

Indian Information

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Vol. 2

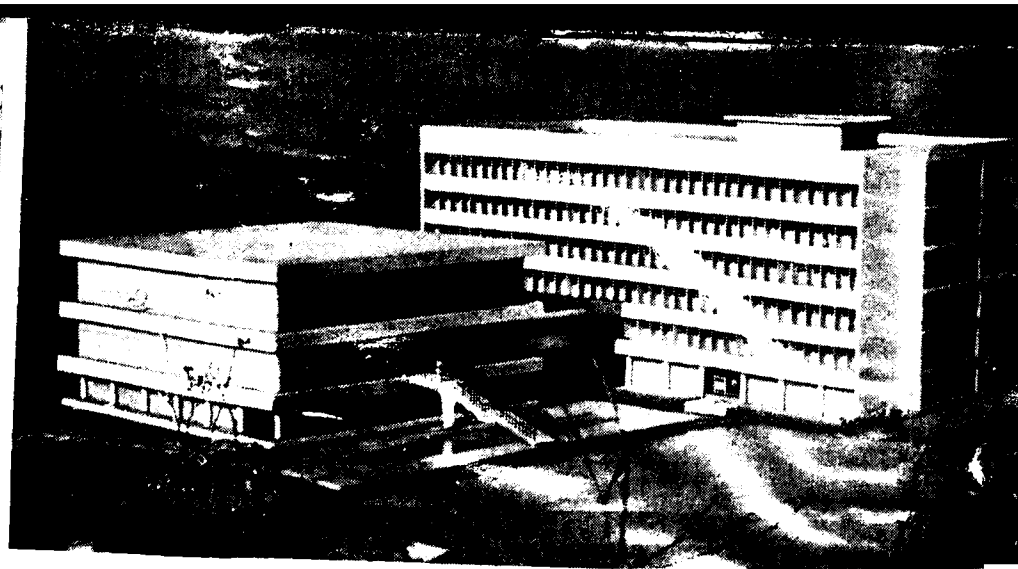
May 1, 1959 (Vaisakha 11, 1881)

No. 7





The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, laying the foundation-stone of Rabindra Bhavan, headquarters of the three National Akademies, in New Delhi on April 14



Model of Rabindra Bhavan. Named after Rabindra Nath Tagore, the proposed building will commemorate his services to India in various fields of art

U.Nu, former Prime Minister of Burma, being received at Palam Airport by Smt. Tarakeshwari Sinha, Union Deputy Finance Minister, on April 9



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COVER : Tenzing Norgay, conqueror of Everest, with Prime Minister Nehru, after receiving the Padma Bhushan award from President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad at an investiture ceremony held in New Delhi on April 8.

(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

DEFENCE MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON SHOOTING DOWN OF I.A.F. PLANE

Shri V.K. Krishna Menon made the following statement in the Lok Sabha on April 11 regarding the shooting down of an IAF Canberra aircraft in Pakistan:

"Government deeply regret to report to the House the loss of one Indian Air Force Canberra Aircraft on the morning of April 10, 1959.

"In view of the circumstances in which this event occurred and in view of the various reports that have appeared in the Press

and the concern of the House itself, Government would like to place all the available facts before the House.

"In the normal flying programme of the day, one Canberra aircraft, equipped for survey photography and not for bombing or hostile purposes, took off from an IAF airfield on the morning of April 10 at 6 a.m. It, however, failed to return within the expected time.

"The mission of this Aircraft was to take aerial photographs,

for the Survey of India, of the territory of the Union in the areas of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. The lost Aircraft was scheduled to complete its task within a period of four or five hours, and should, therefore, have returned to its base not later than 11 o'clock on the morning of April 10.

"The Aircraft, however, failed to return and was awaited until mid-day. Therefore, the Air Force authorities, in accordance with the usual practice, ordered

a search in the area which was to be surveyed by the missing plane.

"News reached Air Headquarters and, I believe, the public generally after mid-day. Pakistan Radio had announced that "an un-identified" aircraft had been intercepted by Sabre jet fighters of the Pakistan Air Force and had been shot down. Similar reports later in the day stated that the aircrew of the plane that had been shot down had been picked up and taken to Rawalpindi.

"Later, sometime on the evening of April 10, similar reports and the papers printed in the evening mentioned the incident and that an IAF Canberra was the Aircraft shot down. About this time, a Press Trust of India report also stated that two Indian Air Force men who were the crew of the shot-down Aircraft mentioned by them also as an IAF Canberra were taken to Rawalpindi. The House should be informed that no communication had reached either the Government through Diplomatic channels or Air Headquarters through Pakistan Air Force channels at the time of the incident or later in the day at any time.

"This morning, Air Headquarters, as is customary in such contexts, communicated with Pakistan Air Headquarters, and were informed that the lost aircraft was a Canberra of the Indian Air Force. They were also informed that the Pilot and the Navigator who were the sole crew of the Aircraft had been injured and were in Rawalpindi. Air Headquarters were also informed by the Pakistan Air authorities that those two men would be returned to India. They are now on their way home in a Pakistan Air Force Freighter Aircraft. Government regret to say that both the airmen had been injured, but fortunately not grievously. The House should be informed that this type of Canberra carried no arms or weapons. From the fact that the aeroplane was shot down in Pakistan territory, it is obvious that owing to operational and must have gone off course into

Pakistan air space.

"The crew had been briefed to fly at a height of between 47 to 48 thousand feet.

"The House will understand that at the speed at which a Canberra operated and the short distance between our Frontier and Rawalpindi, which is about three minutes in flying time, it would be nothing unusual for such an aircraft to go off course into foreign air space. Government have seen reports in the Press that it was said in Pakistan that their Air Force had repeatedly radioed the Canberra and ordered it to land and that such instruction was disobeyed by the crew and in consequence the plane was shot at.

"It is most unlikely and Government cannot believe that such a warning, if it had been given, would have been ignored by our airmen. The crew had knowledge that they were unarmed. They also knew full well that the consequences of ignoring any such warning would be grievous.

"The cases of violation of our air space across the cease-fire line in Kashmir, over the International Frontier with Pakistan and on the borders of our territory in Bombay near Goa are by no means uncommon. Indeed their frequency can be judged by the fact that, to give an instance, there were 17 violations of our air space across the cease-fire line alone in Jammu and Kashmir in three months, from October 1958 to January 1959. The custom that has been followed in such cases is to record a protest to the United Nations Observer Group, who thereafter make an enquiry. In no case has the I.A.F. sought to initiate hostile action against Pakistan Aircraft which have periodically and wantonly violated our air space even after repeated protests. The House may also be informed that even during the hostilities in Jammu and Kashmir, one Pakistan Air Force Aircraft which crossed into our territory and was intercepted by our fighter aircraft was only warned. It was allowed to proceed to its base.

"The shooting of our plane yesterday as announced by the Pakistan Radio and confirmed to Air Headquarters this morning by the Pakistan Air Force, is unwarranted and contrary to International Law and Custom. The House will note that the Pakistan authorities repeatedly referred to an "unidentified plane". It is inconceivable that when an attacking plane able to shoot and hit could not and did not see the clear marking on its target or what type of plane it was. This action of Pakistan furthermore reflects no reciprocity of treatment on the part of the Pakistan Government.

"Government, however, regret that in the course of a routine flight, even though probably due to defective navigational aids, our aircraft strayed into Pakistan air space. Government desire to make it clear to the world that the straying of our plane from our air space was not and could not, therefore, be part of any hostile design or policy.

"Government are taking all such steps as are appropriate to the circumstances and through normal diplomatic channels."

INTERIM AGREEMENT ON CANAL WATERS

In a statement made in the Lok Sabha on April 6, Hafiz Mohd. Ibrahim, Union Minister for Irrigation and Power, said that discussions had just concluded in Washington on proposals for *ad hoc* transitional arrangements for continuance of supplies from the three eastern rivers, Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi, to Pakistan for the period April 1, 1959, to March 31, 1960.

This, the Minister added, was in accordance with the Inter-Dominion Agreement of May 4, 1948, and the principles of the World Bank proposals. Although the Pakistan Government did not enter into an agreement for the period after April 1, 1957, India continued to give supplies to Pakistan. "The Inter-Dominion Agreement of May 4, 1948 between India and Pakistan the Minister continued, provided for

the progressive diminution of supplies to Pakistan canals from the eastern rivers in order to give time to Pakistan to tap alternative sources. In pursuance of the agreement Pakistan started the construction of a few link canals to transfer supplies from the western rivers to canals fed by the eastern rivers.

"In February 1954 the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development put forward a proposal according to which the entire flow of the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab), except for the insignificant volume of Jhelum flow presently used in Kashmir, has been allocated to Pakistan and that of the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas and Sutlej) to India, save that for a specified transition period India would continue to supply the historic withdrawals from these rivers in Pakistan. The proposal also envisaged that during the transition period Pakistan would construct certain other link canals for replacing the supplies received from the eastern rivers.

"Three link canals, viz., Bamberwala-Ravi-Bedian-Dipalpur Link, Merala-Ravi Link and Balloki-Suleimanke Link, the construction of which was started in Pakistan after the Inter-Dominion Agreement of May 1948, have since been completed. The withdrawal of waters by India is related to the capacity of these link canals to replace supplies hitherto received from the eastern rivers. For various reasons Pakistan has not been running these canals to full capacity. If so run, the link canals are capable of replacing nearly half of the supplies which the canals in Pakistan have been getting from our rivers. India cannot wait indefinitely and will gradually withdraw more and more supplies as and when more replacement works are built by Pakistan.

"In the course of the talks under the aegis of the World Bank, which commenced in 1952, the Governments of India and Pakistan entered into *ad hoc* transitional arrangements for the supply of water on three occasions: for Kharif 1955, Rabi 1955-

56 and for the period from April 1, 1956 to March 31, 1957. Although the Pakistan Government did not enter into an agreement for the period after April 1, 1957, we continued to give supplies to Pakistan in accordance with the agreement of May 4, 1948, and the principles of the Bank proposal. The draft agreement now under consideration follows broadly the lines of the agreement for Kharif 1956, except that we stand to get for our use a somewhat larger proportion of the waters hitherto supplied by us to Pakistan. The indications are that the agreement will be signed in Washington shortly."

Number Of Pakistanis In India

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, the Union Home Minister said, on April 2, that almost 64,000 Pakistanis were staying in India either without valid passports or after the expiry of their visas as on November 1, 1958.

Those who were staying without valid passports numbered 20,056 and those overstaying after the expiry of their visas were 37,768.

The Home Minister added that prosecution was launched for unlawful entry or unauthorized residence under the Indian Passport Act or the Foreigners Act, as the case might be. Deportation was resorted to when the persons concerned did not leave even after conviction.

Investiture Of Awards

Awards announced on the Republic Day were presented by the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, at the Investiture Ceremony held in Rashtrapati Bhawan on April 8.

AWARDS FOR GALLANTRY

About 40 personnel of the Army and the Air Force were awarded the insignia of Ashoka Chakra, Class II, and Ashoka Chakra, Class III, for gallantry in the Naga Hills by the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, at an investiture held in the

Darbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhawan at 4-30 p.m. on April 9, 1959.

Among the recipients are eight Army and three Air Force officers, six JCOs, and the remaining Other Ranks. Eight of the awards are posthumous and will be received by the next-of-kin.

Political Activities Of Govt. Servants

An announcement dated April 1 says instances of Central Government employees involved in active politics have been decreasing year after year. The figure stood at 69 in 1958 as against 121 in 1957 and 130 in 1956.

During these three years, the number of employees who were warned or departmentally proceeded against for participating in politics totalled 184. The average came to almost 10 per lakh of Government employees.

According to the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, no Government servant, except certain non-gazetted employees drawing less than Rs. 500, is allowed to associate himself "with any political party or any organization which takes part in politics." Nor is he to "take part in, subscribe in aid of, or assist in any other manner, any political movement or activity."

Also, the Government servant is called upon "to prevent any member of the family from taking part in, subscribing in aid of, or assisting in any other manner any movement or activity which is, or tends directly or indirectly to be, subversive of the Government as by law established." If a Government servant is unable to prevent a member of his family from doing so, he will "make a report to that effect to the Government."

Employment After Retirement

According to an announcement made on April 3, the Government of India allowed 141 retired officers, 50 from ICS and IAS and 91 from Class I, to take up jobs in private sector and in such international bodies during the decade since Independence.

May 1, 1959

The retired ICS officers included a number of European officers who retired as a result of constitutional changes.

Statewise, the ICS and IAS officers who took up outside appointments after retirement were: Andhra Pradesh — one; Assam — one; Bihar — 9; Bombay — 3; Madhya Pradesh — 4; Madras — 7; Mysore — 1; Orissa — 2; Punjab — 1; Rajasthan — 1; Uttar Pradesh — 10 and West Bengal — 10.

The other 91 Class I officers were employed as indicated: nine in the Commerce and Industry Ministry; 10 in the Defence Ministry; 28 in the Finance Ministry (including six from Defence Accounts); seven in the Food and Agriculture Ministry; three in the Health Ministry; one in the Home Ministry; one in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry; one in the Irrigation and Power Ministry; two in the Labour and Employment Ministry; one in the Law Ministry; 17 in the Transport and Communications Ministry; three in the Railway Ministry; two in the Rehabilitation Ministry; two in the Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs Ministry; one in the Steel, Mines and Fuel Ministry and three in the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry.

Permanent Government servants of the Central Services and the All-India Services are not allowed to join any private firm within two years of their retirement except with the permission of Government.

Service Associations Of Central Employees

Rules formulated for recognizing Service Associations of the Central Government employees have been gazetted by order of the President, says an announcement of April 9.

The Central Services (Recognition of Service Associations) Rules, 1959, lay down the conditions under which such associations can be formed and recognized.

Membership of Government servants associations is restricted to "distinct categories" of employees having "common interests" in service matters.

Associations are to be formed with the primary objective of "promoting the common service interests" of their members. An association, say the rules, "shall not espouse or support the cause of any individual Government servant relating to service matters."

No representation or deputation except in connection with a matter which is of common interest to members of the Service Association will be allowed. Further, all representations are to be submitted through proper channel and, as a normal practice, be addressed to the Secretary or Head of the Department or Office.

Another pre-requisite for obtaining recognition is that the association "shall not maintain any political fund or lend itself to the propagation of views of any political party or politician."

The rules say that "no person, who is not a Government employee shall be connected with the affairs of any Service Association." Besides, the executive of a Service Association is to be from amongst the members only. The rules further state that "the funds of associations shall consist exclusively of subscriptions from members and grants, if any, made by the Government." The funds should be applied "only for the furtherance of the objectives of the Service Associations."

The Government may withdraw the recognition accorded to any association when it fails to observe the conditions under the regulation.

Service Associations already recognized by the Government under executive orders issued before commencement of these Rules will continue to be so recognized.

Prior permission of Government is necessary before any service association seeks affiliation with any other Union, Service Association, or Federation. A Federation or Confederation of Service Associations "shall affiliate only recognized Service Associations," and if the recognition accorded to any of such Service Associations is withdrawn, the Federation or Con-

federation "shall forthwith disaffiliate such Service Association."

"Any amendment of a substantial character in the rules of a Service Association shall be made only with the previous approval of the Government." Amendments of minor nature will be merely communicated to the Government for information. The prior approval of the Union Government is also necessary for publishing any periodical, magazine or bulletin relating to an association. The publication of such a journal or periodical will be discontinued if the Government considers it "prejudicial to the interests of the Central Government, the Government of any State or any other Government authority or to the good relations" between the Government and its employees.

