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H.E. Dr. Laszle Reczei, Ambassador of Hungary, presenting his Letter of Credence to the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, in New Delhi on March 10



Members of the Spanish Press Delegation, on a 3-week visit to India, with the Vice-President, Dr. Radhakrishnan, in New Delhi on March 13



The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, walking on the new bridge on the Chambal River, built at a cost of Rs. 43 lakhs, after he opened it on March 15

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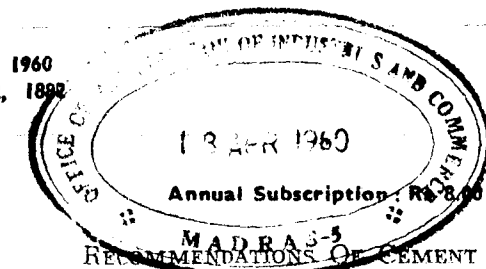
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COVER : The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, with the Pakistan Minister of Commerce, Mr. Hafizur Rehman, in New Delhi on March 15.

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

Political & General

COMMISSION ON HINDU PUBLIC RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS

A Press Note issued on March 1 by the Ministry of Law says that the Government of India have decided to appoint a Commission, with Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar as Chairman, to conduct an inquiry and make recommendations to Government in regard to administration and management of Hindu Public Religious Endowments in the country. Shri Sankar Saran, retired Judge of the Allahabad High Court, Shri Mahabir Prasad, Advocate-General, Patna,

Swami Harinarayananand, General Secretary, Bharat Sadhu Samaj, and Shri P. Kameswara Rau, retired Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowments Board, Madras, will be the other members.

The terms of reference to the Commission include: (a) To examine generally the institution of Hindu Religious Endowments and to recommend the classes of such endowments which should be treated as pub-

lic religious endowments; (b) To inquire into the manner in which Hindu Public Religious Endowments are being managed and the resources thereof are being utilised, and to recommend ways and means for the proper management of such endowments and the proper utilisation of their resources. (c) In particular, to inquire into the manner in which holders of offices in relation to Hindu Public Religious Endowments are being chosen, whether by

way of succession, nomination or otherwise; (d) To examine whether the existing arrangements in regard to the manner in which holders of such offices are being chosen are satisfactory and if not, to suggest ways and means for improving the same, etc.

The Commission is expected to start functioning from the first week of March, and submit its report by September end.

On the findings of the Commission, the Government will consider the desirability of undertaking a suitable legislation for the purpose

FIRST MEETING HELD

The first meeting of the Hindu Religious Endowments Commission was held in New Delhi on March 5, under the chairmanship of Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar.

In his introductory remarks, Dr. Ramaswami Aiyar mentioned the scope and ambit of the work of the Commission and made special reference to the Doctrine of *Cyprès* according to which the surplus, if any, of religious endowments should and can be utilized for allied purposes if the original purpose cannot be fulfilled or carried out.

Ramaswami Aiyar also spoke of the importance of preliminary training of Pujaris and Archakas so as to furnish the educational and spiritual background for those officiating in religious services.

Third White Paper On Sino-Indian Relations

The third White Paper which the Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, presented to the Lok Sabha on March 10, contains notes, memoranda and letters exchanged between the Governments of India and China since last November. In the latest letter, dated March 4, Prime Minister Nehru has suggested to the Chinese Prime Minister that they meet in Delhi on a date about April 20, 1960 for talks on the problems between the two countries. Ac-

knowledging the Chinese Premier's letter of February 26, Shri Nehru says that he is glad that Premier Chou En-lai has accepted his invitation to visit Delhi so that they can explore avenues which may lead to a peaceful settlement of their problems.

The White Paper contains two Notes from the Government of India and one from the Chinese Government about violations of territorial air space. In a Note dated December 8, 1959, the Government of India protested to the Chinese Government against repeated violations of Indian air space. In reply, the Chinese Government stated it was satisfied that no flight of Chinese aircraft over Indian territory ever occurred at all. On its part, the Chinese Government protested to the Government of India about alleged intrusions by Indian aircraft into Chinese air space frequently along the Sino-Indian boundary. In reply to this note, the Government of India stated that careful enquiries made by them showed that the Chinese allegations were entirely baseless.

In another Note, the Indian Embassy in Peking asked the Chinese Government to prevent harassment and ill-treatment of members of the Embassy. The Government of India also took serious objection to repeated and apparently deliberate violations of the Agency premises at Gyantse by a crowd of persons. Chinese Government in their Note dated December 31, dealt with the question of nationality of the Indian and Ladakhi Lamas and the Kaxis residing in the Tibetan region which was raised by the Government of India on several occasions. The Chinese Government stated that it had no intention of regarding residents who were of Indian origin and the Ladakhi Lamas as Chinese. About the Kaxis the Chinese Note stated that their ancestors had settled in Tibet several centuries back and that these persons had become part of the Tibetans of China.

In another Note, the Government of India, dealing with the alleged Kuomintang propaganda

in India, stated that they would not hesitate to turn out of Kalimpong any foreigner who indulged in objectionable activities. The Note pointed out that India does not recognise any other Government of China and would not permit any activities designed to promote the idea of two Chinas.

There is also an exchange of notes about demonstrations held in front of the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi in November last year. The Government of India pointed out that at no time was any demonstration permitted by the police in front or within a hundred yards of the Embassy gates.

The White Paper also contains the notes exchanged on the Kongka Pass incident in Ladakh in which nine Indian policemen were killed by the Chinese.

Report Of Law Ministry For 1959-60

The annual report of the Union Law Ministry for 1959-60 was issued on March 13. The report states that the recommendations of the last Law Ministers' Conference are being processed by the Judicial Section of the Law Ministry in consultation with the other Ministries.

The Judicial Section, which deals with the work of engaging law officers to conduct litigation on behalf of the Central Government in Courts, is also dealing with the subject 'Legal Aid to the Poor'.

The setting up of the Central Agency Section, says the report, has secured greater co-ordination between the Central Government and the State Governments on various matters coming up before the Supreme Court. The arrangement has also effected economy and efficiency.

The Central Agency Section consists of a Government Advocate, a Deputy Government Advocate and two Assistant Government Advocates assisted by a small staff. These advocates appear without extra payment. All the State Governments, except West Bengal,

Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and partly Madhya Pradesh, are participating in the Scheme.

DRAFTING

The Legislative Section, which is in charge of the drafting of all Bills, Ordinances and Regulations that are enacted or promulgated from the Centre, did a considerable drafting work during the year. Of the Bills drafted in the Section, 63 were passed into law by Parliament. In addition, 3 Ordinances and 5 Regulations were promulgated during the period. Other Bills drafted by the Section are pending in Parliament.

The Translation Section prepares Hindi translations of Central Acts, Statutory Rules and Orders, Ordinances, Regulations, etc., to compile a Hindi Law Lexicon and to do exploratory work with regard to the evolution of standard legal drafting in Hindi. It also assists other Ministries, when and if requested to do so, in the preparation of the Hindi version of rules, agreements, etc. The Section has, so far, brought out diglot editions of 79 Central Acts, including the Code of Civil Procedure.

Common Police Reserve Force Schemes

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 3, the Home Minister, Shri G.B. Pant, stated that schemes for a Common Police Reserve Force have been adopted by the Eastern and Northern Zonal Councils. The Southern Zonal Council has also agreed in principle to the formation of the Force.

The Committee appointed by the Central Zonal Council for this purpose has submitted its report which would be placed before the Council at its next meeting. The Western Zonal Council has not considered it necessary for the present to constitute such a force.

Shri Pant added that these schemes provided for the pooling of the agreed quota from the existing reserves in the States and the Union Territories in each

of these zones for a common force which would be available when required in an emergency anywhere in the zone. Arrangements would be made for the joint training of the reserve force for a short period every year by rotation in different States.

MEDAL FOR U.P. POLICE OFFICER

According to the Government of India Gazette published on March 5, a President's Police Medal has been awarded to Shri Sumer Chand Vatsa, Police Sub-Inspector, Uttar Pradesh, who displayed 'initiative, courage and devotion to duty of a high order' in an encounter with a dacoit.

On February 11, 1955, Sub-Inspector Sumer Chand Vatsa of Behsuma Police Station in Meerut district, set out, accompanied by a constable, for Ram Raj village to investigate a case. On his way he suspected two men concealing themselves behind a thicket and in the struggle to overpower he received several injuries bleeding profusely. He succeeded in disarming the assailant who later was identified as the notorious dacoit Samroo.

Economy Measures Adopted By Union Ministries

A statement showing the results of the study of selected sectors of activities made by the Union Ministries at the instance of the Central Economy Board in order to find out better methods of doing work and thereby secure economy was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha during question hour on March 8 by the Minister of Finance, Shri Morarji Desai.

The statement revealed that the economy measures had so far resulted in a total annual saving of Rs. 6.46 lakhs in various Ministries besides over a crore of rupees in the 'Economy on Operational Side' in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

The improvements and economies have been effected as a re-

sult of refixation of the strength of staff after sample survey, creation of certain posts, surrender of certain other posts, improvement in methods of work and recruitment, reorganisation of offices, etc.

In the case of other Ministries or Departments, studies are being conducted or decisions finalised.

Central Information Service Constituted

The Government of India have constituted a Central Information Service which comes into effect from March 1, according to a notification of February 29 published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary.

The Service includes persons holding editorial or journalistic posts in All India Radio, Press Information Bureau, Publications Division, Films Division, Registrar of Newspapers for India, Research and Reference Division, Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity and Directorate of Field Publicity.

The Service is broken into six grades with a permanent strength of 350 posts.

Indo-Soviet Co-operation On Atomic Energy

An announcement of March 7 says that a delegation, led by Professor V.S. Emelyanov, Head of the Atomic Energy Utilization Board under the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., visited the research institutes, scientific and technical establishments and production plants of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission and several industrial plants in India, and held discussions with the Indian Atomic Energy Commission. It has been agreed in principle that the U.S.S.R. and India will co-operate in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, including the design and construction of nuclear power stations. An Indian delegation headed by Dr. H. J. Bhabha, Chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission, will visit the U.S.S.R. in May or June this year.

YEARLY SAMPLE CENSUS

An announcement of March 9 says that, most States in India will start conducting an annual sample census from this year so as to determine the yearly increase in population. The ques-

tionnaire will specially seek information on the birth of children and their ages.

The yearly count will embrace about one per cent of the population, selected both in the urban and rural areas.

Planning & Finance

TWO ANNA AND HALF ANNA COINS TO BE WITHDRAWN

By a notification published in a Gazette of India Extraordinary of March 2, the Ministry of Finance has announced that, the third step in the withdrawal of old coins of the anna-pie series will be taken on October 1, 1960, when the Union Government call in two-anna and half-anna coins of cupro-nickel composition (white in colour). From this date, these two types of coins will cease to be legal tender. They will, however, be accepted from the public till March 31, 1961, at all offices of the Reserve Bank of India, at all agency banks of the Reserve Bank of India conducting Government business and at all Government treasuries and sub-treasuries in payment of dues as well as for exchange, and at all railway offices and post and telegraph offices only in payment of dues.

