. Instead of considering it as a form of punishment, service in these areas might be taken as an extra credit for promotion.

Stressing the inadvisability of imposing a uniform development of staff pattern all over the country, the Committee recommends a more realistic basis for arriving at the number of posts required to meet a particular area's needs and its pattern of development. Special problems of each Block should be studied and a separate officer appointed to develop such projects. For example, in a Block where horticulture is the most important item a Horticulture Officer should be appointed in addition to the usual Agricultural Officer. Similarly a Livestock Officer should be provided where livestock development has more potentialities.

Research

The Committee stressed the importance of agricultural research and demonstration and recommends the setting up of special research stations locally. Similarly, demonstration farms should be established "under problematical conditions". Experienced and suitably-trained staff, preferably those having worked in similar agro-climatic conditions, should be appointed.

Minor Irrigation

The Committee has commended the ingenuity of local inhabitants in tapping resources of small-scale irrigation channels from hill streams. But as such channels in these areas have courses over terrain which is annually subjected to the ravages of the monsoon it recommends that maintenance of small-scale irrigation channels should be a regular programme, and the Government's responsibility should not cease with the grant of loans for initial construction. It emphasizes the need for the provision of technical and scientific assistance in alignment, execution, utilization and maintenance.

The Committee states that it is not necessary to have regular dams of a costly nature for areas situated at an altitude not much higher than the stream-bed. Temporary boulder dams, similar to those utilized for water-mills, can effectively stock sufficient water during the non-monsoon periods which can be discharged for irrigational purposes by a small pump. It suggests the construction of one or two pilot projects on these lines in each area found suitable for such experimentation. In its opinion, even very small streamlets and springs which feed the main valley rivulets can be effectively check-dammed at suitable places and a co-ordinated programme of irrigation, soil conservation and water-supply can be implemented on a small scale.

Wind Power Utilization

Utilization of wind-power is another project recommended by the Committee. The possibility of utilizing continuous air currents in the hilly regions, especially valleys, by setting up wind mills to generate power for small-scale irrigation, drinking water, cottage industries and rural lighting should be examined.

Turning to labour problems, the report reveals that an overwhelming majority of the labour employed in road construction and forest programmes in these areas is "imported". For constructing roads in Ratnagiri, labour was brought from Andhra Pradesh, and on the Hindusthan-Tibet Road in Himachal Pradesh many of the road gangs were from Kargil in Kashmir. The Committee recommends that the PWD and the Forest Department in the States concerned should take effective steps to see that local labour is absorbed by them as far as possible.

Local Co-Operatives

For maximizing profits, labour co-operatives should be encouraged. The Committee suggests that small forest contracts should be reserved for local co-operative societies as an experimental measure and if successful these can prvide adequate economic relief to such sections of the local population which,

through prolonged employment with established contractors, have gained sufficient experience in forest work but cannot raise enough capital of their own to function independently as small contractors.

The Committee is critical of the progress of work in village or panchayat forests. In some cases, it says, panchayats after taking possession of village forests have fallen to the lure of felling them over-night at attractive prices offered by traders. It adds that in some areas of Himachal Pradesh, even mango trees are being put to the axe due to rising prices of packing-case material.

State Trading In Food Grains

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 4, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Shri A.P. Jain, stated that State Governments had been asked to implement the Scheme of State trading in food grains.

Replying to another part of the question the Minister said that State Governments were taking necessary measures for the organisation and development of Co-operative Societies. The wholesale traders had been licensed in all the States and purchases of food grains had been undertaken by most of the States. Altogether 1,217 thousand tons of rice and 180 thousand tons of wheat had been procured. In certain States however, e.g. in Bihar and West Bengal, the procurement operations have had to be suspended in order to maintain adequate supplies in the open market.

Seed Multiplication Farms

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 4, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Shri A.P. Jain, said that a total of 2493 seed multiplication farms had been established so far in the various States in the country under the Scheme for the Multiplication and Distribution of Improved Seeds, the break-up being, as follows:

State	No. of Farms established
Andhra Pradesh	259
Assam	98
Bihar	372
Bombay	290
Jammu & Kashmir	28
Kerala	8
Madhya Pradesh	84
Madras	175*
Mysore	48
Orissa	67
Punjab	116
Rajasthan	164
Uttar Pradesh	677
West Bengal	97@
	2493

*Includes 56 farms since closed.
@Includes 3 farms since abandoned.

More Mechanised Farms Proposed

According to an announcement of August 6, the Government of India have set up a Committee, under the chairmanship of Shri K.R. Damle, Agriculture Secretary, Government of India, to examine the possibilities of establishing mechanised farms in other parts of India on the lines of the Central Mechanised Farm at Suratgarh in Rajasthan.

The committee will consider the economics of operation of State-owned mechanised farms based on the experience obtained at the Suratgarh Farm, taking into account factors such as the cost of machinery, development of land, construction of essential buildings and running expenses. The proposals for new State farms will be submitted by the committee within three months from the date it starts functioning.

State Governments have already been asked to indicate availability of blocks of land suitable for the establishment of large farms.

Food Production In 1958-59

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 12, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Shri A.P. Jain, stated that there had been an increase in production of foodgrains of about 11 million tons or 17.6 per cent during 1958-59 over the production in 1957-58.

In answer to another part of the question the Minister said that the All-India Index Number of Wholesale Prices of cereals had declined from the peak figure of 115 in 1958 to 99 in April, 1959. In July 1959, the Index rose to 107 but it was lower than in July 1958 when it was 110. There had been a similar fall in the prices of pulses.

Production Of Linseed In 1958-59

Production of linseed in 1958-59 is estimated at 4,30,000 tons — highest on record since 1948-49 — representing an increase of 1,81,000 tons or 72.7% over 1957-58 figure, reads an announcement of August 2 made by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

The area under linseed has risen by 18.5% — from previous year's figure of 31,29,000 acres to 37,08,000 acres this year. The per acre yield for 1958-59 is 260 lbs; last year it was 178 lbs. representing an increase of over 46%.

The increase is attributable partly to increase in area and partly to increased yield per acre due to both seasonal conditions at the time of sowing and during the period of growth of the crop. The increase in production and area is shared by all the principal linseed producing States, being notably marked in Madhya Pradesh, U.P. and Bihar.

Import Of Rice And Wheat

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 4, the

Deputy Minister of Food, Shri A.M. Thomas, said that the Government had imported about 50 thousand tons of rice and 23 lakh tons of wheat upto July 20, 1959.

BONE MANURE

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 7, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Shri A.P. Jain, said that the question of utilisation of the bone resources of the country fully had been considered at the Seminar on Local Manurial Resources held at Madras in January this year.

It had been reported that about 350 bone digesters had so far been set up. The All-India Khadi and Village Industries Commission was giving financial assistance for the setting up of flaying centres where carcase recovery, including bones, was one of the items attended to.

Replying to another part of the question the Minister said that it was estimated that at present about 40% of bones were being collected and it might be possible to increase the collection to 70 to 75% of the potential availability of about 3 lakh tons of bones.

Consolidation Of Holdings

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 7, Shri A.P. Jain, Minister of Food and Agriculture, stated that the scheme of Consolidation of Holdings included in the Second Five Year Plan was being implemented by Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. Assam and Jammu & Kashmir had made provision for the scheme during the current financial year. West Bengal had also made a token provision.

In Orissa and Kerala, the Minister continued, consolidation could not be taken up at this stage until land reform measures were implemented. In Madras provision for consolidation of holdings had been made in the Second Plan, but the State Government had not yet been able to take up the programme. In the Union Territory of Delhi, consolidation had already been carried out in a large number of villages and the work would be taken up in the few remaining villages after the implementation of the Delhi Land Reforms Act.

There was no conflict, he added, between the scheme for Consolidation of Holdings and that of co-operative farming.

Development Of Fisheries

In a statement laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on August 11 in reply to a question, Union Minister of Food and Agriculture, Shri A.P. Jain, stated that the Government of India had given the undermentioned amounss to the various maritime States during 1958-59 in respect of the Head of Development, *viz.*, "Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying":

States	*Grant*	*Loan*
	(Rs. in lakhs)	
Andhra	27.95	8.56
Bombay	25.36	27.07
Kerala	11.72	4.14
Madras	12.91	22 62
Mysore	12.28	7.63
Orissa	11.77	13.66
West Bengal	21.47	26.15
	123.46	109.83

Norwegian Aid For Fisheries Project

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 12, the Minister for Food and Agriculture, Shri A.P. Jain, said that the Norwegian Parliament voted 5 million Kroner (about Rs. 33.33 lakhs) during 1959 to the Foundation for Economic Assistance to Under-developed Countries. It was reported that the Foundation intended to spend this amount on the Indo-Norwegian Project for Fisheries in Kerala.

River Projects & Power

PROVISION FOR FLOOD CONTROL IN SECOND PLAN

Replying to a question Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister for Irrigation and Power, laid a statement on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on August 11.

According to the statement the provision for flood control in the Second Plan had recently been increased from Rs. 52.21 crores to Rs. 56 crores, and no further increase was contemplated at present. The provision made originally in the Second Five Year Plan for flood control measures was Rs. 60 crores. Consequent on the reappraisal of the resources likely to be available for the plan period as a whole by the National Development Council in May 1958, the aggregate outlay on the Second Plan was reduced from Rs. 4 800 crores to Rs. 4,500 crores. This cut affected the provision for flood control, which was reduced to Rs. 49 crores. With a view to increasing this provision, efforts were made to locate savings, if any, under other heads in the irrigation and power sector and it was possible to divert anticipated savings to the extent of Rs. 3.21 crores, thereby increasing the provision for flood control to Rs. 52.21 crores.

At the eighth meeting of the Central Flood Control Board, which met at New Delhi on December 22, 1958, the position of funds was reviewed and the representatives of State Governments urged that the provision for flood control should be increased substantially as any cut in their allocations would adversely affect their flood control programme.

The question was examined again in consultation with the Planning Commission and it had since been possible to raise the provision for flood control to Rs. 56 crores.

The allocation of funds for flood control for each State or project on the basis of the original provison of Rs. 60 crores and the tentative allocation on the basis of the revised provision of Rs. 56 crores, was as follows:

States	*Original allocation*	*Tentative allocation*
	(Rs. in crores)	*(Rs. in crores)*
Andhra Pradesh	3.00	1.77
Assam	7.00	5.29
Bihar	10.00	8.69
Bombay	0.75	0.75
Jammu & Kashmir	1.00	1.00
Kerala	1.00	0.57
Madhya Pradesh	0.10	0.09
Mysore	0.40	0.03
Orissa	3.00	2.00
Punjab	4.00	3.94
Rajasthan	..	0.44
Uttar Pradesh	9.00	9.00
West Bengal	3.84	2.43
Union Territories	0.75	1.04
Investigations by Central agencies	4.00	1.35
Kosi Project	9.00	12.50
D.V.C. projects	3.16	5.11

The statement added that requests had been received from State Governments for additional allocations of loan assistance for financing their flood control schemes.

Central Aid To Irrigation And Power Projects

The Government of India, says an announcement of August 8, have sanctioned Rs. 63.5 crores as loans to various States to enable them to meet the expenditure on some of the major irrigation and power projects in 1958-59.

A sum of Rs. 7 crores has been allocated to Andhra Pradesh for financing the expenditure on the Nagarjunasagar Project. The total loans sanctioned since 1955-56 up-to-date to the Andhra Pradesh Government for this purpose amount to Rs. 19.07 crores.

A sum of Rs. 15.38 crores has been sanctioned to the Punjab Government for financing the expenditure on the Bhakra Nangal Project in 1958-59. The total loans sanctioned so far to the Punjab Government for this purpose up-to-date amount to about Rs. 166.83 crores.

In addition, the Government of India have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 1 crore to the Rajasthan Government for the Bhakra Nangal Project — the total loans sanctioned since 1954-55 to the State Government amounting to about Rs. 5.92 crores.

Other loans sanctioned by the Government of India to State Governments for irrigation and power projects (in 1958-59 and total so far respectively) were:

Bombay: Koyna Hydro-electric project Rs. 5.41 crores, Rs. 14.51 crores; *Rajasthan*: Chambal Project Rs. 3.45 crores, Rs. 8.57 crores; Rajasthan Canal Project Rs. 2 crores, Rs. 2.25 crores; *Madhya Pradesh;* Chambal Project Rs. 7 crores, Rs. 2.25 crores; *West Bengal*: D.V.C. Rs. 7.74 crores, Rs. 75.58 crores; *Bihar*: Kosi Project Rs. 4.35 crores, Rs. 14.64 crores; D.V.C. Rs. 3.17 crores, Rs. 24.70 crores; *Uttar Pradesh*: Rihand Dam Project Rs. 5.5 crores, Rs. 13.29 crores.

The Government of India have also sanctioned Rs. 3.09 crores as its share of expenditure on the D.V.C. during 1958-59, bringing the total contribution up to the end of March, 1959, to Rs. 31.26 crores.

Assistance To River Valley Projects

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 4, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister for Irrigation and Power, laid a statement on the Table of the House. According to the statement the Budget provision for Central loan assistance to multi-purpose river valley projects during 1959-60 was as follows:

Bhakra Nangal Project: Punjab Rs. 1605 lakhs, Rajasthan Rs. 271 lakhs; *Damodar Valley Projects*: West Bengal Rs. 714.13 lakhs, Bihar Rs. 277.54 lakhs; *Chambal Dam Project*: Madhya Pradesh Rs. 700 lakhs, Rajasthan Rs. 350 lakhs; *Kosi Project*: Bihar Rs. 630 lakhs, and *Hirakud Dam Project*: Orissa Rs. 437 lakhs.

Surplus Machinery with River Valley Projects

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 7, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, laid a statement on the Table of the House containing a summary of the salient observations made by the Special Officer, appointed by the Union Ministry of Irrigation and Power, to assess the availability of capital equipment and spare parts surplus on irrigation and power projects. Construction equipment worth Rs. 5,100 lakhs was in use on the river valley projects and Irrigation and Power Departments of the States. In addition to the machinery worth Rs. 264.65 lakhs, already declared as surplus by the projects and States, machinery valued at Rs. 854.0 lakhs was spare at D.V.C., Mayurakshi, Hirakud and Tungabhadra projects.

The summary of the Special Officer's report also stated that norms had been proposed to determine the percentage of investment on construction equipment to the capital cost of the project. Annual provision for spare parts had also been suggested.

Progress Of Rajasthan Canal Project

In a written reply to a question Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, laid a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on August 4 giving in detail the progress of the Rajasthan Canal Project since January 1, 1959.

According to the statement approximately 17 crores cubic feet of earthwork for excavation and embankments of the Rajasthan Canal Feeder, and 3.5 crores cubic feet compaction of earthwork for lining of the Feeder had been completed. The construction of 3 railway bridges, 5 important syphons and 7 bridges as also the arrangements for burning of tiles required for lining, were in progress.

The statement further pointed out that it was not planned to supply any water to the Rajasthan Canal from the Bhakra Dam.

Education & Culture

STATE EDUCATION MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

The two-day Conference of State Education Ministers began in New Delhi on August 8. The Union Minister of Education, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, recalling the decision taken in 1957 by the State Education Ministers that free and compulsory education should be introduced for all children up to the age of 11 by 1965-66 at the latest, the Minister informed that the Education Ministry, following the Union Cabinet's approval of this proposal in principle, had already taken some preliminary steps in preparation of this programme. It was estimated that, by the end of the Third Five-Year Plan period, the population of children in the age-group 6-11 would be of the order of 580 lakhs. The total enrolment of boys and girls at the end of the Second Plan was expected to be 337 lakhs. Thus additional facilities would have to be provided in the Third Plan for 243 lakh students, 72 lakh boys and 171 lakh girls. The size of the Third Plan programme for expansion of primary education would be almost three times the size of the Second Plan programme and a major part of the expansion would have to be in the field of girls' education.

Recruitment and Training of Teachers

The most essential requisite for the implementation of a programme of such magnitude was the recruitment and training of teachers, he emphasised. The number of additional teachers required for implementation of this programme would be about 6.34 lakhs on the basis of 1:40 teacher pupil ratio. Even on a more realistic and conservative estimate — as all the children could not be enrolled in the first few years — about 5 lakhs of teachers would be required. The Government of India, therefore, decided to give 100% assistance for the remaining period of the Second Plan to State Governments for setting up teacher training institutions and for increasing their enrolment.

Some measures had also been taken to step up the education of girls so that the existing lag between boys' education and that of girls might be eventually removed and grants had been released to the State Governments for schemes of expansion of girls' education and training of women teachers without insisting on matching funds.

The Minister revealed that an all-India survey indicating the location and distribution of schools in all States and Territories except West Bengal had been completed and this should provide a useful guide to the expansion of schooling facilities in the country. All State Governments should now make an urgent all-out effort to complete preliminary steps for the purpose before the Third Plan began. The Ministry of Education had already indicated these steps in its various communications addressed to State Governments on the subject.

Secondary Education

Continuing Shri Shrimali said that there were some aspects of Secondary Education which need careful consideration. During the Second Plan period 1,033 High schools had already been upgraded into Higher Secondary schools and 777 schools converted into Multi-purpose schools against the targets of 1,187 Higher Secondary schools and 937 Multi-purpose schools for the entire Plan period. It was hoped that, as a result of the reorganisation of Secondary Education, the majority of students would be able to take up suitable vocational pursuits at the end of the school career. But this aim had not been fulfilled and the tendency of all the students to seek admission to the institutions of higher learning continued unabated.

He emphasised the need of linking up Secondary Education with the pattern of employment opportunities in the country and improving the vocational competence of the school leaver. The approximate number of unemployed Matriculates in March 1959 was estimated to be 6,35,567 and this number was likely to swell further unless, on the one hand, the courses were reorganised and made more vocational in nature and, on the other hand, additional employment opportunities on a substantial scale provided through the over-all programme of the next Plan.

In spite of all the efforts to improve Secondary Education, the Minister said the percentage of failures remained more or less constant at about 50%. The result of the latest examinations held in March 1959 indicated that the percentage of failures for different examining bodies ranged from 40.5 to 67.2 per cent. This

aspect of Secondary Education embraced not only the question of evaluation techniques but also the content of the curriculum and methods of teaching.

He added that the problem of improvement of Secondary Schools became more difficult at a time when the State Governments were confronted with great pressure for opening new High Schools and for upgrading Middle Schools into High Schools. It was recognised that the expansion of High School Education would have to proceed at a rapid pace to meet the growing needs of the expanding economy.

University Education

The University Grants Commission had given liberal financial assistance to the Universities with a view to improving the educational facilities and to raising the academic standards. Unfortunately, Dr. Shrimali said, the Commission had not been able so far to make as appreciable an impact as they would wish to because their efforts were largely neutralised by the pressure of large number of admissions than the Universities could cope with. The Government of India and the University Grants Commission, therefore came to the conclusion that, if any appreciable improvement was to be made in the educational standards at the University stage, admissions should both be selective and restricted with due regard to the facilities of staff, buildings and equipment actually available. While restriction of admission to the Universities became an urgent need, steps would have to be taken simultaneously to make secondary education more practical so that it might be a terminal point for the majority of students. Post-secondary vocational and technical training or apprenticeship courses for entry into various professions, trades and vocations should also be provided.

National Service Scheme

Continuing Shri Shrimali said that the Scheme for National Service aimed at taking full advantage of military training for peaceful and productive activities without teaching the actual use of arms. Under this Scheme it was proposed that trained officers would give special training to university teachers who would act as Group Commandants and Camp Commandants. Wherever possible suitable retired army officers would also be mobilised. The scheme had a two-fold objective, viz., to inculcate a high sense of discipline among the youth and to mobilise their latent power for achieving the tasks of national reconstruction. To begin with, it was proposed to run pilot projects for those students who volunteered to participate in the programme. After sufficient experience was gained in camp administration and requisite personnel trained, introduction of the Scheme on a compulsory basis in due course might be considered.

The Minister stressed that apart from the great educational value of disciplined social service, minimum opportunities for sports and recreation must be provided to the young people. The first step in the promotion of games and sports was the provision of playing fields for school children. Highest priority should be given to this need and the larger part of funds available for games and sports should be utilised on this objective. The Central Government had also agreed to provide a modest measure of assistance.

Recalling the conference convened by the Government of Uttar Pradesh at Lucknow in 1953 to consider the question of reform in Devanagari script, Shri Shrimali said that the Government of India accepted its recommendations and forwarded them to the State Governments for implementation. One of the first State Governments to adopt the modified script was the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Their experience, however, showed them that some of the changes presented grave difficulties in practice. They, therefore, convened another meeting of experts at Lucknow in 1957, which suggested certain changes in the earlier recommendations of the 1953 conference.

He pointed out that the allocations made for education year after year could not have been fully utilised. Even in the Second Plan which had considerably reduced the targets, an approximate shortfall of 12 to 14% was expected. This failure was partly due to the fact that the machinery had been overtaxed without being adequately strengthened for the increased quantum of development work. There was thus an imperative need to strengthen the administrative machinery and at the same time to infuse a new spirit into it so that it might facilitate the implementation of the national programme of education, the Minister concluded.

Recommendations

The conference re-affirmed its earlier decision taken in 1957 to provide universal, free and compulsory education for all children in the age group 6 to 11 by the end of 1965-66. To attain this objective it emphasised that it was essential to start the implementation of this programme from the beginning of the Third Five Year Plan, and to take up all preparatory work immediately.

The conference recommended the following measures to be adopted for the implementation of the programme:

(i) Acceptance of the target at the Cabinet level by the State Governments which had not done this so far; (ii) according highest priority to this scheme in the development programme under the Third Plan and making provision for adequate expenditure for its implementation, the question of Central assistance to the States being determined thereafter; (iii) organising a country-wide campaign both through official and non-official channels to mobilise fully the resources and effort of the community for the attainment of this objective; (iv) taking special measures to promote the education of girls and education in backward areas and, in particular, to increase, for this purpose, the number of women teachers and teachers in backward areas as rapidly as the urgency of the situation requires; (v) reviewing and making necessary arrangements for the apportionment of financial and administrative responsibility between State Governments and local bodies; (vi) starting the actual preparation of detailed annual programmes and estimates for meeting the requirements of educational expansion on the basis of the recent Educational Survey and taking necessary steps to establish the required number of new schools and to enlarge the existing ones, wherever necessary, and to fix target dates for the purpose so that the schools can start functioning with effect from the very beginning of the Third Plan; and (vii) strengthening of the administrative machinery, both at the Centre and in the States to the extent required, to shoulder the enormous additional responsibility.

The conference also recommended to the State Governments the Madras Government's programme for school improvements in which the co-operation of the local community was sought in such matters as provision of mid-day meals, equipment for schools, and construction of school buildings, etc.

Playgrounds For Schools

The conference resolved that high priority should be given to the provision of playgrounds for educational institutions and that adequate funds should be provided for this purpose. The Playing Fields Associations should be constituted in each State on which educational institutions, municipal and other local bodies, the P.W.D., the Town Planning Authorities, etc. might be represented. Such Associations should help protect and conserve the existing resources in playgrounds and find out, earmark and recommend the allocation of fresh land for them.

In framing their programmes for the Third Plan, it was recommended that the State Governments should, as far as possible, aim at the target of providing adequate playgrounds for all schools and colleges. It added that in order to popularise games and sports in schools adequate provision should be made for the training of teachers for physical education. Some incentives should be offered to boys and girls who would earn distinction in these activities, and steps should be taken to promote the practice of indigenous games and the holding of coaching camps.

Devanagari Script Reform

The conference resolved that the recommendations of the Devanagari Script Reform Conference held at Lucknow in 1953, as modified by the Conference convened by the Uttar Pradesh Government in 1957, be accepted with certain clarifications. It further recommended that hereafter there should be no unilateral changes in the Devanagari script.

Schools

It was suggested that in order to complete the reorganisation of Secondary Education as early as possible at least 50 per cent of the existing High Schools should be converted into Higher Secondary Schools during the Third Plan period. The Conference held that this was the minimum programme of reconstruction that the country should adopt and any further reduction in this target might jeopardise the very purpose of reorganisation. It was recommended to the Planning Commission, the Union Ministry of Education and the State Governments that adequate provision should be made in the Third Plan for this purpose. During this period, ordinarily no new High School (or Class X School) would be opened and that all Secondary Schools to be established would be of the Higher Secondary pattern.

In this connection, it was suggested that the pattern of Central assistance for the establishment of Higher Secondary Schools should be the same as for the conversion of Higher Secondary Schools. It was necessary that steps should be taken in time to recruit and train additional teachers required for the reorganised and new Higher Secondary Schools.

National Service Scheme

The Conference recommended that the question of introducing the scheme on a compulsory basis should be considered after the experience of a pilot project to be operated for a few years; pilot projects of 3 months' duration consistent with the objectives of the scheme, and preferably one for each university, for students volunteering to participate in the programme, might be organized; and a Committee might be appointed to work out the details of the proposed pilot projects.

Administrative Machinery

Endorsing the recommendations made by the State Education Secretaries and members of the Working Group on Education it was suggested that the finances needed for recruiting the staff for strengthening the administrative machinery for implementing the Third Plan should be made available during the Second Plan period.

It was also recommended that where a new scheme approved in the course of the Plan period could not be conveniently fitted into the State ceiling for the Education Plan to the extent necessary, the expenditure involved should be accepted as an addition to the provision in the State Plan for Education. It further recommended that the Planning Commission should consider this recommendation and convey their decision to the State Governments.

On the question of limiting the number of students in Universities and institutions of higher education, the conference was of the view that the problem be further studied carefully by each State and that the results of the study be discussed at the next conference of the Education Ministers.

Religious And Moral Instruction In Schools

The Government of India, reads an announcement of August 4, have decided to set up a four-member Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Sri Prakasa, Governor of Bombay, to make a detailed study of the question of religious and moral instructions in educational institutions and to make suitable recommendations in the matter. This decision has been taken at the instance of the Central Advisory Board of Education which, at its meeting held at Madras in January last, recommended that in view of the importance of the subject the appointment of such a committee was very necessary.

The terms of reference of the Committee are:

(1) To examine the desirability and feasibility of making *specific provision* for the teaching of moral and spiritual values in educational institutions;

(2) If it is found desirable and feasible to make such provision: (a) to define broadly the content of instruction at various stages of education, and (b) to consider its place in the normal curriculum.

The Central Advisory Board of Education at their tenth meeting held at Baroda in January 1944, stressed the importance of the question of religious instruction in educational institutions and appointed a Committee with Right Rev. G.D. Barne as Chairman to go into this question. The Committee met in November 1944, and its report was placed before the Central Advisory Board of Education at its next meeting held at Karachi in 1945. The Board noted that the Committee had not been able to arrive at any agreed decisions on some of the most important issues and desired that the problem might be investigated again and that the Committee should present a report at the Board's next meeting.

At their 12th meeting held at Mysore in January 1946, the Board considered the views of this committee. The problem was later considered by the University Education Commission of 1948 and the Secondary Education Commission of 1952. Both the Commissions made a number of concrete recommendations for the inculcation of moral and spiritual values in the country's youth.

Expansion Of Women's Education

In a written reply to a question regarding recommendations of the National Committee on Women's Education, and the action so far taken on them, the Union Minister of Education, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, laid the following statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on August 13 stating the decisions taken so far:

The Government agree in principle that a high priority should be given to women's education and special measures adopted for the purpose. The Centre should assume greater responsibility for guiding the States actively in formulating special schemes for the expansion of girls' education, endeavouring to find the necessary funds and pressing for effective implementation.

It has been decided to appoint a National Council for Women's Education to advise Government about educational problems of girls at various stages. It will be considered in due course whether State Governments should also be advised to appoint similar Councils at the State level.

It is not necessary to appoint a separate Joint Educational Adviser at the Centre at this stage to look after the education of girls only. It may, however, be necessary, at a later stage when the Third Plan is under way, to establish a Division or Section wholly concerned with the study of issues arising out of the programme of women's education and to expedite action.

There should be a Deputy Director or Joint Director of Women's Education in all the States, who will be specially charged with following up the programme of women's education as her special responsibility.

The Government do not think it would be possible to provide another 10 crores of rupees for the education of girls and women only during the remaining period of Second Plan. As for the Third Plan, the Government would bear in mind the Committee's recommendation for adequate provision for the purpose.

Action Taken So Far

The Government resolution detailing the functions, powers, composition, nomination of members etc. of the proposed National Council for Women's Education have been gazetted and nominations from State Governments, Central Ministries etc. have been invited for setting up the Council.

The Government have recommended to the State governments that there should be in each State Department of Education a Deputy or Joint Director of Women's Education who should be specially charged with the formulation and execution of special programmes for the education of girls and women in the State.

Development Of Social Education

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 13, the Minister of Education, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, laid the following statement on the Table of the House giving the main schemes, included in the Central and State Education Plans, which were being implemented for the development of Social Education:

State Schemes

Establishment of Central, District and other libraries; establishment of Janta Colleges to train potential village leaders; and appointment of District Social Organisers to co-ordinate, supervise and guide social education work in the State.