Work Of Special Police In February

Cases of about 160 Government employees, including 32 gazetted officers, were dealt with by the Special Police Establishment of the Central Government in February this year.

The necessary action taken led to the resignation of an Indian Foreign Service officer and sentence of an Under Secretary in the Union Home Affairs Ministry to imprisonment till the rising of the court and a fine of Rs. 250. A Captain of the Eastern Command was also sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment for misappropriating Government funds.

The Special Police Establishment, says the monthly report, took up for open enquiry 68 cases involving 81 Government servants. The gazetted staff, under probe was: three officers of the Defence Ministry; six belonging to the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry; two to the Income-Tax Department, and one each from the Central Excise Department, Railways, Posts and Telegraphs, Rehabilitation and Steel, Mines and Fuel.

Investigations were also finalized and prosecutions launched against 10 Government servants,

including a Controller of Imports and Exports, and an Executive Engineer of the Western Railway. In addition, 27 cases, involving seven gazetted officers and 23 others were reported to Government for suitable departmental action.

During February, 14 Government employees, including two gazetted officers and six private individuals were convicted and fines recovered totalled Rs. 4,700.

Departmental action was taken against five gazetted officers and 19 other State employees. The resignation of one gazetted officer was accepted, the increment of another was withheld and three other gazetted staff were otherwise punished. Of the non-gazetted employees, four were either dismissed or removed from service, four reduced in pay or rank, two had their increments withheld and nine otherwise punished.

Privy Purses For Former Rulers

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 2, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant, Union Home Minister said that the budget estimate for 1959-60 for payment of privy purses to former Rulers of States was about Rs. 5,41,93,000, less than the revised budget estimate for 1958-59, which was Rs. 5,41,93,000.

Shri Pant added that the actual amount paid during 1957-58 was about Rs. 5,40,20,000.

Works Advisory Board For Sikkim and Gyantse

The Government of India have constituted a Works Advisory Board for public works in Sikkim and Gyantse (Tibet) to obviate delays and ensure smooth implementation, according to a New Delhi announcement of March 21.

The Board will advise Government and officers of the Central Public Works Department in these territories on registration of contractors; planning and progress of works, including the drawing up of a programme for each financial year; and broad scrutiny of proposals for major

works, including roads, requiring Government of India's sanction.

The Board will be composed of the Political Officer, Sikkim, (Chairman); Superintending Engineer, Calcutta Central Circle No. III, Calcutta, and Assistant Financial Adviser, Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply (members).

The Board will have the authority to co-opt as members officers of other departments, if necessary.

Among other functions, the Board will also undertake responsibilities for the execution of public works in Sikkim and Gyantse entrusted to it by Government from time to time.

AID TO POLITICAL SUFFERERS

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 11, the Union Home Minister, Shri G.B. Pant said that over Rs. 6,60,000 have been given as financial assistance to political sufferers between March 1956 and March 1959 out of the Union Home Minister's

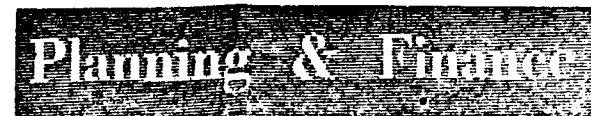
Discretionary Grant. He added that the political sufferers to benefit in 1958-59 numbered 414.

State-wise the figures were: Andhra Pradesh—23; Assam—3; Bihar—23; Bombay—29; Kerala—2; Madras—108; Madhya Pradesh—5; Mysore—116; Orissa—1; Uttar Pradesh—36; West Bengal—15; Delhi—15; Manipur—27 and Tripura—3.

DEATH CENTENARY OF JAMSETJEE JEJEEBHoy

A special postage stamp in the denomination of 15 nP commemorating the Death Centenary of Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, well-known philanthropist, was issued on April 15, 1959.

The stamp bears a portrait of Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy adopted from an enamelled painting on one of his personal watches. Measuring 3.34 × 2.88 cms., with perforation 13½ × 14 and printed in dark brown by the photogravure process on paper bearing all-over multiple watermark of the Lion Capital of Asoka, the stamp has been designed and printed at the India Security Press. There are 42 stamps to a sheet.



INDO-JAPANESE AGREEMENT ON SALE OF IRON ORE

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 11, Shri B.R. Bhagat, Deputy Minister of Finance, said that an agreement between the Government of India and the Japanese Steel Mission was signed on March 19, 1958. The main points included in the agreement are:

(1) In addition to normal purchases from India, Japan will buy about 2 million tons of iron ore per annum on a long term basis commencing from the year 1964.

(2) For meeting Japan's growing requirements, India will develop iron ore mines in the Bailadilla and Sukinda areas. Necessary surveys will be arranged as soon as possible for the development of these areas.

(3) Before the first shipment of iron ore from the Rourkela begins, the construction of the railway between the port and the mines will be completed by India and facilities at the port suitable for loading ore-carriers, will be mechanised.

(4) Prices of the iron ore will be negotiated between India and Japan.

(5) India will apply to the U.S. President's Fund for Asian Economic Development for implementing the Rourkela-Vizagapatnam project. India's application will be supported by Japan which will assist India by making available \$8 million for the purchase of machinery, equipment and other material from Japan on agreed deferred payment basis. India will endeavour to purchase from Japan other machinery and equipment so long as it is not in conflict with India's interests and international obligations.

An addendum simultaneously signed by the two parties says that the period of purchase of 2 million tons of iron ore by Japan will be two years in the first instance. Negotiations for determining the price will be conducted each year before the shipment commences. Indian shipping will be used for carrying the iron ore to the maximum extent possible and this will be determined from year to year. Payment for the iron ore will be made in pound sterling.

EXCHANGE CONTROL VIOLATIONS

Thirty one cases of contravention under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act were adjudicated during February and March this year. An aggregate penalty of Rs. 34,575 was imposed on various parties including companies and their directors and proprietors or partners of firms, etc. In addition, the parties, in some cases, have been directed to repatriate the foreign currency balances standing to their credit in foreign countries.

Collections Under Small Savings

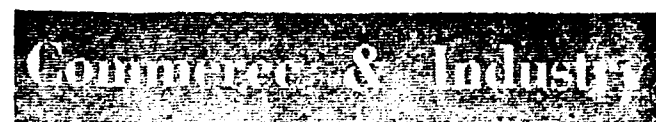
In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 23, the Finance Minister Shri Morarji Desai said that during the period April 1958 to January 1959, the total net collections

under the Small Savings Schemes approximately amounted to Rs. 48.44 crores. Collections State-wise were: Andhra Pradesh Rs. 2.41 crores; Assam Rs. 2.48 crores; Bihar Rs. 4.18 crores; Bombay Rs. 15.94 crores; Delhi 1.86 crores; Himachal Pradesh Rs. 0.27 crores; Jammu and Kashmir Rs. 0.24 crores; Kerala Rs. 0.92 crores; Madras Rs. 1.68 crores; Madhya Pradesh Rs. 1.47 crores; Manipur Rs. 0.03 crores; Mysore Rs. 1.31 crores; Orissa Rs. 0.66 crores; Punjab Rs. 3.70 crores; Rajasthan Rs. 1.23 crores; Tripura Rs. 0.05 crores; Uttar Pradesh Rs. 2.41 crores; and

West Bengal Rs. 7.58 crores. Collections through Base Post Offices amounted to Rs. 2 lakhs.

Payment To Displaced Pensioners

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on March 28, the Government of India have decided to extend, for a further period up to March 31, 1960, the existing arrangements for the payment of advance of pension to Central and Provincial Government pensioners pending the transfer of their pensions from Pakistan.



PROGRESS OF SMALL INDUSTRIAL UNITS

According to a report recently published by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the progress of small scale industries, over 11,500 small entrepreneurs have been provided technical guidance and assistance for setting up and running small industrial units by the Small Industries Service Institutes set up in different States by the Ministry.

Fifteen such institutes have now been set up, one in each of the States including the Union Territory of Delhi. Functioning under the institutes are extension centres, 14 of which have already started working and 48 more have been planned.

According to the Report, loans amounting to about Rs. 7 crores have been disbursed to about 13,000 small industrial units and over 400 industrial co-operatives on easy terms of interest and repayment in the past three years. This is in addition to loans worth Rs. 2.5 crores sanctioned by the State Financial Corporations and an equal amount advanced by the State Bank of India to a number of small industrial units.

Under the hire-purchase programme for supply of machinery to small units, over 2,200 machines valued at Rs. 1.84 crores have been delivered to small scale industries. Contracts from Government purchasing departments for stores valued at over Rs. 3 crores have been secured for small units by the National Small Industries Corporation. Besides, products of the small industries worth Rs. 25 lakhs have been sold by the Corporation through its mobile vans and wholesale depots.

In the last three years the Centre sanctioned about Rs. 11.26 crores to State Governments for implementation of their small industries schemes. A provision of Rs. 7 crores has been made for this purpose in the current year's budget.

Referring to the progress of industrial estates for small industries, the Report says that 32 estates have been completed of which 25 have been occupied by small industrialists. By the end of this year 96 estates would

have been completed at a total cost of Rs. 11 crores. These would provide accommodation for 3,600 factories and provide employment to about 50,000 people. Already 514 factories have gone into production.

Under the industrial extension programme guidance and assistance is given to small industrialists in planning their production, in solving technical and marketing problems, in selecting machinery and marketing and in training of artisans in technical work, business management, etc.

Over 100 model schemes for manufacture of different items have been finalized. Training classes are also conducted by a number of institutes in different aspects of business and management. Surveys both on regional and all-India basis are being conducted. So far about 100 industries have been surveyed in different parts of the country. The institutes have so far answered about 43,000 enquiries from small industries for technical guidance. The technical staff of the institutes have made 60,000 spot visits to industrial units for giving technical advice at the factory site.

Workers engaged in small scale units are also given training through part time courses organized by the service institutes and extension centres. Also arrangements are made for demonstration and training 47 mobile vans operating all over the country. These mobile vans which are equipped with improved machines and machine tools have visited 1,924 centres and have trained over 18,000 artisans in the operation of machines.

Govt. Purchases From Small Scale Industries

An announcement made on April 11 says that eleven more items of stores purchased by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals, Government of India, have been reserved for exclusive purchase from small scale industries.

These items are: glass ampoules; handles wooden and

bamboo; washing soap or laundry soap; metal polish; scissors cutting (ordinary scissors); coir fibre and coir yarn; postal weighing scales; cotton hosiery; woolen hosiery; keys wooden and stone curry and stone curry roller. This brings the total number of reserved items of stores for procurement from the small scale sector to 27.

So far 3,935 small units have been enlisted for participation in the Central Government's stores purchase programme. The value of contracts given by the Directorate-General of Supplies and Disposals through the National Small Industries Corporation to small units aggregated over Rs. 3 crores.

The National Small Industries Corporation has set up a separate division in order to help small industries in the execution of these contracts.

Small units are given technical advice by the Small Industries Service Institutes and loans are also advanced by the State Bank of India on the pledge of raw materials under guarantee scheme entered into with the National Small Industries Corporation.

Industrial Estates For Small Industries

Thirty industrial estates for small industries have been completed so far in different parts of the country, says a New Delhi announcement dated April 3. The estates contain factory buildings and other facilities for small industries.

Twenty-five of these have already been occupied by small industrialists.

In the estates now completed, 514 factories have been allotted to small industrialists and 344 more factories are to be allotted shortly. The construction of 30 more industrial estates is well under way and is likely to be completed by the end of this year.

Technical approval has been given for setting up another 25 estates and land has been acquired for most of them. Eleven more schemes are still to be

received from State Governments.

It is expected that in all 96 industrial estates would be completed by the end of this year. The total expenditure on these estates is estimated at Rs. 11 crores.

When completed, these 96 industrial estates will have about 3,600 factories providing employment to about 50,000 people.

Twenty of these industrial estates are in rural areas and nine in Pilot Community Project areas.

The setting up of these estates has a two-fold object. It seeks to remove small industrial units from crowded urban areas and thus reduce the pressure on the latter. Secondly, it seeks to provide small units with factory space at concessional rent and common facilities for efficient working.

These estates provide accommodation with facilities of power, water and common services to small entrepreneurs. They also stimulate cooperative effort among them. The entire cost of the estates is advanced as loans by the Government of India to State Governments.

The State Governments acquire and develop land, construct roads, put up factory buildings, arrange for supply of water and electricity and also set up common service workshops. The factory buildings in the estates are then let out on rent or on hire-purchase or on outright sale basis to small industrialists.

Okhla Industrial Estate Administration

At a formal ceremony held in the Okhla Industrial Estate in New Delhi on April 1, the management of the Estate was handed over to the Delhi Administration by the National Small Industries Corporation, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Shri P.C. Basu, Managing Director of the National Small Industries Corporation signed the documents pertaining to the transfer on behalf of the Corporation and Dr. B.R. Seth, Director of Industries, Delhi, on behalf of the Delhi Administration.

The Industrial Estate, which is

located seven miles south of Deini, is one of the biggest of its kind in India. It was built by the National Small Industries Corporation and was declared open by the Prime Minister, Sri Jawaharlal Nehru, in April 1958.

There are 35 factories in the Estate and all of them have been allotted to small-scale units. Twenty-nine of them have already gone into production. The factories are let out on rent or on hire-purchase terms or on outright sale basis.

The items manufactured by the units in the Estate include amplifiers, radio parts, electric motors, room coolers, power presses, automobile accessories, bicycle parts, lathes, drilling machines, machine tools, safety razor blades, insulated wires and household and utility articles.

The Regional Small Industries Service Institute has set up a technical guidance and training centre in the Estate. The Estate, which is provided with facilities like accommodation, water, electricity, bank, post office, telephone, technical guidance, etc., has contributed not a little to increased production and efficiency of the workers.

Since coming to the Industrial Estate, the small-scale units have already doubled their output. Nearly Rs. 8 lakhs worth of goods are now produced by these units every month. The number of workers employed has also almost doubled. There are now more than 800 workers in the various factories in the Estate.

Under the expansion programme, land covering about 69.9 acres has been acquired on which it is proposed to construct about 150 additional factory sheds.

During the Second Plan period, about 100 industrial estates are being set up all over the country. The entire cost of the Estate is advanced as loans by the Government of India to the State Governments who are responsible for the construction of factory buildings and for the management of the estates.

Export Of Handicrafts To U.S.A.

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 3, the Minister for Commerce and Industry,

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, stated that a proposal to set up Trade Centres at Los Angeles and New York exclusively to promote the Indian handicrafts in the United States was under consideration.

In a written reply to a question, Shri Shastri said that there was a good market for Indian handicrafts and jewellery in the United States. Steps for promotion of exports of handicrafts were being taken by the Central Government in respect of all countries including the U.S.A. Apart from the activities of the Indian Handicrafts Development Corporation set up in April last year to look after exports of handicrafts, publicity was being given through exhibitions, Trade Centres, etc. A trade delegation of business executives from the United States had recently been invited to India to establish direct contacts with the dealers and exporters.

Export Of Indian Carpets

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 8, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Minister for Commerce and Industry, said that there had been some progress in the export of woollen carpets from India.

Shri Shastri said that exports of Indian woollen carpets in the first eleven months in 1958 were valued over Rs. 4.25 crores as against over Rs. 4.24 crores in 1957 and over Rs. 4.03 crores in 1956.

Resumption Of Export Of Raw Jute

For the first time after ten years, India has resumed export of raw jute.

The first consignment comprising about 1,000 bales of raw jute was loaded for export to U.K. and the continent at Calcutta Port on April 4.