Until further notice, even after March 31, 1961, these coins will continue to be accepted at the offices of the Issue Department of the Reserve Bank of India at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Kanpur, New Delhi, Bangalore and Nagpur.

Issue Of Five-Year Prize Bonds

The Government of India have notified the issue of five-year interest-free prize bonds, 1965, with effect from April 1, 1960. The bonds will be in the form of bearer bonds of the denomina-

tion of Rs. 100 and Rs. 5. Lots will be drawn quarterly for prizes on the first day of June, September, December and March every year. The first draw will be of the hundred rupee bonds, there will be one prize of Rs. 25,000 two prizes of Rs. 10,000 each, five prizes of Rs. 5,000 each, twelve prizes of Rs. 1,000 each, and twenty prizes of Rs. 500 each. For each series of the five-rupee bonds, there will be one prize of Rs. 7,500 two prizes of Rs. 2,500 each, ten prizes of Rs. 1,000 each, twenty prizes of Rs. 500 each, 25 prizes of Rs. 100 each and 220 prizes of Rs. 50 each. All prize money will be free of income-tax and payment of it will be made in cash.

CUSTOMS AND CENTRAL EXCISE DRAWBACK

A Press Note issued on March 13 by the Ministry of Finance says, as a measure of export promotion, the Government of India have decided to allow drawback of Customs and Central Excise duty paid on materials used in the manufacture of cork wadding, tea chests, typewriters, mild steel pins and clips, impregnated varnishes and super-synthetic enamels used in the electrical industry and fishnet twine or cord. Changes have been made in the rates of drawback for paper products, potassium citrate and mild steel pipes black or galvanised.

For further details and for advice regarding the procedure

for obtaining these concessions, exporters are advised to consult the Custom Houses at the ports from which the goods are to be exported.

No Double Taxation In India And Denmark

Instruments ratifying the Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation of Income between India and Denmark, which had been signed at Governmental level at Copenhagen on September 16, 1959, were exchanged in New Delhi on March 9.

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

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

Indian Investments In Pakistan

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 14, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, stated that Indian private investments in Pakistan as on 31-12-55 amounted to Rs. 17.83 crores, according to the survey of India's foreign liabilities and assets conducted by the Reserve Bank of India. Of this, a sum of Rs. 17.56 crores was accounted for by investments in Pakistan shares, debentures and securities by Indian joint-stock companies. The balance of Rs. 0.27 crores was accounted for by investment in Pakistan securities, shares and debentures held by banking companies as nominees, agents and custodians on behalf of individuals resident in India and Indian partnerships.

These figures did not include investments directly owned by individuals resident in India and Indian partnerships. Information on investments after that date was not available as no fur-

ther survey was conducted, but no significant change in the position was indicated. Further investment was not allowed.

Foreign Investments In India

A statement showing the total net inflow of non-banking foreign investments in India in the private sector during 1954-1958 was placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha during question hour on March 11 by the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai.

According to the statement, the investments in 1954-55 were Rs. 17.6 crores, Rs. 36.8 crores in 1956, Rs. 48.9 crores in 1957 and Rs. 27.9 crores (provisional) in 1958. The countrywise break-up shows that the U.K. and U.S.A. were the major investors while the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development raised its investment from Rs. 1.4 crores in 1954-55 to Rs. 12.1 crores in 1956 and further on to Rs. 32 crores in 1957.

Rs. 132 million which is about 10 per cent of the total value of minerals produced during 1958. Compared with the previous year, it was higher by Rs. 14 million. The production of salt made a record of 4.2 million metric tons. The production of apatite, china clay, fire clay and magnesite was also the highest so far. The output of limestone reached a new peak of 10.5 million metric tons. The value of building materials rose to Rs. 132 million from Rs. 118 million in 1957.

The total value of metal production was Rs. 1,115 million, which represented a new peak. The ferrous group of metals was mainly responsible for the increase. There was a tremendous increase in the output of ferro-manganese as a result of the ferro-manganese plant of TISCO at Joda and three other plants commencing production during the year. The production of finished steel, however, declined by 48,000 metric tons. Among the non-ferrous group of metals, aluminium and lead maintained the increasing trend of production while there was a decline in the output of gold. The output of copper was maintained at the previous year's level.

State-wise analysis of mineral production indicates that Bihar State produced minerals valued at Rs. 488 million which was the highest amongst the States of the Indian Union. Next in succession were West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. The higher value of mineral production in 1958 was mainly accounted for by Bihar, West Bengal, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The total foreign exchange earnings by the exports of ores and minerals during 1958 were Rs. 460 million which constitute 8 per cent of the country's total foreign exchange earnings during the year. As compared to 1957 the export recorded a fall of nearly 28 per cent mainly due to lower exports of manganese

Commerce & Industry

MINERAL PRODUCTION IN INDIA DURING 1958

According to an announcement of March 6, the latest report of the Indian Bureau of Mines for the year 1958 shows that the rising trend in mineral production which has been evident since 1955 continued during the year and the value of mineral output at Rs. 1,373 million represented an increase of Rs. 80 million or about 6 per cent over the total value of production in the previous year. These figures, however, do not include petroleum and minerals falling under the Atomic Energy Act, 1948.

The increase was mainly due to the increase in the production of coal and non-metallic minerals. Coal, with an output of 46.07 million metric tons, was the leading commodity and was valued at Rs. 899 million. Next in order of value were manganese ore (Rs. 112.4 million), salt (Rs. 84.6 million), gold (Rs. 50 million), iron ore (Rs. 48.5 million), mica (Rs. 25.2 million) and ilmenite (Rs. 18.3 million). Mineral output in 1958 accounted for 1.2 per cent of the net national income of India.

OVERALL PRODUCTION

Quantitatively the overall trend of mineral production during 1958 is reflected in the

quantity of index of mineral production which stood at 125.8 (base 1951=100). It shows an increase of 2.1 points over the index for 1957 compared with an increase of 6.8 points in 1957 over 1956. The rate of increase in output has fallen in 1958 mostly on account of the recent industrial recession which was of a world-wide character.

The output of coal increased by 1.86 million tons as compared with 1957. The production of metallic minerals valued at Rs. 261 million accounted for nearly one-fifth of the total value of mineral production, of which ferrous group accounted for Rs. 164 million while the non-ferrous group for Rs. 97 million. Amongst the metallic minerals the year was marked by record output of iron ore, copper ore, bauxite and lead concentrates.

The production of iron ore during the year reached the peak figure of 6.1 million tons. The manganese ore, however, declined from 1.68 million metric tons in 1957 to 1.25 million metric tons.

METAL PRODUCTION

The total value of non-metallic minerals produced was

ore. As in the previous years manganese ore led the list of minerals exported, while iron ore, mica, coal and ilmenite followed in order of value. The principal markets for Indian ores were the U.S.A., the U.K., Japan, France and Czechoslovakia.

The total value of exports of metals fell to Rs. 29.3 million in 1957. The iron and steel materials alone were responsible for a fall of nearly Rs. 9 million. The exports of almost all the non-ferrous metals fell during the year.

The total value of imports of ores and minerals fell from Rs. 94 million in 1957 to Rs. 80 million. The total value of imports of metals was Rs. 1,328 million representing a fall of Rs. 583 million or 35 per cent compared to 1957. The ferrous metals, which accounted for nearly 66 per cent of the total value fell by about Rs. 496 million. The imports of iron and steel materials declined by Rs. 492 million and there was also a fall of Rs. 4 million in the import of pig and sponge iron. The imports of non-ferrous metals fell from Rs. 433 million in 1957 to Rs. 348 million.

The year was characterised by the falling prices of all grades of manganese ore. Mica split-tines and mica loose varieties maintained the same level as in 1957. The price of ilmenite 55% TiO₂ recorded a slight increase over the year 1957. The price of iron ore of 60% Fe decreased by Rs. 5 per ton during the second quarter after which it remained steady. The statutory prices of coal were raised by Rs. 0.75 and reduced by Rs. 0.34 in October.

Work Of Coal Development Corporation In 1959-60

According to the annual report of the National Coal Development Corporation for 1959-60, issued on March 12, the new mines of the Corporation produced 12.74 lakh tons of coal during 1959. Based on the raisings during December, 1959, the annual rate of production from the old and new mines works out to 5.04 million tons.

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The Kathara Colliery went into production in June 1959 and is producing about 25,000 tons per month. In other collieries the level of monthly production at the end of the year was as follows:—

Gidi—7,000 tons; Seunda—25,000 tons; Bhurkunda—50,000 tons; Korba—17,000 tons; Bachra—5,000 tons; Kurasia—50,000 tons and Sayal D—8,000 tons.

These figures are expected to improve substantially with the completion of the necessary railway lines, sidings and ancillary facilities.

COAL WASHERY

The coal washery at Kargali went into operation on the 1st November, 1958 and has recorded a steady increase in the output of washed coal since then. The rated capacity of the washery, which is 1,35,000 tons of washed coal per month is expected to be reached by November 1960.

The washery has been able to supply the entire requirements of the steel plants at Bhilai and Rourkela and to divert a part of the output to the steel works of the Indian Iron and Steel Company at Burnpur.

Adequate funds, including foreign exchange, have been placed at the disposal of the Corporation. Releases of foreign exchange till the end of 1959 amounted to Rs. 16.86 crores. This has enabled the Corporation to place orders for the bulk of the machinery and equipment required for their new mines.

Concessions To Sugar Producers

According to a gazette notification dated March 2, the Central Government have made suitable amendments in the Price Linking Formula, in order to ensure that the cane growers get their appropriate share in the concessions given to the producers of sugar and the extra cane price if any paid by a producer of sugar is accounted for in the calculations of deferred payment.

The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1955, as amended in 1958

provides that the sugarcane price paid by a producer of sugar (sugar factory) to sugarcane growers will consist of a minimum price and a deferred payment, if found due, in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule, commonly known as the Price Linking Formula, appended to the Order. With a view to maximising sugar production, the Central Government announced in the beginning of the current crushing season certain incentives, namely, (i) concession for early start of factories in U.P. and North Bihar and (ii) a 50 per cent rebate in the basic excise duty on sugar produced by factories during 1959-60 season in excess of their average production of the two seasons 1957-58 and 1958-59. The Price Linking Formula did not, however, specifically cover these concessions nor did it take into account the extra cane price that might be paid by a factory to growers over the minimum price.

RELEASE OF SUGAR

According to a Press Note issued on March 5 by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Government of India have decided to release 1.75 lakh tons of sugar. There will be no release for free sale from the factories in Uttar Pradesh, North Bihar and Punjab except a small quantity which will be released to each factory for sale to its employees.