Central Schemes

The Institute of Library Science was set up in Delhi, in 1958 to provide and extend facilities for training of public libraries, specially for work at District and State levels. The National Fundamental Education Centre was set up in New Delhi in 1956 to serve as a national centre for training, research and evaluation and to provide leadership in the field of Social Education. Financial assistance is given to recognised voluntary educational organisations of all-India importance to do social education work of outstanding nature. The publication of Social Education literature is being encouraged through award of prizes, preparation of graded readers for neo-literates, purchase of Hindi literature for Social Education Centres and National Extension Service block libraries by sharing costs with State Governments, subsidies for useful books and direct publication of model books for neo-literates.

Experimental Adult Schools have been established to carry out research into syllabi, text books and supplementary for adult schools.

The Ministry of Education have so far incurred an expenditure of Rs. 70.21 lakhs on both the State and Central schemes. This figure excludes expenditure on State schemes for 1958-59 onwards.

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND

In a statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on August 13 in a written answer to a question about the extent of education of the blind contemplated to be increased and the scope of their employment envisaged, the Union Minister of Education, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, stated that the primary and kindergarten sections of a Model School for Blind Children were established at Dehra Dun in January 1959. It was proposed to develop this School into a fullfledged secondary school by the end of the Second Plan period. Proposals for the Third Plan period were under consideration.

A scheme for the establishment of special employment offices for the physically handicapped was drawn up in consultation with an I.L.O. expert in the placement of the physically handicapped. The first office for the employment of the physically handicapped was established at Bombay in March, 1959 which would attempt to place physically handicapped persons including the blind, in ordinary industrial and commercial establishments as well as in the public services on operations that they could perform without impairing efficiency. The establishment of an additional office during the current financial year was under consideration.

A proposal to expand the existing sheltered workshop for the blind at Dehra Dun (which had only 10 blind workers) to provide employment opportunities for 25 workers, was also under consideration, the Minister added.

Basic Education Literature Committee

In a statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on August 5 in reply to a question as to what were the scope and functions of the Basic Education Literature Committee, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, stated that it was an advisory committee. It would advise the Government of India on:

(i) how to accelerate the production of suitable literature and materials on basic education; (ii) what were the various types of materials which should be produced on basic education for the use of: (a) Basic school teachers at different levels; (b) Inspectors and other administrative officers in charge of basic education; (c) Basic teacher training institutions; and (d) for giving due publicity to the proper concept of basic education; (iii) how to produce such material and to print, publish and distribute it.

It would advise the Government of India on any other topic related to the production of suitable literature and material on basic education.

The statement added that the views of State Governments were taken for production of material on basic education as and when considered necessary.

Basic Schools In Delhi

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 5, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, stated that non-basic schools in Delhi would be converted into basic schools. The number of schools to be so converted during 1959-60 was 70.

He further stated that the teachers of these schools would be given proper training for teaching in these basic schools. The number of teachers so far sent from these schools for basic training was 230 and they were being trained at the Teachers' Training Institute, Darya Ganj, Delhi.

Junior Basic Schools

In a written reply to another question the Minister said that the number of junior basic schools in Delhi was 253 and that of Senior Basic Schools 53. The number of children studying in these schools was 41,471. He added that there were 1,322 teachers in these schools of whom 635 were confirmed.

As regards the steps being taken to confirm the remaining teachers who had put in more than 3 years' service, he added that these schools were under the Delhi Municipal Corporation. The Corporation was taking steps to confirm such of the teachers as had completed three years of service.

Improvement Of English Teaching Standard

In a statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on August 10 in reply to a question Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education outlined the measures being taken by the Government of India for improving the standard of teaching of English at the Secondary and University levels of Education. At the Primary level the mother tongue was the medium of instruction.

Secondary Level:

An Institute known as the Central Institute of English had been set up at Hyderabad with effect from November 17, 1958 for

studying the problem of developing better methods and techniques in the teaching of English and preparing text books as well as undertaking the training of teachers.

University Stage:

In 1955 the University Grants Commission had appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Pandit H.N. Kunzru to examine the problem of the medium of instruction at the University stage and recommend ways and means of securing an adequate proficiency in English at the University stage. The Committee submitted its report to the Commission towards the end of November, 1957, which was accepted by the latter.

Copies of the Kunzru Committee Report and the Report on the Conference on Problems of Teaching English had been communicated to all the Universities and State Governments for their information and guidance.

Grants To Educational Institutions

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 5 the Union Minister of Education, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, said the Government of India had decided to appoint a committee of eminent educationists to advise them in the matter of giving grants to institutions which had done pioneering work in the educational field: and that the personnel of the committee had been decided upon.

Asked in what way the functions of this committee would be different from the work of the University Grants Commission in regard to helping and encouraging pioneering work and experimentations in the educational field through different universities, the Minister, in a written reply, stated that the Committee, which would be advisory in its functions, would mainly be concerned with non-University institutions of national importance, whereas the University Grants Commission was concerned with the promotion and co-ordination of University education and for the determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in Universities in addition to its advisory functions.

CENTRAL SANSKRIT BOARD

The Government of India have set up a nine-member Central Sanskrit Board under the chairmanship of Shri Patanjali Sastri, former Chief Justice of India, to advise them on matters relating to the propagation and development of Sanskrit, it has been announced on August 20.

The term of the Board starts on August 1, 1959. The Chairman and members will hold office for a period of three years. The Board may set up such committees as it may deem necessary for the proper discharge of its functions.

Functions Of The Board

The Board will advise the Government of India on matters of policy pertaining to the propagation and development of Sanskrit in the country; regarding patterns of Sanskrit Education at different levels, co-ordination of courses, teaching and similar activities, standardisation of syllabii, examinations and degrees, qualifications of different types of teachers and their training arrangements; regarding methods to be adopted for the improvement and development of the *Pathshala* system of education and privately organised research institutes; when requested, on the question of adding research departments to higher *Pathshalas* and awarding Research Scholarships and stipends to their students; on the methods to be adopted for the preparation and publication of improved Sanskrit text-books; and regarding the State Honours and Awards for Pandits and to recommend names of eminent Sanskrit Scholars for such Honours and Awards.

Sanskrit Commission Recommendations

The Government of India had set up a Sanskrit Commission in October 1956 to undertake a survey of the existing facilities for Sanskrit Education in Universities and non-University institutions and to make proposals for promoting the study of Sanskrit, including research. The Commission was also asked to examine the traditional system of Sanskrit Education in order to find out what features from it could be usefully incorporated into the modern system. The Commission submitted its report in December 1957, and recommended *inter alia* that the Central Government should take early steps for setting up a Central Sanskrit Board in view of the fact that several proposals made by the Commission for the cultivation and promotion of Sanskrit presuppose constant attention, co-ordination and direction from the Centre.

TRANSLATION OF RAMAYANA INTO ENGLISH

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 13 Shri Humayun Kabir, Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, said that the Government of India had agreed to help Shanti Sadan, London, in the publication of volumes II and III of an English translation of Valmiki Ramayana on conditions that the grant would be limited to 50% of the actual expenditure subject to a maximum of Rs. 12,000, and the Shanti Sadan would supply 200 copies of each volume free to the Government of India.

The Shanti Sadan had also agreed to supply copies of Volume I at concessional rates.

No financial aid, Shri Kabir added, had been given for any English translation of Tulsi Ramayana.

Development Of Modern Indian Languages

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 10, Deputy Minister of Scientific

Research and Cultural Affairs stated that the Government of India asked the State Governments to put forward their proposals regarding financial assistance that the latter would require for development of Modern Indian languages except Hindi and Sanskrit.

He added that during 1958-59 the following States had asked for grants and the amounts sanctioned were shown against each:

States	*Grant (Rs.)*
Assam	40,900
Jammu and Kashmir	9,600
Madhya Pradesh	4,000
Punjab	27,000
Rajasthan	6,515
West Bengal	43,800
Mysore	Nil
Kerala	Nil
Orissa	Nil
Andhra Pradesh	Nil

Madhya Pradesh had not drawn the amount. Information regarding the other State Governments was not available.

The Deputy Minister further stated that during 1959-60 requests for grants had been received from the West Bengal and Assam State Governments and they were under consideration.

ENGINEERING COLLEGES

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 10 the Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Dr. M.M. Das, stated that at present there were 83 Colleges of Engineering and Technology working in the country. Nine new colleges were expected to come into being by the end of the current plan period.

Hindi Programmes of A.I.R.

In a written reply to a question whether any time has been allotted for broadcast of Hindi programmes by All-India Radio in non-Hindi speaking areas, and if so, the time allotted per week station-wise, Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, laid the following statement on the Table of Lok Sabha on August 6:

Stations	*Spoken word programmes (in minutes)*
Bombay	2,572
Calcutta	1,473
Madras	340
Tiruchi	324
Vijayawada	535
Hyderabad	1,030
Bangalore	376
Dharwar	751
Trivandrum	525
Kozhikode	541
Cuttack	930
Gauhati	511
Nagpur	1,809
Rajkot	932
Ahmedabad	632
Poona	413

This statement gives information regarding time allotted to Hindi programmes broadcast from various non-Hindi Stations for the month of May, 1959. These figures do not include music programmes which are largely in Hindi throughout North India.

Publicity Material In Hindi And Regional Languages

In written reply to a question as to the total number of posters, pamphlets, etc., printed by Government during 1958-59 in connection with the publicity of National Savings Scheme, Five Year Plan and Grow More Food Campaign, the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Dr. B.V. Keskar, stated in the Lok Sabha on August 3 that publicity literature was published not only in English and Hindi but in various other Indian languages, depending upon the nature of the poster or pamplets etc. Government also attached special importance to publication in Hindi and other regional languages.

The total number of posters, folders, pamphlets, etc., printed by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity and Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting during 1958-59 in connection with the publicity of National Savings Scheme, Five Year Plan and Grow More Food Campaign and the number out of these printed in Hindi and English and other languages are: 246 for National Savings Scheme, out of which 18 are in Hindi, 19 in English and 209 in other languages; Five Year Plan 399, out of which 30 in Hindi, 44 in English and 325 in other languages; and Grow More Food Campaign 53, out of which 10 are in Hindi, seven in English and 36 in other languages.

School For Training In Archaeology

According to an announcement of August 7, a School for training in Archaeology has been opened in New Delhi for the purpose of imparting intensive practical training in various branches of archaeology.

The duration of the course is 15 months starting from October and concluding in December in the following year. The syllabus includes training in excavation, exploration, publication, preservation of monuments, chemical preservation, museum methods, geology, anthropology, environmental archaeology, prehistoric, proto-historic and early historical archaeology, art, architecture, palaeography and numismatics, and teaching of the antiquarian laws in force in the country.

During the training period the students will also be taken round important archaeological monuments and sites so that they may acquire a first-hand knowledge of them as also of their conservation and other problems. At the end of the course, there will be an examination and successful candidates will be awarded a Diploma in Archaeology by the Government of India.

With manifold increase in archaeological activities in the country, a problem that posed itself was that of securing trained personnel for the archaeological Departments. During the last few years several

State Governments have felt the want of suitably trained hands to take up assignments under their respective charges. This problem has all along been engaging the attention of the Government and in his opening address to the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology, held in New Delhi in September, 1957, the late Maulana Azad, then Minister of Education, suggested that a School of Archaeology might be opened under the auspices of the Union Department of Archaeology.

Higher Technological Institutes

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 10 about the progress made in executing the scheme of setting up the Higher Technological Institute at Bombay with the aid of U.S.S.R. and U.N.E.S.C.O., the Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Shri M.M. Das, said that in so far as the direct assistance from the U.S.S.R. was concerned, the equipment had started arriving. Nine cases of equipment, the exact value of which is not yet known, have been received by the Institute.

The present position regarding the assistance received from UNESCO under the U.N. Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance was: equipment costing Rs. 57,35,000 had so far been received (USSR — Rs. 55,50,000; UK — Rs. 1,50,000; USA — Rs. 16,000 and Germany—Rs. 19,000); 12 Professors (10 Russian, 1 American and 1 Yogoslavian) and 3 Russian Translators were working at the Institute; and for advanced training in USSR, 4 Indian teachers were deputed in 1958 and 6 more teachers were selected recently.

The Institute started functioning from July, 1958 and admitted the second batch of students to the under-graduate courses this year. A few post-graduate courses and refresher courses were also conducted at the Institute during the Session 1958-59.

INSTITUTE AT MADRAS

In a written reply to another question he stated that the Higher Technological Institute at Madras, known as the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, opened with the aid of Federal Republic of Germany had started functioning. The first batch of 120 students was admitted in July, 1959 to the first year of the Engineering Courses.

New Engineering Colleges

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 13, Shri Humayun Kabir, Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, said that eight centrally sponsored engineering colleges were to be established at (1) Warangal (2) Srinagar (3) Bhopal (4) Mangalore (5) Allahabad (6) Nagpur, (7) Durgapur and (8) Jamshedpur.

Planning Officers had been appointed by the concerned State Governments in the case of the first 4 institutions. The College at Warangal had started functioning from this academic year making temporary use of the recently constructed buildings for a polytechnic in that place.

He added that the amount likely to be spent by the Government of India was as follows:

	(Rs. in lakhs)
As grant-in-aid	746.38
As interest-free loans for Hostels	311.25
As interest bearing loan on staff quarters	27.96

AGE OF ADMISSION FOR ENGINEERING COURSES

Answering another question the Minister said that the All India Council for Technical Education had recommended 17 years as the minimum age for admission to the four year degree course in engineering after I.Sc. and 15 years for the diploma course after matriculation.

Engineering & Technology Degree Courses

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 5, Shri Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, said that the All-India Council for Technical Education had recommended for re-organisation of degree courses in engineering and technology.

In a statement laid on the Table of the House in reply to another part of the question, the Minister stated that an outline of the common courses in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Mining and Metallurgy for the first three years of the Integrated Course had been prepared by the Committee of the All-India Board of Technical Studies in Engineering and Metallurgy. The Chemical Engineering Board and the Textile Technology Board were working out the details in their respective branches.

He added that according to available information, four Universities had alreay introduced the reorganised five-year Integrated Course. The introduction of courses in the other Universities was a matter for the Universities themselves to decide.

Hobby Workshops In Universities

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 5, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, informed the House that the University Grants Commission had a proposal to establish hobby workshops in Universities and colleges.

Asked to give details of the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken to implement the proposal, the Minister in a written reply stated that the University Grants Commission had decided that the scheme be tried in 11 Universities in the first instance. These Universities were: Aligarh, Baroda, Calcutta, Poona, Delhi, Madras, Nagpur, Saugar, Sri Venkateswara, Visva-Bharati and Roorkee. The Commission had so far approved the schemes of the following Universities and paid grants as shown against each:

	Rs.
Aligarh	8,000
Madras	8,000
Nagpur	16,000
Poona	8,000
Saugar	42,000
Sri Venkateswara	20,000

Dr. Shrimali, in his statement, added that the Commission had also decided that the scheme might, in the initial stage, be tried in 100 selected colleges. The Universities had been addressed by the Commission to intimate the names of the colleges which were willing to implement the scheme. Final selection of the 100 colleges would be made by the Commission on the basis of the recommendations of the Universities.

Vocational & Technical Trades Trainees

According to an announcement of August 5, 27,080 persons, including 967 women, were receiving training in vocational and technical trades at different training centres at the end of June, 1959 under the Craftsmen and Displaced Persons Training Scheme. Of the total number of trainees, 2,913 were displaced persons. In addition, 498 persons were undergoing training at the end of June 1959, under the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme, and 536 persons were undergoing training under the Scheme of Evening Classes for Industrial Workers.

There were 407 instructor trainees at the Central Training Institutes, Koni-Bilaspur and Aundh and 32 women instructor trainees at the Industrial Training Institute for women at New Delhi, at the end of June 1959.

Vigyan Mandirs

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 10, the Union Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Dr. M. M. Das, stated that it was proposed to set up two Vigyan Mandirs in each State during 1959-60 and one during 1960-61. He laid the following statement on the Table of the House giving the names of the places selected for the purpose:

Moodabidri, District South Kanara (Mysore); Devarayasamudram, District Kolar (Mysore); Mayasandra, District Tumkur (Mysore); Nowgong, District Chattarpur (Madhya Pradesh); Amadalavalasa, District Srikakulam (Andhra Pradesh); Haveli Kharagpur, District Monghyr (Bihar); Vaishali, District Muzaffarpur (Bihar); Penukonda, District Anantpur (Andhra Pradesh); Jorhat, District Sibsagar (Assam); Phoolpur, District Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh); and Saidpur, District Ghazipur (Uttar Pradesh).

The Deputy Minister added that the cost would be borne wholly by the Centre except on the accommodation, which was provided either by State Governments or by private agencies.

PERIODICALS IN INDIA

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 3, the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Dr. B.V. Keskar, stated that the total number of daily papers, bi-weekly, weekly, periodicals published in India (on December 31, 1958) in the languages mentioned in the Constitution is 6,215. He added that 531 newspapers were used for Government advertising during 1956-57. The figures for 1957-58 and 1958-59 are 672 and 794 respectively.

Works Of National Leaders

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 11, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Dr. B.V. Keskar, stated that it had been decided to bring out collections of speeches and writings of Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji. Besides, selections from speeches and/or writings of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Azad and Dr. S. Radhakrishnan had also been published.

The Minister further added that a sum of Rs. 2,73,000 had been provided in the current year's budget in respect of Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi. For other publications no specific allocation of funds was made and their cost was met out of the budget of the Publications Division and Chief Controller of Printing and Stationery.

Television In India

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 13 Shri G. Rajagopalan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, said that the UNESCO agreed to provide an amount of $ 25,000 as aid for the experimental television project at Delhi for expenditure on purchase of television receiving sets for community viewing and organising these centres; production of special programmes; assessment of the project and study tour of an officer of All India Radio in Continental countries for television techniques.

He further said that the aid was generally governed by the provisions in the agreement. According to the present procedure, which came into force with effect from January 1, 1959, member-States should have to pay UNESCO eight per cent of the total cost of the project, which included cost of experts, fellowship and equipment, as entered in the books of the UNESCO in addition to the provisions of usual facilities, at the beginning of the following year.

Answering another question, Shri Rajagopalan stated that the television service in India was expected to be started by about the middle of September, 1959. The delay in the introduction was mainly due to difficulties of foreign exchange on account of which the scheme for a full-fledged television service at Bombay had been postponed to the Third Plan. He further added that some television equipment that was available in India had been procured. This was further supplemented with other minimum essential equipment received on loan from the U.S. Government. The UNESCO are also helping the scheme by supplying some TV receivers.

Special Radio Service For Andaman And Nicobar

A special radio programme for the people of Andaman and Nicobar islands was started on August 15.

The programme will be broadcast every Saturday between 2.30 p.m. and 3 p.m. on two powerful transmitters specially beamed to this area on 13.83 and 16.94 metres or 21690 and 17705 kilocycles. It will be a composite programme comprising news, information and entertainment not only of the mainland but also of the happenings in the 222 islands of the Andaman and Nicobar region.

Indian Delegation For Moscow

The Indian Delegation for the International Film Festival being held at Moscow from August 3 to 17 left New Delhi on August 5 by air for Moscow. The delegation consisted of Shri R.K. Ramadhyani, I.C.S., Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Shri Ezra Mir, Chief Producer, Films Division, Government of India.

India entered one feature film, *'Jalsaghar'* (Bengali) and two documentaries *'Acharya Jagdish Chandra'* and *'Madhya Pradesh'* produced by the Films Division for this Festival.

All India Council Of Sports Meeting

The ninth meeting of the All-India Council of Sports was held in New Delhi on August 1 under the chairmanship of its President, Dr. P. Subbaroyan, M.P.

The Council approved a detailed scheme for the expenditure of a sum of Rs. 100 lakhs for the development and promotion of games and sports in the country during the remaining period of the Second Plan which would be distributed as follows:

		Rs. in lakhs
(a) Establishment of a Central Institute of Training:		15
(b) Coaching camps under Rajkumari Sports Coaching Scheme		8
Existing commitments for construction of stadia		3
Grants to National Sports Federations, etc. for coaching camps, equipment, for holding National Championships, sending players and teams abroad etc. (This may have to be increased later)		4
Provision of Play-fields & Equipment in the Educational Institutions		
(a) Play-fields	45	
(b) Equipment	9	
(c) Inter-University Events.	3	57
Popularisation of Games & Sports in Rural Areas		8
Organisational expenses of the Federations/Associations / State Sports Councils etc.		5
Total:		100

The Council recommended financial grants to the following national sports organisations:

a grant of Rs. 50,000 to the Kerala Sports Council; a grant, not exceeding Rs. 78,000, to the Indian Hockey Federation; a grant covering the cost of passage both ways, or the deficit, whichever is less, to the Indian Wrestling Federation for sending a team of Wrestlers to Ceylon; a grant to the Amateur Athletic Federation of India to send four athletes to Ceylon; financial assistance to the Badminton Association of India to participate in the international Badminton Championship for the Uber Cup for women and also to play in the U.S.A. in case India won the Asian Zone Tie for the Uber Cup; a grant of Rs. 85,000 to National Rifle Association of India; a grant of about Rs. 8,500 to the All India Lawn Tennis Association; and a grant not exceeding Rs. 15,000 to the Indian Polo Association.

The Council was of the view that every encouragement should be given to Indian manufactured goods. It was suggested that a Standards Committee of the representatives of the Ministries of Education, Commerce and Industry and representatives of the I.O.A. and the National Sports Federation might try to standardise sports goods according to the required specifications. A procedure for stamping sports goods of the right standard was also suggested.

On the proposal of the Wrestling Federation of India to hold the International Championship in Wrestling in India the Council decided to recommend dollar exchange facilities for $ 3,000 in favour of the Federation for offering the required guarantee to the international body for the purpose of holding the championship in this country.

Action Taken On Council's Recommendations

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 10, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, stated that the All India Council of Sports was an advisory body without any executive powers.

An aggregate amount of Rs. 23 lakhs was paid for the implementation of the recommendations of the Council during the period November 1954 to February 1959.

The Ministry of Education, on the recommendations of the All India Council of Sports, was awarding every year a running trophy (known as Abul Kalam Azad Trophy) to the University which produced the largest number of players for participation in National/International Events during one academic year.

According to the recommendations of the recent *Ad Hoc* Enquiry Committee on Sports, the All India Council of Sports had been reconstituted with effect from March 2, 1959. The nature of the principal decisions taken by the reconstituted Council were as under:

(i) The State Sports Councils might be reconstituted on the lines of the All India Council of Sports. (ii) An enquiry might be made into the criticisms against the Board of Control for Cricket in India. (iii) An integrated Coaching Scheme might be set up on an All India basis. (iv) The Committee administering the Rajkumari Sports Coaching Scheme might be reconstituted and got registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. (v) Financial assistance of Rs. 100 lakhs might be given during the remaining period of the Second Plan for the development and promotion of Sports and Games in the country.

The Government of India have accepted the above recommendations and action to implement them was being taken.

Open-Air Theatres in Rural Areas

According to an announcement of August 2, the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs has, in consultation with the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, tentatively approved a scheme to extend financial assistance to State Governments to start open air theatres in rural areas. In the first instance, it is proposed that not more than five such theatres should be opened in each State during 1959-60.

The theatres will be managed by the village panchayats or by any other authority set up by the State Government.

The State Governments have been asked to provide land for these theatres free of cost. The non-recurring expenditure on them will be met wholly by the Central Government subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1,150 for each theatre, the local population contributing labour for raising the platform and other connected work.

This decision has been taken in pursuance of a recommendation of a conference on Community Development held at Mount Abu in May 1958 to the effect that one or more cultural centres equipped with open air theatres should be opened in rural areas to provide entertainment to the people and encouragement to local arts.

National Discipline Scheme

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 5, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, stated that 3,62,000 children had been trained so far under the National Discipline Scheme. The number of students on rolls of the Scheme in June, 1959 was as follows:

Delhi	—	18,208
Punjab	—	82,208
Madhya Pradesh	—	1,630
Uttar Pradesh	—	7,352
Bombay	—	1,08,930
Jammu & Kashmir	—	13,076
West Bengal	—	24,396
Total	—	2,55,800

The Minister also gave the following figures regarding the number of schools State-wise where training was being imparted under the scheme:

Delhi	—	19
Punjab	—	136
Madhya Pradesh	—	3
Uttar Pradesh	—	16
Bombay	—	299
Jammu & Kashmir	—	20
West Bengal	—	55
Total:		488

The above figures related to students being trained by the Central Government Physical Training Instructors. Besides, the State Governments of Bombay and Punjab also had their own arrangements, under the Education Ministery's general supervision, for training students under the Scheme.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN HINDI

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 10, Union Minister of Education stated that 110 Government of India scholarships were awarded to non-Hindi speaking students for Higher Education in Hindi during the year 1958-59. Of these, 29 scholarships were given to Andhra Pradesh, 25 to Madras, 24 to Kerala, 16 to Mysore, 5 to Bombay, 4 to Assam, 3 to Punjab, 2 to Orissa and one each to West Bengal and Manipur.

SENIOR TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS

A Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, on August 6, says that on the recommendations of the Central Selection Board, the Government of India have decided to award Senior Teaching Fellowships of the value of Rs. 350/- p.m. to 44 candidates, in addition to the candidates whose names have already been announced on July 22 and 26, 1959. Of these candidates 21 are in Civil Engineering, 12 in Mechanical Engineering, 7 in Electrical Engineering and 4 in Telecommunication Engineering.

ITALIAN SCHOLARSHIPS TO INDIAN STUDENTS

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 5, the Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Dr. M.M. Das, said that the subjects for post-graduate research for which scholarships had been offered by the Italian Government to Indian students during 1959-60 were Painting, Restoration of works of art, Music, Archaeology, Language and Literature, Film Direction, Economics and Commerce, Structural Testing, Tropical Agriculture, Land Reform, Rice Cultivation, Town Planning, Agricultural Engineering, Electro-technics, Geology and Mining, Industrial Chemistry, Textile Industry, Drilling Technique, Rail Transport, Motorization, Industrial Pharmacy, Hygienics.

Regarding the terms and conditions of such offer the Deputy Minister added that the value of each scholarship, tenable for

eight months, would be Lire 60 (approximately Rs. 450) per month; exemption from tuition fees; and 70% discount both ways in sea passage for scholars on Lloyd Triestino ships. Candidates must have a University degree or equivalent qualification.

RIDGEFIELD FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs on August 8, three candidates, one each for Metallurgy, Agriculture and Geology, have been selected for award of scholarships offered by the Ridgefield Foundation, New York.

BRITISH COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on August 3, four more Indian nationals have been awarded scholarships under the British Council Scholarships Programme 1959-60, for study in English language and literature and for teaching of English as a foreign language.

The total number of Indian nationals who have already been awarded scholarships under this programme comes to thirteen.

Health

HEALTH EDUCATION BUREAUX

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 7 Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that during the Second Five-Year Plan it was proposed to establish Health Education Bureaux with Central assistance in 10 States.

The Central Government had agreed to the establishment of health Education Bureaux with Central assistance during 1959-60 in the following States:—Andhra Pradesh; Bihar; Bombay; Kerala; Madras; Orissa; and West Bengal. The Government of Rajasthan did not propose to establish a Bureau during the Second Plan period. Proposals from the other States in this regard had not been received.

Equipment and supplies, such as technical equipment, vehicles etc. estimated at Rs. 87,000 were expected to be provided by UNICEF for each State Bureau. The details of UNICEF assistance were being finalised in consultation with UNICEF and the State Governments concerned.

DENTAL CLINICS IN DISTRICT HOSPITALS

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 7 Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that during the Second Plan period the setting up of 350 dental clinics in district hospitals has been envisaged. Approval to the establishment of 109 clinics had been accorded. Of these, 42 clinics had already been established and 19 were proposed to be established during 1959-60.

C.H.S.S. EXTENDED TO DEFENCE CIVILIANS

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 4, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, stated that it had been decided to extend the scope of the Contributory Health Service Scheme to those Defence civilians (both industrial and non-industrial) whose headquarters were in Delhi Cantt. and Shakurbasti and who might be residing within the Municipal limits of New Delhi and limits of the now defunct Delhi Municipal Committee with effect from December 1, 1959.

India's Contribution Of U.N.I.C.E.F.

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 12 Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister for Health, said that during 1958 India paid a contribution of Rs. 18 lakh to the UNICEF General Funds. Besides, the Government of India also paid a grant-in-aid of Rs. 3 lakh towards the expenditure on the Area Office. During 1959, a budget provision of Rs. 16 lakh was made for contribution to the UNICEF General Funds and this contribution had not yet been paid. Besides, a contribution of Rs. 2.5 lakhs had been paid to the UNICEF towards the expenditure on its area office upto July, 1959, and further amount of Rs. 2.5 lakhs would be paid during the remaining part of 1959.

Social Welfare

U.P. ZAMINDARI ABOLITION BONDS

In a Press Note issued in October, 1956, applications for the transfer of U.P. Zamindari Abolition Bonds were invited by the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation from displaced persons having verified claims for urban or rural properties left behind in West Pakistan who had not already received their compensation in cash or otherwise, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Rehabilitation on August 2. These Bonds are repayable in 40 equated annual instalments of principal and interest @ 2½% per annum. These applications are being finalised and the Bonds in lieu of the compensation payable to such persons will be issued shortly.