This follows the recent decision of the Government of India to allow export of a limited quantity of raw jute from India through the State Trading Corporation.

Some more consignments of raw jute are being shipped by other vessels which will leave Calcutta Port shortly.

WORKING OF IMPORT TRADE CONTROL

During the licensing period October 1958-March 1959, the Import Trade Control Organization of the office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports received 1,73,834 applications for import licences. This is the highest figure in any licensing period with the exception of July-December, 1956.

The disposal of applications during the period stood at the figure 1,73,721 as against 1,41,681 in April-September 1958. The total number of pending applications at the close of licensing period October 1958-March 1959 was 792 and this worked out to less than 0.5% of the total receipts.

In addition to applications for import of goods, the Organization dealt with a huge volume of correspondence on the question of policy, interpretation of rules and regulations, appeals, etc. The number of such letters received during the period reached the record figure of 5,29,003.

In all, import licences numbering 1,11,114 were issued during October 1958-March 1959 (up to March 14) as compared to 1,03,756 licences issued during the period April-September 1958.

Steel Imports In 1958

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, said on March 30, that imports of steel in 1958 were about half a million tons less than in 1957. The decline had been more or less as anticipated.

Indigenous production in 1958 was about the same as in the previous year. The total availability of steel was slightly less industrial users like others could not, therefore, receive adequate quantities of steel and there was some short supply for construction works, both in the field of public activity and private construction.

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IMPORT POLICY FOR STEEL

The Government of India have decided to issue import licences to established importers only for industrial scrap to the extent of 7½ per cent of the base quota according to the import policy for April-September 1959, says an announcement dated April 14. The definition of industrial scrap applicable for the current period will be announced shortly by the Iron and Steel Controller.

Import licences to Actual Users will be issued, as during the last period, only for the following categories:

- (a) Tool, alloy and special steels
- (b) Scrap—industrial
- (c) Wheels, tyres and axles
- (d) Terne plate
- (e) Forgings

The following categories will be arranged to be imported by the Steel Controller against foreign credit and supplied to the Actual Users on the basis of the recommendations of the sponsoring authorities made on the indents submitted for the last period:

- (a) Tinplate—prime and secondaries
- (b) Steel wire—all types
- (c) Strips, tapes and skelp
- (d) Electrical Steel Sheets—transformer and dynamo grade

Attention has also been invited in the public notice to the new procedure recently announced by the Commerce and Industry Ministry notification regarding the issue of import licences to 45 scheduled industries for raw materials and components on yearly basis. With a view to ensuring continuity of supply of raw materials to industries, it is proposed to issue licences for raw materials and components to certain scheduled industries, in addition to their normal allotment during the current licensing period. This additional allotment will be treated as an advance allotment for the succeeding period and may vary from 50 per cent to 75 per cent of the allotment for the current period.

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Because of the continuing difficult foreign exchange situation the Government have decided to continue the restrictive Import Policy for April-September 1959 period also.

During the last period, there was a departure from the usual procedure for licensing as certain foreign credits had to be utilised for arranging import through the Iron and Steel Controller. It was, therefore, announced in the Notification of November 3, 1958, that import licences would be issued only for certain categories like tool and alloy steel, industrial scrap, etc. and that for other categories like tinplate, steel wire, strips, etc., no import licence would be issued, but the Steel Controller would import and supply them to the Actual Users on the recommendations of the sponsoring authorities.

The Actual Users were required for the purpose to submit indents for the categories to be arranged through the Iron and Steel Controller.

It was subsequently found in February 1959 that imports against the foreign credit would not be available during the last period and it was, therefore, decided that import licences would be issued even for those categories which were intended to be supplied through the Iron and Steel Controller. It was, at the same time, pointed out in the Notification of February 2, 1959 that the import of steel against foreign credit would continue to be arranged and the steel would be supplied during April-September, 1959, and, therefore, there would be no further licensing of these items during this period.

CAUSTIC SODA AND SODA ASH

According to a Press Note issued by the State Trading Corporation of India on April 11 import of considerable supplies of caustic soda and soda ash has been arranged by the Corporation. These will be shipped to India at short intervals.

The Press Note adds that fifteen thousand tons of caustic soda and 7,000 tons of soda ash are expected to arrive this month.

Quota For Importing Machine Tools

Licences will be granted to Established Importers for import of permissible types of machine tools during the current half year, April to September, 1959 on the basis of a quota of 40 per cent General and 40 per cent Soft, says an announcement dated April 3. Established Importers have to submit their applications to the licensing authority concerned on this basis. In the current Trade Control it was provided that licences for permissible types of machine tools would be granted to Established Importers on an *ad hoc* basis. This has now been clarified.

IMPORT OF CAR COMPONENTS

The Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, stated in the Lok Sabha on April 8, that the additional foreign exchange of Rs. 50 lakhs for the import of car components, had been released to relieve the shortage of small cars. It could not, therefore, be utilized for the import of components of big cars like Dodge, Plymouth and Standard Vanguard.

In a written reply to another question the Minister said that in July last year, it had been decided in consultation with the automobile manufacturers, that each of them would be allowed to import components for only one type of car, the choice being the one on which the cost of foreign exchange was the least. This was done to make the available foreign exchange provide for the maximum number of vehicles.

Shri Shastri said that following this decision, import of components for big cars like Dodge, Plymouth and Standard Vanguard had been discontinued. As the foreign exchange position had not eased, Government proposed to continue this policy for the time being.

COUNCIL FOR AUTO INDUSTRIES

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on April 4, says that the Government of India have decided to establish a Developmental Council for Automobile, Automobile (ancillary) and Transport Vehicle industries including scooters, motor cycles, auto-rickshaws, three-wheelers and other passenger as well as traffic carrying vehicles.

This Development Council will discharge all the functions mentioned in the Second Schedule to the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. These functions include study of measures for promoting the development of the industries on sound lines and recommending them to the Government.

MODERNIZATION OF TEXTILE MILLS

The National Industrial Development Corporation has approved of a new scheme for speeding up the pace of modernization and rehabilitation of cotton textile and jute mills, says an announcement dated April 13. According to the scheme, the N.I.D.C. will offer short-term assistance to cotton textile and jute mills for installation of new machinery and for replacing old and worn out machinery. This scheme will, however, apply only to purchase of machinery manufactured in this country.

Any cotton textile or jute mill intending to install new machinery manufactured in India will deposit 25% of the total amount of the cost of machinery with the N.I.D.C., which will make the machinery available to the mills. The balance of 75% will be payable in five equal annual instalments and the rate of interest will be 6%. The Managing Agents or two Directors of the Mill will have also to guarantee the repayment of the balance amount to the N.I.D.C. In case mills are prepared to pay 40% of the total amount in advance to

the N.I.D.C., such a guarantee will not be necessary.

This scheme has been principally formulated for assisting the modernisation of cotton textile mills for which a very large portion of machinery is manufactured in this country.

The N.I.D.C. has already been granting loans for installation of new machinery for modernisation and rehabilitation. These loans are repayable in fifteen annual instalments. Loans totalling over Rs. 7½ crores have so far been sanctioned to different cotton and jute mills for modernization and rehabilitation. Over 60% of the jute mills have been modernized in the last few years through the help of the N.I.D.C. as well as through the resources of the jute mills themselves. In the cotton textile mills, modernisation is going ahead and the new scheme is expected to further assist in quickening the pace.

The scheme will also help the manufacturers of cotton textile and jute machinery in finding a ready market.

Output Of Delhi D.D.T. Factory

The Government-owned D.D.T. factory in Delhi has nearly doubled its output in the year 1958-59, according to an announcement of April 5.

The production of technical D.D.T. during the year was 1,268 tons and that of formulated D.D.T. nearly 1,100 tons, as compared with 694 tons of technical D.D.T. and 657 tons of formulated D.D.T. produced in 1957-58.

The increase in production has been possible because of the completion of the expansion programme of the factory carried out with the assistance of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration.

The increased output has enabled the company, Hindustan Insecticides, to make a substantial reduction in the price of D.D.T. supply to the National

Malaria Eradication Programme under the Ministry of Health.

Apart from the Technical D.D.T. and 50% Wettable Powders which the factory makes to Indian Standard specifications, production of the 75% wettable powder comparable with the imported material has also commenced. Other chemicals like Chloral, Ortho and Para Dichlorobenzenes and Monochlorobenzene were also placed in the market last year.

Another D.D.T. factory, set up at Alwaye in Kerala State, has also gone into production. In the first year of its working the factory produced 825 tons of technical D.D.T.

NEW CABLE FACTORY AT BOMBAY

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 8, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry said that a cable manufacturing factory was to be established near Bombay with an authorised capital of about Rs. 250 lakhs and was expected to go into production by the middle of this year.

The Minister added that a firm in Bombay had entered into an agreement with M/s Siemens Engineering and Manufacturing Company, Bombay who in turn had executed an agreement for manufacturing rights from two firms under Siemens Group in West Germany.

Shri Shah said that foreign exchange worth Rs. 150 lakhs would be saved when full production was established.

Plan For Installation Of Automatic Looms

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 14, the Minister for Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, said that there were two schemes for allocation of automatic looms to the cotton textile industry.

One scheme was for allocating 3,000 automatic looms exclusively for export purposes. The criteria for allocation under this scheme were that

(1) the entire production on

these looms would be exported; and

(2) in addition to the entire production on the looms, the allottee mills would also export 50% of the past exports in any one of the calendar years 1954, 1955 and 1956.

The second scheme, Shri Shah said was for allocation of 2,500 automatic looms during each calendar year 1959, 1960 and 1961 for replacement of plain looms. The criteria in this case were:

- (1) past and potential performance in exports;
- (2) ability to install automatic looms without retrenchment of workers;
- (3) financial capacity to undertake introduction of automatic looms;
- (4) even distribution on a zonal basis covering the entire country; and
- (5) allotments of these looms to individual mills ranging from 48 to 144 (in exceptionally deserving cases maximum allotment of 300).

The question of the specific number of types of automatic looms to be imported under the two schemes was under consideration. As no allotments had been made so far under either scheme, the foreign exchange, which would be involved, could not be anticipated at present.

Replying to another question Shri Shah said that installation of automatic looms would be governed by the principles arrived at, at the 15th Session of the Indian Labour Conference which, among other things, stipulated that there should be no retrenchment of labour. If any workers were displaced on looms, they would be absorbed in other departments of the same mills. Not more than a thousand to fifteen hundred workers per year were likely to be affected all over the country by the installation of 2,500 automatic looms per year in replacement of plain looms. Even that number, the Minister added, would be absorbed in the industry.

PLAN FOR STEEL ALLOTMENT

The Government of India says a New Delhi announcement of April 9, have decided to allot about 751,000 tons of steel for April-June 1959. The allotment represents an increase of over 100,000 tons from the previous level.

The increase has gone mainly to the agricultural sector and to the States. The steel allotted for agricultural purposes is about 80,000 tons, against a little over 40,000 tons in the previous quarter, and is equal to about 80% of the demand.

The increase in allotment has been made possible mainly by the increase in the indigenous production. For the first time, the output of saleable steel in India in March 1959 reached about 161,000 tons.

The relief to the common user, however, from the increased allotment in the agricultural and State quotas, will be mostly in the form of light structurals and bars and rods.

In making the allotments, it has been stipulated that 20% of the allotment will be available only in metric sizes.

DESIGNING OF COAL WASHERIES

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 2, Shri Humayun Kabir said that the Central Washeries in the Public Sector of approximate value of Rs. 14.00 crores, which had already been set up or were being planned, had been designed at the Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad.

Company Law Advisory Body

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on April 12 says that the term of office of the Chairman and Members of the first Advisory Commission set up in accordance with section 410 of the Companies Act, 1956 having expired, the Government of India have reconstituted the Commission.

The Chairman of the reconstituted Commission will be Shri K.K. Sharma, a retired Judge of the Rajasthan High Court. All members of the Commission including the Chairman will work on a part-time basis, but the office of the Commission will be located at New Delhi. The Commission will ordinarily meet once a month in New Delhi, but if the exigencies of its work so require, the Commission may also meet at Bombay, Calcutta or Madras. The necessary statutory notification bringing the reconstituted Commission into existence is being issued separately.

The Advisory Commission is required to enquire into and advise the Government on the following in accordance with section 411 of the Act:

- (i) before issue of a notification relating to termination of managing agency in respect of any description of industry or business under section 324 of the Act;
- (ii) on applications received by the Government for appointment of managing director/managing agents, increase in the remuneration of directors, managing directors or managing agents, change in the constitution of managing agents, variations in the terms of managing agency agreement, etc., and
- (iii) on such other matter as may be referred to it by the Government.

First Commission's Work

During its three year period of office, the first Commission dealt with 4251 applications, and tendered advice in respect of all these applications except 8 by the end of 31st March, 1959. The remaining 8 cases could not be finally disposed of because the companies concerned had not yet filed some further documents and information which had been called for by the Commission. During the last three years, the Commission held 37 sittings in different parts of India. The largest number of applica-

considered by the Commission related to section 310 of the Act which deals with increases in the remuneration of Directors including managing/wholetime directors and managers. The number of such applications was 1192. The second largest number of applications — 894, fell under Section 346, dealing with changes in the constitution of managing agency firms or corporations. Section 329 which concerns variation of managing agency agreements accounted for 717 applications and section 269 relating to appointment of managing or wholetime directors attracted 579 applications. Applications for appointment or reappointment of managing agents and of secretaries and treasurers numbered 417. The smallest number of applications received was under section 343, dealing with the transfer of office by managing agents.

Remuneration For Company Directors

A Press Note issued on April 2, by the Department of Company Law Administration, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, says that as cases have come to the notice of Government where Directors of Companies have been paid substantial amounts of remuneration, besides their reasonable expenses for services rendered to the Companies concerned without prior approval of Central Government in terms of section 310 of the Companies Act, 1956, it will be binding on Companies hereafter to observe strict compliance with the provisions of Section 314. Where a director is entrusted with work which involves the rendering of services ordinarily expected to be rendered by a director, any payment proposed to be made to him for such work would require the approval of the Central Government under section 310. There is, however, no objection to the company reimbursing its directors any reasonable expenditure actually incurred by them in connection with any business of the company.

Companies should invariably obtain the approval of the Central Government in terms of the relevant sections of the Companies Act, before any remuneration is actually paid to directors or before any proposed appointment of managing/wholetime directors, etc., actually takes effect.

Fixation Of Prices Of Raw Rubber

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on April 4, the Government of India have referred to the Tariff Commission the question of fixing the prices of different grades and qualities of raw rubber.

The maximum and minimum prices for various grades and qualities of raw rubber were fixed in October, 1952 on the recommendation of the Commission which had submitted a report on the subject. The position was reviewed in 1955 following representations received from the plantation industry asking for an increase in the rubber prices. As a result of the review, on February 15, 1955 the prices were raised, partly to meet the increase in the cost of production and partly to enable producers to put by adequate funds for the replanting of rubber which had to be undertaken on a considerable scale as also for new planting, if necessary.

When the cess on rubber was increased in August, 1955 the prices for various grades of rubber were revised to the extent of the increase in the cess.

Government have recently received further representations from producers for revision of prices for raw rubber on the ground that the cost of production has increased considerably since 1955 on account of increased expenditure on wages and provision of amenities and provident fund benefits to labour. The rubber goods manufacturing industry, on the other hand, has represented that the controlled prices of indigenous rubber are already high. In the view of the

industry, any upward revision of prices would not be justified particularly because the manufactured articles are not able to withstand competition in the world market.