Allotment will be made at prices fixed under Notification No. GSR 1186/Es.Com/Sugar dated October 25, 1959. The controlled ex-factory price for U.P. and North Bihar factories is Rs. 37.85 per maund and for factories in Punjab Rs. 38.35 per maund for ISS D-29 grade with the prescribed price differentials for other grades. The fixed f.o.r. destination prices in respect of allotments made to Kanpur and Calcutta will be Rs. 38.60 and Rs. 39.85 per maund respectively for sugar of ISS D-29 grade.

New Loan Scheme Of N.I.D.C.

An announcement of March 8 says that the National Industrial

Development Corporation has formulated a new scheme for granting loans up to Rs. 10 lakhs to cotton textile and jute mills for speedy modernisation and rehabilitation.

The scheme will be in operation in addition to the two other N.I.D.C. schemes for long and short-term financing of the programme of modernisation and rehabilitation of machinery in selected industries.

Loans granted under the new scheme, like Bank Advances, will be secured by a simple promissory note executed by the mill company with an equitable mortgage or guarantees as collateral security. Repayment of the loan will be in five equal instalments, but the first instalment will fall due only two years after the drawal of the loan.

OTHER SCHEMES

Under the long-term financing scheme, the N.I.D.C. has so far sanctioned loans totalling about Rs. 12½ crores for facilitating of machinery in 27 cotton textile and 24 jute mills. Besides, two loans totalling Rs. 35 lakhs have been sanctioned for assisting in the expansion plans of the machine tools industry.

The Corporation also helps in the installation of modern indigenous machinery in jute and cotton mills by extending short term credit for their purchase. The extent of short term assistance to each company, has recently been raised to Rs. 10 lakhs from Rs. 5 lakhs. So far, five loans have been sanctioned under the scheme.

Refractory Factories

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on March 3, the Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, stated that there was a proposal for the Hindustan Steel to put up one or two refractory plants to manufacture certain kinds of special refractories that were in short supply.

Shri Shah added that already there were 41 refractory factories in the private sector with

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a total capacity of about 7.1 lakh tons per annum. About 20 of these units had expansion programmes involving a total additional capacity of 3.44 lakh tons annually. Besides, 22 new factories, with a total capacity of 11.93 lakh tons per annum, had also been licensed.

Ancillary Industries For H.M.T.

In reply to a question on March 14 the Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, stated in the Lok Sabha that three small-scale ancillary units were being set up to function as perpetual feeders of components and parts required by Messrs Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., Bangalore. Possibilities of developing more ancillaries for this unit were being explored.

Shri Shah added that an Industrial Co-operative Society for women had been formed to work as an ancillary unit to Messrs Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., Bangalore. This unit would undertake certain types of work like cable forming, transfer printing, sign writing, carton making etc.

The Minister further revealed that two small units were also expected to be set up shortly as ancillaries to the National Instrument Factory, Calcutta. One of the units would manufacture wooden parts required in the instruments produced by the Factory and the other would produce jigs, fixtures and tools.

Payment Of Excise Duty On Motor Vehicles

In a Press Note of March 2 issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Government of India have clarified the position regarding the payment of excise duties on motor vehicles levied in the Finance Bill, 1960.

The excise duties will be payable by the purchaser over and above the prices of vehicles in force as on February 29, 1960 only if the manufacturer has actually paid the excise duty.

In order to avoid confusion regarding prices of vehicles sold from March 1, 1960, the manufacturers are being requested to furnish to their dealers, for the next three months (March, April and May), a certificate in respect of each vehicle supplied to their dealers to the effect that the excise duty has actually been paid, specifying the chassis number and the engine number of the vehicle. It is, therefore, suggested that the purchasers should request the dealers to show them the certificate issued by the manufacturer in respect of excise duty before paying it over and above the existing approved prices.

No profit margin is payable either to the manufacturer or to the dealer on the excise duties.

The Finance Bill, 1960, envisages *inter alia* levy of excise duty on motor vehicles as under:—

Rs. 175 each on autocycles, motor cycles, scooters, auto-rickshaws and any other three-wheeled motor vehicles; Rs. 1,000 each on motor vehicles of not more than 16 H.P. by Royal Automobile Club (R.A.C.) rating; Rs. 3,000 each or 15 per cent *ad valorem*, whichever is higher, on motor cars of more than 16 H.P. by Royal Automobile Club (R.A.C.) rating, constructed or adapted to carry not more than nine persons, and Rs. 2,500 each or 12½ per cent *ad valorem*, whichever is higher, on motor vehicles, not otherwise specified.

MOTOR CAR CONTROL ORDER

The Government of India issued on March 3 a Statutory Order amending the Motor Cars (Distribution and Sale) Control Order, 1959.

The amendments, which took effect the same day, restrict individuals from purchasing more than one car in any one calendar year. The Car Controllers, however, have power to relax this condition in exceptional cases. In the case of companies and associations, the Controllers have been empowered to permit the purchase up to six cars a year.

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The amendments also prohibit transactions involving transfer of possession of motor car to other persons under hire-purchase, mortgage deals, etc.

NEW TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH CHILE

A new Trade Agreement was signed at Santiago on March 10 between India and Chile replacing the earlier agreement of 1956.

The new agreement, which would be valid up to the end of 1962, envisages import by India of 75,000 tons of Chilean nitrate during the next three years. Chile is expected to take larger quantities of jute manufactures, tea and coir products.

The other important items included in the schedule of imports from Chile are sulphur, copper (raw), lead and newsprint. Indian exports to Chile include tea, jute manufactures, coir products, shellac, light engineering goods, cotton textiles, paraffin-wax, vegetable oils, sports goods and hosiery.

India's imports from Chile in 1958 amounted to Rs. 17 lakhs and exports at Rs. 97 lakhs. During the first eleven months of 1959, imports from Chile were of the order of Rs. 75 lakhs, and exports to Chile of Rs. 82 lakhs.

WITH GREECE

Letters were exchanged in New Delhi on March 2 between the Governments of Greece and India, extending the validity of the Trade Agreement between the two countries up to the end of this year.

The Trade Agreement, which was signed on February 14, 1958, expired on December 31, 1959.

Under the letters exchanged today, sugar has been added to the list of Indian commodities for export to Greece.

WITH RUMANIA

Letters were exchanged in New Delhi on March 1 between the Government of India and the People's Republic of Rumania

embodying a trade arrangement for the year 1960.

The value of India's exports to Rumania increased from Rs. 2 lakhs in 1956 to Rs. 181 lakhs in the first 11 months of last year. In 1956, India imported goods worth Rs. 35 lakhs from Rumania and this increased to Rs. 70 lakhs in the first 11 months of the last year.

The main items of import from Rumania are oil drilling equipment, tractors, chemicals, machine tools, petroleum products, power transformers, newsprint, etc. Exports from India are pepper, tea, vegetable oils, hides and skins, semi-processed and tanned, iron ore, ferro-manganese, mica, woollen textiles, cotton textiles, light engineering goods, sports goods and various chemicals.

WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Negotiations for a trade arrangement between India and Czechoslovakia for the year 1960 concluded in New Delhi on March 2 and letters were exchanged between the two Governments embodying the trade arrangements.

The main items of imports into India from Czechoslovakia are capital goods, machinery, machine tools, agricultural tractors, diesel locomotives and paper. India's exports to Czechoslovakia are jute and coir manufactures, handicraft products, de-oiled cakes, tinned fish and prawns, vegetable oils, engineering goods, iron and manganese ore, mica, shellac, pig iron, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

India's trade with Czechoslovakia is governed by the Trade Agreement which was signed in September 1957 and extended by a Protocol in May 1959 up to the end of this year.

The volume of trade between the two countries during the first eleven months of the last year was of the order of Rs. 740 lakhs.

WITH BULGARIA

A new Trade and Payments Agreement between India and Bulgaria was signed in New Delhi on March 3. The new

Agreement will be valid from January 1, 1960 for a period of three years. The Trade Agreement concluded on April 18, 1956 between the two countries had expired on December 31 last.

Under the new Agreement, payments for all commercial and non-commercial transactions will be made in non-convertible Indian Rupees and trade will be balanced on a higher level.

India will import from Bulgaria machinery of various kinds, electric generators and electric conducting equipment, diesel mine locomotives, electric motors, laboratory instruments including electro-medical instruments, caustic soda, soda ash, antibiotics, chemicals including tanning materials, raw silk, photographic paper, etc.

Apart from traditional items like tea, coffee, spices, vegetable oils, shellac, processed and semi-processed hides and skins and cashewnuts, India will also export sewing machines, sports goods, plastic goods, light engineering goods, ropes for ships, medicinal drugs and herbs, pharmaceuticals, cotton textiles and hosiery, leather manufactures, woollen textiles and woollen hosiery, jute and coir products, handicrafts and handlooms, films (exposed), etc.

Indo-Japan Agreement On Iron Ore

An agreement was signed in New Delhi between the Indian Iron Ore Negotiating Committee and the Japanese Steel Mission for the supply of four million tons of iron ore every year from Bailadila Iron Ore Project in the Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh from the middle of 1966. The agreement, which is subject to ratification by the two Governments, will last for a period of 15 years in the first instance. Japan is already India's biggest buyer of iron ore. She has a contract with the State Trading Corporation of India to buy 7.2 million tons of ore between 1957 and 1962.

An agreement has also been concluded with the Japanese

Steel Mills for the supply of additional two million tons of iron ore per year from 1954 onwards for a period of 10 years. The Bailadila Project, which is to be developed with Japanese collaboration, envisages the development of the iron ore mine, a railway line connecting the mine to the port of Visakhapatnam and the improvement of facilities at the port. Japan is understood to have offered assistance for the development of Bailadila Project to the extent of 21 million U.S. dollars (about Rs. 10 crores). The credit would be used mainly for the purchase of mining machinery and equipment which may have to be imported from abroad. A clause in the agreement enables the maximum utilisation of Indian ships for the carriage of iron ore.

Indo-Nepal Talks Conclude

The three-day discussions between the Governments of Nepal and India at official level on matters relating to trade, customs and foreign exchange ended in New Delhi on March 3. A broad understanding was reached on the principles that should govern the relations of the two countries on these subjects. It was agreed that further discussions at official level should take place for finalising a treaty. These discussions are expected to be held early next month.

The Nepalese delegation was led by Shri Nara Pratap Thapa, Foreign Secretary and the Indian delegation by Shri A.K. Roy, Secretary for Revenue and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

Indo-Soviet Trade Talks

Talks between India and Soviet Union on the trade arrangements for 1960 concluded in New Delhi on March 14 and letters embodying the arrangements were exchanged between the two governments.

The working of the Indo-Soviet Trade Agreement con-

cluded in Moscow in November 1958 and the prospects of trade between the two countries in 1960 were reviewed. It is expected that trade between the two countries during 1960 will increase to a considerable extent. The total value of trade during January to November last year was Rs. 41 crores.

TRADE MISSION AT LAGOS

The Government of India have decided to open a commercial section in the Commission of India at Lagos, capital of Nigeria, for looking after India's commercial interests in Nigeria and Ghana, said the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shri B.P. Bhagat, in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 11.