Meanwhile some non-interest bearing Bonds known as the U.P. Zamindari Abolition Rehabilitation Grant Bonds have also become available for transfer to displaced persons against claims. These Bonds carry no interest but are repayable in 25 equated annual instalments.

Applications for both types of Bonds are, therefore, invited from displaced persons having verified claims for urban or rural properties whose claims have not yet been satisfied, for payment of compensation to them in the form of these Bonds.

NEW SETTLERS IN ANDAMANS

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 13, Shrimati Violet Alva, Deputy Home Minister stated that 321 families, consisting of 1,316 persons had been settled in the Andamans under the Colonisation Scheme in approximately four months since March this year.

Since the commencement of the Colonisation Scheme in 1953, almost 2,500 families, about 10,000 persons had been settled in the Islands. By the end of the Second Plan about 4,000 families, mostly displaced persons from East Bengal, would have been settled.

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

Accommodation For Govt. Employees

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 3, the Minister for Works, Housing and Supply, Shri K.C. Reddy, stated that the number of Government officers who had not been provided Government accommodation of any class in Delhi was 38,464.

Giving the break-up, the Minister said that there were two officers in the pay group Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 4,000 entitled to 'A' class accommodation; six in the pay group Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,999 for 'B' class; 121 in the group Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 1,999 for 'C' class; 1,055 in Rs. 500 to Rs. 999 for 'D' class; 3,148 in Rs. 250 to Rs. 499 for 'E' class; 4,812 in Rs. 150 to Rs. 249 for 'F' class; 12,204 in the pay scale below Rs. 150 for 'G' class; 10,716 (getting pay up to Rs. 50) Class IV; and 6,400 work-charged staff. The actual shortage class-wise in class 'A' to 'F' was more than the above-mentioned figures as quite a number of officers were occupying accommodation of a class lower than they were entitled to.

The number of quarters under construction was 6,649. Of these, nine were of 'A' and 'B' type; 40 of 'C' type: 68 of 'D' type; 1,164 of 'E' type; 728 of 'F' type; 1,664 of 'G' type; and 2,976 for Class IV and work-charged staff. Out of these 6,649 quarters, 957 would be ready for allotment by the end of December, 1959. The balance 5,692 quarters were in various stages of construction and it was hoped that they would be completed and allotted by the end of 1960. The construction of another 4,031 quarters was proposed to be taken up during the remaining period of the current Five Year Plan, the Minister added.

CONCESSION TO FAMILIES OF DECEASED GOVT. OFFICERS

The Government of India, reads an announcement of August 5, have decided that families of deceased Government servants should be allowed to stay in Government accommodation for a period not exceeding four months on payment of normal rent after the death of an officer. This relaxation will remove the hardship felt by families of deceased officers.

According to the existing rules governing general pool residences under the control of the Estate Office, such families could continue to live in Government residences for a period of two months which was not sufficient to settle finally the claims of the deceased officers and the families were consequenly reluctant to vacate the accommodation within the stipulated period.

SLUM CLEARANCE IN DELHI

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 12, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that slum clearance work in Delhi had been transferred to the Delhi Municipal Corporation as it was considered that the Corporation was more suited to execute slum clearance schemes than the Delhi Development Authority.

A provision of Rs. 147 lakhs as loan was made for the Delhi Development Authority. This amount was proposed to be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, who would pass it on to the Corporatin according to its requirements.

CONTRIBUTION FOR FLOOD RELIEF

The Prime Minister has made a contribution of Rs. one lakh to the Sadar-i-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir, for flood relief in the State, from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund, says an announcement of July 20.

Shri Nehru has also made a personal contribution of Rs. 1,000.

Labour & Employment

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 13, the Deputy Minister for Labour, Shri Abid Ali, stated that according to the Live Registers of Employment Exchanges, 12,87,783 persons were seeking employment at the end of June, 1959. The number of educated unemployed was 4,09,363. Of those registered by the Employment Exchanges, 7.8 per cent were skilled or semi-skilled.

He added that three million jobs were estimated to have been created during the first three years of the Second Plan.

Implementing Journalists Wage Committee Report

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 14, the Deputy Minister for Labour, Shri Abid Ali, said that the State Governments were looking after the implementation of the Report of the Working Journalists Wage Committee, as modified by the Central Government. The State Governments were the appropriate authority under the Working Journalists (Condition of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act.

The State Governments were taking steps to persuade newspaper establishments to implement the report at an early date.

He added that some newspaper proprietors had implemented the decisions, and the State Governments would take action against those newspaper proprietors who did not implement them.

PRICE INDEX FOR JUNE 1959

The consumer price index number for working class for Delhi (base shifted to 1949=100) appreciated by one point during June 1959 and stood at 117, reversing the downward trend noticed since April 1959, reads an announcement of July 17.

According to the Labour Bureau, Government of India, the food group index number advanced by one point as a net result of a rise in the prices of ghee, pure mustard oil and potatoes and a fall in the prices of dal *urd*, onions and sugar. The clothing and the miscellaneous group index numbers also advanced by one point each due to higher quotations for *khadi* and toilet-soap respectively. The fuel and lighting group index number remained stationary.

On base 1944=100, the working class consumer price index number for Delhi for June was 154.47 as against 153.30 for the previous month. On base shifted to August, 1939=100, the estimated working class consumer price index number for Delhi for June was 402.9. This was 3.13 points higher than the figure for the previous month.

The States

HOME GUARDS FOR DELHI

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 5, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant, Union Home Minister, stated that the Central Government proposed to recruit 800 Home Guards for the Union Territory of Delhi in the current financial year. An expenditure of Rs. 1.5 lakhs had been sanctioned for the purpose.

The Bombay Home Guards Act, 1947, which was recently extended to Delhi, empowers the Chief Commissioner to form a voluntary corps of Home Guards for use in emergencies. The duties of Home Guards include the protection of persons and ensuring the security of property and public safety.

Each unit of the Home Guards will have a commandant. There will be a commandant-general for overall supervision of the Home Guards in the Union Territory. The commandant, with the approval of the commandant-general, will appoint as members of the Home Guards such persons who are fit and willing to serve.

ASSENT FOR BIHAR BILL

The President has given assent to the Bihar Electricity (Temporary Control) Bill, 1959, it was announced on July 25.

The enactment invests the State Government with power to restrict, regulate or prohibit for five years the supply and distribution of electricity to consumers.

The Bihar Government considers that the acute shortage of power which is experienced now in the areas served by the Damodar Valley Corporation and State Electricity Board is likely to continue till supply increases.

ASSENT FOR RAJASTHAN BILL

An announcement of August 1, says that legislation for establishing urban improvement trusts in Rajasthan has been recently approved by the President.

The Rajasthan Urban Improvement Bill, 1957, to which President's assent has been given empowers such trusts to raise funds, to draw up improvement schemes and to exercise some municipal powers while executing these schemes.

Several urban areas in Rajasthan are now in a neglected condition owing to shortage of funds and the absence of suitable development schemes.

for posts of higher grades.

ASSENT FOR MADHYA PRADESH BILL

The Madhya Pradesh Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers) Bill, 1959, has been assented to by the President, says an announcement of August 3.

The bill levies a tax on passengers who travel by bus outside the municipal limits of towns within the State.

The Madhya Pradesh Government has sponsored the bill to raise funds for construction and maintenance of roads in the State.

Replacement Of I.A.F. Dakotas

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 10, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, Union Minister of Defence, affirmed that an agreement had been signed with M/s Hawker Siddley Group of the United Kingdom for the manufacture of "Avro 748" in India to replace the Dakotas in the Indian Air Force.

Regarding the principal terms of the agreement the Minister added that a licence fee would be paid over eight annual instalments, the first instalment being payable only after the aircraft was certified and the Government of India were satisfied that it met the IAF's requirements. No royalty was payable on the first 100 aircraft manufactured. The Governmnet of India would also have the right to sell this aircraft to other countries subject to agreed conditions.

The maximum all-up weight of the aircraft would be 33,000 lbs.; the weight of the aircraft and fittings was 19,360 lbs.; its payload was 9,750 lbs.; and its maximum fuel capacity was 3,890 lbs. It could carry 36 passengers and it would be powered by two Rolls Royce Dart Rda 6 engines.

Defence

TRAINING AND RESEARCH IN DEFENCE SCIENCE

A maximum of 15 fellowships will be offered yearly to holders of Doctorate or Master's degree in Science and/or Bachelor's degree in Engineering/Metallurgy by the Ministry of Defence, says an announcement dated August 9. The object of the scheme is to encourage young scientists having an aptitude for research to take up a career in defence science.

The fellowships will be given for advanced training/research in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Statistics, Mechanical Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electronics, Metallurgy, Physiology, Psychology and Biology. The number of fellowships for the different subjects may, however, vary rom year to year, depending upon the requirements.

While the value of each of the fellowships will be Rs. 250 per month, six senior fellowships may each carry a value of Rs. 400 (Rs. 500 in specialised subjects). The period of the fellowships will be one year, in the first instance, extending up to two years, depending upon the subjects and requirements.

On appointment, the fellows will not only be given a course of training on the general background of the Research and Development Organisation of the Defence Ministry and the broad nature of defence science problems but also provided facilities for advanced training and/or research in problems pertaining to their subjects in the different defence research laboratories and development establishments. Those whose work is of the requisite standard may be permitted to apply for the Doctor's degree.

On successful completion of training, the fellows will be considered for suitable appointments in the Defence Research and Development Organisation. On absorption in the Defence Science Service, the individuals will become eligible for consideration

India & The World

INDIAN EXHIBITION AT MALACCA

A New Delhi announcement of August 3 says that an Indian art exhibition called "The Art of India" was opened in the previous week at Malacca. The exhibition was on display earlier at the National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, for about two months until July 26 when more than 4,000 people saw it.

BOOKS ON INDIA PRESENTED TO LEBANON

According to a New Delhi announcement dated July 19, Shri R.K. Nehru, India's Ambassador to the United Arab Republic who is also concurrently accredited as India's Minister to the Lebanon, presented at a well-attended ceremony at Beirut on July 18, a set of books on India to the Al Makasad Foundation, which plays a prominent part in the cultural life of the Lebanon.

ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS

MOROCCO

The first Ambassador-designate of Morocco to be accredited to India, Dr. Ahmed Benaboud, presented his Letter of Credence to the President at Rashtrapati

Bhavan on July 30, says an announcement issued on the same date.

DENMARK

Mr. Arne Bogh Andersen, Ambassador-designate of Denmark, presented his credentials to the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan on July 24, says an announcement issued on the same date.

FINLAND

An announcement of July 31 says that Dr. Sigurd Waldemar Von Numers, Minister-designate of Finland, presented his Credentials to the President on the same date.

PAKISTAN

The High Commissioner-designate of Pakistan, Dr. Omar Hayat Malik, presented his Letter of Credence to the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan on July 21, says an announcement issued on the same date. Dr. Malik is the first Pakistani envoy to present his credentials to the President of India.

LAOS

According to an External Affairs Ministry announcement of August 11, Mr. Phagna Bouasy, Ambassador-designate of Laos, presented on the same date his Credentials to the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

AUGUST 1 TO 15

August 1 — Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, inaugurates the first regional seminar on food technology for Asia and the Far East in Mysore

2 — The Indo-Pakistan financial talks in New Delhi conclude

— The report of the Inaccessible Areas Committee, set up by the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture in September 1958, is released

3 — The monsoon session of the Lok Sabha begins

8 — A two-day conference of State Education Ministers begins in New Delhi

— The decisions of the Government of India on the report of the Hotel Standards and Rates Structure Committee are announced

10 — The monsoon session of the Rajya Sabha begins

11 — India signs a new trade agreement with Afghanistan

— The reconstitution of the Import Advisory Council and the Export Promotion Advisory Council is announced

12 — Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, inaugurates the third conference of Regional Directors and Registrars of Companies in New Delhi

15 — Independence Day anniversary is celebrated all over India

— The special weekly broadcast services by A.I.R. for the Andamans and Nicobar Islands are inaugurated

— The heating up of the second coke oven battery of the Bhilai Steel Works begins

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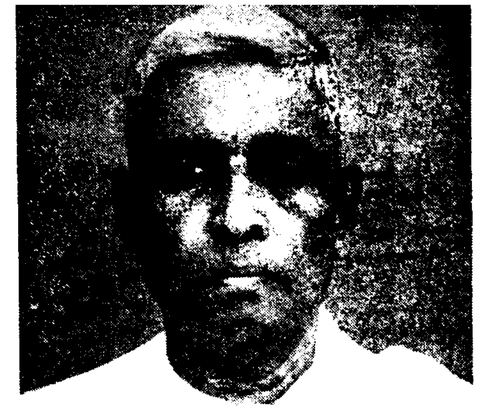
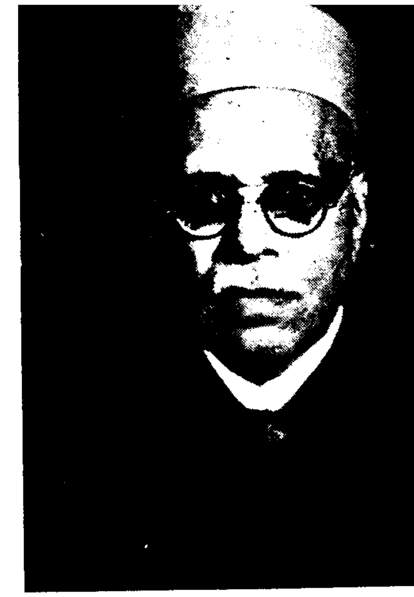


Dr. Radhabinode Pal who has been appointed National Professor of Jurisprudence



Dr. P.V. Kane, M.P., who has been appointed National Professor of Indology

Shri K.B. Lall, Additional Secretary and Director General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Mr. M.R. Younossi, President of Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Royal Afghan Government and leader of the Afghan trade delegation, signing the new trade agreement with Afghanistan in New Delhi on August 11

Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, addressing the inaugural session of State Education Ministers' Conference in New Delhi on August 8

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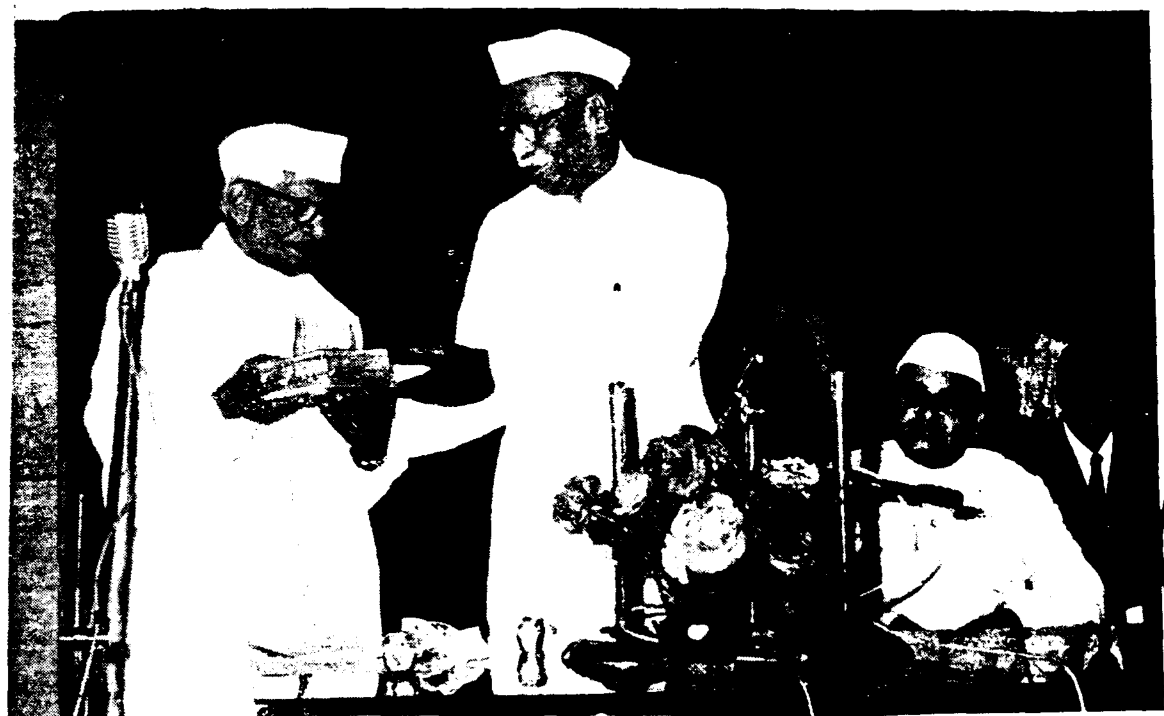
Flt.-Lt. (Miss) Gita Chanda, a doctor in the Indian Air Force, photographed prior to making her maiden parachute jump at Agra on July 17. She is the first woman in India to perform this feat.

Indian Information

Vol. 2 September 15, 1959 (Bhadra 24, 1881) No. 16



The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, inaugurating the Telugu Academy of Sciences and History at Hyderabad on August 21

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, in conversation with the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Prince Naim, in New Delhi on August 31

The Chairman, Shri Justice Jagannatha Das, and members of the Pay Commission, before signing their Report in New Delhi on August 24

Indian Information

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MAIN CONTENTS

COVER: The President of Pakistan, General Ayub Khan, with the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, at Palam Airport in New Delhi on September 1

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

Political & General

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON CHINESE INCURSION INTO LADAKH AND NEFA AREAS

Replying to a Short-notice question as to whether it was a fact that a portion of the Ladakhi territory had been recently occupied by the Chinese forces, and what action had been taken in the matter, the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, made a statement in the Lok Sabha on August 28. He said: "There is a large area in Eastern and North-Eastern Ladakh which is practically uninhabited. It is mountainous, and even the valleys are at a high altitude generally exceeding 13,000 ft. To some extent shepherds use it during the summer months for grazing purposes. The Government of India have some police check-posts in this area, but because of the difficulties of terrain most of these posts are at some distance from the international border.

"Some reports reached us between October, 1957 and February, 1958 that a Chinese detachment had crossed the international frontier and visited Khurnak Fort, which is within Indian territory. The attention of the Chinese Government was drawn to this, and they were asked to desist from entering our territory. They were also informed of our intention to send a reconnaissance party in that area. It may be mentioned that there is no physical demarcation of the frontier in these mountainous passes, although our maps are quite clear on this subject.

"Thereafter, at the end of July, 1959, that is last month, a small Indian reconnaissance police party was sent to this area. As this party consisting of an officer and five others was proceeding towards the Khurnak Fort, it was apprehended by a stronger Chinese detachment on July 28, some miles from the border inside our territory. It appeared that the Chinese had established a camp at a place called Spanggur well within Indian territory.

"On learning of this, a protest was immediately lodged with the Chinese Government of the violation of our frontier and the release of our reconnaissance party was asked for. In their reply, the Chinese claimed that that part of the territory was theirs, but added that they would release the persons who had been apprehended. We sent a further note to them expressing surprise at this claim and giving them the exact delineation of the traditional international frontier in this sector. We urged once again that the Chinese party well within our territory should be withdrawn. No reply has yet been received to this note. Our party was released on August 18.

"In all this area, there is no actual demarcation. So far as we are concerned, our maps are clear that this is within the territory of the Union of India. It may be that some of the parts are not clearly demarcated or anything like that. But obviously, if there is any dispute over any particular area, that is a matter to be discussed.

"I may say that this area has nothing to do with the MacMahon Line. The MacMahon Line does not extend to the Ladakh area; it is only on the other side. This was the boundary of the old Kashmir State with Tibet and Chinese Turkestan. Nobody had marked it. But after some kind of broad surveys, the then Government had laid down that border which we have been accepting and acknowledging."

Answering other questions, the Prime Minister said that there were three categories of frontier disputes. "In regard to some parts of the border", he said, "there can be no doubt from any side that it is our border. If anybody violates it, then it is a challenge to us. There are other parts regarding which it is rather difficult to say where the immediate border is, although broadly it may be known. But it is very difficult even in a map to indicate it; if a big line is drawn, that line itself covers three or four miles, one might say, in a major map. Then there are other parts still where there has been no demarcation in the past. Nobody was interested in that area. Therefore, it is a matter now — it should be a matter — for consideration of the data etc. by the two parties concerned and decision taken in a normal way, as and when there is some kind of a frontier dispute.

"In this particular matter, we have been carrying on since then our correspondence, concerning this particular North-East area, and suggesting that this should be considered by the two Governments," he added.

Answering another question, the Prime Minister said that there were thousands of miles of the border. Aksai Chin area, is an area about some parts of which, if I may say so, it is not quite clear what the position is. It is not at all that particular area. About other area, the position is quite clear. The difficulty comes in regarding some places where there is no absolute certainty about it; in other places, we are quite clear and certain about it. The border is, I believe, 2,500 miles long."

Asked whether these troubles on the border were over the same areas of the Indian territory which the Chinese had indicated as their territory in their maps, Shri Nehru said, "This particular question that I answered related to one area. There are other areas too where we have had, and we are, in fact, having some trouble now. This is an area with a frontier of over 2,000 miles.

"The Chinese Government's maps are on such a small scale and in broad splashes that some parts of Ladakh appear to be included in them. But they are not accurate enough. What we are discussing, and the question which I have answered, relates to about two or three miles. Two or three miles are not visible in these maps. But it is a fact that part of Ladakh is broadly covered by the wide sweep of their maps".

Chinese Construction Of Road In Ladakh

Replying to a Short-notice question on the construction of a road in Ladakh by the Chinese, the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, stated in the Rajya Sabha on August 31:

According to an announcement made in China, the Yehcheng-Gartok Road, which is also called the Sinkiang-Tibet Highway, was completed in September, 1957. Our attention was drawn to a very small scale map, about 2¼ x 1¾ inches, published in a Chinese newspaper, indicating the rough alignment of the road. It was not possible to find out from this small map whether this road crossed Indian territory although it looked as if it did so. It was decided, therefore, to send reconnaissance parties in the following summer to find out the alignment of this road. Two reconnaissance parties were accordingly sent last year. One of these parties was taken into custody by a superior Chinese detachment. The other returned and gave us some rough indication of this newly constructed road in the Aksai Chin area. According to their report, this road enters Indian territory in the south near Sarigh Jilganang lake and runs north-west leaving Indian territory near Hajilangar in the north-west corner of Ladakh.

Representations were made to the Chinese Government in a note presented to the Chinese Ambassador at New Delhi on the 18th October, 1958, drawing their attention to the construction of the road through Indian territory and the arrest of 15 members of the Indian reconnaissance party within the Indian border. The Chinese Government in their reply presented on 1st November, 1958 notified the release of the party and claimed that the road ran through Chinese territory. A further note expressing our surprise at the Chinese contention was presented to the Chinese authorities on the 8th November, 1958. Reminders have been given subsequently. No further answers have been received.

The Aksai Chin area has a general elevation of over 17,000 ft.

The entire Ladakh area including Aksai Chin became a part of the Jammu & Kashmir State as a result of a treaty signed in 1842 on behalf of Maharaja Gulab Singh on the one side and the Lama Gurusahib of Lhasa — this is the name written in the agreement which I am quoting — and the representative of the Emperor of China on the other. Ever since then this area has been a part of the Jammu & Kashmir State. Various attempts at demarcating the boundary between J & K State and Tibet were made subsequently by British officers. The Chinese Government was asked to send their representatives to cooperate in this work. They did not take part. The Chinese Commissioner, however, stated on the 13th January, 1847 as follows:—

"I beg to observe that the borders of these territories have been sufficiently and distinctly fixed so that it would be best to adhere to this ancient arrangement, and it will prove far more convenient to abstain from any additional measure for fixing them."

The British officers were also of the same opinion. Although no actual demarcation was made on the ground, maps were prepared on the basis of old usage and convention. These maps have been used in India for the last hundred years or so. They include the Aksai Chin region as part of Ladakh. Since the boundary of the Aksai Chin region with China Tibet has not been marked on the ground, once or twice questions have been raised about the exact alignment of this boundary. Old Chinese maps have shown a different alignment.

In reply to a question, he added, "There is also from the Chinese point of view, another question that arises, i.e. whether it is part of Chinese Sinkiang or part of Tibet, because according to some Chinese claims, it belongs to Chinese Sinkiang, some old claims which were advanced later on."

Answering another question, the Prime Minister further said: "Presumably the Chinese attach importance to this area because of the fact that this route connects part of Chinese Turkestan with Gartok-Yehcheng. This is an important connection."

NEFA

In reply to an adjournment motion on the alleged Chinese incursion into NEFA area, Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, made the following statement in the Lok Sabha on August 28:

In the course of the last two or three years, sometimes, not very frequently, there have been cases of some kind of petty intrusion on our border areas by some platoon or something of the Chinese troops, which was nothing very extra-ordinary, because there is no demarcation at all and the parties sometimes may cross. We drew the attention of the Chinese Government in 1957-58 to this and they withdrew, there the matter ended.

One instance I have already quoted, which was a more serious one. In Ladakh last year, a small police party was apprehended by them, and that matter is still under dispute or under correspondence. Now, in June this year, the Chinese Government protested to us that Indian troops had shelled and intruded into Chinese territory by occupying a place on the border of Migyitun, and some other place along the frontier — this is in Tibet-NEFA — and they accused us that our troops had entered into some kind of collusion with the Tibetan rebel forces or "bandits", as they call them, carrying on illegal activities against the People's Government of China. We replied that there is no truth in this allegation, and we expressed surprise that the Chinese Government should give credence to these wrong allegations. Ultimately nothing happened there. We stayed where we were, and there was some dispute about the line.

Now, there are two matters that I would particularly like to mention: one, of course, is of very considerable importance and it is topical now. I shall come to it later. The first one is that on the 7th August an armed Chinese patrol, approximately 200 strong, violated our border at Khinzemane north of Chuthangmu in the Kameng Frontier Division. When requested to withdraw, they pushed back, actually physically pushed back, our greatly out-numbered patrol to a bridge at Drokung Samba. Our people consisted of ten or a dozen policemen and they were about 200, about ten times us. They actually physically pushed our men back. There was no firing. Later on, the Chinese detachment withdrew and our forces again established themselves. All this was over a question of about two miles. I might say, according to us, there is an international border. Two miles on this side is this bridge and two miles on that side is our picket or the small force. So, our patrol party was pushed back to the bridge and two miles away they stood facing each other. Then both retired. Whatever it was, later on the Chinese withdrew and our picket went back to the frontier and established a small picket there. The Chinese patrol arrived later and demanded immediate withdrawal of our picket and lowering of our flag there. This request was refused. Then there was some attempt by the Chinese forces to outflank our people, but so far as we know our people remained there and nothing further happened; that is, on the border itself. That is one instance which happened about two weeks ago.

The present incident I am talking about is a very recent one and, in fact, is a continuing one. On the 25th August, that is three days ago, a strong Chinese detachment crossed into our territory in the Subansiri Frontier Division at a place south of Migyitun and opened fire. Hon. Members will remember, I just mentioned Migyitun in connection with the Chinese protest that we have violated their territory and were in collusion with some Tibetan rebels. That was their protest made in June last, and there the matter ended. Now, round about that area, a little further away but not far from it, this Chinese detachment came and met, some distance away, our forward picket. They were much larger in numbers; it is difficult to say in what numbers, but they were in some hundreds, 200, 300 or, may be, even more. They surrounded this forward picket which consisted of 12 men — 1 N.C.O. and 11 Riflemen of the Assam Rifles. They apparently apprehended this lot. Later, apparently, 8 of these 11 Riflemen managed to escape. They came back to our outpost. The outpost is at a place called Longju. Longju is about 3 or 4 miles from our frontier between Tibet and India as we conceive it. Longju is five days' march from another post of ours in the interior, a bigger post called Limeking. Limeking is about 12 days' march from the next place behind it. So, in a way, this Longju is about three weeks' march from a road-head. I merely mention this to give the House some idea of communications, transport, distance and time taken. I was saying, on the 25th they captured this forward picket of ours, but 8 of them, having been captured, apparently, escaped and came back on the 26th, the next day. The Chinese again came and opened fire and practically encircled this picket and the post. In fact, they came forward and encircled this post, Longju, and although there was firing for a considerable time, we had no account of any casualties. Our people apparently fired back too. When these people were more or less surrounded at Longju they left that picket and withdrew under this overwhelming pressure. This has happened only the day before yesterday evening. So, we have not been able to get any exact particulars of what has happened.

The moment this information came, we immediately protested to the Chinese Government about it and took certain other steps in that area to strengthen our various posts, Limeking and others, as we thought necessary and feasible. We have, in fact, placed all this border area of NEFA directly under our military authorities. That is to say, it was dealt with by the Assam Rifles under the Assam Rifles Directorate which was functioning under the Governor and the Governor was the agent of the Government of India in the External Affairs Ministry. The Assam Rifles will of course remain there and such other forces as will be necessary will be sent but they will function now under the army authorities and their headquarters.