Government have carefully examined the matter. Although they feel that the rehabilitation element which is included in the prices fixed for raw rubber has not been utilized adequately by the producers, Government consider that there is a case for referring the question of the prices of raw rubber to the Tariff Commission for investigation. The Commission has been requested to conduct the necessary enquiries in regard to the cost of production of rubber and submit a report to Government at an early date.

Report Of Patent Office For 1957

Keen interest evinced in the field of inventions in India is reflected in the increase in the number of applications for patents according to the Annual Report of the Patent Office for 1957, which also contains a survey of the trend of inventions during the year.

The number of applications for patents increased to 3,456 in 1957 from 3,067 in 1956. The number of applications which originated in India also showed an increase from 540 in 1956 to 609 in 1957. Of these, 527 applications were made by Indians; the States of Bombay, West Bengal and Delhi together contributed more than 74% of the applications from India.

The inventions for which the patents were sought related to varied fields of industry and technology.

In the field of food, there were Indian inventions pertaining to steam cookers, tiffin carriers and extraction of fats and fatty oils. Foreign inventions were about food preservation, extraction and purification of sugar and animal feeds. Improvements in agricultural appliances, fertilisers and

treatment of grains and seeds were also the subjects of inventions from abroad. There were also a number of applications for patents relating to antibiotics.

Chemical Industry

Chemical industry retained its predominance in the field of inventions during the year. They related mainly to dyestuffs, natural and synthetic drugs, hormones and synthetic resins. The Indian inventions were mainly for the manufacture of porous polymer from cashewnut shell oil, cation exchange resins and protein hydrolysates.

A number of foreign inventions were concerned with the production of viscose and other artificial fibres, filaments and films, lubricating oil compositions, air filter lubricants and refining of petroleum products.

In the inorganic field, a large number of inventions related to nuclear reactors, particularly to fuel elements for such reactors and production of graphite and diamond. A majority of these inventions originated in the U.S.A., the U.K. and the Democratic Republic of Germany.

The Indian inventions, which were quite a few, were concerned with rare gases, active carbon, manganese dioxide and aluminium chloride.

Iron And Steel

Metallurgical industries, particularly iron and steel, attracted a large number of applications from abroad, some of which related to improved processes of extraction of iron from ores and refining of pig iron and steel. Interest was also shown in different types of furnaces.

Inventions in civil and mechanical engineering, were related mostly to reinforced concrete structures, iron work, hydraulic structures and driving and steering mechanisms.

In electrical power engineering, most of the inventions originated from abroad; they were about dynamo electric machines, electric circuit breakers, cables and conductors, magnetic materials, condensers and storage batteries, electrolytic processes and electric couplings. Inven-

tions in automatic telephone systems were also many.

In the field of textile technology, a number of inventions originated from abroad and they were in respect of carding, drafting, spinning and cleaning of fibres. Keen interest was shown by Indian inventors in bobbins and charkhas. Interest was shown in plastics and rubber compositions.

Some of the new fields which attracted considerable attention were photography, paper and pulp manufacture, furniture and phonographic devices.

Indian inventors were interested in processes of curing leather and indigenous tanning agents.

Registration Of Designs

There was a slight fall in the registration of designs in 1957 as compared with 1956. The number of applications for the registration of designs in 1957 was 4,303 as against 4,376 in 1956. Almost 99% of the applications originated in India; a major portion of the applications from abroad came from the U.K. Most of the Indian applications were in respect of textile designs.

According to the Report, the Patent Office had, during the year, an income of over Rs. 9.53 lakhs, its expenditure Rs. 5.27 lakhs. This compared with an income of Rs. 8.77 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs. 5.65 lakhs in the previous year.

Movement Of Commodity Prices In February

According to a Press Note issued on April 4, by the Office of the Economic Advisor to the Government of India wholesale prices as measured by the official index (with the year ending March 1953 as 100) moved up by 0.9 per cent to 113.3 during the month of February 1959 as compared with 112.3 (revised) for January 1959. The index was higher by 8.2 per cent when compared with 104.7 for February, 1958. During the month under review, 'Food Articles' advanced by 1.2 per cent to 115.7, 'Tobacco' by 0.9 per cent to 103.4, 'Fuel, Power, Light and

Lubricants' by 0.3 per cent to 114.9 and 'Industrial Raw Materials' by 1.2 per cent to 115.5. The index for 'Manufactures' remained stationary at 103.4.

Food Articles

Lower prices of rice, wheat and barley brought down the index for 'Cereals' by 0.1 per cent to 105.1 notwithstanding an increase in the prices of jowar, bajra, maize and ragi. Prices of gram as well as other pulses witnessed a rise and the sub-group index for 'Pulses' went up by 3.3 per cent to 121.0. The index for 'Fruits and Vegetables' rose by 1.2 per cent to 114.8 as a result of an advance in the prices of oranges, bananas and cashew-nuts despite a fall in the prices of potatoes and onions. Both milk and ghee contributed to a rise of 1.6 per cent to 105.2 in the sub-group index for 'Milk and Ghee'. Prices of all the edible oils, except coconut oil which showed a fall, were marked up and the index for this sub-group advanced by 2.4 per cent to 121.7. A decline in the prices of fish, eggs and meat caused a fall of 3.2 per cent to 105.7 in the sub-group index for 'Fish, Eggs and Meat'. An increase in the prices of Gur raised the index for 'Sugar and Gur', by 0.7 per cent to 127.5. The index for 10 other Food Articles also increased by 3.6 per cent to 156.5 as a result of higher prices of tea, black pepper, turmeric, cardamoms, betelnuts and salt although the prices of coffee, and chillies were marked down during the month under review.

Tobacco

Higher prices of raw tobacco raised the index for 'Tobacco' by 0.9 per cent to 103.4.

Fuel, Power, Light And Lubricants

A rise of 0.3 per cent to 114.9 in the index for 'Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants' was brought about by an advance in the prices of aviation spirit, diesel oil and castor oil.

Industrial Raw Materials

The index for 'Fibres' advanced by 0.6 per cent to 107.4 as a result of higher prices of raw cotton and raw jute although the

prices of raw wool and raw silk witnessed declines during the month. The index for 'Oilseeds' rose by 2.1 per cent to 126.4 as a result of an increase in the prices of groundnuts, castor seed, gingellyseed, rapeseed, and cottonseed despite a fall in the prices of linseed and copra. Lower prices of manganese ore caused a fall of 3.3 per cent to 103.1 in the index for 'Minerals'. The sub-group index for 'Other Industrial Raw Materials' moved up by 0.7 per cent to 111.1 owing to a rise in the prices of raw hides, raw skins, tanning materials, lac and bamboos.

Intermediate Products

An advance of 0.1 per cent to 110.6 in the index for 'Intermediate Products' was caused by an increase in the process of cotton yarn, rayon yarn, coir yarn and German silver notwithstanding a fall in the prices of linseed oil, leather, zinc, brass, tin and lead.

Finished Products

A decline in the prices of jute manufacture (-4.0 per cent to 82.0) was responsible for a fall

of 0.2 per cent to 101.7 in the index for 'Textiles' despite an increase in the prices of cotton manufactures (+0.6 per cent to 111.1) and silk and rayon manufactures (+1.4 per cent to 92.4). The sub-group index for 'Metal Products' moved up by 0.1 per cent to 143.3 due to an increase in the prices of aluminium utensils. A fall in the prices of general chemicals caused a decline of 0.6 per cent to 110.6 in the sub-group index for 'Chemicals' despite a slight increase in the prices of drugs and medicines. 'Oil-cakes' went up by 2.7 per cent to 147.5. A rise of 0.3 per cent to 104.7 in the index for 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' was brought about by an advance in the prices of machinery, cycles and vehicles. The index for 'Other Finished Products' receded by 0.4 per cent to 113.7 due to a fall in the prices of bricks and tiles notwithstanding a rise in the prices of pottery goods and glass. On the whole, the index for 'Finished Products' remained stationary at 108.0 during the month under review.



NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD MEETING

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, inaugurated the first meeting of the National Shipping Board in New Delhi on April 10.

The Board has been set up in pursuance of the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, to advise on matters relating to Indian shipping including its development. The Board will also advise on such other matters arising out of the Merchant Shipping Act as the Central Government may refer to it.

Shri G.L. Mehta, Chairman of the National Shipping Board, reviewing the progress of shipping since independence, said that Indian ships which were seeking 12 years ago to partici-

pate in coastal waters were now plying across several oceans. Indian shipping tonnage in operation today was 6.46.000 gross, as against only 1.25.000 tons in 1946. India had also built up a fine cadre of navigating officers, marine engineers and other categories of seafaring personnel, as a result of the institution of suitable training programmes. The ship-building industry had also made considerable headway.

Shri Mehta then mentioned some of the steps taken by Government to promote shipping, the first of which was the reservation of coastal trade to Indian shipping. The second major step was the scheme for giving loans to Indian Shipping Companies at concessional rates of interest. Under the scheme a sum of Rs. 24 crores was advanced to several Shipping Compa-

nies during the First Five-Year Plan period. In the Second Five-Year period an additional sum of Rs. 14 crores had already been sanctioned and committed. The third was the establishment of shipping corporations in the public sector. He also welcomed the establishment of a Shipping Development Fund for providing a continuing source of finance for development.

Shri Mehta, however, referring to the Second Five-Year Plan target said, "The shipping target for achievement during this plan is 900.000 G.R.T. We have in operation 646,000 tons while another 120,000 tons is under construction. We have yet to arrange for the acquisition of 171,000 tons of shipping for which additional finance would be required."

Referring to the role of shipping in national economy, Shri Mehta said, "We do not wish to depend indefinitely or even to an excessive extent on foreign aid, grateful as we are for such aid as has been received from so many countries. We have to build our economy on the basis of trade rather than aid". Restrictions on imports, however essential and unavoidable in the short run, were not conducive to economic development. The emphasis should therefore be on increasing exports. He also referred to the large "invisible imports" through foreign shipping services. At present, Indian shipping was carrying no more than 10 per cent of India's overseas trade. For the balance, quit substantial sums have to be expended in foreign exchange towards the payment of freight. Indian shipping aspired to carry about 50 per cent of India's overseas trade and this claim deserved favourable consideration by Government. "We do not want to be over-ambitious but in the interest of our economy, we have to have adequate tonnage in order to save as well as earn foreign exchange", he continued. "The building up of our merchant navy is, therefore, not just a matter of prestige but one of imperative economic necessity".

SHIPPING SERVICE TO ARGENTINE

According to a Buenos Aires announcement dated April 2, the arrival of the Indian Steamship Company's 9,000 ton cargo vessel "INDIAN SUCCESS" in Buenos Aires with Indian burlap, jute and shellac, heralds the opening for the first time of a new direct shipping service between India and Argentine. At present the frequency of the service will be approximately once in two months and the duration of sailing nearly 23 days from India to ports of the River Plate. With the addition of more vessels to the fleet the service would be monthly. After unloading the cargo at Argentine and Uruguayan ports the Indian liner will call at European ports for loading cargo for India.

Isotopes For Tracing Silt Movement

To ascertain the movement of silt, which clogs the main channel of Bombay harbour, radio-active material was dumped for the first time at a selected site on the sea bed last week.

This material, including activated glass which incorporates Scandium-46 and has a life of 85 days and total activity of about 12 curies, will now be traced from time to time with the help of instruments fixed on a sledge and moved along the bed of the sea.

The direction of silt movement can be established scientifically in this way.

India has, thus, successfully used atomic energy for peaceful purposes and for solving an intricate engineering problem.

During the last 40 years, the main channel of Bombay harbour has had to be dredged frequently to enable smooth passage of tenders and deep draft vessels. But the dredged material dumped into the sea easily lends itself to recirculation in the harbour, and is finally redeposited in the channel and other areas.

To guard against this and discover safe dumping sites in the

sea bed, tests, based on radio active tracer studies, have been undertaken by the Central Water and Power Research Station, Poona.

The hydraulic model tests done earlier at Poona indicate that the area northwest of the Malabar Point is one of the places suitable for dumping the dredged material. The present experiments with radio tracers will show the movement of silt under natural conditions.

The Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay, and the Bombay Port Trust are collaborating in these experiments.

Under the Colombo Plan Aid programme, technical advice is also being received from the Hydraulic Research Station, Wallingford, and the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, in the United Kingdom — the latter two institutions having been responsible for irradiation of the radio-active material.

The experiments have been so planned as to avoid danger to the public.

RAILWAY WEEK CELEBRATIONS

The Railway Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, inaugurated the Railway Week celebrations at Delhi Kishanganj on April 10, marking the 106th anniversary of the running of the first train in India and in Asia. The inaugural day's programme consisted of a cultural show of music, dance and drama in which all the artistes were railwaymen or members of their families.

Location Surveys For New Rail Lines

The Railway Board has ordered a final location survey for a 23-mile gauge railway line from Khajuriaghat to Malda on the Northeast Frontier Railway, says an announcement dated April 4.

The Khajuriaghat-Malda link is part of the Tildanga-Faraka-Khajuriaghat-Malda rail project which, when constructed, is expected to reduce the run to Malda and beyond to North Bengal and Assam from South Bengal by about 100 miles.

It is an operational necessity as it will help in reducing congestion on the main line to Howrah.

According to another announcement of the same date the Railway Board has also sanctioned the final location and traffic surveys for a broad gauge rail connection of a little over 144 miles between Jhund and Kandla on the Western Railway.

The survey is being undertaken in pursuance of a decision that the Kandla port should be served both by broad gauge and metre gauge railway systems. The immediate area served by the port has at present a network of metre gauge railways, whereas the hinterland is served mainly by broad gauge. Unless a direct broad gauge connection to the Kandla port was established, it was felt, it would not be possible to utilize fully the available capacity of the port.

Foreign Exchange For Railways

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Deputy Minister of Railways said on April 1 that the total amount of foreign exchange utilized during the first three years of second Plan period for the Railways was Rs. 254 crores. These figures included the estimated figures for the current half year ending March 31, 1959.

Meeting Of Railway Board With N.F.I.R.

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways on April 4, representatives of the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen had a periodical meeting with the Railway Board on April 2 and 3, 1959, under the Permanent Negotiating Machinery. A wide range of subjects was discussed in detail and agreed decisions were reached on many matters.

The standards of medical examinations for the categories of ticket collectors and travelling ticket examiners were agreed to be lowered. The benefits of up-grading under the "new deal"

would be given to staff who were not undergoing punishment on April 1, 1956 though they might have been punished later but before the time the orders of up-grading were issued. Mileage allowances were granted for traffic running staff performing shunting operations at terminal stations and so on.

Abolition Of Second Class In Railways

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 9, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Deputy Minister for Railways, said that the second class for passenger traffic on railways was being abolished gradually and by stages. The phasing of its abolition was linked with the provision of sleeping accommodation for third class passengers.

He also said that three types of third class sleeping coaches were being tried out and when a decision was taken as to which of them was to be adopted as the standard and the required number of such carriages was built, further abolition of second class would be effected.

REPORT ON CHITTOOR TRAIN ACCIDENT

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Transport and Communication on April 4, says that the Government Inspector of Railways, Bangalore, has submitted his preliminary report of an enquiry into the collision between No. 1153 Up Renigunta-Katpadi Passenger and motor truck No. APD 842 at level crossing at mile 11/2-3 between Putalapattu and Chittoor stations on Pakala-Katpadi M.G. Section of Southern Railway, on February 15, 1959. His provisional finding is that the accident was caused by the failure of Railway staff. As a result of the accident, one passenger was killed, another passenger suffered grievous injury and three other passengers were slightly hurt.