TRADE CONTROL OFFICE AT SHILLONG

An announcement dated March 14 says that the Import and Export Trade Control Office, which will start functioning at Shillong from April 1, will have jurisdiction over the N.E.F.A. and Manipur, besides the whole of Assam State.

Import Of Fresh Fruits From Pakistan

According to an announcement of March 12, the Government of India have decided to grant ad hoc licences to established importers for the import of fresh fruits from Pakistan during the current half year. Licences will be granted to those who have imported fresh fruits in the past from the Soft Currency area within the basic period 1945-46 to 1953-54 and from Afghanistan during the four years ending June 30, 1956.

Applications from co-operative societies dealing in fresh fruits will also be considered on an ad hoc basis.

The Limited Payments Agreement, concluded between the Governments of India and Pakistan, provides *inter alia* for the import of fresh fruits from Pakistan against payment in non-convertible Indian rupees.

Import Of Capital Goods

A separate Division has been set up in the office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, New Delhi, to expedite the disposal of applications for import licences for capital goods.

The Division will work under a Special Officer and applications now addressed to the office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, New Delhi, may hereafter be addressed to this Officer.

Applications which are now sent to the Joint Chief Controllers of Imports at Bombay and Calcutta respectively however, are not affected by the new procedure and may continue to be sent there.

In order to ensure expeditious consideration of applications, it is essential that applicants should clearly specify the countries from which they propose to import the equipment.

Importers of capital goods and machinery may ascertain in advance from the Special Officer (Capital Goods) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry whether a particular form of financing will be acceptable to Government or whether imports can be covered against loans or payment arrangements negotiated by the Government.

INDIA'S EXPORTS

HANDICRAFTS

According to a Press release of March 11, the Indian Handicrafts Development Corporation has fixed a target of Rs. 10 crores for handicraft exports in 1960.

Export of handicrafts in recent years has steadily been on the rise. In 1959, exports, which exceeded the target, were valued at Rs. 7.6 crores as against Rs. 6.8 crores in 1958.

Among the items which recorded substantial increase in 1959 were brass and bronze, bangles and beads, ivory manufacture, wood carvings and woollen druggets.

As part of its export promotion programme, the Corporation

has so far advanced loans totalling Rs. 7 lakhs to handicraft exporters and manufacturers to carry out firm orders from abroad. This has directly resulted in the export of over Rs. 12 lakhs worth of handicrafts.

Another line of assistance from the Corporation is in respect of introducing the manufacturers' samples abroad. Samples of quality handicrafts have already been sent to West Asia, the U.S.A. and other countries.

COIR

According to the annual report of the Coir Board for 1958-59, laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on March 11, India exported 71,000 tons of coir and coir products valued at over Rs. 8 crores during the year. Compared with the exports of the previous year, coir fibre and yarn showed a small decline and mats, mattings, carpets and floor rugs recorded a substantial rise.

A proposal for undertaking a consumer market survey in the Scandinavian countries had been approved by the Board. A similar survey in respect of Central and East Africa was under consideration. During the year, the Board participated in 12 fairs and exhibitions.

Coir showrooms and sales depot at Calcutta were in progress.

The work in connection with the establishment of the Central Coir Board Research Institute had been taken up in hand.

As part of sales promotion measures, a list of smallscale coir units had been compiled. In awarding contracts for supply of goods to the Central Government, a price preference ranging up to 15 per cent would be accorded to the small units.

The scheme for registration of exporters came into force during the year and the number of exporters as on March 31, 1959 totalled 34. Offices for licensing exports were opened at Cochin, Allepy and Kozikode.

TEXTILES

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 1, the Mini-

ster of Commerce, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, confirmed that there had been improvement recently in the export of Indian textiles to foreign countries.

The Minister added that, under the export incentive scheme, the quantity of imported cotton, which could be retained by the mills, had been recently increased from 20 per cent to 30 per cent. Government had also finalised a scheme for the installation of 3,000 automatic looms to produce flawless cloth for export.

CATTLE FEED

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 1, the Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Satish Chandra, said, during the 11 months ended November 1959, India, exported 4.68 lakhs tons of cattle feed of the value of Rs. 16.95 crores. This consisted of 4.47 lakhs tons (valued at Rs. 16.52 crores) of oil-cakes, meal and other vegetable oil and cattle feed like hay and fodder, oran, pollard, etc.

Exports of cattle feed in 1957 and 1958 had amounted to Rs. 2.30 crores and Rs. 7.59 crores respectively.

PLASTIC GOODS

Replying to a question on March 14 the Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Satish Chandra, informed the Lok Sabha that India was now in a position to export plastic goods. According to the figures compiled by the Plastics and Linoleum Export Promotion Council, the value of plastic goods exported during the first ten months of 1959-60 amounted to about Rs. 62 lakhs, as against Rs. 7 lakhs during 1955-56.

IMPROVED WATER METER

A New Delhi announcement of March 9 says that a water meter of an improved design has been developed at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. The new water meter is quite

sensitive so as to record even the very small flow of water. It is expected to be lighter and less costly.

Water meters are being produced by 5 firms in India in collaboration with foreign manufacturers. Indigenous production, estimated at about 40,500 meters in 1958, is not sufficient to meet the country's requirements.

Commercial manufacture of the meter can be taken up in any workshop on a small as well as a big scale.

NEW POINT GAUGE DESIGNED

According to an announcement of March 3, the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, has designed an improved point gauge in which the common defects found in ordinary point gauges, now in use, have been eliminated.

Ordinary gauges are, at present, being fabricated in India while precision gauges are being imported.

Point gauges and hook gauges are commonly used for measuring water levels or depth of flow over weirs, notches etc.

SUBSTITUTES FOR MUSK

Another announcement of March 4 says, two synthetic substitutes for musk, exaltone and, exaltolide, have been developed at the National Chemical Laboratory, Poona. Exaltone and exaltolide are prepared from mustard oil and can replace muscone, the active perfumery element in musk. This development eliminates the need for killing musk deer for musk extraction.

The Essential Oils Research Centre at the National Chemical Laboratory has also worked out the know-how for the synthesis of similar products with comparable perfumery properties. Among them are civetone, dihydrocivetone, cyclohexadecanone, isoambrettolide and dihydroambrettolide.

PROCESSING OF TURMERIC

According to an announcement of March 5, an improved method of processing raw turmeric tubers has been developed at the Central Food Technological Research Institute in Mysore.

INSECTICIDAL COATING

The Railway Testing and Research Sub-Centre at Chittaranjan has developed a new process for the manufacture of insecticidal coating compositions which can be used against household pests such as ants, moths, flies, bed bugs, mosquitoes and cockroaches.

Coal Carbonisation Bye-products

An announcement of March 6 says that the Government of India have set up a committee of officials on bye-products of coal carbonisation to assess the potential availability of the principal bye-products of coal carbonisation in the Third Plan. The committee will also recommend the steps that should be taken to ensure the increased utilisation of these bye-products and examine, where necessary, the production cost and recommend fair selling prices particularly for Benzene, Toluene, Xylene and Napthalene.

Dr. G.P. Kane, Senior Industrial Adviser, will be the chairman of the committee.

Companies Registered In 1959

A New Delhi announcement of March 13 says that 1,399 new companies—75 public and 1,324 private—were registered in 1959, against 1,052 and 909 in 1958 and 1957 respectively. Since 1957 (the first full calendar year after the Indian Companies Act came into force), a steady upward trend in new registration has, thus, been maintained.

An important feature of company formations in 1959 was a four-fold rise in new registrations in the Madras State, compared with the previous year (1958).

REGIONAL BREAK-UP

A regional break-up of the new registrations shows that in the Southern Region (comprising the States of Andhra, Madras, Mysore and Kerala), the 1959 registrations were more than double the figure of 1958. In the case of the Western Region (Bombay and Madhya Pradesh) also, the rise was substantial.

New registrations were highest in West Bengal (387), followed by the Madras State (309), Bombay State (290) and Delhi (144).

Among the 1959 registrations were 19 Government companies and 19 big size companies, each having an authorised capital of Rs. 1 crore and above.

Conference Of Weights & Measures Controllers

The Second All India Conference of Controllers of Weights and Measures concluded its two-day session at Rajgir (Bihar) on March 9. It decided that the use of metric weights in notified areas of the States and Union Territories should be made compulsory from October 1, 1960.

The use of metric weights had been permitted in selected areas of the States since October 1, 1958, with a two-year time-limit for the complete change-over. This time-limit will expire on September 30, 1960, with a transitional period for new areas.

The conference reviewed the progress made so far and noted with satisfaction that the necessary personnel and equipment was available in the States and that manufacturing capacity was sufficient to meet the demand for metric commercial weights. It also recommended uniform metric units for wholesale transactions, including bullion, metals, grains and pulses.

METRIC SYSTEM IN SHIPPING

In a Press Note issued on March 1, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry says, the Government of India have de-

cided to introduce the metric system of weights and measures on the commercial side of shipping and at the Major Ports of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Cochin, Kandla and Vizagapatnam from August 1960. This is meant to synchronise with the change-over in the levy and collection of Customs duties and duties of Central Excise.

Commodity Prices In January 1960

According to a Press Note issued on March 3 by the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, wholesale prices as measured by the official index (with the year ended March 1953 as 100) moved up by 0.8 per cent to 118.8 during the month of January 1960 as compared with 117.9 (revised) for December 1959. The index was higher by 5.7 per cent when compared with 112.4 for January 1959.

During the month under review, 'Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants' advanced by 0.1 per cent to 117.1, 'Industrial Raw Materials' by 3.1 per cent to 131.1 and 'Manufactures' by 2.3 per cent to 116.0, while the index for 'Food Articles' declined by 0.6 per cent to 117.5 and for 'Tobacco' by 2.7 per cent to 99.5.

An increase in the prices of rice, wheat, bajra, barley and maize raised the index for 'Cereals' by 0.9 per cent to 101.7, although the prices of jowar and ragi showed declines. The index for cereals was lower by 3.3 per cent when compared with the corresponding month of the previous year. The sub-group index for 'Pulses' went up by 0.1 per cent to 91.9 due to an increase in the prices of gram and urad despite a fall in the prices of potatoes, onions and oranges, notwithstanding an increase in the prices of bananas and cashewnuts. A fall in the prices of milk brought down the index for 'Milk and Ghee' by 0.7 per cent to 106.8 despite a rise in the prices of ghee. Higher prices of groundnut oil, gingelly oil, mustard oil and vanaspati (dalda) pushed up the index for 'Edible oils' by 2.5 per cent to 131.1; the

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price of coconut oil, however, exhibited a fall. An advance in the prices of fish and meat caused a rise of 0.3 per cent to 114.4 in the sub-group index for 'Fish, Eggs and Meat', although the prices of eggs displayed a fall. A decrease in gur prices brought down the index for 'Sugar and Gur' by 3.9 per cent to 144.1. The index for 'Other Food Articles' also drifted down by 1.3 per cent to 184.2, as a result of a decline in the prices of tea, chillies, turmeric, cummin and cardamoms although the prices of coffee, black pepper, betelnuts and salt were marked up.