All these have taken a little time. As I pointed out, it takes weeks. In this particular place, Longju, I imagine that this small picket of ours — it was probably altogether about 38 — may have run short of ammunition because there was no supply coming in. We tried to send supplies by air. They were dropped but they missed them. It is a mountainous area; it is not easy. It is slightly risky to send para-troopers there, risky to the men in these mountainous areas. We do not think it was desirable or worth-while to do so at that place-dangerous. Anyhow, we have taken such steps as were feasible.

In fact, while I was sitting here, I have heard from our Ambassador from Peking. When he handed over this note to the Chinese authorities, the reply was that their information was different. The Director said that the information that the Chinese Government had received was contained in the note handed over to Kannampilly, one of our men there. Regarding the incident at Migyitun, according to their report, it was the Indians who fired first; the Chinese Frontier guards had opened fire only in self-defence. They had received no information yet of the clash at Longju on the 26th August. This is the Chinese answer. The Director said that the situation in this sector of the border was tense because Indian troops were continuously pushing forward. We see here the same kind of language, a repetition of the reports we have, say, between India and Pakistan; that is, we make a statement and an exactly opposite, contrary statement is made by the other side, as to who started firing.

I confess that in these matters I give credence to our own reports and I believe it is true because I would rather believe my own men who are there and who are trained men, not used to exaggeration, and also because the circumstantial evidence also supports their account. In fact, our Ambassador pointed this out to the Chinese people. So, that is the position. I need not say that, while I do not wish to take an alarmist view of the situation, in itself these are minor incidents, but it is a little difficult to understand what lies behind these minor incidents. In any event, we have to be vigilant and protect our borders as best as we can.

On the question of broad policies, these are in our mind. We have to face here a particular situation. Any country which has to face that situation has to stand up to it. There can be no doubt about it. There is no alternative for us but to defend our country's borders and integrity. Having said that, at the same time, we must not, as often happens in such cases become alarmist and panicky and thereby take wrong action.

Obviously, apart from some past information, I have given the House the latest information to the House, including the telegram which came to me while I was sitting here. In this telegram, apart from other things, our Ambassador has said:

"I pointed out that four persons" — it is really three — "were still missing as a result of the incident of the 25th August and that on the 26th August, Chinese troops had over-run Longju, which the Chinese knew very well to be within Indian territory. I reiterated our Government's wish that the Chinese Government should take immediate steps to see that there was no assertion of supposed claims by force. Differences should be settled by negotiations."

We have taken the line that minor border incidents and border differences should be settled by negotiations. We must distinguish between this and that broad approach of the Chinese maps which have brush coloured hundreds of miles of Indian territory. That is totally and manifestly unacceptable and we have made it clear. We stick to the MacMahon line. But it is quite another thing that in this long line there may be minor arguments about a mile here or a mile there. These arguments have been there before the Chinese came to Tibet. Even with the Tibetan authorities, these arguments about a mile of grazing around here or there have been there. We admit that these are differences which exist and which should be settled. We think we are right, but let us sit round a conference table and settle them. We are prepared to take up any matter like that, but when it comes to huge chunks of territory, it is not a matter for discussion.

The one or two instances that I have stated are, again, according to us clearly instrusion into our terri-

tory. But suppose that there is some question of a Tibetan or Chinese case about a mile here or there, well, we are prepared to discuss it. But from such information as we have received and which I have placed before the House, when their forces come, envelope our check-posts and capture them after firing, it is not the normal peaceful way of approaching these questions, even if there is a dispute. Therefore, this matter becomes a much more serious one than some incidental or accidental border affray.

In reply to a short notice question in the Rajya Sabha on August 31, the Prime Minister stated: "It is hardly possible for me to tell the House what military or like steps we have taken in such matters. It is not possible, if I may put it that way, to prevent an incursion over a two thousand mile frontier but it is possible to take some steps to repulse that incursion or to strengthen our defences but the House should remember that while it is our duty, of course, to defend our borders and to strengthen them and thus protect the integrity of India, one does not normally, in the case of big countries, suddenly start as if there was a war between them and hit out allround. One considers these things and one tries to settle matters by talks, etc. At the same time, one defends oneself at the time of an attack. It does not obviously make very much of a difference physically to China or to India whether a mile or two in the high mountains belongs to them or to us but it does matter very much if a treaty is broken or an aggressive attitude is taken. Where these matters occur, we have to follow a double policy, one, of course, of defence, and the other, always to settle these matters by conferences."

Asked whether there was any doubt about the ownership of this particular territory where incursions had been made by the Chinese, or, whether India was certain that it belonged to her, Shri Nehru said that the Chinese not only doubted it but claimed ownership of that particular strip. He added that he did not know how far it was correct but they claimed that particular strip and they said to our men that that strip belonged to them.

Asked to indicate the reasons why the Chinese had taken to this aggressive action against India in these areas at this time, the Prime Minister replied:

"It is obviously a matter of conjecture. First of all, I would like to distinguish between the position in the North-East and the position in Ladakh. The position in Ladakh is different from the position in the North-Eastern Frontier Agency and these borders. All these borders are parts of the so-called MacMahon Line. If you accept the MacMahon Line you accept all that frontier really from Burma onwards to a good long way, in Nepal. That does not apply to the Ladakh border which was for all these long years under the Jammu and Kashmir State and nobody knew exactly what was happening there although some British officers went a hundred years ago and drew a line and the Chinese did not accept that line. That matter is clearly one for consideration and debate but that does not apply to this area. Here there was a MacMahon Line and undoubtedly this is in our view a clear case of aggression. Why they have done so, I cannot naturally say exactly. It is a conjecture."

BHUTAN AND SIKKIM

Answering a Short-notice question in the Lok Sabha on August 28 whether the Government of India had seen reports in the press about Chinese propaganda in Sikkim that Bhutan and Sikkim were part of Chinese territory in the past and are bound to return to the Chinese motherland within the next few years; and if so, the action to be taken to remove the anxiety created by these reports among the people of Sikkim and Bhutan and border territories in India, the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru said:

"We have seen occasional reports in the press to the effect mentioned by the Hon'ble Member. It is not possible for us to check up the authenticity of these reports. Such reports are naturally causing concern to the people of Sikkim and Bhutan and elsewhere in the border regions of India. Our position is quite clear. The Government of India is responsible for the protection of the borders of Sikkim and Bhutan and of the territorial integrity of these two States and any aggression against Bhutan and Sikkim will be considered as aggression against India."

In reply to a supplementary the Prime Minister confirmed that there had been some recent difficulties in a person going to Bhutan from India by the normal route which crossed a little corner of Tibet below Yatung. There would be difficulty for Bhutanese people to cross that route and hence they were using other routes.

He added: "There are other routes from India, of course; only they are longer and sometimes more difficult and these routes are being improved. In fact, quite apart from recent incidents, there is a programme of road building in Bhutan, roads from India to Bhutan and within Bhutan, and we are helping them in building those roads.

Asked whether Government had received any reports of harassment of Bhutan and Sikkim citizens by the Chinese troops or Chinese nationals, Shri Nehru said, "So far as I know, I do not think there has been any incursion of Chinese troops into Bhutan or Sikkim. The Chinese troops came to those borders probably because the refugees were coming through that way, possibly to stop them or in pursuit of them. Probably, they were not more gentle with the refugees. One can imagine that. But I do not think there was any kind of conflict with the Bhutanese as such. It may be that some threats were thrown out occasionally and some Bhutanese have heard them.

Continuing the Prime Minister reaffirmed, "All we can say is that as I have said already any kind of incursion into Bhutan or Sikkim will be considered incursion into India, that we shall abide by the assurances we have given to them. How we shall abide by them and in what manner if circumstances arise is a matter for careful consideration."

Replying in the affirmative to another question whether the Government of India had written to the Chinese Government at Peking about this propaganda and whether any reply thereto had been received, Shri Nehru said, "We have specifically written to them about this. Of course, we could not accuse the Chinese Government of propaganda. We have not stated so but we have said to them that such things are reported to us. Concluding he added, "These reports mostly come from naturally not Chinese Government sources. That is what I have said. I have said in my reply that it is not possible for us to check up the authenticity of those reports. But they are said to be made by lesser functionaries in Tibet, smaller people who say this."

Indo-Pak Talks On Canal Waters

The Ministry of Irrigation and Power, in a Press Note dated August 26 has given cover to the following text of a statement, issued in London by Mr. W.A.B. Iliff, Vice President, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, on Indo-Pakistan Canal Water talks, which opened in London on August 5.

"The discussions between the Representatives of India and Pakistan and the World Bank regarding the Indus water question, held in London, have concluded on August 25, according to schedule.

"It has been possible, during this period, to work out agreed formulas for some aspects of the Heads of Agreement for an International Water Treaty. Some other aspects of the Heads of Agreement have also been discussed. As was expected, some further studies must be made before trying to reach agreement on those aspects.

"This work is proceeding in London, New Delhi and Karachi, and I have proposed to the two Governments that the main discussions should be resumed in London, about September 7, to last about 10 days, and that we should meet again in Washington in the latter half of October 1959."

Foreigners In India

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 19, Shri G.B. Pant, Union Home Minister, stated that more than 52,000 foreigners were registered in India by the end of 1958.

Among the foreigners resident in India were: Afghans — 6,973; Americans — 3,675; Burmese — 1,942; Chinese — 11,614; Germans — 3,171; Iranians — 4,325; Italians — 1,136 and Russians — 1,694.

Replying to another question Shri B.N. Datar, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, added that the total number of Christian missionaries in India at the beginning of 1959 was 4,802. He further said that 223 missionaries were granted visas in 1958 and applications from another 390 foreign missionaries had been received this year.

VISAS TO FOREIGNERS

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 22, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant, Union Home Minister, said that the number of foreigners to whom visas to visit India had been granted so far was 7,918, excluding Commonwealth citizens and Pakistan nationals.

Indian Employees In Foreign Firms

Answering a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 25, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, said that the percentage of Indians employed in salary groups of Rs. 1,000 and above in foreign firms in India up to January 1, 1959, was 59.7. Nearly 96 per cent of the posts carrying salaries below Rs. 1,000 per month were filled by Indians as early as 1955. Since then, information regarding this category was not being collected.

Replying to a further question, the Minister added that the number of Indians employed by foreign firms rose from 4,685 on January 1, 1956 to 7,249 on January 1, 1959. This worked out to 41.6 per cent and 59.7 per cent respectively of the total number of persons employed by foreign firms in India.

POOL OF INDIAN SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 26, Shri B.N. Datar, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, said that 77 persons had been offered employment in the recently-created Pool of Indian Scientists and Technologists. He added that some others had been contacted directly by different Government organisations but their number was not known.

The Central Government have constituted a Pool to place temporarily well-qualified Indian scientists and technologists returning from abroad until they are absorbed in suitable posts on a, more or less, permanent basis. The Pool is to include persons with Indian qualifications and outstanding academic record. However, the proportion of such persons will not ordinarily exceed 25% of the total number of posts in the Pool.

Persons appointed to the Pool are attached to a Government department or a State industrial enterprise, national laboratory, university or scientific institution, or given some other work depending on the requirement, and their qualifications and experience. Officers of the Pool may also be seconded to a Government department or other organisation including industrial establishments in the private sector. But, when a person is thus seconded to some department or organisation for a period of a year or more, the resultant vacancy in the Pool may be filled up if there are qualified candidates in waiting.

PARLIAMENT DEBATE ON CENTRAL INTERVENTION IN KERALA

Replying to the three-day debate on the President's proclamation in Kerala the Home Minister, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant said in the Lok Sabha on August 20, that two things were necessary for Central intervention in a State: a breach of the provisions of the Constitution and a feeling among the people in the State that things were being done which were improper and intolerable.

He said the Centre had acted in Kerala not only because of the agitation there but also because of the acts that had preceded it and which amounted to breaches of the Constitution. A chain of events had started much before the agitation and the mass upsurge was its culmination. The Centre would have been guilty of dereliction of duty if it had not acted in the face of all that had happened in the State. He maintained that everyone agreed that Central intervention was essential, inescapable and inevitable. It would be wrong to think that an agitation alone would induce the Central Government to intervene under Article 356 of the Constitution.

After all, he added, what the proclamation amounted to was nothing more than elections within six months if possible and there was no intention to extend that period unless it was absolutely necessary.

Shri Pant recalled that last year, there had been suggestions for an enquiry into the affairs of Kerala, but the Centre had not encouraged them. There had also been authentic reports about certain acts which were not in accord with either the letter or the spirit of the Constitution. The Centre did not take any step under article 356 or any other provision because it was felt that such action might be misunderstood as the complexion of the Kerala Ministry was a different one. Also, the Centre thought that the best way would be to let the weight of public opinion in the State have its play.

Referring to Dr. Ambedkar's speech in the Constituent Assembly, which a member of the Opposition quoted, that the President was obliged to warn an erring State before resorting to Article 356, Shri Pant said that Dr. Ambedkar had also made it clear that if a State failed to heed such a warning, the matter should be settled by fresh elections and failing that by resort to Article 356.

So far as Central assistance to the Kerala Government was concerned, the Home Minister said whatever help had been asked for was provided. Army units were placed near Kerala for possible use by the State Government. He also recalled that the Prime Minister and he himself had opposed direct action for political purposes in any form.

Referring to the Governor's report, he said that this report was the weightiest document which Government could place before the House as it gave the views and opinions of a person who had been in close contact with the State Government and who had been in Kerala throughout the period covered by the report.

Answering a question, he said that Government would examine the question of issuing a supplementary proclamation to enable the President to take appropriate decisions on Bills sent up by the Kerala Government for his assent.

Concluding Shri Pant expressed the hope that the step taken in Kerala would lead to a relaxation of tension and improvement in relations.

Intervening in the debate, on the President's proclamation in Kerala the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, said in the Rajya Sabha on August 25 that the basic issue that arose in Kerala was the functioning of a Communist State Government in a democratic structure. That issue had not yet been solved. The Communist Government in Kerala found it very difficult to fit in mentally with this democratic apparatus. They were constantly running into difficulties. The real point was that the Communist Party had a chance in Kerala, and according to his thinking, they failed in that chance. It was the judgment fundamentally of a very large number of people in Kerala.

The Prime Minister said the Communist Party was something more than a national party and it depended for its thinking and working not on internal and national factors but on external and supra-national factors. He said how far that type could fit in or function with some measure of 'give-and-take' and co-operation with other groups and parties in India in the conditions existing in the country was an interesting question.

Speaking about the technique of Communism, he said it had been so firmly impressed on the minds of the adherents of the Communist Party in India that even though conditions might be completely different between one country and another, they could not get out of their steel-frame of thinking and action. It was that that created trouble and not the economic theory of Communism. In Kerala, he said, the Communist Government's actions resulted in tremendous fear which spread to large numbers of people. It brought together people who had little in common with each other.

He reiterated that the proclamation was absolutely constitutional and whatever might be the opinion of people about the various aspects of the past history, leading up to the proclamation, nobody in his heart of hearts could really say that it was not justified. Shri Nehru added whatever had been done was inevitable, unavoidable and desirable.

HOME MINISTER'S REPLY TO DEBATE

The Home Minister, Shri G.B. Pant, who wound up the debate, said that members who had personal knowledge had given facts which could lead only to one conclusion — the administration in the State was not being conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Also, there was discrimination between Communists and non-Communists generally as well as in the fields of labour and agriculture. He asked the House to understand the scope and purpose of the proclamation and said this was to ensure unfettered elections to remedy the present state of affairs.

The President's proclamation in Kerala was approved by the Lok Sabha on August 20 and by the Rajya Sabha on August 25.

Saiyid Fazl Ali Passes Away

The Union Government in a Gazette of India Extraordinary mourned the death of Shri Saiyid Fazl Ali, Governor of Assam, which occurred at Shillong on August 22.

Born on September 10, 1886. Shri Saiyid Fazl Ali received his school education at the London Mission School, Banaras, and graduated from Muir Central College, Allahabad. He was called to the Bar from the Middle Temble, London, in 1912. He practised as a Barrister at Chapra and later at Patna till 1924. He was appointed judge of the Patna High Court in 1928 and became its permanent Chief Justice in 1943. He was a Judge of the Federal Court of India from 1947 to January, 1950, and a Judge of the Supreme Court of India from 1950 to 1952.

During his distinguished judicial career of 24 years, Shri Saiyid Fazl Ali held a number of other important assignments also. He represented India as a delegate to the Second Session of the United Nations General Assembly at New York in September, 1947, and was elected Chairman of the Fifth Committee of the Assembly during that Session. He served as Governor of Orissa from 1952 to 1954. He was appointed Chairman of the States Reorganisation Commission and in recognition of his meritorious service to the country was awarded Padma Vibhushan in January, 1956. He has been Governor of Assam since May, 1956.

ACTING GOVERNOR OF ASSAM

The President has appointed Mr. Justice Chandreshwar Prasad Sinha, Chief Justice, Assam High Court, to act as Governor of Assam until a successor is appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the sad and sudden death of Shri Saiyid Fazl Ali, reads a Press Communique issued on August 22 from the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Shri Holi Ram Deka, the senior Puisne Judge of the Assam High Court, will take over the duties of Chief Justice during this period.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain Resigns Office

A Press Communique issued from the Rashtrapati Bhavan on August 24 says that the President has, under clause (2) of Article 75 of the Constitution of India, accepted, with regret, the resignation of Shri Ajit Prasad Jain of his office as Minister.

New Minister For Food And Agriculture

Consequent on the acceptance by the President of the resignation of Shri Ajit Prasad Jain, Minister of Food and Agriculture, Shri S.K. Patil, Minister of Transport and Communications, will take charge of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, reads a Press Communique issued by the Cabinet Secretariat on August 24, 1959.

Dr. Subbarayan Appointed Cabinet Minister

According to a Press Communique issued from the Rashtrapati Bhavan on August 31, the President, on the advice of the Prime Minister, has appointed Dr. P. Subbarayan, a Member of the Lok Sabha, to be a Cabinet Minister.

Hindi-Knowing Employees In Government

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 17, Shri B.N. Datar, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, said that about 25 per cent of the Centre's employees in grade III and above already knew Hindi. Additional facilities for teaching Hindi to Central Government officials would be considered in the light of decisions taken on the Committee of Parliament on Official Language. He added that there were, at present, Hindi Teaching Centres in 52 cities.

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.

Employees are 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 language. *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.

Procedure For Disposal Of Pension Cases

In course of laying a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on August 22 indicating the main features of the new scheme issued on March 9, 1959 for the expeditious disposal of pension cases, the Deputy Finance Minister, Smt. Tarkeshwari Sinha, said that the scheme was in two parts, namely, procedural and alteration of certain basic rules relating to pensions. The procedural part had been finalised. The alteration of rules would be considered after the report of the Pay Commission was received.

She further stated that as on February 1, 1959 there were in all 1,973 pension cases of Central Government employees which had been pending for over one year after retirement of the employees concerned. It was not possible to give any definite estimate of the time which would be taken to finalise the pension cases and arrears. Efforts were, however, being made to get these cases expedited.

The statement indicated the following main features of the scheme:

(i) It had been provided that in each Department and Office an officer of appropriate rank should be specifically charged with the responsibility for initiating action in due time regarding the completion of pension records and documents. This officer would have a list prepared every six months of all officers, who would attain the age of superannuation 12 to 18 months hence and ensure that in each case action was initiated at least one year in advance of the date of retirement of the officer concerned.

(ii) To ensure that all necessary steps involved in the finalisation of pension cases were taken well in time and simultaneously, a *proforma* called "Check list" and a form of "Progress Statement" had been introduced. As soon as a pension case was initiated a check list would be started and the documents already available checked up with the proforma item by item. Items in which information was not available or was incomplete, would be pursued through the progress statement, which would be reviewed at regular intervals.

(iii) A procedure had been evolved whereby in cases in which some Government dues were outstanding against the Government servant on the date of his retirement, payment of pension and gratuity would be made to him on due date, on his furnishing a suitable surety or cash deposit or on his agreeing to such portion of his death-cum-retirement gratuity being withheld as might be considered appropriate.

(iv) Standard forms for the issue of sanctions to pension, death-cum-retirement gratuity and family pension were introduced.

(v) It had been provided that superior officers, when inspecting offices under their control, should make it a point to satisfy themselves that these instructions were being complied with in practice.

(vi) Rules and orders disregard of which had generally resulted in delays in the past, were pointedly brought to the notice of the administrative authorities for strict compliance in future.

Office And Residential Accommodation

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 19 Shri Anil K. Chanda, Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, stated that the shortage of office and residential accommodation in Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi was being reduced mainly by construction of Government buildings according to a phased programme. Approximately seven lakh sq. ft. of office accommodation and 7,000 units of residential accommodation were at present under construction in the three cities. Construction of approximately 23 lakhs sq. ft. of office accommodation and 5,000 units of residential accommodation was being planned. Further proposals regarding construction in the Third Five-Year Plan were being formulated.

The Deputy Minister added that the problem was also being solved to some extent by the shifting of offices out of these cities. So far, seven offices had been shifted out of Delhi and one out of Calcutta. The area of office space thus vacated was 50,000 sq. ft. in Delhi and 20,000 sq. ft. in Calcutta. Three hundred units of Government accommodation had been released in Delhi as a result of the move of offices.

Govt. Employees' Lack Of Initiative

An announcement of August 18 says that in a circular sent to the Central Ministries, the Union Home Minister, Shri G.B. Pant, has pointed out that there is a tendency of "a negative attitude to work" among the Government employees, particularly noticeable among the officers of the intermediate grade.

Shri Pant has observed that more ingenuity and time seem to be devoted in finding out how a thing is not to be done rather than in processing it constructively towards its speedy disposal. Schemes which are desirable get held up for long over small objections.

UNWILLINGNESS TO DECIDE

This tendency, the Home Minister feels, reflects in itself in "an unwillingness to take a decision" on a case and in an attempt to move it up to the next higher grade of officers. The result is that higher officers have themselves to deal with a large number of cases when a proportion of them could as well have been disposed of finally at the lower level.

There is a marked tendency amongst the officers of the intermediate grades to wait for offices to put up suggestions or papers instead of taking the initiative and thinking ahead in regard to the work entrusted to them.

Shri Pant has suggested to lay down for as many units as possible the type of cases on which the final decision must be taken by an officer of a specific level who would hold himself responsible for that decision and the expedition with which it is taken. The capacity of an officer to take decisions and assume responsibility might be one of the primary criteria for judging his work. Those who show a negative approach and shirk responsibility on a decision would have earned an adverse judgment on their work.

The Home Minister thinks that it might be worthwhile having some appropriate rule under which an officer on his first posting could be kept under watch for some period, particularly to see whether he has a positive approach to work. If he fails to make the grade and does not display clear capacity for assuming responsibility, he might have to be reverted if he has gained his first posting on promotion or sent back to his State or present service if he was taken on deputation.

Delegation Of Powers

Shri Pant has also referred to the need for increased delegation of powers and responsibilities. This has to be kept continuously under the examination so that there may be delegation not only as between one office and another but also within a hierarchy of an office.

Delegation of power has to be designed to reduce the need for time-saving references back and forth. A study of the type of references which are made from other Ministries or other departments may serve to pinpont the areas where perhaps the measure of increased delegation might have the effect of speeding up the work.

DISPOSAL OF HIGH COURT CASES

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 22, Shri B.N. Datar, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, said that disposal of cases went up by about 36,000 last year, from 1,36,493 in 1957 to 1,72,245 in 1958. Twenty-three Additional Judges had been appointed to the various High Courts since a recommendation to this effect was made by the Conference of Chief Justices.

INQUIRY COMMISSIONS IN 1957-59

According to a New Delhi announcement dated August 29, fourteen enquiry Commissions were appointed during 1957-58 by the Government of India and they cost about Rs. 22,30,000. In this are not included the Commissions which were appointed to investigate railway and air accidents.

The bodies appointed were: Dalmia Jain Commission of Inquiry; Pay Commission; Chagla Commission of Inquiry; Bose Board of Inquiry; the Direct Taxes Administration Enquiry Committee; the Customs Reorganisation Committee; Kerala and Madras Food Poisoning Cases Enquiry Commission; Ayurvedic System of Medicine Evaluation Committee; Newton Chickli Court of Inquiry; Burra Dhemo Court of Inquiry; Chinakuri Court of Inquiry; Central Bhowrah Court of Inquiry (Two Inquiries), and Manganese Poisoning Inquiry Committee.

Common Financial Year

Replying to a question the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shrimati Tarakeshwari Sinha said in the Lok Sabha on August 31 that Government had taken a decision on the recommendations of the Estimates Committee that all public enerprises should have a common financial year. She said that steps were being taken towards this end, except in the case of the Export Risk Insurance Corporation and certain financial institutions, like the Reserve Bank of India, the State Bank of India, the Life Insurance Corporation, the Industrial Finance Corporation and the Rehabilitation Finance Administration which stood on a different footing and were governed by special regulations and enactments.

Prohibition In Delhi

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 31, Shri B.N. Datar, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, outlined the new steps taken to check drinking in Delhi. He said since April this year, private possession and retail sale limit of foreign liquor had been reduced from 3 to 2 quart bottles of brandy, whisky, rum and gin.

The Minister also stated that the private possession and retail sale limit of beer and cider had been reduced from 12 to 8 quart bottles. Among the other steps taken were an increase in duty on country spirit by 5 nP. per gallon and an increase in the rate of assessment fee on Indian beer by 5 nP. per gallon.

According to the earlier prohibition rules in force in Delhi, there is a ban on the sale of liquor to a person below the age of 25. Other restrictive measures include a ban on public drinking in hotels, restaurants, bars and theatres; two dry days in a week; ban on advertisement of liquor in the Delhi State and closure of five out of seven country liquor shops. The strength of country liquor has also been reduced from 80° to 50°.

USE OF HINDI IN ELECTIONS

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 31, Shri R.M. Hajarnavis, Deputy Union Minister for Law, said that the alphabetical order in the Devanagari script was followed in preparing the list of contesting candidates and the ballot papers used in the bye-elections held in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

The Election Commission had directed that the alphabetical order for the preparation of the list of contesting candidates should be determined according to the script of the regional language of the State or of the particular area. Likewise, the ballot paper should contain the names of the candidates in the same order in which they appeared in the list of contesting candidates, concluded the Minister.

Fall-out Activity In Delhi

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 24 the Prime Minister stated that the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay, was continuously monitoring the atmosphere for radio-activity originating from the nuclear tests conducted by different countries.

He added that a number of stations had been set up where samples of dust and rain-water were collected. These samples were despatched to Bombay for measurement.

The Prime Minister laid on the Table of the House a specimen statement showing the monthly average levels of radio-activity in the air at New Delhi. According to the statement, there was an increase in fall-out activity in January, February, March and April, 1959 due to various tests carried out by the U.S.A., U.K. and the Soviet Union during late 1958. There was an increase in fall-out activity in April, May, October, November and December, 1958 due to the various tests carried out by the above countries. Increase in fall-out was also noticed in April, July, August and October, 1957 due to the same reason. In 1956, increase in fall-out activity was noticed in September due to tests in August and September that year carried out by the Soviet Union.

Heavy Water For Zerlina Reactor

In a written answer to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 25, the Prime Minister stated that 15 tons of heavy water required for the Zerlina Reactor (of the Atomic Energy Commission) was being obtained from the United States Atomic Energy Commission on lease. The lease charges would be calculated at the rate of 4 per cent per annum of the sale price, which continued to be the same as charged by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission previously, viz., 28 dollars per lb. ex-plant in U.S.A. The lease was for a period of five years after which heavy water of equivalent specification would be returned to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

For the Canada-India Reactor Project, the Prime Minister added, 21 short tons (42,000 lb.) of heavy water was purchased from the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission during 1956-57 at the price of 28 dollars per lb. ex-plant in U.S.A.

Planning & Finance

REVIEW OF PLAN RESOURCES AND OUTLAY

The Planning Commission's Document entitled "Plan Resources and Outlay — a Review" was presented to Parliament on August 24. The broad assessment made by the Planning Commission shows that the actual outlay likely to be incurred during the first four years of the Plan would be about Rs. 3,550 crores. The expectation now is that the outlay in the five years will reach, if not exceed somewhat, the total of Rs. 4,500 crores envisaged by the National Development Council.

The document gives a list of important projects included in the Second Plan under industry, transport, irrigation and power on which expenditure during the first four years is likely to be comparatively small or nil. Broadly, these are the projects which are likely to be affected on account of the detailed vigilance to which the Plan has been subjected, although in the case of some of these projects which have not yet begun, some work might be taken in hand during the last year of the Plan.

Though its primary reference is to the Second Plan, in view of the fact that work on the preparation of the Third Five-Year Plan has been taken up intensively the problems and the experience of the Second Plan reviewed in this document gain even greater significance for the correct determination of the approach to the next phase in India's planned development.