Recognition For Travel Agencies

The Government of India have decided to give an opportunity

to travel agencies, not recognized so far, to apply for recognition, says a New Delhi announcement of April 9.

Recognized travel agents are entitled to sell railway tickets besides becoming eligible for grant of certain facilities, such as foreign exchange for travel promotion and tourist publicity. They are also mentioned in the appropriate publications of the Department of Tourism.

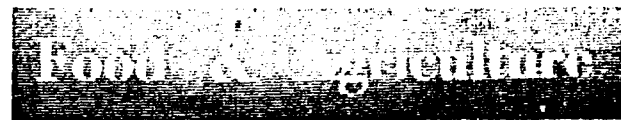
The panel is open to travel agencies who have been actively engaged in promoting tourist traffic to and within India and who fulfil the required conditions laid down by the Department of Tourism which grants the recognition in consultation with the Ministry of Railways.

APPROVED SHOPS FOR TOURISTS

A Press Note issued on April 11 by the Department of Tourism says that from time to time,

it has been brought to the notice of the Department of Tourism that foreign tourists, especially those on a short visit, find it difficult in getting information about reliable shops where they can buy articles of interest to them. It has been suggested that it would be of considerable help to the tourists if they could get a list of approved shops readily available for their guidance.

After careful consideration, a scheme has been drawn up by the Department of Tourism for giving recognition to reliable shops dealing with articles of interest to tourists in important cities and places of tourist interest and to publish this list in appropriate publications of the Department. The scheme is being initiated on an experimental basis and will be reviewed after three years. The Department has laid down the terms and conditions on which recognition will be given to such shops.



ADVISORY PANEL ON FOOD CONSUMPTION

Inaugurating the two day meeting of the Scientific Food Advisory Panel, set up by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, in New Delhi, Shri A.P. Jain, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, said on April 14 that the lowering of consumption of cereals, wherever such consumption is high and an increased intake of subsidiary foods would be necessary to correct the existing dietary deficiencies noticed in the country. This the Minister felt, may necessitate a change in the existing pattern of dietary consumption.

U.S. Aid To Agricultural Colleges

Teaching techniques and research at India's agricultural and veterinary colleges will receive further assistance as a result of the latest agreement between

the Government of India and the U.S. Technical Cooperation Mission, says an announcement dated April 3.

The agreement brings a TCM allocation of approximately Rs. 48 lakhs (\$ 1,008,000) for contracts with five American land grant colleges and universities which bring to India, teams of American teachers, sponsor the visits of Indian teachers to the United States, and provide for Rs. 4.7 lakh (\$ 100,000) worth of scientific and teaching equipment. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, forty-three colleges in all parts of India, the Indian Veterinary Research Institute Izatnagar, U.P., and the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Punjab, will be assisted under contracts with the Universities of Missouri, Illinois, Tennessee, Ohio State University and Kansas State College.

The contracts began four years

ago with the sponsorship of T.C.M. Previous T.C.M. assistance to this project touched Rs. 3.1 crores (\$ 6.6 million) through June 30, 1958. And to date, 136 Indian teachers of agriculture and veterinary science have visited the United States for advanced training in different subjects of agriculture and veterinary science.

The aim of the programme is to strengthen agricultural education, research and extension by improving the quality and techniques of teaching, better student-teacher relationship, and effecting co-ordination between teaching, research and extension.

The latest agreement, brings the total TCM contribution to the project to Rs. 3.6 crores (\$ 7.6 million).

IMPORT OF FOOD GRAINS

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 6, the Minister of Food and Agriculture said that the amount paid by way of freight to shipping companies in regard to import of foodgrains made in the year 1958 by India was Rs. 20.65 crores. The quantity imported in Indian ships was 406 thousand tons, and that in foreign ships was 2,768 thousand tons.

IMPORT OF BURMESE RICE FROM U.S.S.R.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 6, the Minister of Food and Agriculture said that India imported 32,800 tons of Burmese rice from U.S.S.R. in 1957-58. Except for a small quantity of superior variety the price paid was £ 33 per ton, which was the price payable for direct purchase from Burma under the long term agreement with them.

SUPPLY OF RICE TO STATES

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Shri Ajit Prasad Jain said that the quantities of rice supplied to the various States during 1958 totalled 711.2 thousand tons, as follows (In '000 tons): Assam (including NEFA, Naga Hills) 43.5, Bihar 52.5, Bombay 165.6, Kerala 67.8,

Madras 7.6, Mysore 2.4, Uttar Pradesh 26.5, West Bengal 254.9, Jammu & Kashmir 38.7, Tripura 19.6 and others 32.1.

The requirements of the States are assessed from time to time in consultation with the State Governments, and the requirement of each State is met keeping in view the availability of stocks with the Centre and the demands of other States, he added.

SUPPLY OF FOOD GRAINS TO PUNJAB

In a written reply to a question the Minister for Food and Agriculture, said in the Lok Sabha on April 1 that about 85,500 tons of rice were purchased in Punjab on Central Government account during the period April 1, 1958 to March 21, 1959. About 79,900 tons of wheat at Rs. 14 per maund and about 7,200 tons of maize at Rs. 11/- per maund were supplied to Punjab during the months of December, 1958 and January and February, 1959. The prices are for nett weight of the grain but inclusive of the cost of gunny bags, for delivery F.O.R. destination stations.

FOODGRAINS MOVEMENT FROM RAJASTHAN

The Central Government have, by an Order under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, created "no movement belts" all along the border of the State of Rajasthan. A belt of five miles has

PRESERVATION OF WILD LIFE

Inaugurating a conference of recognized shikar agents and Chief Conservators of Forests of various States in New Delhi on April 14, Shri Raj Bahadur, Minister of State in the Union Ministry of Transport and Communications, appealed for close co-operation between shikar agents and forest authorities with a view to ensuring preservation of wild life while at the same time providing adequate opportunities for game hunting to foreign tourists as well as our own people.

The conference was called by the Department of Tourism with a view to bringing together various authorities and organizations connected with game hunting. Represented also at the conference were the All-India 'Travel Agents' Association and the Ministries of Food and Agriculture, Commerce and Industry and Finance.

River Projects & Power

RECONSTITUTION OF D.V.C. BOARD

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power on April 9, says that the DVC Board, in accordance with the Damodar Valley Corporation Act as amended in December 1957, was reconstituted in April 1958 with Shri J.P.L. Shenoy as whole-time Chairman and Shri A.B. Ganguli and Shri T.P. Singh as part-time Members, and the term of the reconstituted

Board was fixed as one year so that the position could be reviewed at the end of that period.

The Government of India have now reviewed the existing state of work of the Corporation. The Panchet Hill Dam and the Durgapur Canal System have been nearly completed and substantial progress has been made at Durgapur Thermal Station and the fourth unit at Bokaro. They consider that the stage has been reached when it is no longer

necessary to have a whole-time Chairman to deal with matters of policy and have therefore decided to reconstitute the entire Board on a part-time basis.

The executive functions of the Corporation will now be concentrated in the Secretary-cum-Chief Executive Officer, whose position will be analogous to that of a General Manager.

The Government of India intend to appoint, preferably a non-official of high standing, as part-time Chairman of the Corporation. Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation and Power, is being appointed as part-time Chairman of the Corporation for a period of three months, within which the Government of India hope to be able to select a suitable non-official for this post.

The term of the two part-time Members, Sarvasri A.B. Ganguli and T.P. Singh, is being extended for a period of two years.

Irrigation And Power Projects In U.P.

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 15, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister for Irrigation and Power said that the amount allocated to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for major and medium irrigation and power schemes during the Second Plan was Rs. 80.42 crores — Rs. 25.80 crores for irrigation and Rs. 54.62 crores for power (including Rihand).

The allocations during the first Plan were irrigation — Rs. 34.02 crores; power (excluding Rihand) — Rs. 23.42 crores. The total expenditure incurred in the First Plan period on the Rihand project was Rs. 4.77 crores.

A statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha by the Deputy Minister also indicated that there were 37 irrigation schemes in the Second Plan in Uttar Pradesh. Of these, 10 were new and 27 continuing schemes.

The number of irrigation schemes in the First Plan in U.P. was 32.

According to this statement, the power schemes in U.P. in the Second Plan were 32. Of these,

11 were new and 21 continuing schemes. The number of power schemes in the First Plan was 10.

Central Aid To U.P. Power Projects

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 1, the Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi said that the budget provision for loan assistance to the Rihand project in Uttar Pradesh for 1959-60 was Rs. 600 lakhs and that for expansion of power facilities Rs. 25 lakhs. The amount of Central assistance for 1959-60 for miscellaneous development schemes in U.P. had not yet been decided upon, added the Deputy Minister.

Shri Hathi further stated that the amount of loan assistance given to U.P. for power projects included in the Second Plan during 1956-59 was Rs. 1186.9 lakhs for Rihand (including a 'notional' loan of Rs. 246.9 lakhs in respect of T.C.M. equipment), Rs. 69 lakhs for programme of expansion of power facilities for increasing employment opportunities, and Rs. 1225.0 lakhs for miscellaneous development schemes.

Loans for miscellaneous development schemes were sanctioned in lump sum for all the approved development schemes in the State which *inter alia* included power projects as well.

BETTERMENT LEVY IN PUNJAB

Replying to a question on betterment levy in Punjab in the Lok Sabha on April 15, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, laid a statement on the Table of the House, which said that the Planning Commission had advised all States to raise resources for the Plan, betterment levy being one such source.

The statement said:

The principle of betterment levy was enunciated in both Plans and was approved by Parliament. As the Plan has been approved by Parliament, the Planning Commis-

sion has to take the initiative in getting the Plan recommendations implemented. Suggestions were, therefore, sent to States to take action to implement the proposals contained in the Plan.

It is for the Government of Punjab to implement the recommendations contained in the Plan in the manner they deem fit. The Bhakra Nangal Project is being financed from loans advanced by the Central Government to the Governments of Punjab and Rajasthan. The sources from which the State Governments can repay the Central loans for the irrigation portion of the project are betterment levy, water rates and sale of Government lands.

Questions pertaining to financial return from the Bhakra Nangal Project and the rates to be fixed for betterment levy and water rates as also the sale price of Government lands in Rajasthan have been considered from time to time at meetings called by the Planning Commission.

As the Bhakra Nangal Project was unproductive on the basis of existing water rates, it was suggested to the Government of Punjab that they should charge betterment fees and also consider the question of increasing the water rates. The Planning Commission did not suggest any specific rate of betterment levy which is a matter entirely for the Punjab Government to decide.

According to the decision taken by the Punjab Government, the betterment levy should cover the unproductive part of the cost of the Bhakra Nangal Project allocable to "irrigation". Betterment charges are being levied on "matured areas" only. In the case of lands which were already receiving irrigation from wells, the rates will be half the normal rates.

The levy will in no case exceed one-half of the difference between the value of the land in the pre-project period and that in the post-project period. The land owners have been given the option of making payment either in one lump sum, in advance, or spread it over 15 equal instalments. No representation has been received from the Punjab Government in this connection.

Education & Culture

SECONDARY EDUCATION COUNCIL REORGANIZED

The Government of India have reorganized with effect from April 1, the All-India Council for Secondary Education which now becomes an advisory body. All executive functions performed by the Council at present will henceforth be the responsibility of the Directorate of Extension Programmes for Secondary Education under the Ministry of Education.

The functions of the reconstituted All-India Council for Secondary Education will be as follows:

- To review the progress of Secondary Education throughout the country and serve as an expert body to advise the State and Central Governments about improvement and expansion of Secondary Education in all its phases.
- To examine and appraise proposals in this behalf referred to it by the Government of India and the State Governments and make suitable recommendations.
- To initiate proposals for the improvement of Secondary Education in the light of the experience gained and within the ambit of the decisions taken by the Government of India from time to time.
- To examine and recommend proposals for research in problems relating to Secondary Education in all its aspects.

The Council may appoint *ad hoc* committees and/or standing committees to carry out any or all of these functions.

The reconstituted Council will consist of the following members:—

- Joint Secretary/Joint Educational Adviser in charge of Secondary Education, Ex-officio Chairman,

- Director, Directorate of Extension Programmes for Secondary Education — Ex-officio Member.
- Deputy Financial Adviser, Ministry of Education — Ex-officio Member.
- One member to be nominated by each of the following bodies:—
 - All-India Council for Technical Education.
 - University Grants Commission.
 - All India Council for Elementary Education.
 - All India Federation of Educational Associations.
 - Association of Principals of the Training Colleges.
- A nominee each of the 14 State Governments, nominated by the Government of India.
- The Head of the Secondary Education Division — Ex-officio Member —Secretary.

Literature On Basic Education

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 11, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, laid a statement on the Table of the House giving details of the progress made in the implementation of the scheme for production of literature on Basic education.

According to the Statement the following were the steps taken:

- A prize competition was announced for encouraging competent authors to prepare Guide Books for teachers of Basic Schools for grades I to VIII. The entries received were being evaluated by competent viewers.

2. Preparation of monographs on 10 selected aspects of Basic Education was assigned to expert authors. Out of these, manuscripts of six monographs had so far been received, and these were being processed for publication.

3. It was decided to get a set of 25 books in Hindi on General Science published through competent private publishers. Accordingly, an announcement was made inviting publishers all over India to submit proposals for undertaking the publication of suitable books on General Science in Hindi for children of Basic Schools. Proposals received were being examined.

Under a scheme to do research on the production of materials for different crafts 5 institutions were selected to conduct experiments and so far detailed proposals had been received from four. The detailed plan of the project and their financial implications had been settled. Grants had been sanctioned to three of these during the current financial year.

5. Detailed contents of source books on Social Studies and General Science had been worked out and steps were being taken to get the source books prepared in English and Hindi in the first instance.

Workshop For Textbook Writers

The Union Ministry of Education's workshop for textbook writers started on March 9, under the guidance of Dr. Bernice E. Leary, a T.C.M. Expert on textbook production now working at the Central Bureau of Textbook Research. The workshop held in the premises of the Central Institute of Education, Delhi, was attended by delegates from different States.

The object of the workshop is to hold discussions on various problems of textbook production. On the basis of this exchange of views, two books each in Social Studies and General Science at the Elementary level will be produced by the participants in collaboration with one another.

The workshop continued up to April 20, 1959.

Free And Compulsory Primary Education

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said on April 11 that the following State Governments/Administrations have either introduced or have decided to introduce universal, free and compulsory primary education in N.E.S. Blocks: Andhra Pradesh — 3 N.E.S. Blocks during 1958-59.

Bihar — 17 C.D./N.E.S. Blocks from January, 1959.

Orissa — 4 N.E.S. Blocks from 1-4-1959.

Rajasthan — N.E.S. Blocks of Ajmer District from July 1959.

Delhi Corporation — 2 N.E.S. Blocks during 1959-60.

Educational Facilities In Union Territories

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 2, the Union Minister of Education, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, stated that the following provision had been made for educational development schemes in the backward areas of the Union Territories for 1959-60:

Delhi	Rs. 93.05.000
Tripura	Rs. 28.30.500
Manipur	Rs. 21.25.900
Himachal Pradesh	Rs. 39,94,000
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Rs. 7,93,900
Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands	Rs. 3.61,200

Books For New-Reading Public

The UNESCO, in co-operation with the Government of India, has announced the holding of the first competition for books for the new-reading public in Hindi, Tamil, Bengali and Urdu, says a New Delhi announcement of April 3. The object of the scheme is to encourage the production of high class and standard literature for the new-reading public. Ten prizes of the value of \$ 480 (Rs. 2,280 approximately) each will be awarded to Indian authors of the best books in these languages. Four of these prizes will be awarded for Hindi books, three for Tamil, two for Bengali and one for Urdu.