The index for 'Tobacco' exhibited a fall of 2.7 per cent to 99.5 owing to a decline in the prices of raw tobacco.

The index for 'Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants' recorded a rise of 0.1 per cent to 117.1 due to an increase in the prices of castor oil supported by a slight rise in the prices of kerosene oil, petrol and aviation spirit.

INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS

An increase of 3.0 per cent to 126.9 in the index for 'Fibres' was attributable to higher prices of raw cotton, raw jute, raw hemp, raw wool and raw silk. A rise of 3.9 per cent to 136.0 in the sub-group index for 'Oil-seeds' was caused by an increase in the prices of groundnuts, castorseed, gingellyseed, rapeseed, cottonseed and copra, although the price of linseed showed a fall. Lower prices of manganese ore were responsible for a fall of 0.4 per cent to 95.2 in the index for 'Minerals'. The sub-group index 'Other Industrial Raw Materials' moved up by 1.8 per cent to 132.2, due to an increase in the prices of raw skins, lac, logs and timber and banyans, despite a fall in the prices of raw hides and tanning materials.

The index for 'Intermediate Products' rose by 2.9 per cent to 121.6 as a result of higher prices of linseed oil, leather, cotton yarn, rayon yarn and coir yarn notwithstanding a fall in the prices of zinc, brass, copper, tin and lead.

FINISHED PRODUCTS

The index for 'Textiles' moved up by 4.0 per cent to 114.2 owing to an increase in the prices of cotton manufactures (+4.2 per cent to 123.4), jute manufactures (+2.3 per cent to 96.4) and silk and rayon manufactures (+7.4 per cent to 104.9). Among cotton manufactures, both mill-made and hand-loom cloth displayed a rise during the month. The sub-group index for 'Metal Products' also advanced by 0.3 per cent to 145.1 due to an increase in the prices of aluminium utensils. A rise of 0.1 per cent to 106.8 in the sub-group index for 'Chemicals' was brought about by an

advance in the prices of dyeing materials, although the prices of general chemicals exhibited a slight fall. 'Oilcakes' witnessed an increase of 0.8 per cent to 146.2. The sub-group index for 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' recorded a rise of 0.1 per cent to 106.1 owing to an increase in the prices of cycles. The index for 'Other Finished Products' went down by 1.4 per cent to 112.4 due to fall in the prices of paper and newsprint, bricks and tiles and glass. On the whole, the index for 'Finished Products' went up by 2.2 per cent to 115.1 during the month under review.

Communications

MEETING OF CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SAILING VESSELS

Inaugurating the meeting of the Central Advisory Committee for Sailing Vessels, Shri Raj Bahadur, Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications stated that the Government of India had, in consultation with the Planning Commission, earmarked a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs for the grant of financial assistance for the construction of new sailing vessels of suitable design to be built on scientific lines during the Second Five Year Plan. The Government proposed to encourage the construction of improved types of vessels at three selected centres as pilot projects along the coast of India—one on the Saurashtra coast; one on the Malabar Konkan coast and one on the South-east coast.

Shri Raj Bahadur disclosed that the post of a Naval Architect who would prepare and lay down the type of structural designs of these vessels had been sanctioned. The terms and conditions of the loans for the new vessels would be more or less the same as approved for the grant of loans for the mechanisation of existing vessels.

A special cell had been set up in the Directorate General of Shipping specifically to deal with the problems relating to sailing vessels industry. The entire area of sailing vessels traffic has been divided into four regions each under a separate Regional Officer (Sails). The headquarters of these officers have been located at Jamnagar, Bombay, Tuticorin and Masulipatnam. The Government had also set up four Regional Advisory Committees to advise and assist in organising and developing the industry and also to assist the Government in implementing the recommendations made by the Central Advisory Committee and accepted by the Government.

TRAINING SCHEMES

The Minister pointed out that the policy of the Government was to regulate the construction of sailing vessels and other small craft so that they were scientifically built and were strong enough to enable mechanisation. The next stage would be to encourage the construction of mechanised vessels with auxil-

ary sails and gradually to change over to motor coasters.

To enable the tindals of vessels to discharge their duties efficiently, Government had sanctioned a scheme to start short-term courses of oral training to educate the tindals in practical navigation, Rules of the Road, the use of fire-fighting appliances, meteorology, etc.

It was proposed to impart training to tindals in Bombay State at Bhavnagar, Mysore State at Mangalore or Malpe, Kerala State at Beypur, Madras State at Tuticorin and Andhra State at Kakina. The training, which would be given by Port Officers to batches of 30 each would last for about 30 days during the period of monsoon.

Government had sanctioned another scheme to start short-term courses of oral training to seamen under sail in practical seamanship, use of ropes and canvass, anchor, mariner's compass, first-aid, fire-fighting and life saving appliances, boat work, etc. The scheme provides for a 6-week training to batches of 30 seamen each at selected centres. During the training period each seaman would be paid a stipend of Rs. 50 p.m.

Two training centres would be set up at Bhavnagar and Kakina and steps were being taken to establish centres in other maritime States.

To obviate difficulties experienced by the crew of sailing vessels proceeding to Ceylon in obtaining passports, etc., Government had decided to introduce a system of issue of Identity Cards to the crew of vessels proceeding to that country in consultation with the Government of Ceylon. The question of introducing similar system in the case of crew proceeding to other foreign ports such as Persian Gulf and East Africa had also been taken up.

LARGE FLEET

Earlier, in his welcome speech, Dr. Nagendra Singh, Chairman of the Committee said that there was a large fleet of 2,500 sailing

vessels owned and operated all along the coast in India. They ranged from 10 to 300 tons capacity and had a total cargo carrying capacity of over 1,50,000 tons. Of them, 56 had recently been fitted with auxiliary engines to enable them to navigate in and out of harbours and on the high seas during adverse winds.

Ancillary Industries For Ship Building

An announcement of March 3 says that the Government of India are considering a proposal for setting up a factory to manufacture marine diesel engines as part of the measures required for the development of ancillary industries to manufacture materials and equipment for shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries.

The proposal was by the Standing Advisory Committee set up by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Rear-Admiral T.B. Bose, I.N., to recommend from time to time steps to be taken to encourage indigenous production of such materials and equipment. The Committee has submitted its first report in which it has underlined the urgent necessity for developing ancillary industries in order to place shipbuilding and ship repairing in India on a sound footing.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Some of the other recommendations made by the Committee are as follows:

High priority should be given for indigenous manufacture, according to a planned programme, of ship-quality steel plates and sections in adequate quantities in the new steel plants. A phased programme of indigenous production of equipment should be drawn up and then an order of priority laid down so that the country may attain self-sufficiency.

Early arrangement should be made for laying down Indian standards of materials and equipment in regard to their quality of workmanship, degree of precision, tolerance permissi-

ble in the finished product and quality testing. A separate marine panel may be established by the Indian Standards Institution for this purpose.

The Director-General of Shipping should provide high level technical co-ordination of the various measures that have to be taken at different points to promote indigenous production of stores and equipment so as to limit to the barest minimum the import of such materials and equipment and to give proper technical advice to all the industries concerned. An Advisory Committee of representatives of shipping companies, shipbuilders, ship-repairers, ship-chandlers, the import control authorities and the Development Wing of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Navy and other interested organisations should be set up to assist the Director-General of Shipping in the formulation and execution of a planned programme of indigenous production of marine equipment.

Marine equipment showrooms should be set up at Bombay and Calcutta for the benefit of prospective manufacturers. Such show-rooms should be active advisory organisations capable of supplying detailed technical data, including drawings and specifications to parties interested in their manufacture.

MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEMS

The Committee has emphasised that the nature and magnitude of problems involved represent formidable difficulties in the way of the establishment of such industries. The first pre-requisite is adequate and precise assessment of the demand within the country. Secondly, there should be some assurance that the demand will tend to grow or at least continue to be steady over a period of time to justify the investment of the requisite capital. It is also necessary to ensure that the more important raw materials required in the manufacturing process are available, preferably in the vicinity of the industry.

The problem is further accentuated by the wide variety of materials and equipment installed in a ship, ranging from different grades of steel and different types of steel-processing, to plastics, high precision equipment, etc.

Bridge Across Chambal Opened

Prime Minister Nehru declared open the new bridge on the Chambal river near Dholpur in Rajasthan on March 14. The bridge has facilitated uninterrupted traffic between Delhi and Bombay.

National Highway No. 3—the Agra-Bombay Road—crosses the Chambal river at this site and it was the only unbridged crossing on this road which carries very heavy traffic. Earlier, the river was crossed by means of a pontoon bridge during the dry season and by ferry when the river was in floods. Since the carrying capacity of the pontoon bridge was limited to three tons, heavier loads had to be ferried across by boats.

The new bridge has a carrying capacity of 70 tons. Built at a cost of Rs. 43 lakhs, it is 2434 feet in length and, with its deck 90 feet above the deepest bed level, is perhaps the tallest submersible bridge in the world.

New Rail Lines In Orissa

The Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri S.V. Ramaswamy, said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on March 1 that the final location survey of a new 30-mile Bimalagarh-Kiriburu broad gauge line was in progress and its construction was proposed to be taken up during the current year at a cost of Rs. 4.20 crores.

In a statement laid on the Table of the Sabha, the Deputy Minister said that in Orissa two broad gauge lines, namely, an 18-mile Noamundi-Banspani and 6-mile Barabil-Panposh Gorge had been completed at the cost of Rs. 2.30 crores and Rs. 1.11

crores respectively. A 42-mile Bondamunda-Dumaro broad gauge line costing Rs. 7.72 crores was nearing completion.

According to the statement, two more broad gauge lines—114-mile Sambalpur-Titilagarh, and 14-mile Bondamunda-Purnapani,—were under construction in the Orissa State. These would cost Rs. 14.59 crores and Rs. 2.68 crores respectively.

ROURKELA-BHILAI RAIL LINK

The Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, told the Lok Sabha during question hour on March 10 that the complete new double railway line from Rourkela to the Bhilai steel plant was expected to be opened for goods traffic by April 1960 and for passenger traffic by March next year. About 94 per cent of the doubling work had so far been completed.

PASSENGER FARES TAX

A New Delhi announcement dated March 8 says that, the tax at present levied on railway passenger fares will, with effect from April 1 this year, be based on distance zones expressed in kilometres instead of in miles.

After the change-over, there will be a tax of 5 per cent on journeys from 26 to 49 kilometres, 15 per cent on journeys from 50 to 805 kilometres and 10 per cent on journeys over 805 kilometres. No tax is levied on journeys up to 25 kilometres.

Passengers travelling on mileage coupons will, as at present, pay a tax of 12½ per cent of the cost of coupon. There is no tax on passengers travelling on season tickets in suburban trains.