At its meeting in May, 1958, the National Development Council decided to divide the Plan in the Public Sector into two parts, part 'A' involving a total outlay of Rs. 4,500 crores, which was to include projects and programmes directly related to increase in agricultural production, projects included in the "core", those which had reached an advanced stage and other inescapable schemes. The second part of the Plan — part 'B' — with a total outlay of Rs. 300 crores was to be undertaken to the extent to which additional resources were available. The N.D.C. also emphasized that the Central and State Governments should endeavour to raise resources to the maximum extent possible, through additional taxation, mobilising small savings, and achieving economies in Plan and non-Plan expenditure.

The debate in the Parliament in November, 1958, also focussed attention on various measures which had to be taken for realising the Second Plan objectives. Among the points stressed were the need for careful preparation of cost estimates of large projects, the need for economy and the elimination of waste in construction, the importance of price stability and the avoidance of excessive deficit financing, priority for agricultural production, reorientation of employment policies, and the desirability of taking early steps to commence work on the Third Five-Year Plan.

In the review of the position regarding Plan outlay and financial resources prepared by the Planning Commission for the N.D.C. meeting of November, 1958, it was felt that the aggregate outlay over the Second Plan period could be only Rs. 4,220 crores. The Council, however, decided that efforts should be made to work up to an outlay of Rs. 4,500 crores. To achieve this target, it decided upon several measures. Deficit financing on any significant scale could be contemplated only if food production increased substantially and food prices were maintained at stable levels. Therefore, it was decided that co-operatives should be organised on the basis of the village as the primary unit for increasing agricultural production, mobilising local manpower and other resources and generally for re-building the rural economy. The State should also take over whole-sale trade in foodgrains. For achieving economy in construction costs, fewer buildings should be constructed than originally contemplated, and such buildings as have to be constructed should be at a cheaper basis. As the question of saving steel was of special importance, the purposes for which steel may be used should be specified. The question of introducing schemes of compulsory savings was also to be examined carefully.

During December, 1958 and January, 1959, the Planning Commission held a series of discussions with the State Governments for deciding the allocations for 1959-60, keeping in view the decision that efforts should be made to ensure that the total outlay for the Second Plan period did not fall below Rs. 4,500 crores. The discussions indicated that the resources available to the State Governments in 1959-60 totalled Rs. 237.3 crores as compared to the earlier estimates of Rs. 198.1 crores. Taking into account the Central assistance, the aggregate size of the State plans for 1959-60 was fixed at Rs. 472 crores. At the Centre (including Union Territories) the 1959-60 budget provides for an outlay of Rs. 620 crores on the Plan. Thus the aggregate Plan outlay for the Centre and the States for 1959-60 works out at Rs. 1,092 crores.

Utilization Of Foreign Loans

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 27, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said that Government were fully seized of the problem of the early utilization of foreign loans on the purposes for which the loans were intended — mainly the acquiring of capital goods for second Plan projects. With many of these loans, the progress in utilization was normal and satisfactory. With certain of the loans, the progress in utilization was apparently unsatisfactory, though, in fact, it was not so. They were progressing reasonably, since it was only after the loan had been negotiated for specific purposes that in most cases global tenders could be invited, orders placed perhaps in stages as required, delivery obtained, perhaps two years or longer from the date of order, payments made on shipment of equipment and finally, reimbursement could be obtained from the foreign loans. In effecting due utilization, all essential procedures were observed, some of which might be obligatory to conform to the requirements of the legislation under which the loans were made available.

Where utilization was complete or largely complete, as it was in certain cases, action was taken, with the co-operation of the foreign Governments concerned to effect the appropriate drawals under the credit. Wherever necessary, appropriate simplification of the procedure was negotiated. Drawals were thus facilitated.

Where any difficulty in utilization arose because of price levels, the Government endeavoured to reallocate the loan for other equally essential purposes, so as to obviate this difficulty and facilitate utilization.

Indian Delegation To Fund-Bank Meeting

The Indian delegation to the 14th Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund scheduled to be held in Washington from September 28 to October 2, 1959, will be led by the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, it has been announced on August 18.

The other members of the delegation are:

Alternate Governor:

Shri B.K. Nehru, Commissioner-General for Economic Affairs.

Temporary Alternate Governors:

Shri M.C. Chagla, India's Ambassador in Washington; Shri A.K. Roy, Secretary, Ministry of Finance; and Shri K.G. Ambegaokar, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India.

Advisors:

Shri J.J. Anjaria, Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance; Shri P. Govindan Nair, Economic Minister, Embassy of India, Washington; Shri R.V. Subrahmanian, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Finance; Shri B.N. Adarkar, Executive Director, I.M.F., Washington; Shri C.S. Krishnamoorti, Alternate Executive Director I.B.R.D., Washington. Dr. I.G. Patel, Alternate Executive Director, I.M.F., Washington; and Shri V.Y. Tonpe, Private Secretary to the Finance Minister.

INVESTMENT OF U.K. PRIVATE CAPITAL IN INDIA

Replying to a question on August 31 in the Lok Sabha, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said that the total quantum of U.K. private capital invested in India was Rs. 206 crores as on June 30, 1948, Rs. 337.7 crores as on December 31, 1957.
crores as on December 31, 1955, Rs. 406.4 crores as on December 31, 1956 and Rs. 412.7 crores as on December 31, 1957.

The Finance Minister also said that the total investment from the U.K. had been steadily increasing though that country's share of the total net capital inflow had been declining in recent years, having regard to the capital that had come from other countries, such as the U.S.A.

Imports From Afghanistan

According to a New Delhi announcement dated August 31, an Import Trade Control Notice says

that the Government of India have decided to permit with effect from July 21, 1959, the import of fruits, (dried as well as fresh), asafoetida, cumin seeds and medicinal herbs from Afghanistan on an *ad hoc* basis through approved importers. This has been done in terms of the arrangements agreed to between the two countries in order to maintain the traditional pattern of trade between them.

The category of approved importers will include those who have participated in the Indo-Afghan trade during the four years ending June 30, 1956 and have already been registered as approved importers.

The importer, while applying for permit will be required to give an undertaking for effecting exports to counterbalance imports. If exports equal to the value of imports are not made by September 21, 1960 or within eight months from the date of importation, whichever is earlier, he will be required to deposit within a period of one month in the Special Rupee Account an amount equal to the value by which exports from India fall short of imports from Afghanistan. If the importer fails to comply with this requirement or if his exports in 1959-60 fall short of 75 per cent of the value of his imports from Afghanistan, he will be de-registered from the list of approved importers.

Payments for fruits, asafoetida, cumin seeds and medicinal herbs will be made by importers either in accordance with EF and EPI procedures prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India or to a Special Rupee Account to be opened by the Afghan Bank authorised by the Government of Royal Kingdom of Afghanistan in this behalf with any commercial bank in India.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF KERALA

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 27 the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shrimati Tarakeshwari Sinha, said that the former Government of the Kerala State had drawn from the Reserve Bank of India an amount of about Rs. 3 crore as unsecured overdraft over and above the usual secured overdraft as ways and means advance. She added that the overdraft had been cleared by ways and means advances from the Centre against the Kerala Government's share of Central taxes and grants payable during the year.

Additional Excise Duty In 1957-58

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 19, Shri Morarji Desai, Finance Minister, stated that during 1957-58, collection of Basic Excise Duty amounted to Rs. 60,45,49,000 on cloth, Rs. 38,91,16,000 on sugar, Rs. 43,75,09,000 on tobacco and its products. Additional Excise Duty on these three articles became payable from December 14, 1957, and the collections amounted to Rs. 6,93,69,000 in respect of cloth, Rs. 3,60,35,000 on sugar and Rs. 2,05,03,000 in respect of tobacco and its products.

The Minister added that as duty-wise figures regarding sales tax collection were not maintained by the States, the figures of additional excise duty for 1958-59 could not be compared with those of sales tax for 1957-58.

GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS DURING 1957

According to the Annual Report published recently by the Controller of Insurance, Government of India, the net premium income in India during the year 1957 of the Indian insurers amounted to Rs. 10.93 crores composed of Rs. 3.76 crores in respect of Fire insurance, Rs. 2.09 crores in respect of Marine insurance and Rs. 5.08 crores in respect of Miscellaneous insurance business. The corresponding figures for the non-Indian insurers were a total of Rs. 7.16 crores, of which Rs. 3.11 crores, Rs. 1.91 crores and Rs. 2.14 crores related to Fire, Marine and Miscellaneous insurance business respectively. The net premium income outside India during the year 1957 of the Indian insurers amounted to a total of Rs. 11.59 crores, of which Rs. 6.93 crores, Rs. 2.05 crores and Rs. 2.61 crores related to Fire, Marine and Miscellaneous insurance business respectively.

NUMBER OF INSURERS

As on December 31, 1958, there were 184 insurers registered under the Insurance Act, 1938, for transacting one or more classes of general insurance business, of which 91 were Indian and 93 non-Indian. Of these, 49 Indian and 38 non-Indian insurers were registered for all the three classes of general insurance business; 13 Indian and 20 non-Indian insurers were registered for two of the three classes and the rest (viz. 29 Indian and 35 non-Indian) were registered for only one class. This excluded the Life Insurance Corporation of India which was registered for Life and Miscellaneous insurance business.

Of the Indian insurers, insurers registered in Bombay State numbering 52 accounted for about 59% of the total premium income, while about 71% of the premium income in India of the non-Indian insurers went to insurers constituted in the United Kingdom numbering 66.

The net premium income in India of the 7 non-tariff Indian insurers transacting Miscellaneous insurance business was about 8% of the premium income in India of all Indian (tariff and non-tariff) insurers. The proportion for the one non-tariff non-Indian insurer was about 0.1% in Fire insurance and 4% in Miscellaneous insurance business of all non-Indian insurers.

INCOME AND OUTGO

The total income of all Indian insurers amounted to Rs. 23.13

crores made up of premium income in India of Rs. 10.93 crores, premium income outside India of Rs. 11.59 crores, interest dividends and rents amounting to Rs. 0.33 crores and the balance of Rs. 0.28 crores from miscellaneous sources. Their total outgo was Rs. 20.47 crores comprising claims, commission, expenses and miscellaneous outgo of Rs. 10.69 crores, Rs. 3.31 crores, Rs. 6.16 crores and Rs. 0.31 crores respectively. Of the balance of Rs. 2.66 crores, Rs. 1.63 crores were absorbed by the increase in reserves for unexpired risks and additional reserves while Rs. 1.03 crores were transferred to the Profit and Loss Accounts.

This, together with an amount of Rs. 0.09 crores brought forward from the previous year (after payment of Rs. 0.56 crores as dividends for the previous year) and amounts of Rs. 0.75 crores and Rs. 0.17 crores earned by way of interest etc. (not relating to any particular class of business) and miscellaneous income respectively, amounting in all to Rs. 2.04 crores, was appropriated in the Profit and Loss Accounts and in the Profit and Loss Appropriation Accounts as follows:

	Rs. in crores
Expenses of management	0.13
Taxes paid and provided for	0.77
Transfers to particular funds or accounts	0.27
Dividends for the year 1957 paid or provided for	0.15
Additional dividend paid for the year 1955	0.01
Miscellaneous	0.37
Balance carried over	0.34

ASSETS

The total assets of the Indian insurers as on December 31, 1957 amounted to Rs. 49.02 crores as compared to Rs. 43.00 crores and Rs. 41.65 crores at the end of the years 1956 and 1955 respectively. As on the above date 15.9% of the total assets were invested in securities of Government and Public authorities, 4.2% in Foreign Government securities, 22.6% in shares and debentures of Indian companies, 1.7% in land and house property, 28.0% in deposits, cash and stamps, 2.7% in loans, 7.3% in miscellaneous assets and the balance of 17.6% were agents' balances etc.

The assets in India of the non-Indian insurers as on December 31, 1957 amounted to Rs. 11.91 crores of which 23.0% were invested in securities of Government and Public authorities, 24.6% in shares and debentures of Indian companies, 3.3% in land and house property, 27.8% in deposits, cash and stamps, 2.0% in loans, 7.4% in miscellaneous assets and the balance of 11.9% were agents' balance etc.

GROWTH OF BUSINESS

The rate of increase of general insurance business in India was further reduced. The index number of general insurance business in India recorded a rise of only 0.7 for 1957 as against a rise of 4.2 for 1956.

The net premium income both in India and outside India of Indian insurers was higher for 1957 than for 1956 in all classes of business, and that of non-Indian insurers in India also higher for 1957 than for 1956 in Fire and Miscellaneous insurance business but was less for Marine insurance business.

The gross premium written direct in India by Indian insurers during 1957 was higher than that during 1956 in Marine and Miscellaneous insurance business, while it was less in Fire insurance business. The non-Indian insurers wrote a larger gross premium in India in Fire and Miscellaneous business during 1957 as compared with 1956, but their gross premium income was less during 1957 in Marine insurance business. The gross premium written direct outside India by Indian insurers during 1957 was less than that during 1956 in Fire and Marine insurance business but it was higher in Miscellaneous insurance business.

The gross premiums written direct in India in the classes of Fire, Marine and Miscellaneous insurance business were Rs. 7.17 crores, Rs. 4.39 crores and Rs. 6.37 crores respectively, amounting in all to Rs. 17.93 crores for Indian insurers and Rs. 4.70 crores, Rs. 2.65 crores and Rs. 2.51 crores respectively, amounting in all to Rs. 9.86 crores for non-Indian insurers. The gross premium written direct outside India by Indian insurers was Rs. 2.06 crores in Fire Insurance, Rs. 1.97 crores in Marine insurance and Rs. 2.34 crores in Miscellaneous insurance business amounting in all to Rs. 6.37 crores.

The ratios of the net premium income to the gross premium written direct for Fire, Marine and Miscellaneous insurance business in India ranged between 44% to 53%, 43% to 51% and 75% to 81% respectively for Indian insurers and between 59% to 66%, 69% to 74% and 85% to 95% respectively for non-Indian insurers during the seven years from 1951 to 1957. The corresponding ratios in respect of business written outside India by Indian insurers ranged between 263% to 336% for Fire, 76% to 124% for Marine and 100% to 115% for Miscellaneous insurance business.

The share of Indian insurers in the total gross as well as net premium income in India rose further during 1957 in all classes of general insurance business except for gross direct Fire insurance business. During the year 1957, Indian insurers wrote 60%, 62% and 72% of the total gross premium written direct in India in Fire, Marine and Miscellaneous insurance business respectively while their share in the total net premium income in India was 55%, 52% and 70% respectively. Of the total gross premium written direct by Indian insurers in the classes of Fire, Marine and Miscellaneous insurance business, 78%, 69% and 73% respectively was written in India and of their total net premium income, 35%, 51% and 66% respectively was earned in India.

In respect of Fire insurance business, Indian insurers spent 39% of their total net premium income on claims, 47% on expenses and commission, 1% on miscellaneous items and after an allocation of 4% to increase the reserves (assumed to be held at 40% of the net premium income) they were left with a balance of 9%. The corresponding figures for the non-Indian insurers in respect of their Indian business were 17%, 54%, 7% and 2% leaving a balance of 20%.

In respect of Marine insurance business, Indian insurers spent 63% of their total net premium income on claims, 29% on expenses and commission, and 2% on miscellaneous items and after allocating 6% for increase in the reserves (assumed to be held at 50% of the net premium income), were left with no balance. The corresponding figures for the non-Indian insurers in respect of their Indian business were 47%, 41%, 4% and a decrease in reserves of 2% leaving a balance of 10%.

In respect of Miscellaneous insurance business, Indian insurers spent 51% of their total net premium income on claims, 43% on expenses and commission, and 1% on miscellaneous items and as against the required allocation of 7% for increase in reserves (assumed to be held at 40%) were left with a balance of 5% only. The corresponding figures for non-Indian insurers in respect of their Indian business were 44%, 47% and 2% thus leaving a balance of 4% after an increase in reserve of 3%.

The claims experience of non-Indian insurers was better than that of Indian insurers throughout the six years from 1952 to 1957 except during 1957 in respect of Miscellaneous insurance business. But the proportions of the gross premium income spent by way of commission throughout the period and by way of expenses and miscellaneous out-go from 1954 onwards were higher for the non-Indian insurers than those for the Indian insurers.

EXPENSES OF MANAGEMENT

According to the Report during 1957, a larger number of groups (of parent and subsidiary companies taken together) of both Indian and non-Indian insurers contravened the provisions of section 40C of the Act than during 1956. Nearly one-third of the groups of insurers who contravened the said provisions during 1956 were administered a warning in terms of section 64M (2) of the Act in respect of the said contravention. Of a total of 144 groups both Indian and Non-Indian who transacted business during 1957, 22 groups of insurers contravened section 40C of the Act four or more items from 1952 to 1957 and that 16 of these groups were warned one or more times in terms of section 64M (2) of the Act.

The Report points out that the groups of insurers who spent less than the basic limits in terms of Rule 17E of the Insurance Rules, 1939, wrote a decreasing proportion of the total gross premium written direct in India. Though the actual expenses were less than the basic limits, the margin between the two had reduced during 1954 to 1957.

As compared to 1956, a larger share of the gross premium written direct in India went to insurers spending more than the basic limits for Fire and Miscellaneous insurance business while the position was the opposite in Marine insurance business. In respect of the groups of insurers spending more than the basic limits, the percentage of such excess to their gross premium income steadily decreased from 4.9% in 1955 to 3.0% in 1957 for Fire and Miscellaneous insurance business, but it increased from 4.3% in 1955 to 5.8% in 1957 for Marine insurance business.

The Life Insurance Funds of the two composite insurers which continued to be managed by Administrator, viz., The Bharat Insurance Company Limited, and the Jupiter General Insurance Company Limited as on December 31, 1957 were Rs. 8.20 crores and Rs. 2.67 crores respectively and their gross business in force as on the same date was Rs. 22.50 crores and Rs. 5.68 crores respectively.

DISPUTES FOR SETTLEMENT

No dispute was referred to the Controller of Insurance under section 47A of the Insurance Act, 1938, during 1958. Only 3 out of 296 disputes referred to the Controller of Insurance till December 31, 1958 remained pending. The Controller attributed the fact that no dispute was referred to him during 1957 and 1958 mainly due to the nationalisation of life insurance business in India. This section of the Insurance Act, 1938 was also applicable to the L.I.C.

INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

The number of licenses issued to insurance agents during 1958 was 66,052.

The "Code" evolved by the Committee for observance by insurers carrying on general insurance business in India continued to be administered by the Administrative Machinery. The Controller of Insurance, in his capacity as a member of the Committee, was the head of the Machinery. The Central Office of the Machinery was located at New Delhi with branches at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION

During the year under review the following sections of the Insurance Act, 1938 were made applicable to the L.I.C. by a notification issued by the Central Government on August 23, 1958 in exercise of the powers conferred by section 43 (2) of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 :—

Sections 2D, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27A, 28A, 35, 36, 37, 40, 40A, 40B, 43, 44, 102 to 106, 107 to 110, 111, 113, 114, and 116A.

Of these, sections 2D, 10, 11, 13, 15, 20, 27A, 28A, 40B, 44, 102, 103 and 105 of the Insurance Act, 1938 had been applied with certain modifications, mostly of a minor character.

DEFAULTERS

Twenty two insurers failed four or more times in furnishing their accounts returns in time during the last six years (1952 to 1957 accounts), 14 insurers failed thrice and 17 insurers failed twice.

Forty seven insurers failed to furnish their accounts returns for 1957 in time; as against 58 insurers for the preceding year. Nearly one out of every four insurers had made default in respect of the accounts for 1957. The Controller of Insurance had drawn attention to the fact that a large number of insurers did not furnish the various annual supplementary statements even long after their accounts returns were furnished.

INVESTMENTS OF L.I.C.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 22 the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, stated that the total investments of the Life Insurance Corporation as on June 30, 1959, amounted to Rs. 391.59 crores. Out of this, investment in debentures and shares of joint stock companies in private sector totalled Rs. 78.28 crores — Rs. 77.64 crores in India and Rs. 64 lakhs outside India.

CLAIMS PAID BY L.I.C.

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 19, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said that the Life Insurance Corporation had paid claims totalling Rs. 23.70 crores in 1958. Of this, a sum of Rs. 6.84 crores had been paid as claims arising out of deaths.

Company Capital Issues Exemption Limit

A Press Note issued on August 29 by the Department of Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Finance says that the Government of India have had under consideration the revision of the exemption limit laid down in the Capital Issues (Exemption) Order, 1949. In view of the rise in prices since the present exemption limit was set and the fact that the capital required for even small and medium scale industries is often well above rupees five lakhs, they have decided to raise the present exemption limit of rupees five lakhs to rupees ten lakhs. As at present, the exemption limit will apply to all issues of capital except those by banking and insurance companies and provident societies incorporated as a company. The limit will not apply to the issue of bonus shares by capitalisation of reserves of share premium, for which Government's permission under the Capital Issues (Control) Act, 1947, would still be necessary irrespective of the amount of issue involved.

Commerce & Industry

MEETING OF GENERAL PURCHASE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Shri K.C. Reddy, Union Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, addressing the Central Purchase Advisory Council at a meeting in New Delhi on August 31 said that it was proposed to call soon a conference of representatives of purchase agencies of the Union and State Governments to bring about uniformity in purchase procedures.

Referring to purchases made by the Ministries of Railways and Defence from abroad, the Minister said that the purchases by Railways were limited only to such items as were not manufactured in the country and of which adequate indigenous capacity did not exist. As for the Defence purchases, only specialised stores representing essential defence equipment and in most cases proprietary stores were imported. Efforts were being made to establish and encourage manufacture of these imported items in the country.

INDIGENOUS PURCHASES

Shri Reddy said he was glad that as a result of Government's policy to encourage industry to take up manufacture of stores which were being imported, production of a number of items had been established. The purchases made by the Directorate-General of Supplies and Disposals in 1958-59 amounted to Rs. 205 crores, of which indigenous stores were of the value of Rs. 161 crores (about 79 per cent of the total) against Rs. 41.80 crores of indigenous stores, representing 58 per cent of the total stores purchased in 1953-54. The Directorate-General of Supplies and Disposals had entered into long-term arrangements so as to reserve capacity and enable expansion with confidence and had rendered assistance in obtaining raw materials in short supply. With increase in steel production, there would be progressive rise in the volume of business of the Directorate-General of Supplies and Disposals in India.

As regards the complaint that post-tender negotiations were resorted to even though the Stores Purchase Committee had recommended that no negotiations after the opening of tenders or re-invitation to tender should be made, the Minister said that such negotiations were inevitable where *prima facie* the prices tendered were on the high side, or competition had been non-existent or lethargic, or stores offered did not strictly comply with the specifications, or no evaluation of tenders was possible because of diverse terms and conditions. In such cases the discretion must vest with the purchasing authority to decide whether negotiations were necessary or not. Negotiations were also inevitable in the case of items where indigenous manufacture was of recent development.

DELAYS IN PAYMENTS

Referring to delays in payments, Shri Reddy observed that it might not always be possible for Government to adopt commercial practices if the interests of the tax-payer were to be fully safeguarded and losses avoided. He believed that as a result of the recommendations of the Stores Purchase Committee and this Council, appreciable improvement had already taken place. Action had recently been taken to liberalise the terms of payment, for example, "on account" payments for raw materials, balance 10 per cent payment where consignees default, waiver of liquidated damages and extension of delivery periods for stores in short production.

Shri Reddy added that the working of the Finalisation Wing had again come in for criticism by the trade and industry. During the last two years the Finalisation Wing had finalised about 12,000 cases and a sum of Rs. 7.3 crores had been paid to the suppliers.

Stores Purchases For Bhilai Steel Plant

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 31, Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, stated that Hindustan Steel Limited followed generally the same procedure for purchase of stores both in India and from abroad for the Bhilai Steel Project as adopted by the Director General, Supplies and Disposals and the procedure was satisfactory. Certain powers for purchase had been delegated to the various officers of the Project.

He further added purchases are made on the basis of open tender or limited tender depending on the value and nature of stores and the urgency of the requirements. In case of proprietory articles, orders are placed directly with the Indian importers or indigenous manufacturers as the case may be. The project is on the rolls of the D.G. S and D as direct Demanding Officers. The facility of rate contract is availed of to the maximum possible extent. Bhilai Steel Project has no running contract directly with the manufacturers for any of the stores.

For imported items, tenders are invited from Indian importers or agents of foreign manufacturers. In selected cases of imported items, the assistance of the India Stores Department, London, is sought both in regard to locating supplies as also inspection. In regard to purchases from U.S.S.R., proposals are received from the Project, and the contracts are entered into with the respective Soviet organisations by the Head Office of the Company, with the approval of the Committee of Directors.

When the stores are required urgently, local purchase action on limited scale for meeting immediate needs is resorted to so that work does not suffer.

Under Article 98(a) of the Articles of Association of the Company, all proposals involving an expenditure over Rs. 40 lakhs are to be submitted to Government for approval.

For economical purchase of large quantities of raw materials and other stores common for all the three projects in the operation stage, it has been decided recently to establish a Central Purchase Organisation at Calcutta. The nucleus of this organisation has already been formed.

Regarding inspection, where orders are placed as Direct Demanding Officers, and also in certain special cases, the Inspecting Officers of the Project arrange inspection both at Bhilai and at the suppliers' premises, if required.

Credit Facilities From France

Replying to a question the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said in the Lok Sabha on August 31 that the questions of renewing the economic and technical co-operation agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of India concluded on January 23, 1958, and the continuance of similar financing facilities for a further period were now under the consideration of the two Governments. Under the agreement of January 23, 1958, which had been placed on the Table of the House on February 13, 1958, the Government of the French Republic had agreed to facilitate the financing of the manufacture, and of the delivery of capital goods, for which orders were placed by Indian purchasers with the prior approval of the Government of India on French suppliers, up to a total amount of 25 billion francs.

National Projects Corporation

In a written reply to a question Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, stated in the Lok Sabha on August 29 that the participating States and their contributions to the National Projects Construction Corporation (Private) Limited were:

Madhya Pradesh Rs. 10 lakhs, Bihar Rs. 10 lakhs, Rajasthan Rs. 10 lakhs, Kerala Rs. 3 lakhs, and Jammu and Kashmir Rs. 6 lakhs.

The Deputy Minister added that the Governments of Assam and the Punjab had agreed to participate in the scheme, and their contributions were awaited.

Study Team For Pilot Projects

An announcement of August 18 says that a nine-man Study Team has been set up to study the working, achievements and drawbacks of the 26 pilot projects for industries which were set up by the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in different States and Union Territories.

The Team consists of Shri S.D. Mishra, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Community Development and

Co-operation, as Leader, and representatives of the Ministry of Community Development, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, the All-India Handicrafts Board and two State Directors of Industries.

The Study Team will analyse the causes of bottlenecks holding up the programme and of failure, if any, and recommend measures required to be taken by the Central and State Governments to accelerate the development of village and small-scale industries in the Blocks.

The terms of reference of the Team include consideration of the methodology of industrial potential survey for a Block; the development of marketing; training required for rural artisans; co-ordination between the various departments and non-official bodies; and the development of suitable agencies, like industrial co-operative societies, in the development of village and small-scale industries.

It will also consider the minimum industries programme for a Block and the role of panchayats, Block Samitis and other local official bodies in the development of industries therein, and recommend indicators for calling reports on the industries programme in the Blocks.

The pilot projects, which have now worked for about three years, were set up to act as a laboratory for controlled observation and to find possible solutions to the problems in the field, particularly those arising out of competition from mechanised consumer goods industries. The operation of the project is expected also to indicate the pattern of industrial extension service for the development of rural industries.

Development Council For Drugs & Dyes

The first meeting of the reconstituted Development Council for Drugs, Dyes and Intermediates was inaugurated by Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, in New Delhi on August 21. Dr. K. Venkataraman, Chairman of the Council and Director of the National Chemical Laboratory, Poona, presided.

Shri Shah said that the drug production last year was about Rs. 45 crore and this year it might rise to about Rs. 65 crore. Till a few years ago, pharmaceutical manufacturers in the country had been producing mainly formulations by importing drugs and chemicals in bulk, but today the position was different. He regretted that in the manufacture of dye-stuffs the dependence on the import of organic intermediate chemicals from outside was still too much.

Referring to the recent agreement arrived at with the Soviet Union for the setting up of five drug units, the Minister said that production from these units and the existing units in both public and private sectors, coupled with the establishment of a unit for the manufacture of basic chemicals and intermediates, which was under consideration, India would become more or less self-sufficient in respect of all important and essential basic drugs and medicines.

Committee For Natural Gas Utilization

Answering a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 28, Shri K.D. Malaviya, Minister for Mines and Oil, said that the Government of India set up an Expert Committee to examine the question of utilization of natural gas. The terms of reference of the Committee were:

(i) to prepare a Master Plan embodying the pattern, size and location of the industries based on natural gas along with a comparative study of the economics of transport of natural gas versus end-products.

(ii) The programme of utilization of natural gas was to be implemented in two phases. Accordingly, the Expert Committee had been asked to make separate studies of both the phases. The first phase plan would be for the utilization of 30-35 MSCFD of gas, and the second phase plan for the utilization of the entire quantity of gas which might be available. The Committee submitted an interim report in respect of the first phase plan. The second phase would be considered in the near future.