DIPLOMA COURSES IN MINING ENGINEERING

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 2, Dr. M.M. Das, Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs stated that the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, was the seventh centre recommended by the All India Council for Technical Education for conducting degree course in Mining Engineering.

On the recommendation of the All India Council for Technical Education, Shri Das added, 12 institutions had been accepted for conducting diploma courses in Mining Engineering at the following centres:

(i) Asansol, (ii) Barbil, Keonjhar (Orissa); (iii) Jharia; (iv) Kodarma; (v) Chindwara (Madhya Pradesh); (vi) Udairpur; (vii) Oorgaum (Mysore); (viii) Gudur; (ix) Kothagudem (Andhra Pradesh); (x) Ondal (West Bengal); (xi) Korba (Madhya Pradesh); (xii) Sindri. The institutions at the first ten centres had been sanctioned and the question of establishment of institutions at the last two centres was under consideration in consultation with the State governments concerned.

DEVELOPMENT OF SANSKRIT

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 2, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said that a sum of Rs. 3,27,700 was spent during 1958-59 for the development of Sanskrit and the amount proposed to be spent during 1959-60 would be Rs. 3,76,100.

Indian Technical Students Abroad

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 11, the Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs said that the total number of Indian students receiving technical education in foreign countries was 2,807. Out of these, 523 students were in receipt of Government of India or Foreign Scholarships/Financial Assistance.

The word 'student', Dr. Das added, was interpreted to mean one who at the time of selection was either studying or had just completed his/her studies but was otherwise not settled in life.

In reply to a further question, the Deputy Minister stated that out of these, 1,368 were studying in the U.K., 1,072 in U.S.A., 160 in Canada, 105 in West Germany, 25 in Australia, 21 in Netherlands, 13 in Austria, 8 in Japan, 7 each in Czechoslovakia and East Germany, 6 each in Belgium and Norway, 2 each in Italy, Yugoslavia and Switzerland and 1 each in Finland, Poland and France.

Foundation-Stone for Rabindra Bhavan Laid

The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, laid the Foundation-stone of Rabindra Bhavan in New Delhi—headquarters of the three National Academies—on April 14, 1959.

Named after Rabindranath Tagore, the building seeks to commemorate his services to India in the fields of Letters, Music, Dance, Drama, Painting and Architecture, all the forms of artistic endeavour in which man has sought to find self-expression for himself and the community.

The combined building will be constructed on a plot of land measuring about 35 acres. The building which has been designed by Shri H. Rehman of C.P.W.D., will have three main blocks—Administrative Block, Exhibition Block and Theatre Block. The Administrative Block will have six storeys while the other two blocks will have three storeys each. The building is proposed to be completed in two phases. In the first phase, only three storeys of the Administrative Block will be constructed, providing one storey for each of the three Academies. Two storeys of the Exhibition Block will also be completed in the first phase. Construction of the remaining three storeys of the Administrative Block, one storey of the Exhibition Block and the entire Theatre Block will be taken up in the second phase.

The building will have several

latest architectural and functional features. The Administrative Block has been designed in such a way that it will cut off the undesirable effects of the afternoon sun in summer and, at the same time, will provide all comforts of the breeze during the monsoon period.

All the services such as lifts, stairs, toilets and ducts will be located in the centre of the block leaving uninterrupted office areas on the periphery.

In the Exhibition Block flexible and spacious exhibition halls will be arranged around the central circulation core. Continuous windows about a height of 12" provided all around the Exhibition Block will add to the general attractiveness of the whole set-up. Special arrangements for natural light will also be made in the galleries.

One of the central attractions of the new building will be an open staircase rising from the eastern lawn up to the first floor lobby of the Exhibition Hall, over a lily pool. The blank walls of the Exhibition Block will have a veneer of blue mosaic tiles. The ventilation of the Exhibition halls will be by forced air.

A large lawn has been planned on the eastern side for open air exhibition of sculptures. The other facilities designed for the building will include a spacious car park, a modern cafeteria, and residential staff. Provision has also been made for air-conditioning the whole building, in due course.

Gandhi Bhavans In Universities

Replying to a question regarding the progress made in regard to setting up of Gandhi Bhavans in different universities, the Union Minister of Education, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, laid the following statement on the table of the Lok Sabha on April 11, outlining the progress made so far:

The sketch-plans of the Gandhi Bhavan buildings were considered at a joint meeting of the Gandhi Samarak Nidhi and officers of the University Grants Commission on December 9, 1958 and some variations in the pattern were suggested to suit local conditions and secure more economic use of accommodation. The final revised design has

since been received from the architects.

The Chairman of the University Grants Commission also discussed the design of the Bhavan for the Delhi University with the Vice-Chancellor and a tentative site has been selected for its construction. The designs of the buildings in the remaining six Universities, which have accepted the scheme in principle, will also be discussed by the Commission with the respective Universities.

The main object in establishing these Bhavans is to provide within the University campus a suitable place to keep Gandhian literature, to hold study classes and discussions on the life, ideals and work of Mahatma Gandhi, to arrange for lectures on these topics and to encourage students to undertake such items of constructive work as can be done inside or close to the campus, which will reflect the ideas and methods of work indicated by Mahatma Gandhi.

Advisory Board For Music

Various suggestions for popularising music, both classical as well as light, were discussed at a meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Music of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, held on April 15 at the Broadcasting House under the chairmanship of Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting.

About classical music, the Board thought that it was necessary to introduce new styles of music for attracting people towards it. Good compositions by talented poets written in simple ragas would go a long way in fulfilling this need. With a view to encouraging compositions, the Board suggested that competitions for preparing such compositions may be held. Similarly eminent artistes may be encouraged to broadcast their own compositions.

A.I.R. orchestra has already prepared some ragmalas with musical compositions consisting of various ragas. It was suggested that programmes of similar

ragmalas can be introduced in the national programmes as well.

The Board expressed the view that it was necessary to encourage Vrindagan or group singing. It may not be confined to Hindi only, but can be tried in all the languages and for this all A.I.R. stations may form parties of group singers. Competitions may also be held for encouraging this form of music and the audition rules may not be very strict. It was felt that even folk songs may be made popular through this form of music.

MUSIC AUDITION BOARD MEETING

The meeting of the Music Audition Board was held at the Broadcasting House on April 15 under the chairmanship of Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting. The following were some of the points made in the meeting.

With a view to make audition tests easier for the artistes as well as the members of the Audition Committees, the A.I.R. is gradually taking to recorded auditions in preference to live auditions. This will not only remove any possibility of suspicion of influence on the members of the Committees but will also make the artiste feel at ease while he is being auditioned. It will also give to an artiste an opportunity to hear back his own performance. Complaints against audition from candidates are considerably reduced since this system was introduced.

When an artiste is auditioned upon his request for raising his grade, then either he is to be upgraded, or, in the event of unsatisfactory performance he is to stay in his previous gradation. He is not to be downgraded in such circumstances. For downgrading, a case is to be specifically referred to the Audition Board by the A.I.R. auditors in the light of continuously poor broadcasting performances. But when an audition is done on the basis of a report for downgrading, an artiste cannot be upgraded.

He can either remain in his grade or be recommended for downgrading.

The Board felt that in cases where a fresh candidate for audition is unable to produce the required certificate from his teacher, his admission for audition should be left to the discretion of the Station Director.

Akashvani Sahitya Samaroh

Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, inaugurated the fourth Akashvani Sahitya Samaroh at Talkatora Gardens in New Delhi on April 11. One hundred and four humourists and litterateurs from all parts of the country participated in the Samaroh this year. The general subject for the Samaroh was "The Comic Muse in India".

NEW A.I.R. TRANSMITTER FOR RANCHI

Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, inaugurated the new 2 kW shortwave transmitter at Ranchi on April 3. A pilot broadcast studio and a low power transmitter have been functioning there since July 1957.

TRAINING IN RADIO ENGINEERING

In a written reply to a question, Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, said in the Lok Sabha on April 14, that the scheme for giving specialized training by All India Radio in radio engineering to new recruits had been designed to cater for two distinct categories of personnel who were recruited. Shift Assistants who normally did not have training in radio engineering before joining All India Radio were given instructions in the theory and practice of broadcast engineering for a period of six months. Direct recruits in the grades of Technical Assistants and Assistant Engineers who underwent a regular course in Radio Engineering as a part of their College training were to undergo an orientation course in order to make them familiar with the techni-

cal practices and standards in the Department. For this purpose an Engineering Staff Training School had been operating at Delhi with effect from May 1, 1958.

Indian Documentaries for Australia

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 8, Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting said that the agreement for non-commercial distribution of Indian documentary films in Australia was signed with the Commonwealth National Library, Canberra on April 18, 1955. This agreement has been extended from year to year. The main terms of the agreement, for the year from April 1, 1959 are as follows:—

- (1) A 16 mm dupe negative of the films selected out of those available for external market will be loaned free of charge to the Commonwealth National Library.
- (2) The Commonwealth National Library will prepare prints at their cost from the dupe negatives so supplied for sale in Australia.
- (3) The prints will be sold at the rate of £A 7/10/0 per print of 400 ft. out of which the Government of India will be paid £A 4 per print.
- (4) The Commonwealth National Library will sell at least three prints each of the films selected by them.

Press Coverage Of President's Tour

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 3, Shri A.C. Joshi, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting stated that in selecting Press representatives to cover the visits of Indian dignitaries on tour abroad, efforts were made to get as representative a group as possible, including language newspapers.

He added that it was also kept in view that all important papers

or representatives get their turn, as also the willingness of the papers concerned to bear the cost of the trip and the availability of accommodation. With regard to the inclusion of the representatives of leading newspapers in the Presidential Party on its visit to South East Asian countries, he pointed out, accommodation was available only for four correspondents. After consultation with journalistic organizations, Shri Joshi added, the correspondents of P.T.I., Amrita Bazar Patrika, Hitavada, Jugantar (Bengali), Mathrubhumi (Malayam), Samyukta Karnataka (Kannada) and Tamilnadu (Tamil) were nominated.

SPEECHES AND WRITINGS OF NETAJI BOSE

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 14, Shri A.C. Joshi, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Information and Broadcasting, said that an Advisory Committee had been constituted to assist in the preparation of a book of collection of speeches and writings of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and steps were being taken to collect necessary material.

Extension Of Research Results To Villages

An Extension Advisory Committee has been set up, says a New Delhi announcement of March 20, to exercise overall supervision and to co-ordinate the work relating to the extension of processes and techniques developed by the National Laboratories to rural areas. It will also review the progress made by the national laboratories in resolving problems referred to them by the State Governments and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the progress made in the application of the processes in the States.

Headed by Prof. M.S. Thacker, Secretary of the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, as Chairman, the Committee has five representatives each from the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and two representatives

of the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

The Programme of extending processes developed as a result of research at the National Laboratories to rural areas registered some progress during the last one year. Three processes, now being tried out in various Block areas, include brick-making from black cotton soil in Andhra Pradesh, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh; water-proof mud plastering in rural areas in Delhi; and making of roads from stabilized soil in Assam and Punjab. Several other processes have also been tentatively selected for extension to rural areas.

New Public Health Research Institute

The Central Public Health Research Engineering Institute, the twenty second National Laboratory to be set up, was formally opened by Prof. M.S. Thacker, Secretary Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs at Nagpur on April 8.

The draft plan of the Institute was approved by the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in October 1958 and within a period of about five months, the Institute has started actual work.

To start with, the Institute will run among other divisions, the Publication and Publicity Division, Drawing-Design-Survey and Advisory Division, Field-Investigation Division and the Laboratory Division. The Laboratory Division will be divided for the present into three sections — Instrumentation, Pilot-plant Schemes and Workshop Section, Chemical and Biological Section and the Microbiological Section. It may open three more Sections soon for dealing with atmospheric pollution, radiological health and drinking water pollution by viruses. The Institute as it grows will also undertake training of specialists and research personnel in public health engineering for which very little facilities are available at present.

The problems taken up for

immediate investigation in the institute will include experimentation and studies in waste stabilization ponds, survey of existing conditions on Fluorosis, experimentation on saving of large quantities of water lost by evaporation, study of the performance of the existing water treatment plants at Gorewara and Kanhan Water Works, assessment of the existing environmental conditions in villages and laboratory and pilot plant studies on treatment and disposal of textile, canning and paper mill wastes.

SMOKELESS DOMESTIC COKE

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 2, Shri Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cul-

tural Affairs, said that a process had been developed at the Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad, for making smokeless domestic coke from low-grade high ash coals in the country and entrusted to National Research Development Corporation for commercial exploitation.

Considerable work on by-product recovery, the Minister added, had been done in both the Central Fuel Research Institute and the Regional Research Laboratory (formerly known as Central Laboratories for Scientific and Industrial Research) Hyderabad, but a comparison was difficult as by-products of coal carbonization covered a wide field and depended on the quality and composition of the raw materials.



ADVISORY BODY FOR DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 1, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health said that the Government of India had decided to set up an Advisory Committee for Demographic Studies.

The functions of the Committee would be (i) to advise on research and studies on inter-relationship between economic, social and population changes on the reproductive pattern, attitudes on motivation affecting the size of the family; (ii) to advise on programmes of training and research so that a sound national programme of reconstruction could be built; (iii) to co-ordinate demographic research schemes receiving financial assistance from the Government of India; (iv) to review progress made in the demographic training and research centres receiving financial assistance from the Ministry of Health; and (v) to examine and recommend proposals which may be received by the Ministry of Health for finan-

cial assistance for conducting demographic research.

Health Report For February

Births and deaths registered in towns with a population of 30,000 and over during February, 1959, were 26 and 10 per thousand of the population respectively as against 29 and 11 during January, 1959, says an announcement dated April 12.

Plague: According to available reports mild incidence of plague was reported from Lucknow district of Uttar Pradesh during the last week of March, 1959.

The situation regarding incidence of cholera and smallpox remained stationary.

Cholera: Based on preliminary data for the third week of March, 1959, mild incidence of cholera was reported from East Godavari, Guntur, Krishna and Nellore districts of Andhra Pradesh and Calcutta city.

Smallpox: Considerable incidence was reported from Madras city. Mild incidence was reported from the districts of Chingle-

put, Coimbatore, North Arcot, South Arcot, Tiruchirappalli and Salem; the districts of Anantapur, Cuddapah, East Godavari, West Godavari, Guntur, Krishna, Kurnool, Nellore, Chittoor, Medak and Srikakulam of Andhra Pradesh; Palamau district of Bihar; the districts of Bangalore, Bijapur, Dharwar, Chickmagalur, Mysore, Raichur and Shimoga of Mysore; the districts of Ganjam, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Korapur, Mayurbhanj, Puri and Bolangir-patna of Orissa; the districts of Aligarh, Bareilly, Hardoi, Bijnor, Kanpur, Dehra Dun, Almora, Faizabad, Ghazipur, Barabanki, Ballia, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Etah, Lucknow and Naini Tal of Uttar Pradesh, the districts of Darjeeling, Hooghly, Midnapur, Jalpaiguri, Murshidabad, Calcutta and Nadia of West Bengal; and Karikal.

Gastro-enteritis: During the third week of March, 1959, 31 cases of Gastro-enteritis were reported from some districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Kyasanur Forest Disease: A total of 20 attacks from Kyasanur Forest disease was reported from Shimoga district of Mysore State during the fortnight ended March 14, 1959.

Influenza: Cases of sporadic Influenza were reported from the districts of Gulbarga, Raichur, Belgaum city of Mysore and Poona city during the month under review.