Compensation Claims Against Rlys.

During question hour in the Lok Sabha on March 2 the Deputy Minister for Railways, Shri S.V. Ramaswami stated that, the Indian railways received 420, 253 claims for compensation during 1959 as against 453,604 during the previous year. The respective amounts

for the two years were Rs. 14.67 and 16 crores.

The number of fresh suits filed was 20,726 involving Rs. 1.52 crores as against 23,439 suits involving Rs. 1.53 crores in the previous year. The amounts spent on account of decrees satisfied during the two years were Rs. 36 and 31 lakhs respectively.

Revised Tariffs For Local Telephones

The tariffs for local telephone services recommended by the ad hoc Committee were considered and approved by the Government of India and have been published in the Gazette of India of March 12.

The Committee came to the conclusion that steps should be taken to bring greater uniformity in the application of the rates over different areas, that the rates should be rational and that there should be a minimum charge for a telephone providing 24-hour service. The Committee recommended that since the total capital assets invested in the local telephone networks were very large it was essential that the financial operation of the Telephone Branch must be on strict commercial lines. The revenues of the Branch, based on the present quantum of facilities, should be raised by 15 to 16 per cent, to enable the Branch to launch upon a self-financing scheme to cover its own expenses, including adequate contributions to the renewals reserve fund.

The recommended minimum charge for a telephone providing 24-hour service was placed at Rs. 240 per annum and this has been accepted by the Government.

A special feature of the recommended tariffs is the introduction of the measured scheme of charging whereby the fixed minimum charge of Rs. 240 per annum will include a number of free calls and additional charges for calls will be levied only on those which exceed the prescribed number of free calls. This also has been accepted by the Government.

The fixed annual charge for the five large telephone systems at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras and Bihar coal-fields will be Rs. 240 with 200 free calls per quarter. The rate per call beyond the free calls will be 15 nP in Bombay, Calcutta, Bihar Coalfields and 10 nP in Delhi and Madras. Similarly, rates for other metered automatic exchanges and metered manual exchanges will be a fixed annual charge of Rs. 240 with 250 free calls per quarter for auto exchange areas and 300 per quarter for manual exchange areas.

The Committee also recommended charges for accessories and for miscellaneous items of work which are necessarily carried out in a telephone area. The tariffs proposed for these services have been evolved on the basis of covering the costs of the facilities. It was suggested that the rates should be uniform and rational. Similarly, for other miscellaneous services, such as transfer of telephones, disconnection of telephones, etc., the charges to be levied on the subscriber are based on a consideration of the actual expenditure incurred by the Department. These recommendations have been accepted by the Government.

The tariffs as accepted by the Government would result in increasing the revenues of the Telephone Branch by about 8 per cent—a level which, according to the estimates of the Committee, is not adequate to provide revenues sufficient to ensure financial stability of the Branch. The additional revenues during 1960-61 is expected to be Rs. 2 crores in a total revenue of Rs. 25.37 crores.

The charges for local telephone services were fixed practically at the inception of the telephone service in this country in 1882. Telephone services in the larger centres such as Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, and Ahmedabad and in the Princely States were not under the direct control of the Government of India. In 1943, the Company systems were taken over and the telephone systems of the States were progressive-

ly integrated with the departmental systems from 1947 to 1952. Tariffs applied to these systems have differed widely and have, with minor adjustments, continued.

The Government had appointed a Committee in May 1956 under the chairmanship of Shri P.M. Agerwala, then General Manager of Telephones, Bombay to examine and to recommend to Government a tariff structure in respect of various services rendered by the local telephone networks which would, as far as possible, help promote the development of telephone and at the same time ensure financial stability of the Telephone Branch. The report of the Committee was received in the middle of 1958.

O.C.S. Centre At Madras

The new Madras Station of the Overseas Communications Service was inaugurated by Dr. P. Subbarayan, Union Minister of Transport and Communications on March 5.

The setting up of the wireless station at Madras is part of a plan for a balanced dispersal of overseas telecommunications traffic. The scheme for dispersal of O.C.S. centres envisaged the expansion and modernisation of Delhi and Bombay centres and the setting up of new radio centres at Calcutta and Madras. The Calcutta centre and a new wireless station at Delhi have already been opened.

The Madras station is connected by landlines with the O.C.S. centres at Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta.

The closely integrated resources of the various O.C.S. centres now provide telegraph services to virtually all parts of the world as well as telephone services to most of the important countries, with equal facilities, from all parts of India.

RADIO-TELEPHONE SERVICES TO PHILIPPINES

A radio-telephone service between India and the Philippines via Japan was opened on March 1. The rates for a telephone call are Rs. 50 for a unit call of three minutes and Rs. 16.70 for each additional minute, and a report

fee of Rs. 5. The hours of service are 1130 hours to 1430 hours IST daily excluding Sundays.

Conference Of Meteorologists

Dr. P. Subbarayan, Union Minister for Transport and Communications inaugurated the annual conference of the Directors of India Meteorological Department in New Delhi on March 3.

Dr. Subbarayan said that in the field of international meteorology, India had made its mark. India was now able to get within a few hours observations from about 250 stations in the U.S.S.R. and the neighbouring European countries and could send, in her turn, the observations from about 200 stations in South Asia. When the India Meteorological Department and the Japanese meteorological Service established the projected radio-teleprinter link with Tokyo in about a year's time, the circle of correspondence regarding weather data from all over the Northern Hemisphere would be completed.

Coupons For Tourists

According to an announcement of March 12, a new Coupon Scheme has been started by the Department of Tourism, Government of India, under which any foreign tourist can buy extra rolls of photographic film, tobacco or cigarettes of his choice and extra alcoholic drinks, at reasonable rates.

Every foreign tourist visiting India will receive a Coupon Booklet at the Government of India Tourist Offices at the four ports of entry — Bombay, Delhi, Madras and Calcutta. The Coupon Booklet enables the foreign tourist to buy Rs. 125 worth of photographic films, tobacco or alcoholic drinks in 16 cities of the country, at shops specially licensed to supply his needs in this respect. The cities are: Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Agra, Banaras, Jaipur, Aurangabad, Bhopal, Bangalore, Mysore,

April 1, 1960

Cochin, Puri, Bhubaneswar, Darjeeling and Srinagar.

Foreign tourists will be able to obtain their essential requirements of these goods at scheduled rates on the production of

the Tourist Coupons and on payment of the value in foreign currency or by Travellers' Cheques (excluding the Rupee Travellers' Cheques) from approved dealers in the cities.

Food & Agriculture

REPORT OF MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE FOR 1959-60

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The annual report of the Department of Agriculture, Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture, for 1959-60 was issued on March 15. It states that the overall index of agricultural production (with 1949-50 base at 100) rose to 131.0, showing an increase of 14.3 per cent over the previous record of 123.6 during 1956-57. The production of foodgrains touched the record level of 73.5 million tons, jute about 5.2 million bales, oilseeds 6.9 million tons and sugarcane (in terms of gur) 7.2 million tons; only the production of cotton remained at the same level as in the previous year.

Referring to the effect of development efforts being made under the Second Plan as reflected in the larger output during 1958-59, the Report says that the Central Government continued to give financial and technical assistance to the State Governments for programmes of agricultural production. A sum of Rs. 36.87 crores was provided in 1959-60 for assistance to the States — Rs. 17.48 crores as long-term loans, Rs. 15 crores as short-term loans and Rs. 4.39 crores as subsidies.

MINOR IRRIGATION

Minor irrigation works were given special emphasis. The total outlay sanctioned to the States and Union Territories for this programme during the year amounted to Rs. 20 crores and it

was expected to bring benefit to an additional area of about two million acres.

During the year, 3,000 tube-wells were drilled, 2,981 completed with pump-sets and 2,978 energised and put into commission.

The Central Tractor Organization reclaimed 6,600 acres up to October 1959, bringing the total area reclaimed since the inception of the organization in 1948 to over 16.79 lakh acres.

During 1959-60, assistance was given to the States to the extent of Rs. 4.7 crores for setting up 788 seed farms. Over 2,700 seed farms have already been established, of which over 2,400 have started producing improved seeds. Assistance was also given for arranging the supply of 1.9 lakh maunds of wheat seeds for flood-affected areas in West Bengal, Orissa and Bombay and about 60,000 maunds of gram seeds for West Bengal and Orissa.

As against the demand for nitrogenous fertilisers (in terms of ammonium sulphate) amounting to 18.8 lakh tons, the internal production of ammonium sulphate was estimated at 3.82 lakh tons and imports at 3.48 lakh tons. The total availability of nitrogenous fertilisers during the year was estimated at 11.94 lakh tons. The demand for superphosphate was estimated at 3.42 lakh tons as against the consumption of about 1.7 lakh tons during 1958-59.

CROPS

The Rabi Production Campaign launched in 1958-59 in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi resulted in an increase of 3.2 million tons of foodgrains compared to the average production of the three preceding seasons. During the *kharif* and *rabi* seasons of 1959-60 also special production campaign had been organised. About 44,000 demonstrations of manurial, cultural or composite type were arranged for the benefit of the farmers.

Development schemes for sugarcane, cotton, jute and oilseeds were continued during the year. As compared to intensive manuring of over 16.3 lakh acres in 1957-58 and 19.4 lakh acres in 1958-59, the target during 1959-60 was to extend manuring to 29 lakh acres under sugarcane. Under the cotton extension schemes, loans amounting to Rs. 40 lakhs were sanctioned for the purchase of fertilisers and Rs. 30 lakhs for the purchase of improved seeds. For the development of jute, the area under improved seeds went up to 80,000 acres in 1958-59 as compared with 57,000 acres in the previous years.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Under the Key Village Scheme, 107 artificial insemination centres were expanded and 198 new centres established; 45 Key Village Extension Centres were set up and subsidies disbursed for rearing 17,047 calves.

The Delhi Milk Scheme and the Milk Colony at Madhavaram near Madras started functioning from November 1959.

Under the poultry development schemes, three regional poultry farms were set up in Bombay, Orissa and Himachal Pradesh, in addition to the one already functioning at Delhi. It is expected that 54 poultry extension centres would be set up during the current year bringing the total number to 203.

In the sphere of soil conservation, programmes undertaken by the States during 1959-60, included 180 schemes designed to benefit an area of 9.46 lakh acres involving Central assistance of Rs. 3. crores. Six Pilot Demonstration Programmes in the Bhakra Nangal catchment area were sanctioned and to promote extensive adoption of dry farming practices, 40 demonstration projects, each covering a complete watershed of about 1,000 acres, were sanctioned in a number of States. The Desert Afforestation and Soil Conservation Station at Jodhpur was being converted into a Central Arid Zone Research Institute in collaboration with the UNESCO.

Under the Fruit Products Order 1955, 943 licences were issued to fruit product manufacturers and 421 inspections carried out. Loans amounting to Rs. 18.8 lakh tons were allocated to various States in the three years ending 1959-60 for setting up and renovating Food Preservation Units. A subsidy of 9.01 lakhs was given till November 1959 on tin plates used by fruit and vegetable product manufacturers.