Soviet Team to Assess Oil Exploration Work

A Soviet team of Experts arrived in New Delhi on August 18 at the invitation of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission of the Government of India to assess the achievements and to examine the difficulties faced during the first three years of the Second Plan by the said Commission.

The Government of India drew up the Rs. 30-crore scheme for oil exploration on the recommendations of a team of top-ranking specialists from Soviet Union who had visited India in 1955 to advise the Union Government on oil exploration.

The recruitment and training of geologists, geophysicists and the drilling personnel in large numbers, the organisation of the Commission's headquarters at Dehra Dun and of branch offices at various places, the setting up of a Central Laboratory and Workshop, the organisation of geological, gravity-cum-magnetic seismic, electrologging and drilling parties, the finding of gas in Jawalamukhi and of oil in the Cambay region, and discovery of promising structures for future drilling in other areas were some of the main achievements of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission during the last three years.

Special consideration would be given in the review to the schedule of work adopted for the remaining period of the Second Plan and to the training programme, and also in the difficulties being experienced in planning and to delays in the procurement of equipment.

With the increased tempo of oil

exploration and drilling, it is essential that equipment and spare parts which could be manufactured in India should be produced within the country to save foreign exchange and to expedite the operations. A move had been made in this direction with the proposal to establish manufacutre of such equipment at the Heavy Machine Manufacturing Plant scheduled to be set up in Ranchi. The experts would advise the Commission on procuring detailed specifications and manufacturing blueprints for local manufacture.

Rumanian Assistance For Assam Refinery

Placing a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on August 27, in reply to a question, Shri K.D. Malaviya, Minister for Mines and Oil, stated that the supplies to be made and the nature of technical and other services to be rendered by the Government of Rumania in terms of the Agreement concluded with the Government of India for the proposed oil refinery in Assam would, *inter alia*, include the following:

Atmospheric distillation and gas oil neutralisation units; Sulphur Dioxide — Kerosine refining unit; Lead blending unit; Coke producing unit and coke mechanized transportation system; Tankfarm pump house; Tanks farms; Product lines; Main loading rack for white and black products; Workshops; Laboratory and sample storage; Fire fighting and fire prevention system; Steam and power plant; Materials like heat insulations, electric equipment, cables and lines, concrete reinforcing steel, piping, etc. and Maintenance materials to cover one year's requirements like structural steel, rolled iron sheets, carbon steel pipes, alloyed steel pipes, spare parts, etc.

The Government of Rumania would, *inter alia*, undertake to design the petroleum refinery and to ensure that the design as well as the machinery and equipment supplied conform to the best and up-to-date Rumanian technical standards. The Rumanian engineers and technicians deputed to India would render technical assistance in the construction work and technical supervision for the erection of the refinery.

In addition, Indian technicians would be trained in Rumania in the design, erection and operation of the refinery as well as in India by means of Rumanian technical staff sent for this purpose. The Rumanian Government would also assist in putting the refinery into operation and would guarantee the proper quality, workmanship and performance of the delivered equipment and the rated capacities thereof for a period of twelve months.

The total value of supplies to be made and the services to be rendered by the Rumanian Government would cost approximately Rs. 5.2 crores. The Rumanian Government promised to advance credit to this extent for repayment in easy instalments commencing from November 1958 to 31st December, 1965.

Paper Pulp Mill For Assam

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 25 Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, stated that Messrs Balmer Lawrie & Co. had been granted a licence for the establishment of a new undertaking to manufacture 100 tons per day of the bamboo paper pulp at Lamsakhang in District Mikir Hills.

He added that the unit was named "The Assam Pulp Mill Ltd.". The firm envisaged the procurement of plant and machinery to be manufactured by the TELCO in collaboration with a Swedish firm. For the balance machinery, the grant of an import licence had also been approved. The unit was expected to go into production in 1962.

Replying to a further question, the Minister observed that the firm had entered into an agreement with the Government of Assam for the lease of forest areas of North Chachar and Mikir Hills, initially for a period of 20 years renewable at company's option for two terms of 20 years each. The agreement stipulated that the company should employ local people as far as possible and offer shares worth Rs. 50 lakhs to the Government and people of Assam. The company would also supply pulp to the paper machinery units in Assam, but the supplies could be limited to the quantity for machinery paper required for internal consumption. The agreement was liable to be terminated by giving six months notice.

MANUFACTURE OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 31, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister of Industry, stated that there was a short supply of watches though in the case of clocks the shortage was not acute.

Explaining the measures taken by Government to meet the requirements of watches and clocks, the Minister stated that four firms with a capacity of 54,000 clocks per annum were at present manufacturing clocks in the large scale sector. A few units were being encouraged to take up the manufacture of clocks.

A limited import of watches was being allowed during the current licensing period. One scheme for the manufacture of watches in collaboration with a group of French firms had recently been approved by Government and the scheme was expected to be implemented shortly, the Minister said.

He added that the approximate requirements of watches and clocks in the country for 1960 had been estimated at 10 lakhs and one lakh numbers respectively.

MANUFACTURE OF SUGAR PLANT

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 20, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for

Industry, stated that six Indian firms had secured foreign collaboration for fabricating complete sugar plants in India.

Licences to import capital equipment of a total value of Rs. 69.485 lakh had already been issued to these firms. The capital equipment was expected to be received and installed within one to 1½ years, the Minister added.

Release Of Sugar For Sale

In a Press Note issued on August 30, the Directorate of Sugar and Vanaspati of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture says that the Government of India has released 1.75 lakh tons of sugar for sale.

There will be no free sale release from factories in the Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and North Bihar, except a small quantity to be released to each factory for sale to its employees.

Allotments of sugar to Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bombay State and Himachal Pradesh from factories in the controlled region will be made only to the nominees of the State Governments. In the case of the Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, allotments will be made direct to the State Governments or their nominees. As regards Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Assam, and the Union Territories of Delhi, Manipur and Tripura, applications for allotments will be considered by the Directorate of Sugar and Vanaspati according to the existing system or according to the arrangements indicated by the respective State Governments or Administrations.

All allotments will be made at prices fixed under the Notification of December 22, 1958.

BRASS SCRAP FOR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

The National Small Industries Corporation has introduced a scheme for supplying brass scraps and ingots to *bonafide* small scale manufacturing units out of the stock available from the Ordnance Factories, reads an announcement of August 28.

Depots will be opened at Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and Delhi to supply the needs of the industries located in the respective areas.

This scheme has been formulated in view of the difficulties experienced by small scale units in obtaining their requirements of this important raw material at reasonable prices.

The Corporation has already set up a raw material depot at Ludhiana for the supply of iron and steel to small scale units located there and has been importing cycle components for distribution to small scale cycle assemblers.

N.I.D.C. LOANS FOR TEXTILE MILLS

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 28, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, stated that the National Industrial Development Corporation had sanctioned loans totalling Rs. 342.64 lakhs for 12 cotton textile mill companies during the period January 1, 1959 to August 15, 1959.

Giving the corresponding figures for earlier years, the Minister stated that during 1958, 13 mills were sanctioned loans amounting to Rs. 250.6 lakhs while in 1957, 4 mills were sanctioned Rs. 120.7 lakhs.

ALLOCATION OF ART SILK YARN

A Press Note issued by the Textile Commissioner in Bombay on August 26 says that the Textile Commissioner has reviewed the position with regard to the distribution of indigenous art silk yarn to the art silk powerloom weaving units during the quarter July to September, 1959 and has decided that 20% more allocation can be made to such art silk powerloom weaving units who have been issued allocation cards for the supply of indigenous art silk yarn during the current quarter.

PRICES OF EXTRA LONG STAPLE COTTON

A Press Note issued on August 29 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry says that when the price policy for Indian cotton for the season 1959-60 was announced recently, it was stated that the floor and ceiling prices for extra long staple cotton were under consideration of the Government of India.

The Government of India have now decided to fix floor and ceiling prices for extra long staple variety of cotton excepting those having a staple length of over 1-1/8". Formal notification containing the revised price schedule will be published in the Gazette of India in due course.

Import Of Cotton Staple

A Press Note issued by the Office of the Textile Commissioner on August 29 says that the Government of India have allowed the import of 1,40,000 bales of cotton of staple length of 1-3/16" and above. Out of this quantity, bales not exceeding one lakh have been reserved for allotment to non-actual users and needy mills. The balance of 40,000 bales against this year's quota will be made available to such mills as may be prescribed hereafter.

The Press Note adds that details of procedure for the allotment of quota and the issue of licences for both the above quantites of one lakh and 40,000 bales respectively, with such premiums as may be levied under the export incentive scheme, will be announced in due course.

COTTON EXPORTS

A Press Note issued by the Office of the Textile Commissioner on August 31 says that the Government of India have decided to allow for export a quantity of 75.000 bales of Bengal deshi cotton valid for shipment up to February 2, 1960. A part of this quantity will be earmarked for distribution among co-operative societies and the balance will be licensed on a

'first-come-first-served' basis subject to an individual quantitative ceiling of 10 per cent of the quantity allowed. The procedure for applications for export licences will be announced by the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Bombay, in due course.

Export Of Shoes To East Germany

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 20 Shri Nityanand Kanungo, Minister for Commerce, said that India would supply 60,000 pairs of shoes to East Germany.

The delivery was to be completed by the end of September, 1959 in three equal instalments. The Minister added that negotiations were going on for a further supply of approximately three lakh pairs of shoes.

Import Of Steel

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 22, the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel, Sardar Swaran Singh, stated that the Government of India entered into contracts direct with three foreign countries — the U.S.S.R., Poland and Hungary — for the import of steel, and the contracts were for 204,200 tons, 5,800 tons and 5,212 tons respectively. Upto June 1959, 68,194 metric tons of steel had been received from Poland, Hungary and the U.S.S.R. against the above contracts.

Government were also buying steel for a total value of $ 60 million from the Development Loan Fund. The first shipment of D.L.F. steel was due to arrive this month.

Foreign Trade In May 1959

According to figures released by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, the exports of tea during May 1959 totalled Rs. 5,58,72,000.

Exports of jute fabrics were valued at Rs. 4.95,58,000 and of bags and sacks for packing at Rs. 3,07,69,000. Exports to the United Kingdom totalled Rs. 10,44,32,000, to the U.S.A. Rs. 7,20,21,000 and to Japan Rs. 2,83,95,000.

Wheat and spelt, including unmilled meslin, worth Rs. 5,87,29,000 were imported during the month. Imports of raw cotton other than linters, were valued at Rs. 4,98,98,000 and of conveying, hoisting, excavating, road construction and mining machinery at Rs. 2,15,72,000. Imports were highest from the U.S.A. totalling Rs. 14,43,38,000. The value of imports from the U.K. was Rs. 13,68,98,000 and from West Germany Rs. 10,76,02,000.

The total value of exports during the month was Rs. 44,30,84,000 and of imports Rs. 66,12,00,000. The total value of exports and imports during the corresponding period last year was Rs. 44,08,34,000 and Rs. 63,28,81,000.

Freight Concession For Manganese Ore

According to an announcement dated August 27, the Railway Board has decided to allow with effect from September 1, 1959 a rebate of freight on traffic in medium and low grade manganese ore from the stations situated over 200 miles from the ports from which such traffic moves with a view to encouraging the export of manganese ore to foreign countries.

The Railway Administrations concerned are separately issuing notifications announcing the stations from which the rebate arrangements will operate, the amount of rebate, and other terms and conditions under which the rebate will be allowed.

Generally speaking, the amount of rebate in case of medium grade ore will be Rs. 2.18 nP per ton of traffic carried over 300 miles, Rs. 3.27 nP for traffic carried over 400 miles and Rs. 4.09 nP for traffic carried over 500 miles and 4.36 nP for traffic over 600 miles. The corresponding rebate for low grade ore will be Rs. 2.99, Rs. 4.90 Rs.5.99 and Rs. 6.53 respectively for distances covering 300,400,500 and 600 miles.

TRAINING STAFF FOR ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 29 the Deputy Minister for Railways, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, said that a training school had recently been opened at Asansol for training of the crew and maintenance staff for electric locomotives.

IMPROVED REFRACTORY PROCESSES DEVELOPED

An announcement dated August 30 says that commercial exploitation of forsterite and stabilised dolomite refractories—which are not manufactured in India at present — is likely to be undertaken in the country. According to the announcement this has been made possible through prolonged research conducted at the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, Bihar. On the basis of intensive investigations, the Laboratory has been able to develop two types of refractories — forsterite refractories from magnesite and completely stabilised dolomite refractories from dolomite.

Forsterite refractories are used as substitutes for magnesite, chrome-magnesite refractories in the walls of basic open-hearth steel melting furnaces above the slag line, in non-those used for copper and lead smelt-ferrous metallurgical furnaces like ing and refining, glass tank super structures and checkers, rotary cement kilns and ceramic kilns.

A production target of 8 lakh tons per annum by the end of the Second Five Year Plan has been specified for refractories of all types. Of this, the target for basic and chromatic refractories, including magnesite, chrome-magnesite and magnesite-chrome refractories, the installed capacity for which in 1956 was 10,000 tons, is placed at 83,120 tons.

Foreign Companies In India

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 28, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said that according to the March 1959 issue of the 'Monthly Blue Book on Joint Stock Companies in India', the number of foreign companies (i.e. incorporated elsewhere other than in India, but having places of business in this country) at work was 572 as on March 31, 1959. This number included branches of foreign banks, non-profit organisations, purely agency offices in India of foreign firms and some very small units which did not figure in the Reserve Bank's data relating to non-banking foreign investments. The approximate number of foreign controlled Indian joint stock companies was 563 as at the end of 1958.

He further said that the non-banking business investments in branches of foreign companies was Rs. 281.68 crores as at the end of 1957. Figures for the subsequent period were not available.

The Finance Minister added that the foreign branches and foreign-controlled Indian joint stock companies (excluding companies controlled by foreign-controlled managing agency companies) earned profits of Rs. 15.9 crores and Rs. 18.9 crores respectively during 1957. In the case of foreign-controlled companies, the figures gave only the proportionate profit accruing to non-residents and did not include the profits earned by resident share-holders.

Communications

MERCHANT NAVY TRAINING BOARD

According to an announcement of August 22 the Government of India have decided to set up a Merchant Navy Training Board with the Minister of Shipping as its President to consider all matters pertaining to the training of Merchant Navy officers, ratings and other sea-going personnel and to recommend from time to time all such measures as may be necessary for the building up of an adequate, efficient and devoted merchant navy personnel. The decision has been announced in a Government of India resolution.

Functions Of The Board

The Board will be an advisory body and will have power to co-opt members. The personnel of the Board will be appointed by the Central Government after consultation with the interests concerned. The term of office of the representatives of non-official bodies of the Board will be two years. In addition to its general functions the Board has been asked in particular (i) to recommend, from time to time, the numbers to be recruited for training; (ii) to review from time to time the syllabus of training in the various institutions; (iii) to form selection committees for the recruitment of trainees for the Training Ship 'Dufferin' and the Directorate of Marine Engineering; (iv) to constitute inspection teams for the periodical inspection of the various training institutions; (v) to maintain statistics relating to the officers of the Merchant Navy (the statistics for ratings are being maintained by the Seamen's Employment Office); (vi) to maintain contact with comparable training institutions abroad with a view to keeping abreast of the developments and improvements there; (vii) to consider and recommend the introduction of new courses of training study; and (viii) to maintain the requisite co-ordination between the various branches of training, particularly Navigation and Engineering.

The Board will set up two committees from amongst its members to deal with specific problems of the two institutions, 'Dufferin' and the Directorate of Marine Engineering Training.

Members Of Board

Besides the President, the Board will consist of the Director General of Shipping and Joint Secretary to the Government of India (Chairman); Senior Deputy Director General of Shipping (Vice-Chairman); Deputy Secretary to the Government of India dealing with training institutions in the Department of Transport; Deputy Financial Adviser, Department of Transport; Nautical Adviser to the Government of India; Chief Surveyor with the Government of India; representatives of the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, All-India Council of Technical Education, Port Trusts (by rotation from amongst Bombay and Calcutta Port Trusts), representative of Calcutta Liners Conference/Owners Agents Committee (Crews), Maritime Union of India, Naval Headquarters, representative of Seamen and two representatives of the Indian National Steamship Owners' Association: Principal of the Nautical and Engineering College, Bombay; Captain Superintendent, Training Ship 'Dufferin'; Director, Marine Engineering Training, Calcutta, Seniormost Captain Superintendent of the Ratings Training Establishment; two Members of Parliament and representative of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce. The Principal, Nautical and Engineering College, Bombay, will act as Member Secretary of the Board.

Merchant Navy Training Committee

The setting up of a board to deal with all aspects of training is a sequel to the establishment of a number of training institutions for Merchant Navy personnel since 1947. At that time the only training institution in existence was the Training Ship 'Dufferin' which, of course, has had a governing body of its own. Simultaneously with the acceptance in 1947 of a dynamic policy for the development of merchant shipping, the Government of India set up a Merchant Navy Training Committee, which, in its report relating to pre-sea and post-sea training of ratings and officers, submitted in 1948 and 1949, recommended that apart from 'Dufferin', several other institutions should be set up.

Increasing Training Facilities

Practically all the recommendations made by the Committee have been accepted and the following new Merchant Navy training establishments have since been set up: (i) Nautical and Engineering College, Bombay, which imparts post-sea instructions to Merchant Navy officers preparing for the professional examinations for certificates of competency conducted by the Directorate General of Shipping; (ii) Directorate of Marine Engineering Training and Marine Engineering College, Calcutta, which impart pre-sea training for marine engineering career; (iii) Training Ships *'Bhadra'*, *'Mekhala'* and *'Navlakhi'*, for deck and engine room ratings.

These institutions have so far given between them training to about 16,200 boys of whom 5,400 are working as officers and 10,800 as ratings in the merchant navy. The total amount of money spent by the Government on the construction of buildings, purchase of equipment and annual recurring expenditure adds up to Rs. 2.5 crores.

When the report of the Merchant Navy Training Committee was considered, Government felt that the establishment of a training board to deal with all training institutions should be deferred till the various institutions recommended by the Committee had been set up and had functioned for some time.

Kandla Port Traffic In 1958-59

A Bombay announcement of August 24 says that the Port of Kandla handled a total traffic of 10.7 lakh tons of cargo in 1958-59 against a traffic of 8.5 lakh tons handled in 1957-58.

The imports in 1958-59 were 5.74 lakh tons of mineral oil, 2.01 lakh tons of foodgrains, 0.97 lakh tons of building material, iron and steel and 0.1 lakh tons of miscellaneous commodities, while the exports comprised 0.99 lakh tons of iron ore, 0.5 lakh tons of salt, 0.26 lakh tons of mineral oil and 0.13 lakh tons of other commodities. The total imports and exports of oil in 1958-59 stood at 5.99 lakh tons, the general cargo handled being 4.71 lakh tons.

Kandla was declared a Major Port in April 1955 with a hinterland — Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi and north-west Uttar Pradesh — covering an area of 2,75,000 square miles with a population of 45 millions.

Four cargo berths were included in the first stage development of the port. Two were completed and thrown open to traffic in March 1957 and the remaining two in July of the same year.

In the first five-year period after the completion of the first stage development, the port was expected to handle an annual traffic of about 8.5 lakh tons of cargo, consisting of 4 lakh tons of oil and 4.5 lakh tons of general cargo.

Food & Agriculture

POULTRY FARMING UNDER SECOND PLAN

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 21, the Miniser of Food and Agriculture, Shri A.P. Jain, stated that 300 Poultry Extension-cum-Development Centres were to be set up all over the country under the Second Plan. About 170 out of these 300 Centres had started functioning. These Centres would be responsible for incubation of eggs, supply of improved breeds of poultry to the villagers in the blocks and demonstration of modern methods of poultry keeping to the farmers.

In addition, five Regional Poultry Farms which were intended to acclimatise and supply high-bred chicks to the State Poultry Farms for use as foundation stock were also proposed to be set up under the Second Plan. One of these Regional Farms had already started functioning while the remaining four were in the process of being set up.

Apart from these, State Poultry Farms and Demonstration Centres had been established under the normal programme of activities of the State Animal Husbandry Departments.

Increase In Poultry Yield

In a written answer to another question the Minister stated that according to a tentative estimate, the total production of eggs in India increased from 13,412 lakhs in 1945 to 20,853 lakhs in 1956. This increase was largely attributable to introduction of birds of foreign breeds.

Development Of Preserved Fruit Industry

An announcement of August 21 says that an official Committee, set up by the Government of India to review the progress made by the preserved fruit and vegetable industry and to assess the scope for its further development, has recommended that the industry should voluntarily subject itself to compulsory quality checking on food products to be exported. The Committee has also recommended that compulsory standardisation should be adopted for exports.

For achieving the target of exports fixed at 11,000 tons by 1960-61, the Committee has recommended that a vigorous drive should be undertaken by publicity of Indian products in foreign countries and participation in exhibitions and international fairs.

It has also been suggested that the State Trading Corporation should contribute to the promotion of exports of fruit and vegetable products and take steps to explore and develop new markets abroad.

The Committee has pleaded for chalking out a co-ordinated programme of horticulture and fruit and vegetable preservation. Steps should be taken for development of refrigeration expeditiously in the Third Plan and that adequate provision should be made for technical training, including training abroad, during the Third Plan.

The advisibility of *Morabba* and pickle industries continuing to use containers made from ordinary type of tin plates as at present should be investigated by the Central Food Technological Institute, Mysore. The manufacture of barrels from special woods should also be investigated by the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.

Excessive use of food colours in fruit and vegetable products should be avoided. The scope for the manufacture of pectin from apple and citrus waste should be explored.

The Government of India have accepted all these recommendations and will take steps to implement them as far as possible. The attention of the preserved fruit and vegetable industry has been drawn to the recommendations of the Committee that citric and acetic acid in substantial quantities should be produced within the country to enable the preserved fruit and vegetable industry to obtain its requirements indigenously at reasonable prices.

While the Government have accepted the suggestion of the Committee that loan facilities will accelerate considerably the development of industry, it is not considered practicable to operate the loan scheme directly by the Central Government, as recommended by the Committee.

Pilot Scheme For Inland Fisheries

An announcement of August 26 says that the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, has asked the State Governments, to start a Pilot Scheme for intensive development of inland fisheries in 50 selected C.D. Blocks, on October 2, 1959.

Each Pilot Project will undertake training of village level workers and extension officers in fisheries. The programme also includes, the survey of cultivable waters and the establishment of fish fry rearing nurseries and demonstration of fish rearing ponds. In addition, steps for fish stocking in ponds and tanks will be intensified.

Fishermen are to be provided assistance under the scheme in the form of nets, yarn, small loans and lands for housing etc. Marketing facilities will also be properly organised.

For the selection of the Blocks, the main criteria will be availability of suitable waters for fish culture, proximity of fish consuming centres and also presence of a large fishing community.

River Projects & Power

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CENTRAL IRRIGATION & POWER BOARD

Placing a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha in a written reply to a question on August 25, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Deputy Minister for Irrigation and Power, said that the subjects discussed by the Central Board of Irrigation and Power at its annual Research Session, held in Hyderabad in July 1959, covered the theory and practice of model experiments; comparison of model and prototype behaviour; hydraulic works-materials and their test, spillways, canal head regulators, excluders and ejectors, escapes and tube-wells design etc.; rainfall runoff; regeneration and losses; subterranean waters; soil science and soil mechanics; earth dams and embankments; basic studies of Indian soils; theory of flow and design of channels; training and control of tidal rivers; and decks and harbours.

According to the statement the important recommendations made by the Committee were:

Immediate steps should be taken to promote research work, so as to utilise indigenous material to effect economy in power system. Existing test stations of the Electricity Boards and Power Departments should be suitably expanded into research units for the purpose.

Various organisations and States should be requested to lay down specific reaches of river for protection with soil cement blocks, using the specifications, already laid down for emergency construction works and to report results.

Research and investigations should be intensified by the States and Research organisations in the country to study the quality of irrigation waters and fertilising aspect of silt.

A short course on the subject of mosquito control and anti-malaria measures should be included in the curriculum of engineering education.

Steps should be taken, whenever the question of keeping a tidal channel alive would arise to provide upland water supply to the channel; and with that end in view, as a preliminary step, necessary hydrological data should be collected and analysed for all important tidal channels which would be showing signs of deterioration.

The effects of cavitation should be studied very carefully in great detail in hydraulic machines, civil structures and ship propelling.

Correct assessment of discharges should be made on lined and unlined channels throughout the country to get a fair and clear approach to the effect of rugosity coefficient in designs of channels; and for this purpose a Committee should be appointed to go into the question in detail.

A Special Committee should be formed on "rubble concrete" to co-ordinate work on this important branch of construction material.

A Select Committee of the Central Board of Irrigation and Power should be appointed to go in detail into the question of lining of canals and other water ways with special reference to the use of bentonites, particularly for use in connection with Rajasthan Canal.

The recommendations would be placed before the next Annual meeting of the Central Board of Irrigation and Power for ratification, before being circulated to the States and other organisations for implementation.

Minister's Statement On Bhakra Dam Mishap

The Union Minister of Irrigation and Power, Hafiz Mohamed Ibrahim, made a statement in the Lok Sabha on August 24 on the accident which occurred on August 21 to the 'Hoist Chamber' of the Bhakra Dam in which 10 workers including an overseer died. He informed the House that the Government of India had appointed a five-member enquiry Committee for the purpose.

The Committee included Dr. A.N. Khosla, Vice Chancellor, Roorkee University; Shri Kanwar Sain, Administrator, Rajasthan Canal Project; Shri M.S. Thirumale Iyengar, Chief Engineer, Hirakud Dam Project; Shri A.C. Mitra, Chief Engineer, Rihand Dam Project; and Dr K.L. Rao, Member, Planning and Design, Central Water and Power Commission.

The Minister also said that this accident, although grave and unfortunate, did not in any way jeopardise the safety of the main Dam; nor was there any chance of the present damage setting up a chain of consequential damage to the Dam and the power plant. The flow through the galleries presented no danger of any kind to the Dam.

This mishap, he added, would cause no appreciable effect on the final schedule of the completion of the Dam.

It was not possible, he said, at this stage to assess with any degree of accuracy the full extent of the damage caused, but according to a very preliminary estimate it might come to about Rs. 55 lakhs.

UTILIZATION OF IRRIGATION FACILITIES

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 29, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, said that the following amounts were released to various States as a part of miscellaneous development loan assistance during 1958-59 for construction of distributaries, with a view to speeding up greater utilization of available irrigation facilities:

Andhra Pradesh (Rupees in lakhs) 44.40, Bihar Rs. 15, Bombay Rs. 20, Madhya Pradesh Rs. 4, Orissa Rs. 65, Kerala Rs. 23, Rajasthan Rs 15, Uttar Pradesh Rs. 28, and Mysore Rs. 60.

The Deputy Minister added that a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs, allotted to West Bengal for being utilised on the Mayurakshi Project distribution system, was not availed of by the State Government.

Community Development

SERVICE CO-OPERATIVES AND CO-OPERATIVE FARMING

Asked which of the States had decided to introduce service co-operatives and co-operative farming in Community Development Block areas, the Deputy Minister of Community Development and Co-operation, Shri B.S. Murthy, said, in a written reply, in the Lok Sabha on August 17 that the new co-operative policy, which envisaged the organisation of service co-operatives with the village community as the primary unit, and the reorganisation of the existing village societies, which were largely credit societies, as service co-operatives, had been accepted by all State Governments.

With a view to making a start immediately, Shri Murthy added, State Governments had been asked to prepare supplementary plans for implementing this policy. Such supplementary plans had been received from all States except Bombay, Mysore, Kerala, Madras, Jammu and Kashmir which were also expected to send their plans in the near future, and it was hoped that by the middle of September the plans of all States would be finalised. This policy would be enforced in Community Development Blocks as well as non-Block areas.

Referring to co-operative farming, the Deputy Minister said that the Second Plan had laid down that the main task during the Plan period was to take such essential steps as would provide sound foundations for the development of co-operative farming, so that, over a period of

10 years or so, a substantial proportion of agricultural land was cultivated on co-operative lines. The targets for co-operative farming would be determined in consultation with the States, and would be related closely to, and dovetailed with those of agricultural production and the programmes of National Extension and Community Development.

The Standing Committee of the National Development Council at its meeting held in September, 1957, had recommended that 3,000 experiments on co-operative farming be carried out in the remaining period of the Second Plan. This recommendation had been communicated to the States. As the pattern of Central assistance could not be finalised, it had not been possible for the State Governments to take up this programme on a large scale. Some of the States, however, were organising co-operative farming societies.

The Government of India had recently set up a Working Group on co-operative farming to help in the formulation of an action programme, based on available experience, for the development of co-operative farming in the country. After the report of the Working Group was received, necessary action to implement the scheme for co-operative farming would be taken up in consultation with the States.