Teaching Of Preventive Medicine

The Union Ministry of Health has so far during the Second Plan period approved six more medical colleges for the establishment of Departments of Social and Preventive Medicine says an announcement dated April 9. The colleges are at Calcutta, Cuttack, Lucknow, Guntur, Amritsar and Patiala.

During the First Five Year Plan, similar departments were established in the medical colleges at Nagpur, Dibrugarh, Gwalior, Visakhapatnam, Tiruvandrum, Laheriasarai, Madras and Jaipur.

Under the scheme, 50 per cent

TRAINING OF NURSES IN INDIA

About 9,590 candidates applied for admission to nursing courses in various schools in India during 1958. Of these, 2,008 were admitted for training.

As a result of the recent questionnaire addressed to 348 hospital schools for nurses, midwives, auxiliary nurse-midwives and health visitors to collect information regarding conditions in training schools and other facilities, the Union Ministry of Health received replies from 336 schools up to the end of 1958.

According to the information collected through the questionnaire, in 1957, in 86 schools the medium of instruction was English, in 40

Hindi, in 116 the regional language and in 86 English and the regional language.

The total number of students under training in 1957 was 15,042 as against 13,451 in 1956. The number of candidates who qualified in various courses such as general nursing, midwifery, auxiliary nurse-midwives, health visitors and nurse Dais/Dais was 6,764 in 1957 as against 5,970 in 1956.

Registered nursing personnel as on December 31, 1957, under various categories was: Nurses 26,470 (24,724 in 1956); Midwives 31,412 (28,030 in 1956); Health Visitors 939 (836 in 1956); Auxiliary Nurse-midwives 587 (393 in 1956).

of the actual recurring and non-recurring expenditure except on buildings is met by the Government of India. The project is also being assisted by the World Health Organization which assigns professors to various medical colleges.

The W.H.O. experts are at present engaged in organizing the departments of social and preventive medicine in the Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh, and the Medical College in Nagpur. Five Indian professors were awarded W.H.O. fellowships for training in modern methods of teaching preventive medicine at Harvard University.

Physical Development Of Children

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 6, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health said that a country-wide survey on the growth and physical development of Indian children has been undertaken by the Indian Council of Medical Research as a part of its research programmes during the Second Five-Year Plan period.

The Minister added that there were at present seven units located in different parts of the country, viz., Delhi, Lucknow,

Gwalior, Poona, Nagpur, Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad. These units were expected to cover all regions of the country except Saurashtra area in Bombay State, Bihar, West Bengal and Assam.

The units started functioning towards the close of 1957. So far, nearly 30,000 children had been examined by the units covering the age group up to 20.

BLOOD BANKS

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 15, the Minister for Health, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, said that there were no blood banks functioning with Central Government aid, but in Delhi there were blood banks in the Irwin and Safdarjung hospitals and in Simla in the Snowdown Hospital.

A grant of Rs. 30,000 was given to the Indian Red Cross Society, Orissa State Branch, for setting up a blood bank at Cuttack.

Number Of Beds In Delhi Hospitals

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 9, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that there were 3,879 beds in various hospitals in

Delhi at the beginning of the Second Five-Year Plan. The bed strength of hospitals in Delhi at present was about 4,953. It was proposed to add 1,165 more beds by the end of the Second Plan period.

A sum of Rs. 1,55,17,024 approximately had been spent in this connection so far during the Second Plan period.

RIVER POLLUTION BY INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENTS

In a written reply to a ques-

tion in the Lok Sabha on April 5, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, said that although no detailed statistics were available, field surveys made by the Indian Council of Medical Research revealed that there was pollution of river water by industrial effluents in India.

Under the Orissa River Pollution Prevention Act, 1953, (Orissa Act IV of 1954), the State Government had constituted a special Board to regulate the treatment of industrial effluents before discharge into rivers.



ASSISTANCE TO ADIVASIS

An announcement dated April 10 says that 3-year-old debts of Adivasis are being written off by States and Union Territories at the instance of the Centre. Assistance is also being given in clearance of short-period debts after allowing interest at not more than 6 per cent.

The Bombay Government has advanced loans to Adivasis in many cases while Councils in Autonomous Districts of Assam have made regulations for the control of money lending. There was no case of loans more than three years old in the Scheduled Areas of Lahaul and Spiti. However, the Punjab Government advanced loans, amounting to Rs. 5 lakhs, to traders in this region to meet losses due to heavy and untimely snowfall.

Legal Aid

The Bombay State has already in force a scheme for providing legal aid to Adivasis. In West Bengal, legal assistance is extended in a limited form to tribals in cases involving land.

Kerala which has already a scheme in force for legal assistance to Harijans has provided Rs. 10,000 in its annual plan for 1958-59. Similar budgetary pro-

vision has been made in Mysore and Rajasthan.

Waste Land

Landless Harijans are getting land in Assam wherever Government waste land is available. In Mysore, preference is being given in such allotments to members of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

The Orissa Government leases out waste land, firstly to the landless Adivasis or Schedule Tribes, secondly to the landless Harijans or Scheduled Castes and lastly to the landless belonging to other Backward Classes.

The Second Plan allocation for the country's Backward Classes is Rs. 91 crores, more than double the provision for the First Plan. The major items of expenditure are: education—Rs. 23.76 crores; medical and public health, housing, communications—over Rs. 8 crores each, and cottage industries—Rs. 5.5 crores.

Research On Rural Housing

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 14, Shri Anil K. Chanda, Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, said in a statement laid on the Table of the House that 'action was under way to set up research-cum-training centres in six selected engineering institutions for undertaking work on rural housing relating to re-

search, training and extension.

The Deputy Minister added that the functions of these centres would include, *inter alia*, research with a view to promoting the better use of local building materials and improvement of construction techniques for housing.

The Deputy Minister also said that the Village Housing Projects Scheme formulated by the Government of India contained a directive enjoining that the State Governments, who had to implement the Scheme, should as far as possible, utilize only locally available building materials in the housing projects in the villages. The Scheme also laid stress on the production of building materials like bricks, tiles, doors, hinges, frames, rafters, etc. locally, on a co-operative basis, on setting up of co-operative industries for this purpose, and on preparation of suitable designs and specifications for houses by the rural housing cells (being set up in each State) with due regard to local conditions and materials.

The National Buildings Organization had also already circulated to State Governments many pamphlets containing useful information on building techniques.

Rehabilitation Of East Pakistan D.P.s.

Steps for providing employment to displaced persons from East Pakistan were discussed at the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation held in New Delhi on April 6.

The Union Rehabilitation Minister and the West Bengal Chief Minister briefly explained the task before the Corporation.

Of 41 lakh displaced persons who have migrated from East Pakistan to India, about 32 lakhs are in West Bengal alone. Of these 30 lakhs are distributed all over the State and about two lakhs are in camps.

Out of the camp population, 10,000 families are to be settled in

West Bengal and the rest in Dandakaranya and other States. Among the remaining 30 lakh people, some further rehabilitation assistance is required to be given to those who have been partially rehabilitated and rehabilitation benefits may have to be given to some of those who have not received anything uptil now.

For creating employment opportunities for East Pakistan D.P.s. the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation has been established under the Chairmanship of Shri G.D. Birla to set up industries in the public sector or in partnership with private enterprise and also by giving loans to private entrepreneurs. It will pay special attention to the setting up of small scale industries with large employment potential.

The authorised share capital of the Corporation is Rs. 5 crores divided into 50,000 equity shares of Rs. 1,000 each. The share capital will be entirely or mostly subscribed by the Government. In the first instance, shares worth Rs. 1 crore will be subscribed by the Government and further funds will be provided to the Corporation as and when required either as share capital or by way of loans.

Employment Of D.P.s. During February

Out of 3,668 displaced persons who had registered with Employment Exchanges during February 1959, 408 secured employment says an announcement made on April 11. The figures for the previous month were 4,463 registrations and 552 placements. Of those placed during February, 274 were migrants from East Pakistan and 134 from West Pakistan.

At the end of February, 45,095 displaced persons were on the Live Register of Exchanges as compared with 44,734 at the end of the previous month.

At its last meeting held in New Delhi the Central Social Welfare Board sanctioned grants amounting to almost Rs. 38 lakhs

to nearly 2,000 voluntary organizations, says an announcement dated April 11.

Of these, 777 institutions catering to the welfare of children have been sanctioned Rs. 13,35,280; 660 institutions catering to the welfare of women have been sanctioned Rs. 13,23,934; for the welfare of the handicapped Rs. 2,70,800 have been sanctioned to 43 institutions; while Rs. 31,800 have been sanctioned to seven institutions for the welfare of delinquents; and 433 organizations catering to general welfare, receive Rs. 8.11 lakhs.

Grants by the Central Social Welfare Board are made in four categories: (a) upto Rs. 50,000 for a five-year period for improving the quality and standard of work of some selected institutions; both in their present form and for starting new activities; (b) grants not exceeding Rs. 50,000 for a five-year period for programmes to be undertaken by new institutions; (c) grants not exceeding Rs. 25,000 for a five-year period for improving the quality and standard of work of institutions with less development capacity than those in category (a); and (d) grants not exceeding Rs. 5,000 for a period of one year at a time to smaller institutions.

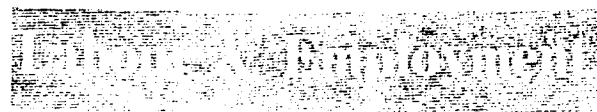
In the first category 47 institutions have been sanctioned grants

exceeding Rs. 5 lakhs. Fifteen institutions have been sanctioned over Rs. 2 lakhs in the second category while 25 and 1,834 institutions have been sanctioned over Rs. 2 lakhs and Rs. 27 lakhs in the 3rd and 4th categories respectively.

Disposal Of Evacuee Properties

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Rehabilitation on April 5, says that in view of their poor economic condition, it has been decided that all allotable evacuee houses in the authorized occupation of Scheduled Caste and Backward Class families, may be transferred to them at the reserve price, 20 per cent of which should be recovered in cash as an initial instalment and the balance in seven equated annual instalments. The number of properties involved is about 20,000 of the approximate value of Rs. 2 crores.

The above concession is applicable to all Scheduled Caste and Backward Class families whether displaced or non-displaced except that in the case of displaced claimant occupants, the compensation due to them will be adjusted against the cost of property.



EMPLOYEES STATE INSURANCE SCHEME

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation in a meeting held in New Delhi on April 1, decided to grant the concession of sickness cash benefits at half the normal rate for an extended period of 18 weeks and medical care for a further period of about one year, beyond the normal period of entitlement, to insured persons suffering from leprosy, cancer and mental diseases.

The Corporation approved

amendments to the Employees' State Insurance (General) Regulations to provide protection to insured persons suffering from leprosy, cancer and mental diseases against dismissal or discharge by employers up to a period of one year. This protection is afforded for a period of six months only in the case of persons suffering from other diseases.

It was also decided to provide artificial teeth at the cost of the Corporation to insured persons who lose their teeth as a result of employment injuries.

Work Of Wage Boards For Industries

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 14, the Deputy Minister for Labour, Shri Abid Ali, reviewed: the progress so far made by the Wage Boards for Cotton Textiles, Sugar and Cement Industries.

He said the Cotton Textiles Wage Board has just concluded its hearing on the subject of wages of the lowest paid operatives. The Sugar Wage Board was hearing the parties at various centres. The Cement Wage Board had begun hearing from April 2, 1959.

He added that requests for grants of interim relief were received from workers in the sugar and cement industries and were forwarded to the respective Wage Boards. The Sugar Wage Board had already recommended interim relief to workers. The Cement Wage Board proposed to discuss the matter at its subsequent sittings.

Accident In Gun Powder Factory

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 8 Shri Anil K. Chanda, Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, said that an explosion occurred in a gun powder factory in Katni in December, 1958, and not in a gun factory.

He added that from the inquiry conducted by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Katni, as also from the report of the Inspector of Explosives, Central Circle, Nagpur, it would appear that the explosion was due to the presence of foreign matter in the mixture of ingredients of gun powder while it was being pounded.

Nine persons lost their lives and were injured. Two gun powder manufacturing sheds were blown off and one was badly damaged. The floors of the two drying platforms also developed some cracks.

The firm had deposited Rs. 9,000 for payment as compensation to the families of the de-

ceased. The question of payment of compensation to the injured was also being pursued by the district authorities.

Workers On River Projects

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 1, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister for Irrigation and Power, laid a statement on the Table of the House. According to this statement the total strength of skilled labour employed at various multi-purpose river valley projects was 47,326 persons, and of unskilled labour at various projects respectively were Rihand 2180; 2661; Bhakra Dam Project 10017; 5103; Chambal Project 9235, 34246; Kosi Project 2627, 34900; Tungabhadra Project 1509, 1100; Damodar Valley Corporation 10649, 28253; Nagarjunasagar Project 7667, 46248; and Hirakud Dam Project 3442, 14164. To the statement was also appended the following table giving the strength of skilled and unskilled labour at the various projects:

Detailed figures for skilled labour in case of each project were :

Name of the Project	Under the Project Administration			Under the Contractors
	Regular	Work-charged	Muster Roll	
Rihand Project	43	13	—	2124
Bhakra Dam Project	63	9700	—	254
Chambal Project	187	2259	2464	4345
Kosi Project	94	949	376	1208
Tungabhadra Project	—	429	929	151
Damodar Valley Corporation	2536	3517	1797	2799
Nagarjunasagar Project	—	2800	912	3955
Hirakud Dam Project	64	3004	—	374

The figures for unskilled labour were :

Name of the Project	Under the Project Administration			Under the Contractors
	Regular	Work charged	Muster Roll	
Rihand Project	123	15	—	2583
Bhakra Dam Project	8	4617	—	476
Chambal Project	88	938	6604	26615
Kosi Project	—	1093	2496	31314
Tungabhadra Project	—	345	311	442
Damodar Valley Corporation	2427	1744	6491	17591
Nagarjunasagar Project	34	2034	5225	38955
Hirakud Dam Project	68	4111	145	9840

Gorakhpur Labour Organization

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 8, the Union Deputy Minister for Labour Shri Abid Ali said that the Industrial Committee on Coal Mining has recommended that the Gorakhpur Labour Organization may continue for the present for the purpose of recruitment only, but all forms of control or regulation exercised separately over Gorakhpur Labour, after recruitment, should cease. There should be a joint co-operative organization which should look after various aspects of recruitment, training and welfare of all labour so that there is no distinction between Gorakhpur Labour and other workers.

Shri Abid Ali also stated that the total number of Gorakhpur workers engaged in coalfields, limestone quarries and iron ore mines during 1958 was 14,249. The figure for 1956 was 12,278.

Plantation Labour Housing Scheme

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 14, the

Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply said that the original allocation of Rs. 2 crores for the Plantation Labour Housing Scheme was likely to be reduced to Rs. 50 lakhs as a result of reappraisal of the Second Five-Year Plan. The State Governments implementing this Scheme were able to draw Rs. 3.60 lakhs only up to March 31, 1959, and were expected to draw Rs. 12.50 lakhs during the current financial year for disbursement of loans to the planters.

The main reason for the shortfall has been the inability of the planters to give to the State Governments adequate security for the loans. Various suggestions were being examined in order to work out a satisfactory solution of the problem.

Work Of Employment Exchanges

According to an announcement of April 4, Employment Exchanges helped 19,966 persons to secure jobs during February, 1959, as compared with 19,255 placements in the previous month.