EXTENSION SERVICES

The Central Government approved a provision of Rs. 79.2 lakhs to assist the States in expanding their programmes for consolidation of holdings.

The extension services were strengthened to carry to the door-steps of the farmer the knowledge and techniques of increased production. The Directorate of Extension intensified its activities through its three units, namely, Extension Training Unit, Farm Advisory Unit and Farm Information Unit. Against the total requirement of 50,000 trained village level workers up to the end of October, 1963, 35,000 village level workers had already been trained and 7,088 were undergoing training. In addition, 1,500 gram sevikas had also been trained and 845 were under training.

The training facilities in agricultural and veterinary colleges, both at under-graduate and post-

graduate levels, have been almost doubled and the Second Plan target of 6,500 agricultural graduates and 3,000 veterinary graduates was likely to be fully achieved. The Government of India have also agreed to give financial assistance of Rs. 167.5 lakhs as grant and 73.5 lakhs as loan for the setting up of an Agricultural University at Rudrapur in U.P.

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD

The annual report for 1959-60 of the Department of Food shows that the general food position showed considerable improvement during 1959 consequent on the increased output of 73.5 million tons of foodgrains as against 62.5 million tons in 1957-58.

The prices of foodgrains which rose to a very high level in the off-season of 1958, started falling after September 1958 in the case of *kharif* grains and after February 1959 in the case of *rabi* grains. The wholesale price index of rice fell from 118 in September, 1958 to 92 in March 1959, and that of wheat came down from 125 in January, 1959 to 92 in May 1959. The index for cereals as a whole declined from 115 in September 1958 to 99 in May 1959. With the onset of the off-season, the prices again began to rise, but they remained considerably lower than those in the corresponding period of 1958 in most parts of the country.

With the harvest of the 1959-60 *kharif* crops, the wholesale price index for rice came down from 113 in August 1959 to 105 in the last week of February 1960. The prices of wheat did not show the usual off-seasonal rising tendency and the wholesale price index of wheat came down from 100 in October, 1959 to 95 in the last week of February 1960. The index for cereals which stood at 110 in October 1959 dropped to 103 in the last week of February, 1960.

STATE TRADING

In accordance with the scheme of State trading, wholesale deal-

ers and millers were licensed throughout the country and Government purchases in the 1958-59 season were extended to deficit and marginally-placed areas but were later discontinued in four States. The purchase of wheat was also resorted to in the main wheat producing States.

Total purchases of rice and paddy (in rice equivalent) in the 1958-59 season (November-October) both by the Central and State Governments amounted to 13.86 lakh tons as compared with 4.61 lakh tons in the preceding season. In the case of wheat, purchases, which commenced in May, 1959, amounted to 2.67 lakh tons up to the end of January 1960.

The flow of market arrivals of rice from the 1958-59 crop showed an increase in the surplus States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab. As for wheat, arrivals declined in U.P. and Punjab, but improved (though not commensurately with output) in Madhya Pradesh. There has of late been evidence of at least part of the withheld stocks being brought to the market.

Imports of foodgrains during the year amounted to 38.07 lakh tons, including 34.97 lakh tons of wheat and 2.90 lakh tons of rice and a small quantity of coarse grains. Wheat imports came mainly from the U.S.A. under P.L. 480 and from Canada under the Colombo Plan and other aid programmes. Rice was imported almost entirely from Burma.

About 4.4 million tons of foodgrains comprising 3.4 million tons of wheat and 1.0 million tons of rice were issued from Central stocks either direct to the retailers, flour mills, etc., or to State Governments for distribution under their own arrangements. The total number of fair price shops in different States at the end of December, 1959 was over 51,000.

The general pattern of zonal arrangements and other movement restrictions that was in force in 1958 was largely continued. A significant change was the creation of the Eastern Rice

Zone comprising the States of West Bengal and Orissa.

The Working Group of Subsidiary Foods, set up for assessing the long-term potentialities of these foods and for formulating proposals for the Third Plan, has suggested that the production of these foods should be doubled by the end of the Third Plan period.

STORAGE

At the end of 1959 there was a total storage capacity of about 15.5 lakh tons, including 4.2 lakh tons of owned capacity and 11.3 lakh tons of hired accommodation. Steps are being taken to augment this capacity speedily by constructing a large number of new godowns, making more economical use of the existing storage capacity, hiring additional godowns from private parties, undertaking the construction of soils and by setting up a joint organisation with the C.P.W.D. for planning and constructing storage godowns. Besides, the technical aspects of bulk storage of wheat, whereby a given storage capacity can accommodate much larger quantities, are being examined.

To prevent losses of foodgrains in storage, control treatment was given to 1.4 million tons of stocks. The grain analysing laboratories analysed about 85,000 samples from imported and internally purchased foodgrains.

The Central Movement Organisation continued to co-ordinate and facilitate the movement by rail of foodgrains, sugar, etc. from ports and internal centres. During the year, 41.7 lakh tons of foodgrains were transported by rail on Central Government account. The Movement Directorate also assisted in the movement of about 2 million tons of sugar from factories.

The production of sugar in the 1958-59 season amounted to 19.19 tons as against 19.78 lakh tons in 1957-58, the decline being largely due to diversion of cane to gur and khandsari. The off-take of sugar from factories for internal consumption in 1958-59 was 20.80 lakh tons as against 20.42

GROUNDNUT AND ITS USES

Groundnut has about 50 different varieties and is grown largely in Andhra, Bombay, Madras, Saurashtra and Mysore. A relatively small portion of the produce is exported.

The yield per acre varies according to the variety as well as the manner of cultivation. As a rain-fed crop, the 'bunch' variety may yield about 750 lbs. and the 'sreading' variety over 1,000 lbs. of groundnut in shell; as an irrigated crop, the yields may be 2,000 lbs. and 2,500 lbs. respectively.

Groundnut is primarily used as a source of edible oil. On a large scale, the oil is refined and hydrogenated to get a colourless and odourless product which finds extensive use in culinary preparations. Unrefined groundnut oil is used in the manufacture of soap and glycerine.

The cake left over after the extraction of oil is used either as a cattle feed or as a fertiliser. If, however, the seeds are decuticled and properly selected, the residual cake is superior in

quality and, therefore, fit for human consumption.

The low fat groundnut flour, which is rich in proteins, vitamins of the 'B' group and minerals like calcium and phosphorus, offers possibilities for the production of highly nutritive foods. The Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, has evolved a number of high class processed foods utilising this material.

The protein content of ordinary biscuits can be enriched by the incorporation of specially prepared groundnut flour even to the extent of 40 per cent of wheat flour.

The low fat groundnut flour can also be used to enrich the protein content of tapioca flour, which is predominantly a starchy substance, and the two along with wheat semolina (suji) can be profitably used to get nutritive grains, comparable to rice, of desired shapes.

Another way of utilising groundnut is to process it into vegetable milk and curd of good quality.

Final Estimate Of Kharif Pulses

In a Press Note of March 12, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture has announced the all-India final estimate of kharif pulses (other than tur) for 1959-60. The estimate puts the current year's area and production at 160.75 lakh acres and 15.67 lakh tons as against the partially revised estimate of 155.97 lakh acres and 15.59 lakh tons for 1958-59.

The overall increase in acreage during the current year is accounted for mainly by Rajasthan and to some extent by Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra

Pradesh and Madras and is attributed generally to favourable climatic conditions at the time of sowing. This increase has, however, been offset to some extent by decrease in area registered in Punjab and Mysore States.

The increase in production of other kharif pulses is mainly due to the increase in Bombay State which is attributed generally to favourable seasonal conditions during the growing period of the crops. As among different pulses an increase in production has been reported in the case of Mung and other pulses and a decrease in Moth.

Some of the pulses such as Urad, Mung, Kulthi and Peas included in this estimate are also grown during rabi season in some States. Estimates of these pulses grown during rabi season will be presented in the all-India final estimate of other rabi pulses, 1959-60. Kharif pulses reported in this estimate cover roughly about 60 per cent of the total area under all pulses other than Gram and Tur.

Final Estimate Of Groundnut

A Press Note issued on March 10 by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture says that the All-India Final Estimate of Groundnut for 1959-60 puts the area and production at 153 lakh acres and 43.9 tons respectively, as compared with the partially revised estimates of 145.75 lakh acres and 48.12 lakh tons for 1958-59, showing an increase of 5 per cent in area and a decrease of 8.8 per cent in production.

The increase in area has been shared by almost all the States and is attributed generally to favourable climatic conditions at the sowing time.

The decrease in production during the current year is accounted for mainly by Bombay and Madhya Pradesh where the crop was affected by excessively heavy rains during the growing period.

RESEARCHES IN FOOD

Some of the important processes recently developed at the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, were referred to in a series of questions in the Rajya Sabha on March 7.

Replying to the question on baby foods, Dr. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, stated that these foods were free from coarse fibre and were rich in proteins, minerals and vitamins. These foods had been prepared from mango, papaya, banana, guava and orange. Vegetables like peas, beans, tomato, carrot had also been utilised. They compared well with similar foreign foods in quantity and price.

Malted Milk powder, Dr. Kabir informed the House, had been prepared from milk or milk powder, malt extract, sugar, cocoa, flavours etc. Malt food containing malt flour was prepared from malted cereals, de-oiled meals from groundnut and other oilseeds, Bengalgram flour, sugar and was fortified with calcium salts and vitamins.

Replying to the question on parboiling of rice, the Minister said that the method developed at the Institute shortened the soaking period from three days to three hours and prevented development of undesirable

flavour. Technical assistance was being given by the Institute to interested parties. Two rice mills in Mysore and one in Bombay had adopted the process.

ENRICHED FLOUR

Replying to another question on March 2, Dr. Kabir said that consumer acceptability trials had been conducted with satisfactory results on the enriched flour, prepared by the Institute.

The flour, known as 'raushtik atta' was a blend of whole wheat flour (75%), edible groundnut flour (8%), and tapioca flour (17%). Its protein content was higher than that of whole wheat flour.

Training in Warehousing

A course of training in warehousing practices was inaugurated in New Delhi on March 1, by Shri B.B. Ghosh, Chairman of the Central Warehousing Corporation. About 130 Warehousemen and Technical Assistants representing different State Warehousing Corporations and the Central Corporation are attending the course which will last upto the end of March.

The last training class was held at Nagpur in August-September 1959, and was attended by 133 candidates of the Central and State Warehousing Corporations.

Community Development

REPORT OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION

According to the Annual Report of the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation (Department of Community Development) for 1959-60 issued on March 11, more than 179 million, or about 61 per cent of the total rural population of the country, had come

within the orbit of the Community Development programme by October 2, 1959. The programme extended to 2,708 (in addition to 403 pre-extension) Blocks.