Central Assistance To Co-operative Societies

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 21, the Deputy Minister of Community Development and Co-operation, Shri B.S. Murthy, said that no grant had been given by the Central Government to the State Governments for the development of co-operative farming societies during the year 1959-60, as the pattern of financial assistance to co-operative farming societies had not been finalised so far. This would be finalised after the Working Group on Co-operative Farming, set up recently by the Government of India, submitted its report.

A provision of Rs. 39.19 lakhs for grants to State Governments to assist village co-operatives had been made in the annual plans of co-operative development in the States. The scale of assistance to village co-operatives had now been raised. The additional grant required for the increased assistance, as well as the subsidy necessary for an accelerated programme of organising more village co-operatives, would be met through supplementary plans for 1959-60 which had been received from all States except Bombay, Mysore, Madras and Jammu and Kashmir, and were at present being discussed with the State Governments.

According to the existing arrangements for release of Central assistance to States, Shri Murthy added, the National Co-operative Development and Warehousing Board would release quarterly, through ways and means advances, financial assistance to State Governments for all schemes of co-operative development, including that of service co-operatives.

REPORT ON CO-OPERATIVE LAWS

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 21, Shri B.S. Murthy, Deputy Minister of Community Development and Co-operation, said that Government had received the "fuller report" on co-operative laws from the Indian Co-operative Union, the contents whereof were carefully examined by the Central Government. Co-operation being a 'State' subject, certain suggestions regarding simplification of co-operative laws and procedures were communicated to the State Governments and they had been advised to appoint a small committee, in each State, consisting of non-officials and officials to examine the whole question of laws, rules and procedures, relating to co-operation, the Deputy Minister added.

Work For Women In C.D. Blocks

In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on August 25 whether schemes have been worked out to provide work to women in N.E.S. and C.D. Blocks, the Deputy Minister of Community Development and Co-operation, Shri B.S. Murthy, said that while preparation of detailed schemes to provide work to women in C.D. Blocks had been left to State Governments, emphasis had been placed on the participation of women in the general industrial programme and evolution of economic programmes for women suited to their interests and aptitudes, like Ambar Charkha, tailoring, sewing, hosiery, embroidery, toy making, preservation of fruits and vegetables, making of braids etc.

A provision of Rs. 40,000, he added, had been made in Stage I Blocks and Rs. 20,000 in Stage II Blocks for women's programme. Parts of this provision were to be utilised on the economic programme for women.

Establishment of industrial co-operatives for women was also being encouraged for credit facilities, procurement of raw materials and marketing of finished goods and 126 such co-operatives were being set up in the various States.

A number of Parishramalayas had been set up in the Block areas where training in Ambar Charkha is given to women.

The National Small-scale Industries Corporation had sponsored a scheme of selling sewing machines on instalment basis with the help of the Block staff. Manufacturers of Usha machine had provided instructors to train village women in simple tailoring. The Central Social Welfare Board had launched socio-economic programmes with the co-operation of, and technical and financial assistance from, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the various All India Boards/Commissions. The Block staff assisted in the execution of the programmes in the Block areas.

Training of craft instructors employed in the Welfare Extension Projects to work as Ambar Charkha instructors had been started. So far 74 craft instructors had been trained and 211 were under training. A scheme for starting a number of Parishramalayas at the Project centres had been worked out and so far 22 Parishramalayas had been started.

Fifty craft instructors, drawn from the various Welfare Project centres, had already been trained and it was proposed to set up about 40 training-cum-production centres. It was also proposed to set up 50 handloom training-cum-production centres.

The Central Social Welfare Board proposed to set up some training-cum-production units with the co-operation of Coir Board and Silk Board. In consultation with the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, the All-India Handicrafts Board was evolving a scheme for establishing rural crafts both for men and women. Besides, they had allotted Rs. 5 lakhs to the Central Social Welfare Board for starting craft centres for women in the Block areas.

Education & Culture

MEETING OF COMMITTEE FOR UNESCO MAJOR PROJECT

The National Advisory Committee for the UNESCO Major Project on Mutual Appreciation of Eastern and Western Cultural Values met in New Delhi on August 24 under the chairmanship of Dr. Tara Chand, M.P. It made a number of important recommendations for implementing the programme of UNESCO approved for 1959-60.

The Committee emphasised the need for conducting a survey of the present national activities relating to the programme suggested by UNESCO under the Major Project now being carried on by various universities, institutions and organizations working in the fields of Education, Science and Culture.

It approved the preparation of a pamphlet describing the main features of the national culture and the present daily life of the country for school libraries in eastern and western countries, the preparation of inexpensive visual materials on various aspects of Indian culture and assembling of a kit on India for use in western schools.

The Committee recommended the proposal to organise a meeting of teachers and small groups of experts to discuss educational methods most likely to develop understanding of the cultures of different regions and an East-West Week to disseminate the objectives of the Project among the general public.

The proposal to prepare photographs and models on various Indian topics with the material available in Indian museums for circulation in India and abroad and to consider at a later period the possibility of developing this exhibition by way of including important material available in other countries, was also approved.

While realising the importance of the Project relating to the translation of Indian classics into Western languages, the Committee felt that the scheme should be intensified by augmenting the present financial resources available for the programme.

Another important proposal which was approved was that every possible effort should be made to collaborate the Indian National Commission with the India International Centre, set up recently in New Delhi, in implementing the UNESCO's Major Project on East-West understanding and the various acitvities which would he undertaken by the Centre to promote understanding of the culture of the different countries.

SURVEY OF INDIAN CULTURE

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 27, Shri Humayun Kabir, Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, stated that the Department of Anthropology had recently begun a survey to find out the similarities and the differences in culture in all the districts of India. Twenty-two districts had been surveyed so far, and it was expected that the remaining districts would be completed in another two years.

Theatres In State Capitals

In a written answer to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 20 Dr. M.M. Das, Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, stated that the Government of India had approved a scheme for the setting up of a theatre in each State capital.

The Central Government's share, he added, would normally be 50 per cent of the cost of construction subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh except in the case of Calcutta and Bombay where the ceiling might be raised upto Rs. 2½ lakhs.

Advisory Committee On Archival Legislation

The Union Ministry of Education in pursuance of the recommendations of the Indian Historical Records Commission have set up a nine-member Committee with Dr. Tara Chand, M.P., as Chairman, to advise them on the proposed Archival Legislation; it has been announced on August 23.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee has been asked to examine (a) the condition of public records and the rules and instructions relating to the preservation, administration, and maintenance thereof, and public access thereto; (b) Dr. Raghubir Singh's "The Historical Records (of National Importance) Bill, 1957" and the opinions received thereon; (c) the Destruction of Records Act, 1917 and the Antiquities Export Control Act, 1947 and other Acts bearing on archival problems; and submit its recommendations on the following matters:

(i) how far in the interest of the proper preservation and administration of public records, it is desirable for the Government of India to exercise supervision over the State records or any part thereof, including the records of the former Princely States which are with various State Governments as a result of merger; (ii) in order to exercise such supervision to consider what steps should be taken to declare the State records or parts thereof to be of national importance; (iii) whether the executive authority in respect of the records which may be declared to be of national importance should be exercised directly by the Government of India or left with the State Governments; (iv) the feasibility of transferring "ancient and historical records other than those declared by Parliament to be of national importance" from the State List to the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India; (v) whether it is desirable to have a statutory enactment for the management and disposal of the records of the Central Government and such other public bodies which have an all-India character; (vi) to consider the desirability of a Plan for establishing zonal repositories for such records as may be declared of national importance and/or the records of the Government of India agencies in each zone; and (vii) what further measures, if any, can be taken for effectively preventing the destruction or disposal of manuscripts and records in private custody which are considered to be of national importance.

The other members of the Committee are: Dr. Raghubir Singh, Member, Rajya Sabha; Dr. Bisheswar Prasad, Professor of History, Delhi University; Shri Mohibbul Hasan, Reader, Aligarh University; Dr. P.M. Joshi, Director of Archives, Government of Bombay; Shri Fateh Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs; a representative of the Ministry of Law (to be nominated later); Shri Nizamuddin Ahmed, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Education; and the Director of National Archives of India (Member-Secretary)

Lala Lajpat Rai's Account Of Freedom Struggle

Answering in the affirmative to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 28 whether the Director of New York Public Library presented manuscript deposited by late Lala Lajpat Rai to the Indian Ambassador, Shri M.C. Chagla, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said that the manuscript had been received in India.

He laid a statement on the Table of the House in reply to a further question regarding the nature of the manuscript and its history.

According to the statement the manuscript was a condensed account in his own handwriting of Lala Lajpat Rai's visits to Japan and U.S.A. and a record of his doings and those of his compatriots who were promoting the cause of India's freedom in the United States. It was entitled "Recollections of Life and Work for an Independent India while living in the United States during 1914-17".

The manuscript was entrusted by the author to Mr. B.W. Hubesch (of the Viking Press Inc. New York) for safe custody in 1919. In 1943 Mr. Hubesch transferred it to the New York Public Library requesting it to hold it in its custody till India became free when the Library was to present it to the Indian Archives.

The present transfer of the manuscript to the National Archives was apparently in compliance with the above arrangement.

Radio Sets For Rural Areas

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 20, Dr. B.V. Keskar, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, stated that during the first three years of the Second Plan 35,580 community receivers were supplied to the States and Union Territories. Installation and maintenance of the sets were the responsibility of the State Government.

He added that the use of these radio sets had been restricted to the tuning of only two or three broadcasting stations. Two types of receivers had been supplied, (1) medium wave receivers which could be tuned to one single station on the medium wave band and (2) combined medium and short wave receivers which could either be tuned to one station on the medium wave band or one station on any of three specified short wave bands. Stating the reasons for this, he added that the sets were mainly meant for specific rural and community development programmes, and, secondly, if the sets were used throughout the day, battery cost would be so high that they would incur costly recurring expenditure. Maintenance costs would also go high.

International Award For Indian Film

According to a New Delhi announcement of August 18 'Jalsaghar', the Bengali feature film, entered at the International Film Festival, Moscow, on behalf of India, has been awarded silver medal for music. The Music Director of the film is Shri Vilayat Hussain Khan, the well-known sitarist.

This is one of the ten silver prizes intended for proficiency in different aspects of the film production, such as direction, choreography, production art, music etc. The festival was held from August 3 to August 17.

Hindi Version Of Manuals & Rules

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, stated that in all 1,619 pages of Manuals, Forms, Rules etc. of the various Ministries had been translated into Hindi by the Ministry of Education for the various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India since January 1958. The Ministry-wise break-up was as follows:

Ministry of Home Affairs	207
Ministry of Defence	7
Office of the Directorate General of Posts and Telegraphs	95
Office of the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment	270
Department of Atomic Energy	64
Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply	113
Office of the Central Excise (Under C.B.R.)	5
Ministry of Education	858

In addition, various Ministries were also engaged in translation work individually, he added.

KENDRIYA HINDI SHIKSHAKA MAHAVIDYALAYA

Answering a question Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, stated in the Lok Sabha on August 31 that the Akhil Bharatiya Hindi Mahavidyalaya, Agra, which was being reorganised to form the new Kendriya Hindi Shikshaka Mahavidyalaya, Agra, at present, trained about 60 teachers at a time.

The Minister added that the exact number of teachers to be trained by the new Mahavidyalaya would be decided upon by the Kendriya Hindi Shikshana Mandal, which would manage the affairs of the Mahavidyalaya. The annual expenditure of the Mahavidyalaya would depend upon the number of teachers to be trained and other activities of the Mahavidyalaya.

FREE GIFT OF HINDI BOOKS TO SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

According to a Press Note issued by the Union Ministry of Education on August 26, the Ministry intends to make free gifts of suitable Hindi Books to the schools and colleges in non-Hindi speaking States where Hindi is taught as a compulsory or optional subject. It is felt that such free gifts of judiciously selected Hindi Books would go a long way in creating interest in Hindi in those areas and thus help the cause of propagation of Hindi in the country.

Financial Assistance To Educational Institutions

The Union Ministry of Education, says an announcement of August 18, has appointed a six-member Advisory Committee with Shrimati Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay as Chairman to advise them on giving financial assistance to educational institutions of all-India importance engaged in educational research and allied activities. The other members of the Committee are: Shri R.R. Diwakar, Shri Acharya Badrinath Varma, Shri Maganbhai P. Desai, Shri Inder Sen of Pondicherry and Dr. N.S. Junankar, Deputy Educational Adviser, Ministry of Education (Member-Secretary).

In the Second Five-Year Plan of educational development, the Government of India have included a scheme of giving financial assistance to recognised institutions of higher learning, which are doing work of special importance for developing their educational activities and introducing new ideas and techniques in education which are of national significance. Some of these institutions may be providing a pattern of education different from the normal and recognised patterns, but they may need special encouragement because they are doing pioneering work for giving a new orientation to education and thus fulfilling the important need of keeping education sensitive and progressive.

To qualify for the grant, an institution, under the scheme, must (1) at least be of 10 years standing, (2) doing pioneering work in the fields of education, research and allied activities or is engaged in important work bearing on educational experiments or reconstruction, (3) has provision for activities in the field of higher education at post-matric level; and (4) in case of institutions of local importance, which undertake a project of an all-India importance, their ability and suitability for the projects will be duly taken into consideration.

Three-Year Degree Course

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 31, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, laid on the Table of the House details of the expenditure borne by the Central and State Governments on the implementation of educational reforms in respect of introduction of Higher Secondary and Three-Year Degree courses.

The following is the text of the Minister's statement:

"For the upgrading of High Schools into Higher Secondary Schools, the expenditure sanctioned by the Central Government up to the end of 1958-59 amounted to about Rs. 45 lakhs; the expenditure on the introduction of the Three-Year Degree Course was Rs. 94 lakhs.

"The expenditure up to 1958-59 incurred by the States on the upgrading of High Schools into Higher Secondary Schools amounted to Rs. 30 lakhs approximately. The States expenditure on the introduction of the Three-Year Degree Course is not available. Under the scheme, the State Governments and non-Government Colleges, are, however, expected to provide an amount equal to the amount sanctioned by the Central Government.

"Figures of expenditure for the financial year 1959-60 are not available, except for the Centre's assistance given so far towards the Three-Year Degree Course which comes to about Rs. 18 lakhs."

S. INDIAN LANGUAGES IN UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 22, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Minister of Education, stated that the University Grants Commission approved the scheme of the University of Allahabad for the teaching of Tamil and Telugu. This was in addition to the schemes of five other universities, viz. Aligarh Muslim, Banaras Hindu, Delhi, Bombay and Saugar, which had already been approved.

Detailing steps taken so far to introduce South Indian languages in the universities of North India, the Minister said that the Aligarh Muslim University had been permitted to provide for the teaching of Malayalan, in place of Tamil which had been approved earlier. Towards this, a sum of Rs. 34,000 had been sanctioned by the U. G. C. for implementing the scheme. With regard to the scheme of the Delhi University, a sum of Rs. 54,500 had been sanctioned by the Commission for the purchase of books etc.

Progress of work in other universities, which had undertaken to introduce South Indian languages in their curriculum was satisfactory, he added.

PROMOTION OF GIRLS' EDUCATION

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 20 Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said that a sum of Rs. 240 lakhs had been provided in the Second Plan for the expansion of girls' education.

Answering another part of the question, the Minister added that while cent per cent grants were not given under the Central Scheme of Expansion of Girls' Education and Training of Women Teachers, 75 per cent of **assistance for approved expenditure was given without insisting on the States making their contribution.**

RURAL INSTITUTE TRAINEES TO VISIT U.S.A.

Twenty trainees are shortly proceeding to U.S.A. for training in research and extension methods under the T.C.M. Aid Programme says a New Delhi announcement dated August 29.

The trainees, drawn from various Institutes of Rural Higher Education in the country, will receive training in the Beria University of Kentucky and other places in the U.S.A. They will also visit several European and far-eastern conntries during their 11-month tour abroad.

SOURCE BOOKS FOR BASIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

Under the scheme for the production of literature and material on Basic Education, the Union Ministry of Education has initiated a scheme to produce source books on different subjects, reads an announcement of August 26. In the first instance, it is proposed to produce source books on General Science and Social Studies.

The object of the scheme is to make necessary informative material needed for teaching, available to teachers of Basic Schools. Each subject has been divided into a number of parts and manuscript on each part will be prepared by a competent author in English or in Hindi, according to his convenience and published forthwith after being finalized.

Training Of Primary School Teachers

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 31, the Union Minister of Educaion, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, in a statement laid on the Table of the House stated that the objective of the scheme for countrywide training of Primary School Teachers was to help in the production in time of an adequate number of trained teachers for appointment **during the Third Five Year Plan to provide universal free and compulsory education for children between 6-11 years.**

Asked to furnish brief details of the scheme, the Minister stated as follows: "(i) During 1959-60 and 1960-61, the scheme will carry 100% financial assistance from the Government of India on approved expenditure; (ii) It should be endeavoured, in the first instance, to increase the intake capacity of existing training institutions wherever possible, and necessary. If this increase in output is not likley to suffice the requirement of additional teachers during the Third Plan, new training institutions should be established; (iii) The new institutions to be set up together with the increase in the output of existing institutions should be able to cover about half the number of additional teachers that will be required for the expansion programme during the Third Plan; (iv) It should be endeavoured through this scheme to train as many women teachers as possible; and (v) In order to pay special attention to the quality and contents of this training, the following points have been emphasized: (a) This training should be envisaged as training in Basic Education, (b) the normal qualification for admission into these institutions should be matriculation or post-Basic or higher secondary, although it may be found necessary for some time to make some relaxation in this regard in the case of women teachers or in some special areas, and (c) the duration of training should be two years as far as possible.

The estimated expenditure on the scheme during 1959-61 will be about Rs. 8 crores."

Raising Status Of Teachers

In a written answer to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 28 Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, stated that the Union Government had offered certain **suggestions to the State Governments for giving due recognition to teachers' work and raising their status in society. The Central Government had also offered financial assistance on matching basis** for the improvement of salary scales of teachers.

He further said that the response to the suggestions from State Governments had been generally favourable. A number of State Governments had expressed their agreement with them and had promised to implement these within the limits of

available resources. Up to 1957-58, twelve State Governments and nineteen State Universities had taken advantage of the scheme for improvement of salary scales of teachers.

Some State Governments had either amended University Acts or agreed to amend them at suitable opportunity in order to give the teachers better representation on University Bodies, the Minister added.

Salary Of Primary School Teachers

In a statement laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on August 17 in reply to a question, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Minister of Education, stated that the Government of India did not recommend any minimum salary for primary school teachers. However, they agreed to meet 50% of the additional expenditure involved in the improvement of salary scales of these teachers. All the State Governments except the Government of Jammu and Kashmir revised the pay scales accordingly.

For improving the salary scales of primary school teachers, the Minister added, central grant of Rs. 76.955 lakhs and Rs. 195.460 lakhs were sanctioned to the State Governments during 1956-57 and 1957-58 respectively.

The corresponding information for 1958-59 was not available, because since that year Central assistance to the States for their sector of the Plan was not given for each scheme separately. This, on the contrary, was given on the basis of groups; and the scheme for the improvement of the salary scales of primary school teachers was included in the Elementary Education group.

Salary Scales Of Secondary School Teachers

In a written answer to a question regarding grant sanctioned to State Governments for increasing salary scales of secondary school teachers, and the amount spent, Dr. K.L. Shrimali laid the following statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on August 19:

1957-58	*Sanctioned*	*Expenditure*
	(in rupees)	
Assam	7,50,000	7,00,000
Bombay	8,73,500	7,26,685
Bihar	5,75,000	11,07,500
Madras	7,84,500	7,83,000
Madhya Pradesh	4,68,750	3,37,500
Mysore	7,50,000	—
West Bengal	1,25,000	1,24,000
Orissa	9,000	8,000
Kerala	36,500	5,000
Total	43,72,250	37,91,685

1958-59

As *ad hoc* grants for all the centrally aided schemes concerning Secondary Education were given in lump sum, it was, therefore, not possible to say what portion of these went towards the individual scheme for the salary scales of secondary school teachers, the Minister added.

1959-60

In the plans for 1959-60 of the different States, there was a total provision of about Rs. 1.76 crore for this purpose. Of this the Central assistance due worked out at about Rs. 88 lakhs, now being given to the States in the form of monthly advances.

Retirement Age Of Professors

Placing a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha in reply to a question on August 19, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Minister of Education, stated that the University Grants Commission had recommended to all universities that the normal age of retirement of teachers in Universities and colleges should be 60 and that provision might be made in special cases for a further extension upto 5 years, one year at a time.

According to the statement the retiring age for professors and lecturers in various Universities was as follows: fifty five years for professors and lecturers in the Universities of Osmania, Sardar Vallabhbhai Vidyapeeth, Kerala and Mysore; 58 years in M.S. University of Baroda; 60 years in the Universities of Aligarh, Delhi, Bihar, Jadavpur, Madras, Patna, Rajasthan, Saugar, S.N.D.T. Women, Poona, Visva-Bharati, Agra, Andhra, Utkal, Roorkee, Karnatak, Annamalai, Gauhati, Lucknow, Bombay, Banaras, Punjab, Vikram, Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishva Vidyalaya, Varanasi and Nagpur; 62 years in the Universities of Allahabad and Calcutta.

In the case of Jabalpur University the retiring age for teachers of colleges maintained by the State Government was 55 years but the normal retiring age of teachers of private affiliated colleges was 60 years.

The Universities of Marathwada, Gujarat and Gorakhpur had not prescribed the retiring age of professors and lecturers. The University of Jammu and Kashmir was still considering the question. The Universities of Kurukshetra and Sri Venkateswara had not yet furnished the information.

SPURIOUS INSTITUTIONS IN DELHI

Laying a statement on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on August 28 in reply to a question, the Union Minister of Educaion, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, informed the House that certain number of un-recognised institutions were functioning in Delhi. Such institutions were not found in other Union Territories.

Dwelling on the nature of such institutions, he said that broadly they were divided into two categories—those which styled themselves as "Universities" or awarded degrees specified by the University Grants Commission under section 22(3) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 and the rest. The former category of institutions were now liable to be punished under section 24 of the above Act. As regards other institutions, if any of their activitiees resulted in the cheating of the public, it should be possible to deal with them under the criminal law of the country.

Detailing other precautionary steps, the Minister added that Press Notes had been issued by the Ministry of Education from time to time to make the public aware of the existence of such un-recognised and spurious institutions.

Post-Graduate Courses In Engineering & Technology

An announcement of August 18 says that on the recommendations of the All India Council for Technical Education, the Central Government has appointed a high-powered Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Thacker, Secretary, Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, to evaluate the progress made so far in the development of post-graduate courses in engineering and technology and to suggest measures that should be taken to organise effectively post-graduate training and research in this field. The Committee will also make recommendations on the new schemes submitted by colleges.

The other members of the Committee are: Dr. A.N. Khosla, Vice-Chancellor, University of Roorkee; Dr. K.S. Krishnan, Director, National Physical Laboratory; Dr. D.S. Kothari, Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Defence; Dr. H.L. Roy, Emeritus Professor, Jadavpur University; Shri P.R. Ramakrishnan, M.P., Principal, Coimbatore Institute of Technology; Prof. B. Sengupta, Director-designate of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras; and Dr. P.K. Kelkar, Deputy Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Addressing the National Council for Training in Vocational Trades the Union Deputy Minister for Labour, Shri Abid Ali, said in New Delhi on August 29 that the promotion of training in vocational trades was the Council's special concern. The success they were able to achieve in this field would have its impact on production and employment and also on the general outlook of the people. It was quite obvious, he added, that they could not go far in their drive for industrialisation until they built up a source of supply of trained manpower.

Shri Abid Ali said it was equally obvious that much of the idle manpower could be placed in productive employment if it could be properly trained. Quite apart from such wage-employment, there was immense scope for extending the area of fruitful self-employment through training in appropriate vocational trades. The work and orientation centres started at some places were only a modest beginning.

Training Facilities in Petroleum Technology

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 19, Shri Humayun Kabir, Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, stated that a first degree course in Petroleum Technology with 20 annual admissions had been started at the Indian School of Mines and Applied Geology, Dhanbad.

The Minister added that the recommendation of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research that a Petroleum Council should be constituted for the rapid development of Petroleum industry in the country, was under consideration. It had been suggested that the Petroleum Council should *inter alia* deal with the following:

Training of personnel, research and investigations, documentation, information, marketing and economics in the whole field of petroleum and natural gas; facilities in the existing and proposed institutions and the potential for expansion of such facilities; and what additional facilities, including any new institution, should be created.

ENGINEERING DIPLOMA RECOGNISED

The Government of India have, on the recommendation of the Board of Assessment for Technical and Professional Qualifications, decided to recognise the diplomas of the *Ad Hoc* Board of Engineering Education, Uttar Pradesh, Roorkee, awarded on the results of examinations held upto 1959 for purposes of recruitment or appointment to subordinate posts and services under the Central Government in the appropriate fields, says a New Delhi announcement of August 30.

NETHERLANDS GOVT. FELLOWSHIPS

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs on August 19, five candidates have been selected for the award of fellowships offered by the Government of the Netherlands for study/research in that country during 1959-60. Of these candidates, three are for Hydraulics and two for Architecture.

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs on August 18, fifteen candidates have been selected for the award of scholarships offered by the Government of Italy for study/research/training in that country during 1959-60. Of those candidates four are for Town Planning and two each for Industrial Pharmacy, Industrial Chemistry, Textile Industry and Painting, and one each for Electrical Engineering, Electro-techniques and Structural Testings.

These scholarships are administered by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

TEACHERS TRAINING UNDER T.C.M. PROGRAMME

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs

on August 20, 116 persons have been selected for post-graduate studies/research in Engineering and Technical subjects in U.S.A. under the T.C.M. Prgramme for Training of Teachers in Technical Institutions during 1959-60. Of these candidates, 38 have been selected for Civil Engineering, 28 for Electrical Engineering, 29 for Mechanical Engineering, five each for Metallurgy, Architecture, Applied Geology and Geophysics, four for Chemical Engineering and two for Mining.

These fellowships are administered by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

Australian Government Fellowship

Under Australian International Awards Scheme, says an announcement of August 20, the Government of Australia have offered a Senior Fellowship for an Indian national for study/research in organisation of Art Galleries and Museum Objects Maintenance Technique. The duration of the study/training will be 6 months to one or two years.

The selected candidate will get about £ A-860 per annum i.e. Rs. 9130/- per annum approximately as maintenance allowance and cost of first class passage both ways and other allowances etc.

Federation of British Industries Scholarships

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs on August 24, five persons have been selected for training in the U.K. under the Federation of British Industries Scholarships Scheme 1958-59, in design and fabrication of chemical plants, Instrument Engineering, manufacture and installation of water turbines of alternator and varied hydro-electric power stations equipment, manufacture and testing of transfers and switchgear, and methods of manufacturing different types of bearings.

Indian Medical Students In Foreign Countries

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 22, Dr. M.M. Das, Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, stated that 1,168 Indian students were receiving medical education in foreign countries. Out of these, 625 were in U.K., 369 in the U.S.A., 52 in West Germany, 36 in Canada, 19 in Italy, 18 in Ireland, 15 in France, 8 in West Berlin, 7 in Austria, 4 each in Belgium and Netherlands and 1 each in Czechoslovakia and Norway. The number of students in receipt of scholorships or other financial assistance was 383.

Action On Sports Enquiry Committee Report

Laying a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on August 27, the Union Minister of Education, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, said that the All India Council of Sports had been reconstituted with effect from March 2, 1959, with a strength of 15 members (inclusive of the President) nominated, in their personal capacity, by the Government of India. In accordance with the recommendations of the Enquiry Committee the members of the Council had been appointed in their indvidual capacity for their knowledge, standing and experience of sports, and not as representatives of any Sports Organisation.

Detailing steps taken to implement the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Enquiry Committee on Games and Sports, the Minister said that the State Governments had been requested to reconstitute the State Sports Councils on the lines suggested by the Committee. It had also been decided to set up the Central Institute of Coaching early in 1960. A Committee of the All India Council of Sports had been constituted to work out the details of the Institute. The report of this Committee was awaited.

Replying to another part of the question, he added that the State Governments had been requested to forward applications from educational institutions for grants for the acquisition of playgrounds. Subject to the availability of funds, it was proposed to grant Rs. 45 lakhs during the remaining period of the Second Plan for the purpose.

The Minister added that the State Governments had been requested to implement the recommendations to the extent practicable. In order to protect and conserve existing resources in play-fields, to find out, earmark and allocate fresh land for play-fields, the State Governments had been advised to constitute Playing Fields Associations, in which educational institutions, Municipal and Local Bodies, Town Planning Authorities, etc. would be represented. They had also been informed that it was necessary to take steps to earmark immediately such areas as can be used for play-grounds.

National Discipline Scheme

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 19, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Minister of Education, stated that the scheme of National Discipline for 1959-60 had been finalised and a budget provision of Rs. 20 lakhs had been made for the implementation of the Scheme.