Of those placed in employment during February, 4,673 were under the Central Government, 9,662 under State Governments, 3,440 under quasi-Government establishments and local bodies and the rest under other employers.

During the month, 6,664 employers utilized the services of the Exchanges as against 6,693 during January. The number of vacancies notified by them also decreased from 28,713 to 27,855 in February.

There was a fall in the number of registrations; it decreased from 1,87,924 to 1,73,513.

The number of persons who sought employment assistance through the Exchanges at the end of February was 12,10,523. This was 14,597 more than the figure at the close of the previous month.

CONSUMER INDEX NUMBERS FOR FEBRUARY

The Consumer Price Index Numbers for Working Class (base shifted to 1949=100 except

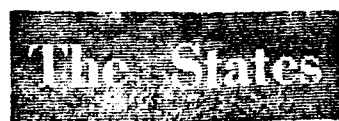
where otherwise indicated) increased at 7 centres, declined at 4 and remained stationary at 6 during February 1959.

According to the Labour Bureau, Government of India, the maximum rise of 5 points was recorded by the index number for Jamshedpur, which stood at 120. The Index number for Delhi appreciated by 4 points to 126, for Satna (base 1953=100) by 3 points to 111, for Tinsukia by 2 points to 117 and for Dehri-on-Sone, Jabalpur and Ajmer by one point each to 101, 110 and 108 respectively.

In this group of centres, the food group index numbers appreciated at 6 centres, the fuel and lighting group index numbers at 5 centres, the clothing group index numbers at 2 centres and the miscellaneous group index numbers at 3 centres.

Fall At 4 Centres

The index number for Mercara base (1953=100) declined by 7 points to 115, for Cuttack by 2 points to 111 and for Berhampur



NATHDWARA TEMPLE BILL

The President has given assent to the Nathdwara Temple Bill, 1959, says an announcement of April 4.

The bill replaces an ordinance promulgated for the better management of the temple of Shri Shrinathji at Nathdwara in Udaipur since its affairs were not being properly managed.

For the management of the temple, the Rajasthan Government, in consultation with the Goswami of the temple, drew up a scheme which had since been submitted to the court under section 92 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. The case relating to this scheme is still pending in court.

In the meantime, the Rajas-

and Plantation Centres (base January to June 1949=100) by one point each to 113 and 120 respectively.

In this group of centres, the food group index numbers declined at all the 4 centres, the fuel and lighting group index numbers at 2 centres, the clothing group index numbers at 3 centres and the miscellaneous group index number at one centre only.

Stationary At 6 Centres

The index numbers for Jharai, Gauhati, Silchar, Ludhiana, Akola and Bhopal (base 1951=100) showed only fractional variations and stood at 113, 94, 104, 106, 107 and 120 respectively.

The provisional index number for Kharagpur and Beawar (base August 1951 to July 1952=100) stood at 109 each.

The provisional all-India Index Number appreciated by 4 points to 118 during February, 1959. The final all-India Index for December 1958 was 119.

than Government passed the Ordinance for the management of the temple.

President's Assent For Kerala Bill

The President has given assent to the Kerala Stay of Eviction Proceedings (Amendment) Bill, 1959, says an announcement dated April 11.

The legislation extends for a further period of one year the Kerala Stay of Eviction Proceedings Act, 1957, enacted to protect tenants from eviction.

The Kerala Government has under consideration a scheme for bringing comprehensive legislation relating to tenancy and agrarian reforms. Pending framing of the scheme, the State Government initially sponsored for a year the 1957 Act to give protection to tenants from eviction. However, it has been found necessary to extend the term of the Act as it has not been possible to bring the contemplated comprehensive legislation into operation immediately.

Assent For Bihar Bhoodan Bill

According to an announcement dated April 3, the Bihar Bhoodan Yagna (Amendment) Bill, 1958, has been assented to by the President.

The Bill seeks to remove certain difficulties experienced in the administration of the Bihar Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1954.

The Bhoodan Yagna Committee had recommended that the scope of the Act be enlarged so that Bhoodan lands could be made over to a village committee, a gram panchayat or a co-operative society.

Earlier, difficulty was experienced in confirming quickly *Dan Patras*. The Bill seeks to remove such difficulties and vests in the Revenue Officer certain powers of a civil court.

Chief Justice For Mysore

The President has appointed Shri Justice Nittoor Srinivasa Rau, a Judge of the Mysore High Court, to perform the duties of the Chief Justice of that High Court during the absence on leave of Shri Justice S.R. Das Gupta with effect from April 3, 1959, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on April 2.

Calcutta Milk Supply Scheme

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 6, Shri M.V. Krishnappa, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, said that accommodation to house 6,360 milch animals, their young stock and their owners, had been built at the Haringhata Milk Colony. Accommodation for another 3,816 milch animals was under construction.

A large part of the fodder farm at Kalyani had been developed and brought under cultivation.

Nearly 5,000 milch animals were removed from stables in Calcutta and their owners had been rehoused at the Haringhata Milk Colony.

The existing dairy at Haringhata now handling nearly 1300

mds. of milk daily, which is being supplied to hospitals and public in Calcutta, had been extended to handle upto 2,000 mds. milk per day pending construction of a new dairy in Calcutta.

Its construction was going on and a large part of the equipment required for it had been ordered.

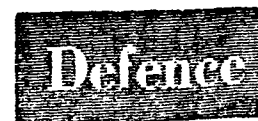
TUBEWELLS IN DELHI

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 9, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, said that assistance had been given till December 31, 1958 for the construction of 25 tube wells in the Union Territory of Delhi. The amount of assist-

ance given was in the form of a loan of Rs. 1,77,820 and the area irrigated by the tube wells was 1250 acres.

FOOD ADULTERATION IN DELHI

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 6, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that the number of milk sellers and confectioners fined for adulteration of milk during 1958-59 (up to the end of February, 1959) was 1,452 and the amount of fine imposed on them Rs. 1,14,499. Prosecutions launched and the fine imposed during 1957-58 totalled 1,252 and Rs. 59,837 respectively.



ADVISORY BODY FOR TERRITORIAL ARMY

The Central Advisory Committee for the Territorial Army and Lok Sahayak Sena in a meeting held on April 6, recommended the reorganization of the LSS scheme by increasing the duration of training. At present the period of training is 30 days in the year.

During the four years 1955-1959—848 camps had been held and 3,75,210 volunteers trained. The trainees included farmers, students, and others belonging to miscellaneous categories, their average age being 21. Nearly 3,000 persons trained under the LSS so far had joined the Armed Forces.

The Central and State Governments pay to their employees the difference between the Civil and Military pay and allowances for the period of their duty with the Territorial Army, and the Committee recommended that private concerns be requested to take similar measures.

Several measures had been taken both to improve training and to make it more attractive. Concessions had been granted in

respect of the retirement age of officers, relaxation of the upper age-limit for the grant of commission, disability and family pensionary awards for all ranks, leave and travel benefits and protection of seniority and promotion to a higher post in the case of Government servants.

The Rajasthan Government had sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1,400 for the award of three running silver cups to the best trainees of the T.A. in the State, the Mysore Government had issued instructions to certain heads of departments to give preference, while recruiting personnel for employment, to persons trained in the T.A. and L.S.S., and the Madras Government had decided that in the matter of initial recruitment to public services concessions similar to those available to members of the N.C.C. should be given to persons trained in the L.S.S.

Air Force Day Celebrations

Air Force Day was celebrated all over India on April 1, to mark the 26th anniversary of the Service.

Air Force Stations and other units were thrown open to the

general public on the day. Ceremonial parades, sports and other cultural programmes and static displays of Air Force equipment formed part of the day's programme at most of the Stations.

Canadian Army Men's Visit

An announcement dated April 14 says that a party of 18 members of the National Defence College of Canada, who are now on a six-day visit to India met the Union Defence Minister, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon.

Present at the meeting were the Canadian High Commissioner, Mr. Chester A. Ronning, the Deputy Defence Minister, Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia, the three Service Chiefs, the Defence Secretary, the Financial Adviser and the Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister.

Army Ordnance Corps Anniversary

The Army Ordnance Corps celebrated its 18th anniversary on Wednesday, April 8, 1959.

The Army Ordnance Corps originated on April 8, 1775, when the first Board of Ordnance was set up in Bengal, Madras and Bombay Presidencies under an Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazine. In 1922 the Indian Ordnance Department was constituted and re-designated as the Army Ordnance Corps.

With the exception of food articles, the Ordnance Corps is responsible to supply the Army with almost everything it needs. The range of stores handled by the Ordnance Services is so wide and complex that it covers as many as 5,00,000 items, from a pin to an armoured fighting vehicle.

SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP FOR SOUTHERN COMMAND

For the second year in succession, the Southern Command has won the Defence Services overall Sports Championship Trophy for 1958-59. says an announcement dated April 11. The Eastern Command are the runners-up. The championship trophy, which was instituted last year to stimulate interest in sports among the Services, will shortly be presented to the GOC-in-C Southern Command.



WAR CLAIMS OF INDIA AND ITALY

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on March 17, letters were exchanged in New Delhi on March 17, 1959 between Shri S. Ranganathan, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, on behalf of the Government of India and H.E. Dr. Justo Giusti del Giardino, the Ambassador of Italy in India, on behalf of the Government of Italy recording the conclusion of negotiations carried on in regard to the settlement of Indian war claims against Italy and the release of the Italian vested assets in India.

In terms of these letters, the Government of India will retain 50 per cent of the value of the Italian assets at present held by the Indian Custodian of Enemy Property, Bombay, for payment of all Indian war claims against Italy. The balance will be returned to the Italian Government in full and final satisfaction of their claims.

Tilak Memorial Hall At Mandalay

The Mandalay Jail where Lokmanya Tilak was a prisoner from September 1908 to June 1914, was the scene of a simple ceremony when Shri Lalji Mehrotra, India's Ambassador presented "The Tilak Memorial Hall" to Burma's Judicial and Foreign Affairs Minister, U Chan Tun Aung.

The Rs. 50,000 memorial hall built with the help of grants received from the Government of India and other contributions from the Indian community at Mandalay, is designed to serve as a library and cinema hall for the benefit of the inmates of the Mandalay prison.

The presentation was done on behalf of the Government of India.

Indian Medal For Burmese Statesman

Burma's former Prime Minister, U. Nu, was presented the "Kamla Medal" on behalf of the Calcutta University by the Ambassador of India to Burma, Shri Lalji Mehrotra, at a special ceremony held at the 'Gandhi Memorial Hall' in Rangoon on March 18, 1959.

Indian Medicine Gift For U.A.R.

A Cairo announcement dated April 14 says that the Ambassador of India to Egypt, Shri R.K. Nehru, presented here today 66 packages of medicines of Indian manufacture to Dr. Mohammed Nasser, Minister, Public Health, Egyptian Region of the United Arab Republic.

The medicine had been purchased with the funds raised by the Indian people in 1956 at the time of the tripartite aggression on Egypt. Out of the funds raised, a mobile dispensary was presented to the people of Port Said in June last year. The medicines now presented had been purchased with the balance left after purchasing the dispensary van.

MOROCCAN ENVOY TO INDIA

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on March 5 His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Benaboud has been appointed the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Morocco in India.

AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINE

Shri Parakat Achutha Menon, at present High Commissioner for India in Australia, has been appointed as Ambassador of India to Argentina, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on March 20. He will assume charge of his new assignment in autumn.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

MARCH 16 TO 31

April 1 — Air Force Day is celebrated

2 — The Minister of Food and Agriculture, Shri Ajit Prasad Jain, announces in the Lok Sabha the scheme of implementation of State trading in foodgrains

3 — The Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, makes statement in Parliament regarding the Dalai Lama's entry into Indian territory on March 31, seeking political asylum.

— The National Development Council begins its twelfth meeting in New Delhi

4 — After ten years the first consignment of raw jute is loaded for export at Calcutta port

— The Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Dr. Keskar, inaugurates the seventh session of the All India Printers Conference at Varanasi

5 — Prime Minister Nehru explains at a Press Conference India's attitude to the developments in Tibet

8 — The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, presents the Republic Day awards at a function in New Delhi

10 — The National Shipping Board is inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, in New Delhi

— A contract for the export of fifteen lakh jute bags from India to North Vietnam is signed in New Delhi

— An Indian Air Force Canberra is shot down in Pakistan while on a routine flight

13 — The National Industrial Development Corporation approves a new scheme to speed up the modernization of cotton textile and jute mills

14 — The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, lays the foundation-stone of Rabindra Bhawan which will house the three National Akademies

— A party of eighteen members of the Canadian National Defence College, who are on visit to India meet the Defence Minister

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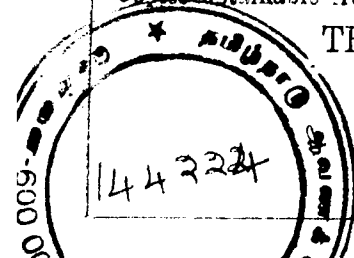
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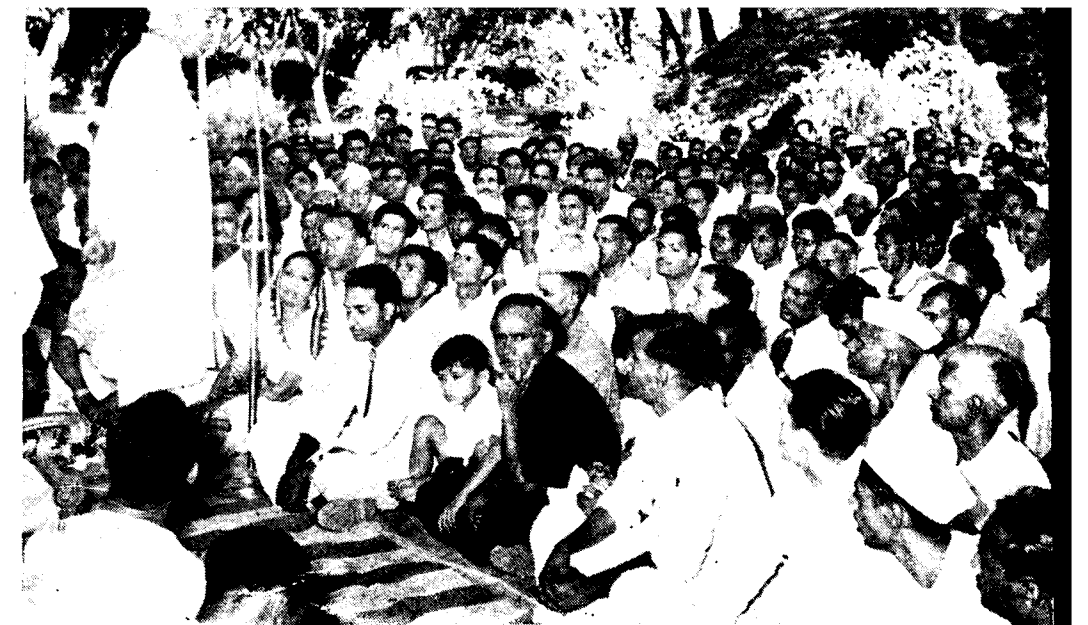
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Shri Jawaharlal Nehru addressing in New Delhi on April 11, a party of 500 coal miners who are on a 'Bharat Darshan' tour of the country



The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, receiving Mr. A.K. Kironde, Minister of Works, Uganda, in New Delhi on April 3



Shri Jawaharlal Nehru talking to the Press Delegation from Malaya in New Delhi on April 11





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D-940

Loading operations in progress

For the first time after ten years India has resumed export of raw jute. The first consignment comprising about 1000 bales being loaded at Calcutta on S.S. *Sitanja*