The Minister added that new institutions already covered or to be covered during the year were:

State	*No. of Schools*	*No. of Children*
Delhi	16	6,561
Punjab	80	48,268
Madhya Pradesh	3	1,000
Uttar Pradesh	8	2,450
Bombay	25	5,020
West Bengal	26	5,150
Total:	158	68,449

Health

RESEARCH IN ANAEMIA

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Shri M.M. Das, replied in the affirmative to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 27 whether investigations had been made by the National Chemical Laboratory in collaboration with the Armed Forces Medical College, Poona, to find the causes of anaemia by the radio-active water tracer technique. Shri Das said that the investigations were undertaken to find the causes of anaemia with particular reference to the role of (i) deficiency of vitamin B_{12} in food and (ii) rate of reproduction of red blood cells.

Replying to another part of the question, the Minister said that the results had indicated that the deficiency of B_{12} in food was not the only cause for anaemia, but it also depended on its poor assimilation in the human system. Another form of anaemia which was also common in the country had been attributed to an irregular behaviour of red blood cells. The decay of red blood cells had been studied with the help of radio-active chromium and compared with that in normal human beings. As a result of this investigation it appeared that an irregular behaviour of red blood cells could be detected using this technique.

Asked whether any remedy to cure anaemia had also been discovered, he replied that no work on the remedial aspect or treatment of anaemia was carried out.

Grant For Malaria Eradication

A New Delhi announcement dated August 31 says that an agreement signed today between the Government of India and the U.S. Technical Co-operation Mission brings another grant of Rs. 8 crores under the U.S. PL 480 funds to the malaria eradication programme. These funds will be used for the local purchase of materials, equipment, DDT and BHC, and staff salaries, allowances and expenses.

The national malaria control and eradication project, initiated seven years ago has received dollar grants worth Rs. 23.7 crores ($49.8 million) from the United States. The project is directed at eradicating malaria from India and affording full protection to the entire nation within the next few years.

The rupee funds from today's agreement are derived from the Agricultural Commodities Agreement of August 1956, which provided that Rs. 26 crores ($55 million) would be made available to India by the United States on a grant basis for promoting India's economic development. Already, Rs. 154 crores have been provided to India out of PL 480 funds, including Rs. 100 crores of grant and loan assistance to 14 major river valley projects. The latest allocation brings the total of PL 480 rupee assistance to Rs. 162 crores. India has so far procured Rs. 312.6 crores ($658.2 million) worth of agricultural commodities from the United States with no drain on her foreign exchange resources.

Foreign Aid For Health Schemes

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 17, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, stated that material and equipment received from various Governments during 1958-59 for health schemes totalled Rs. 4,20,71,667.

The schemes for which the aid was given were: (i) National Malaria Control Programme — Rs. 4,01,98,541; (ii) National Filaria Control Programme — Rs. 73,126; and (iii) Assistance to Medical Colleges and Allied Institutions — Rs. 18,00,000 (approximately). This aid was received from the United States of America, the Minister added.

All India Medical Institute

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 24, the Minister of Health, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, said that Rs. 132.14 lakhs had been received from the Government of New Zealand for the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. A sum of Rs. 281.54 lakhs had been spent on the Institute up to July 31, 1959. It was estimated that a further sum of about Rs. 802.00 lakhs would be required before the institute was ready as planned. The Rockfeller Foundation was supplying equipment, books and publications worth $ 400,000. Since its inception 90 papers on original research had been published by the Institute.

Netherlands Donation For Indian Hospital

A New Delhi announcement of August 18 says that a sum of 28,000 guilders (about Rs. 21,000) collected by the school children of Amsterdam for the construction of a children's hospital in India was handed over to Shri G.L. Puri, India's Charge d'Affaires to the Netherlands, at a ceremony held recently. The collection drive has been initiated by the UNESCO Centre of the Netherlands.

The second phase of the campaign will begin in September when collection from the general public in Amsterdam will start. It is expected that the total collection will amount to about 75,000 guilders (about Rs. 57,000). From the proceeds it is proposed to erect a ward in the children's hospital which will commemorate the late Shri John A. Thivy, who was India's Ambassador to

the Netherlands from December 6, 1957 to June 3, 1959.

Grant To States For Health Schemes

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 17, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that the amount of Central grants tentatively allocated to the States for the various Centrally-aided and sponsored medical and public health schemes under the Second Plan of the Ministry for 1959-60 was, as follows: (Rs in lakhs) Andhra Pradesh — 143.22, Assam — 65.08, Bihar — 171.76, Bombay — 224.17, Kerala — 87.53, Madhya Pradesh — 155.91, Madras — 110.22, Mysore — 108.73, Orissa — 75.18, Punjab — 90.04, Rajasthan — 96.89, Uttar Prdaesh — 291.58, West Bengal — 154.75, and Jammu & Kashmir — 20.29.

As the Central assistance was being released in lump sum ways and means advances on monthly basis, the amounts utilised by the States were not known. Under the revised procedure relating to the grant of Central assistance to Sates, final payments would be sanctioned at the end of the year.

FAMILY PLANNING CENTRES

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 17, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, stated that according to available information 611 rural and 421 urban family planning centres had so far been opened with Central Government assistance. These consist of 571 rural and 269 urban opened by State Governments, 52 urban by local bodies and 40 rural and 100 urban by voluntary organisations. Central assistance to the extent of Rs. 18.83 lakhs was given during 1958-59 for the maintenance of the existing clinics and the opening of new ones.

Research In Aurveda

In a statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on August 25 in a written reply to a question Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that financial assistance given by the Central Government to State and private institutions for research in Ayurveda during 1957-58, 1958-59 and 1959-60 (so far) was Rs. 6,59,300, Rs. 5,67,345, and Rs. 2,16,075 respectively.

In addition a sum of Rs. 20.55 lakhs was allocated to the various State Governments as Central Government's contribution towards expenditure incurred on their research programmes and on the establishment/upgrading of teaching institutions in indigenous systems of medicine.

There was no proposal to establish other Ayurvedic research institutions in addition to the Central Institute of Research in Indigenous System of Medicine, Jamnagar, the Minister said.

Manufacture Of Spurious Drugs

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 29, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that the Government had no information that spurious drugs were being manufactured in the country on a large scale. Some cases relating to the manufacture of spurious drugs had, however, been reported from certain States.

Twenty-four cases of manufacture of spurious drugs since January 1, 1958, had been reported as follows: Delhi 2 cases, West Bengal 1 case, Uttar Pradesh 1 case, Bombay 18 cases and Madras 2 cases.

Action was being taken to detect offenders and prosecute them under the provisions of Drugs Act, 1940, and the Drugs Rules thereunder, the Minister added.

Milk Powder Supplies

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 27, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that the quantity of milk powder supplied by international and foreign organisations to India during the last five years was as follows: United Nations Children's Fund (UNCF) 78,527,844 lbs; Technical Co-operation Mission (T.C.M.) 600,000 lbs; and CARE 10,860 lbs: Total 79,138,704 lbs.

As the milk was donated by foreign and international organisations, the value of the milk powder was not known. It was supplied free of charge up to Indian ports.

Distribution of Milk Powder

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Health on August 16 says that complaints have been made from time to time that milk received in India for free distribution to the poor under the Indo-U.S. Agreement is being sold in the open market. The milk received from the UNICEF and T.C.M. comes in powdered form and is generally distributed through various child welfare and primary health centres in liquid form.

Several voluntary agencies in the country receive milk from such organisations as Co-operative for American Remittances to Everywhere (CARE), Catholic Relief Service (CRS), National Catholic Welfare Conference (NCWC) and National Christian Council of India (NCC). The Indian Red Cross Society also gets milk powder which is distributed through its State and District branches to whom strict instructions have been given regarding its proper use and accounting. The Society distributes milk in liquid form in order to avoid possible mis-use. The quantity made available to the Indian Red Cross Society is only a small portion of the total milk supplied to this country under the Indo-American Agreement. The bulk of milk supplies is received by other organisations.

These organisations have been requested to take all possible care in the distribution of milk powder so that it is not misused and sold in the market.

Social Welfare

CENTRAL AID FOR SLUM CLEARANCE

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 25 Shri K.C. Reddy, Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, said that the Government had decided to increase the quantum of Central subsidy under the Slum Clearance Scheme from 25% to 37½% of the approved cost of projects. The enhanced rate of subsidy would ordinarily be applicable to the six major cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi, Kanpur and Ahmedabad, in view of the high cost of land obtaining there.

The target, revised as a result of the reappraisal of the Second Plan, was to provide some 59,500 housing units at an expenditure of Rs. 12.99 crores. Up to August 6, 1959, projects worth Rs. 9.64 crores had been sanctioned for the construction of 31,784 housing units.

L.I.C. Loans For Housing

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on August 27, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shrimati Tarakeswari Sinha, said that 13 States and two Housing Co-operative Societies had taken advantage of the Life Insurance Corporation's offer of loans to finance housing activities. A sum of Rs. 4.5 crores had been utilised so far, Rs. 4 crores by States and Rs. 0.5 crore by the Co-operative Societies.

Labour & Employment

EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE SCHEME

According to the annual report of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, the year 1958-59 was eventful for the Corporation in that it saw the extension of medical care to families of insured persons. Mysore had the credit of being the first State to take this step. Other States soon followed and, in the course of the year, medical care under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme was made available to 2.26 lakhs family units (i.e. 6.33 lakhs of additional beneficiaries) in 7 States—Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Punjab and Rajasthan.

Valuation Report

The second important event of the year, according to the report, was the receipt of the Valuation Report on the Corporation for the first quinquennium i.e., 1949-54. In the absence of any reliable morbidity statistics, the Employees' State Insurance Scheme had to be framed on certain assumptions whose validity could be tested only by valuation. The Valuation Report has now confirmed that the original assumptions erred on the side of safety. It has also confirmed the sound financial position of the scheme. With this analysis of past experience before it, the annual report says, the Corporation can now plan its future course of action with greater confidence.

The year had also been satisfactory from the point of view of the administration of the scheme, according to the report. The number of additional employees covered during the year was about 78,000, bringing the total number of employees covered at the close of the year to about 14.14 lakhs. The scheme was in force at 79 centres in 12 States and the Union Territory of Delhi as compared with 60 centres in 10 States and Delhi at the end of the previous financial year. The settlement of the capitation fee for panel practitioners paved the way for the introduction of the scheme in the important industrial area of Ahmedabad where 1.50 lakhs of employees and about 4 lakhs of family members would benefit by the scheme.

As regards the working of the scheme, the report says, that the experiment to keep the contribution cards at the local office of the Corporation to enable the rate of benefit to be calculated on the spot was a great success in so far as it resulted in prompt payments to insured persons. Accordingly, this arrangement was extended to all centres outside the regional headquarters of the Corporation.

Rate Of Contribution

During the year, the rate of employers' special contribution remained the same as in previous years i.e., 1¼ per cent for the implemented areas and ¾ per cent for the non-implemented areas. The employees' contribution and the employers' special contribution, received during the year, amounted to Rs. 3,81,11,950 and Rs. 2,90,24,081 respectively. The corresponding figures for 1957-58 were Rs. 3,52,35,954 and Rs. 2,83,41,328.

The report says that the question of increasing the rates of employers' special contribution was considered by the Corporation during the year. The Corporation decided that the increased rates might not be given effect to, but the extension of medical care to families should not be held up on that account. The additional expenditure involved in extending medical care to families might be met from the current revenues of the Corporation without touching its reserves. The increased rates might be levied if it was found that it was not possible to meet the expenditure involved from the current revenues or if the Valuation Report for the first quinquennium showed that the rate of employers' special contribution needed to be enhanced.

P.F. BENEFITS FOR COLLIERY WORKERS

According to the annual report on the working of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme, Provident Fund benefits were provided to 3.42 lakhs of colliery workers in Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bombay, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan during 1957-58.

During the year, contributions to the Coal Mines Provident Fund exceeded Rs. 3.40 crores. Thus the contributions per month, on an average, amounted to Rs. 28.34 lakhs as compared with the monthly average of about Rs. 22.71 lakhs for the previous year. The members of the Fund contributed at the rate of 6¼% of their total emoluments and the employers also contributed an equal amount.

A sum of Rs. 20.40 lakhs was refunded to the outgoing subscribers and nominees of the deceased subscribers during the year.

The accumulations in the Fund were invested in Government securities, as usual. Till the end of March, 1958, a sum of Rs. 12,02,66,785 had been invested in Central Government securities.

WAGES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUGAR INDUSTRY

Answering a question in the Rajya Sabha on August 25, Shri Abid Ali, Union Deputy Minister for Labour, said that 108 sugar factories already began implementing the recommendation of the Central Wage Board for Sugar Industry regarding interim relief to workers. The managements of the remaining 32 factories, which are covered by the Wage Board's recommendation, were being persuaded by Government to implement the recommendation.

The Wage Board for Sugar Industry had recommended the following quantum of interim relief to workers with effect from January 1, 1959: To workmen drawing consolidated wages upto Rs. 100 per month — 5 per cent subject to a minimum of Rs. 3; to workmen drawing consolidated wages more than Rs. 100 and upto Rs. 200 per month — 4 per cent, subject to a minimum of Rs. 5; to workmen drawing consolidated wages more than Rs. 200 and upto Rs. 300 per month 3 per cent, subject to a minimum of Rs. 8; and to workmen drawing consolidated wages more than Rs. 300 and upto Rs. 500 per month — 2 per cent, subject to a minimum of Rs. 9.

EMPLOYMENT OF D.P.S. DURING MAY, 1959

An announcement of August 23 says that out of 3,846 displaced persons who had registered with Employment Exchanges during May 1959, 679 secured employment. The figures for the previous month were 4,049 registrations and 563 placements. Of those placed during May, 491 were migrants from East Pakistan and 188 from West Pakistan.

At the end of May, 44,915 displaced persons were on the Live Register of Exchanges as compared with 44,608 at the end of the previous month.

The States

SUB-SOIL WATER LEVEL IN DELHI

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 24 Shri K.C. Reddy, Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, said that the Ad Hoc Committee on sub-soil water level in Delhi had submitted its final report.

The main recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee were: (i) improved surface drainage, (ii) economy in use of unfiltered water for lawns, and (iii) sinking of tube wells for pumping out sub-soil water and laying of porous pipes under ground in suitable areas for collecting sub-soil water.

The steps, so far taken, were as follows:

A study of the existing storm water drainage system had been completed and a scheme had been prepared for improving the drainage system; a scheme had been prepared for introducing parrot type sprinklers for watering lawns with a view to economising in the use of unfiltered water; 16 tube wells had been sunk in the badly affected areas and pumping of water was in progress. A scheme had also been prepared for the provision of 287 more tube wells in moderately affected areas; and a line of porous pipe drain had been laid in the Central Vista as an experimental measure, to collect sub-soil water. A complete scheme had also been prepared for four such porous-pipe drains in that area.

Defence

CENTRAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR N.C.C.

The 15th session of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps was held in New Delhi on August 17. Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, Union Defence Minister, presided.

It was agreed that Officers' Training Units in the N.C.C. with a total strength of 750 — to be built up in three years with an annual intake of 250 — were to be raised shortly. The implementation of this proposal would better fit NCC cadets for commissioned ranks and augment the intake of the cadets into the Armed

Forces. One-third of the cadets recruited each year would be from medical and other technical colleges. It was further stated that 15 per cent of the vacancies to the Military College would be offered to the Officers' Training Units as against 10 per cent at present available for direct NCC entry. This, in future, would be the only special NCC entry into the Military College.

The commissions for medical graduates in the Army Medical Corps would be in addition to the 15 per cent. vacancies reserved for the Military College. In addition, suitable technical graduates would also be offered commissions in the Navy and the Air Force.

A detailed scheme was being formulated for the selection of cadets for O.T.U's and a schedule for a higher and more intensive training than what was at present given to senior division NCC cadets was drawn up.

As a result of increasing the authorised NCC cadet strength of all existing girls sub-troops of the Senior Wing and troops of the Junior Wing from 30 to 45, there had been an increase of 7,725 girl cadets during the year. Further, eight new sub-troops of the Senior Wing and 65 new troops of the Junior Wing were raised.

Enthused by the good response to the experimental glider training and aero-modelling introduced in August 1956 for NCC girls' troops Senior Wing in Delhi, the scheme had now been introduced in Delhi, Jaipur and Nagpur. It was expected to start gliding for Senior Girls in Bombay, Poona, Hyderabad, Madras, Bangalore in a month's time.

In the field of mounaineering, 30 cadets had had training at the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, in the last 15 months.

To promote a spirit of adventure among cadets, to develop in them resourcefulness and help them take quick and independent decisions, special adventure courses of 14 days' duration, which included trekking expeditions, were also arranged for NCC cadets, the capacity of each course being one NCC officer and 15 cadets. The expeditions were arranged for trekking in centres around Ootacumund, Darjeeling, Gulmarg and Manali.

FIRST INDIAN PARATROOPER

Paratrooper's wing was presented by Air Marshal S. Mukerjee, Chief of the Air Staff, to Flight Lieut. (Miss) Gita Chanda, at a special parade held at Agra on August 18. She is the first Indian woman to become a paratrooper.

India & The World

INDIA'S DELEGATION TO U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

According to an announcement of August 16, the Government of India's Delegation to the Fourteenth Session of the United Nations General Assembly will be composed as follows:

REPRESENTATIVES

Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, Minister of Defence, Government of India, (Leader); Shri R. Venkataraman, Minister for Industries and Labour, Government of Madras; Shri G.S. Pathak, Advocate; Shri C.S. Jha, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations; and Shri Mohan Sinha Mehta, Formerly Ambassador of India in Switzerland.

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES

Shri Harishwar Dayal; Shri M. Gopala Menon, Shri M. Govinda Reddy, M.P., Shri Jagannath Rao, M.P. and Shri B.N. Adarkar.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Shri T.J. Natarajan, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations.

ADVISERS

Shri J.N. Sahni, Shri M.A. Vellodi, First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of India to the U.N., Shri A.K. Mitra, First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of India to the U.N., Shri M. Rasgotra, First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of India to the U.N. and Shri R.C. Arora, Under Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Shri K.B. Tandon, Public Relations Officer, Permanent Mission of India to the U.N.

Afghan 'Jashan' Celebrations

An Indian contingent consisting of a hockey team of 17 members drawn from the Central Secretariat Hockey Boards and five musicians, led by Shri Sadath Ali Khan, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, left for Kabul in two batches on August 20 and 22 at the invitation of the Royal Government of Afghanistan to participate in the Afghan 'Jashan' celebrations which would commence on August 23 and last till September 1, 1959.

THAI AMBASSADOR TO INDIA

His Excellency Mr. Sukich Nimmanheminda has been appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand in India, reads a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on August 18.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

AUGUST 16 TO 31

August 19 — The Rajya Sabha passes the Public Wakfs (Extension of Limitation) Bill, adopted earlier by the Lok Sabha

— The Bill to amend the Electricity Act which seeks to enlarge the facilities available to consumers, already adopted by the Lok Sabha, is passed by the Rajya Sabha

— The Rajya Sabha passes the Bill, adopted by the Lok Sabha, providing for compulsory notification of vacancies to employment exchanges

20 — The Lok Sabha approves the President's proclamation on Kerala

21 — The Rajya Sabha passes the Wakfs (Amendment) Bill, adopted by the Lok Sabha, which seeks to reconstitute the Boards of Wakfs as intra-State bodies

22 — Shri Fazl Ali, Governor of Assam, passes away at Shillong

— The Government of India announce the decision to set up a Merchant Navy Training Board

23 — The Union Ministry of Education appoints a nine-member committee to advise it on the proposed archival legislation

24 — The first coke oven battery at the Durgapur Steel Works is lit up

— The resignation of Shri Ajit Prasad Jain from his office as the Minister of Food and Agriculture is announced

— Shri S.K. Patil, Minister of Transport and Communications, takes over the portfolio of Food and Agriculture

— England wins the Fifth and Final Test Match with India at the Oval

— The Government of India receive the report of the Central Pay Commission

— The National Advisory Committee for the UNESCO's major project on Mutual Appreciation of Eastern and Western Cultural Values meets in New Delhi

— The Government of India announce the decision to appoint a five-member Committee to enquire into the recent accident to the 'hoist chamber' of the Bhakra Dam

25 — The Rajya Sabha approves the President's proclamation on Kerala

27 — The second Defence Production Conference begins in New Delhi

28 — Prime Minister Nehru makes a statement in the Lok Sabha on the violations of India's border by Chinese forces

29 — The Vice-President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, inaugurates a conference sponsored by UNESCO under its major project on Mutual Appreciation of Eastern and Western Cultural Values in Mysore

31 — The appointment of Dr. P. Subbarayan, a Member of the Lok Sabha, as a Cabinet Minister is announced

— Prime Minister Nehru makes a statement in the Rajya Sabha on the violations of India's border by Chinese forces

— In an agreement signed in New Delhi between the U.S. Technical Co-operation Mission and the Government of India, the T.C.M. agrees to make an additional grant of eight crores of rupees to India for the Malaria Eradication programme

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A group of five members of the Japanese House of Counsellors led by Mr. S. Nomoto, who are on a visit to India, placing a wreath on the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi on August 27

Members of an Indian Contingent of players and musicians who participated in the Afghan Jeshan Celebrations on their return to New Delhi from Kabul on August 28

H.E. Mr. Hassan Al Talbani, Iraq's Minister of Communications, with Shri Ahmed Mohi-ud-din, Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation, in New Delhi on August 22

Dr. Tara Chand, M.P., presiding over the second meeting of the National Advisory Committee for the UNESCO Major Project on Mutual Appreciation of Eastern and Western Cultural Values, held at New Delhi on August 24

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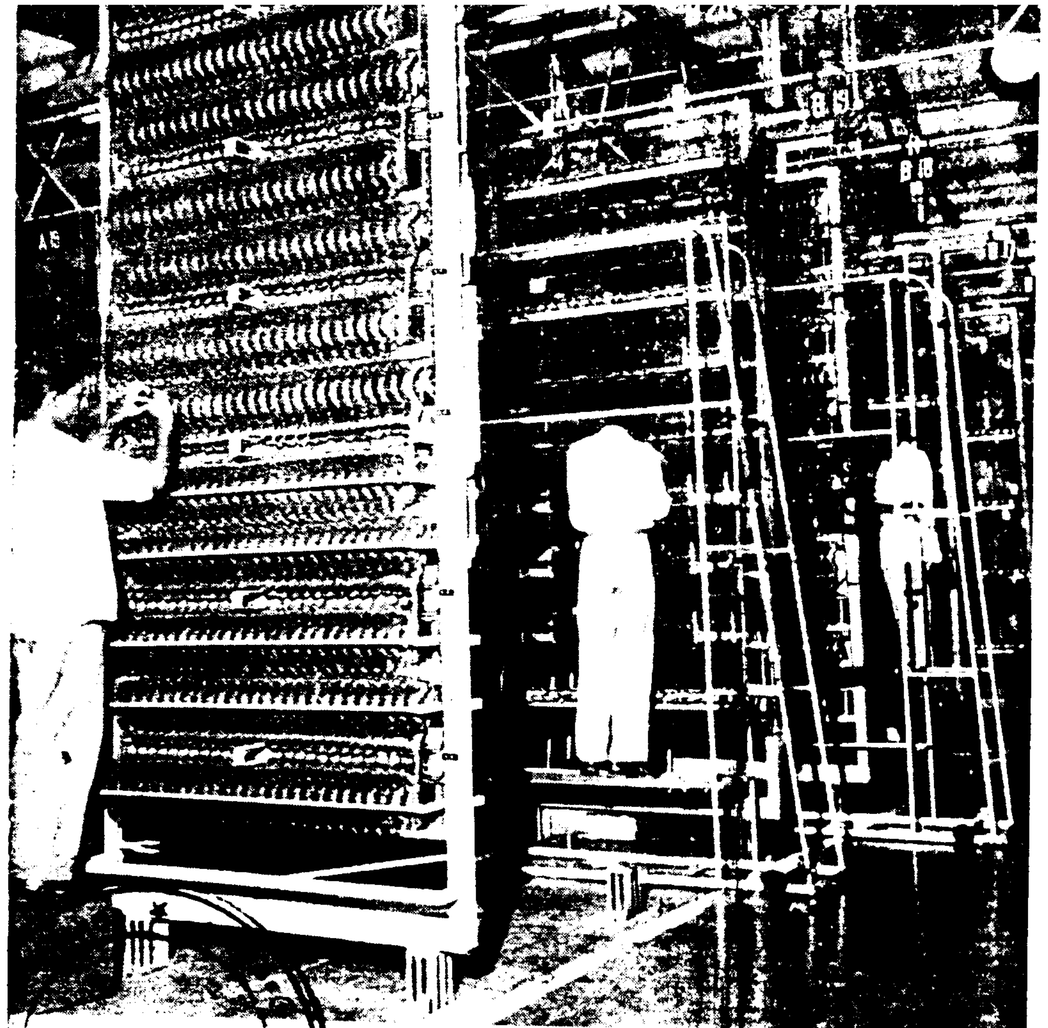
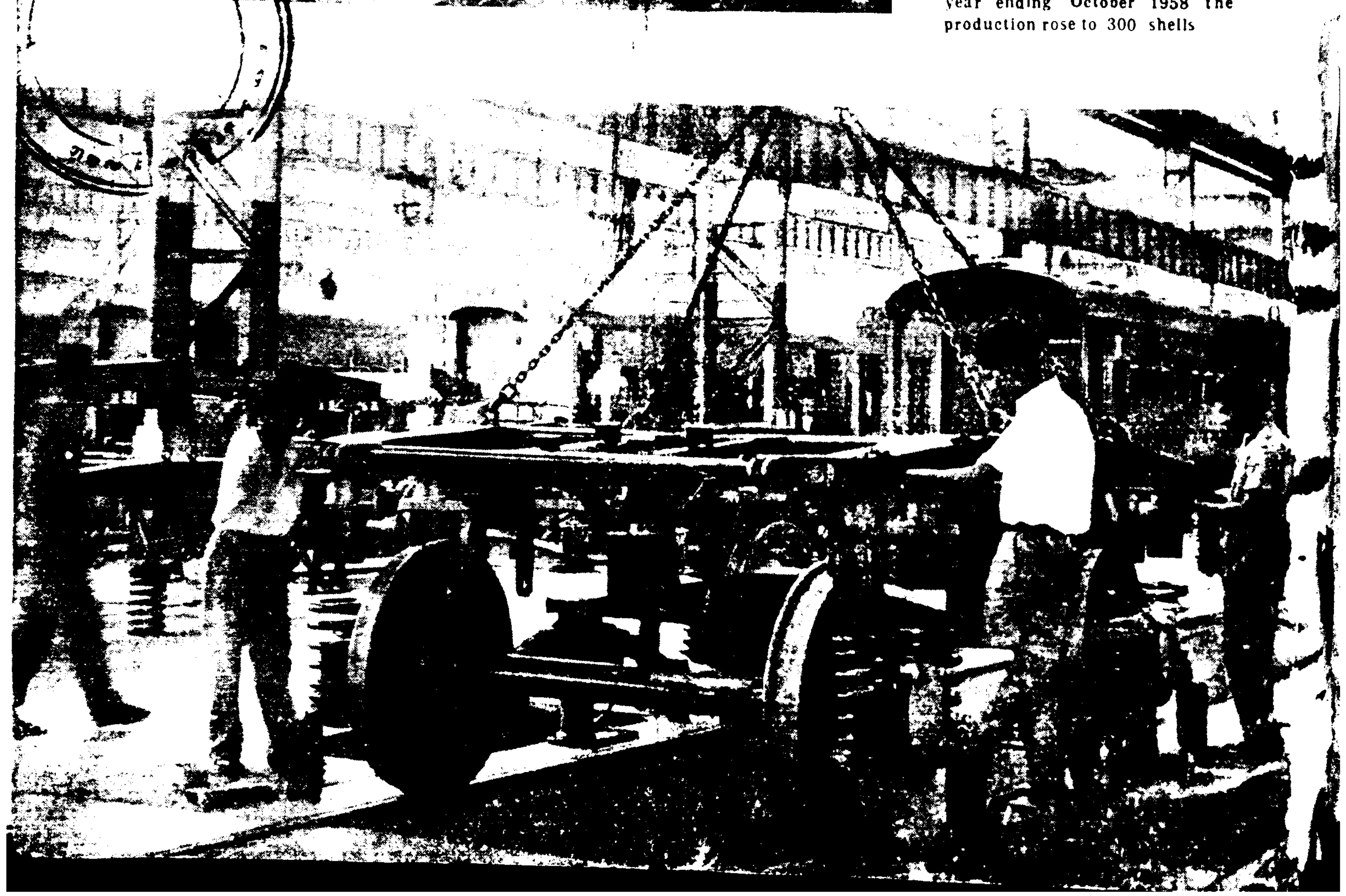


Uni-Selector Racks nearing completion at the Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore. Starting with the assembly of imported parts, the ITI has made rapid progress and in 1958-59 produced 84,000 telephones and 54,000 exchange lines from component parts manufactured in the Factory itself



Assembly of wheels and body at one of the workshop sheds of the Integral Coach Factory at Perambur (Madras). In its first year ending October 1956 the Factory produced 43 unfinished coach shells whereas in its third year ending October 1958 the production rose to 300 shells