People's voluntary contribution in cash, kind and labour

from the beginning of the programme in 1952 to September 30, 1959 amounted to Rs. 79.78 crores, as against the total Government expenditure of Rs. 153.97 crores, on which Rs. 107.09 crores were spent during the first 3½ years of the Second Plan.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Increasing reliance is being placed on progressive farmers. Up to September 30, about 22 lakh Gram Sahayaks had been trained for the extension of improved methods of cultivation and for the execution of agricultural production programmes. Improved seeds distributed till September 30, totalled 233.9 lakh maunds, the corresponding figure for chemical fertilisers being 5.55 lakh maunds. Agricultural demonstrations numbered 73.3 lakhs.

In the sphere of Animal Husbandry, steady progress was made in the supply of pedigree animals. Till September 30, pedigree bulls supplied numbered 62,000 and improved birds 882,000.

To build up community assets in villages, the rights of fisheries in small ponds and tanks are being transferred to Panchayats. A scheme for intensive development of fisheries in 50 C.D. selected blocks has been sponsored by the Ministry. Most States have undertaken the stocking of fish fingerlings in the block areas.

The desirability of entrusting the execution and maintenance of minor irrigation works to Panchayats has been emphasised on State Governments. Considerable progress has been made in the field of minor irrigation and land reclamation, as will be seen from the steady rise in expenditure from Rs. 808 lakhs during the First Plan to Rs. 2,405 lakhs during the first 3½ years of the Second Plan.

Under the Village and Small Industries programme, a scheme for the supply of improved tools at subsidised cost to village blacksmiths and carpenters has been initiated in 20 per cent of the blocks during the Second Plan period. Another scheme

has been initiated, in collaboration with the All-India Handicrafts Board, for starting arts and crafts museums in about 80 selected blocks.

SOCIAL SERVICES

The Primary Health Centres set up from the beginning of the Second Plan up to the end of December 1959 numbered 714, as against the target of 1,084 for three years. The number of new wells constructed was 1.68 lakhs while 2.5 lakhs were renovated.

Increasing emphasis is being laid on the development of youth organisations as an integral part of the Social Education programme. Adult education centres started till September 30 numbered 140,000 and 38 lakh adults were made literate.

Women officers have been appointed by almost all State Governments to take charge of the programmes for women and children. In some States, there are full-fledged Directorates for women's welfare, with divisional and district officers. Till the end of September, 30,400 Mahila Samitis, with membership of 5 lakhs, were functioning in the States.

In the field of rural communications, over one lakh miles of kachha roads had been constructed.

To give impetus to the programme of training of Gram Sahayaks, nearly 5,800 of them were provided with facilities to undertake 'Bharat Darshan' tours. To acquaint progressive farmers with agricultural practices followed in other States and countries, about 20,000 farmers were enabled to visit the World Agriculture Fair.

TRAINING

Arrangements for widening the services of the Central Institute of Study at Mussoorie by the addition of a Research Wing have been completed. Two more Orientation Training Centres have been set up at Mysore and Jabalpur, bringing the total number of O.T.Cs. to seven. Yet another centre is expected to be

started at Junagadh during April 1960.

The training of Men S.E.Os. and Women S.E.Os. (Mukhya Sevikas) started on the basis of the revised syllabi from 9th March, 1959 in separate Training Centres. Ad hoc courses of 3½ months' duration are being conducted at 4 centres for Mukhya Sevikas of the Central Social Welfare Board.

The integrated training course of two years for the training of Village Level Workers, which was introduced last year, is being continued in 93 integrated training centres, run by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture; 36,557 VLWs have been trained so far.

For the efficient functioning of Panchayati Raj, an elaborate training programme of non-officials is being worked out for implementation during the Third Plan.

Every State has taken steps to build up resources of the panchayats. Some States like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Mysore, Punjab and Rajasthan have assigned a definite percentage of the land revenue to the panchayats.

PANCHAYATI RAJ

Progress in the implementation of the scheme of Panchayati Raj was the most significant development during the year. With the emergence of statutory representative institutions, like the Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad at the Block and District levels respectively, the entire responsibility for planning and execution of the programme is devolving on the people themselves.

While the broad pattern of legislation in different States has common features, details vary from one State to another. The entire State of Rajasthan was covered by 232 Panchayat Samitis and 26 Zila Parishads on October 2. A system similar to the three-tier scheme of Rajasthan has been introduced in Andhra Pradesh with effect from November 1959. Madras, Mysore, Assam and Orissa have passed Acts which will establish a

three-tier system during 1960-61. The Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Act, 1958, enforced on April 1, 1959, provides for panchayats at the village level and Panchayats Advisory Boards at the block level. Kerala has already transferred powers to the village panchayats within the framework of existing laws to plan and implement development programmes.

DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATION

In December 1958, a new Department of Co-operation was created in the Ministry of Community Development to which the work relating to co-operation, hitherto handled by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, was transferred. The first annual report of the Department was issued on March 14.

The report states that by the end of June 1958, there were nearly 1.67 lakh village societies mainly providing credit. These would be reorganised to enable them to take over all functions of service co-operatives. New societies are to be set up, where necessary, according to a phased programme.

By the end of November 1959, 15,000 service co-operatives had come into existence. If the present pace of expansion is maintained, the target of 39,000 such societies laid down in the programme for 1959-60 is likely to be achieved by the end of June 1960.

The membership of village societies was 10.2 million at the end of 1957-58. This would have increased to about 12 million in 1958-59, and is expected to be about 18 million by 1960-61.

At the beginning of the Second Plan, co-operatives supplied short and medium term credit of the order of Rs. 49.62 crores. The Second Plan fixed the target at Rs. 200 crores. About Rs. 125 crores were made available in 1958. By the end of 1960-61, the amount is likely to be Rs. 190 crores.

Land Mortgage Banks advanced long-term loans to the

extent of Rs. 6.35 crores during 1958-59, and are expected to advance Rs. 8 crores in 1959-60.

The question of expansion of co-operative credit to provide adequate finance to farmers is being examined by an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Vaikunthlal Mehta.

MARKETING SOCIETIES

Against the Second Plan target of 1,900 primary marketing societies, 1,063 were organised during the first three years of the Plan. More than 800 are expected to come up during the remaining period. Total value of transactions of the societies in 1957-58 was about Rs. 20 crores.

The marketing societies are being assisted for construction of godowns. Against the target of 5,500 godowns, about 3,150 had come up in 1958-59, and 2,630 more are expected by the end of the Plan period.

During the 1958-59 crushing season, the co-operative sugar factories produced 1.79 lakh tons of sugar, accounting for about 10 per cent of the country's estimated total production.

In order to strengthen the share capital of these factories, State Governments had contributed Rs. 334 lakhs up to March 1959. During 1959-60, another Rs. 100 lakhs would be contributed. A sizable portion of the capital requirements of the co-operative sugar factories is met by the Industrial Finance Corporation which sanctioned loans of the order of Rs. 14.68 crores up to June 1959.

About 98 processing units of various types including cotton

ginning and processing, ground-nut decorticators, rice mills, jute baling, had been set up during the first three years of the Plan. Another 280 are expected to be added by the end of the Plan period.

The report of the Working Group on Co-operative Farming appointed in June 1959 is under consideration of the Government.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

A delegation was sent to Israel and Yugoslavia under the Ford Foundation scheme for studying the broad features of the co-operative movement.

A comprehensive programme of training and education has been organised both for non-officials and officials. By the end of 1959, about 3 lakh persons had been trained by touring parties of instructors. Senior Co-operative Officers are being trained in the co-operative school at Poona and intermediate personnel at five regional training centres. Institutions have also been set up for the training of Block level and junior personnel.

The Department provided facilities for training in co-operation to trainees from South and South-East Asian countries. By the end of December 1959, 15 foreign nationals were receiving such training.

The National Co-operative Development and Warehousing Board, through which Central assistance to States is being routed, was sanctioned a sum of Rs. 5.9 crores in 1959-60. A provision of Rs. 7.4 crores has been made for 1960-61.

Education & Culture

REPORT OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION FOR 1959-60

The annual report of the Union Ministry of Education for 1959-60, released on March 13,

describes in detail the various developmental measures taken in 1959-60 for promotion of edu-

cation in current and Third Five Year Plans.

The Panel on Education of the Planning Commission considered the breaking up of the prescribed period for free and compulsory primary education into two stages and recommended that the first stage of providing education to the age-group 6-11 should be reached by 1965-66 at the latest.

Accordingly, a total expenditure of Rs. 300 crores for the third Five Year Plan has been calculated on the basis of the estimates received from States.

A scheme for producing an adequate number of trained teachers during the Third Plan by increasing the intake capacity of existing training institutions and opening additional institutions has been formulated. Central grant on a hundred per cent basis was being given to State Governments and Union Territories for the expansion of training facilities, especially for as many women teachers as possible, under the programme.

WOMEN'S EDUCATION

A National Council for Women's Education was set up to advise the Government of India on the problems of the education of girls and adult women. The Ministry of Education recommended to the State Governments that there should be in each State Department of Education a Deputy Director or Joint Director specially for women's education. A unit has been established in the Union Ministry to deal with the subject.

The first instalment of Rs. 4 lakhs of Government of India's loan to the Children's Book Trust for establishment of a press was released to the Trust in June, 1959. The Trust has taken steps for procuring the necessary machinery from abroad and for the construction of buildings for housing the press.

The All-India Council for Elementary Education considered a model legislation for compulsory education prepared by the Edu-

cation Ministry. The model legislation would be sent to State Governments for guidance. The Government of India proposed to introduce bills in Parliament for compulsory education in the Union Territories.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The former All-India Council for Secondary Education was reconstituted into the Directorate of Extension Programmes, attached to the Ministry of Education, with full responsibility for the executive functions hitherto performed by the Council. The total number of Extension Service Departments set up so far to provide in-service training to secondary teachers is 54. The Council also gave its help through provision of audio-visual facilities, guidance services and organisation of workshops and libraries. A Central Examination Unit was set up by the Council for the promotion of examination reform and to consider such problems as the high incidence of failures in the secondary schools examination.

The science club movement started in the previous year gained momentum during this year and 183 new science clubs were started in schools, making a total of 313 clubs. Besides, 40 science teachers were sent abroad to the U.K., U.S.A. and Canada for studying the science teaching programme.

The scheme for the promotion of research in problems connected with Secondary Education was continued and grants amounting to Rs. 1,03,339 were sanctioned during 1959 to 21 Teacher Training Colleges and Departments of Education of Universities for 24 research projects. Four new research projects were approved.

In implementation of the scheme for the promotion of inter-State understanding amongst students, a rally of about 100 selected secondary school students from all over India was held in Delhi on the occasion of Republic Day Celebrations in January 1960.

In pursuance of a recommendation of the Central Advisory

Board of Education the Government of India appointed a committee to make a detailed study of the question of religious and moral instruction in educational institutions. The findings of the committee were broadly endorsed by the Board.

Under the Scheme of National Awards for Teachers, instituted last year, 71 primary and secondary school teachers received the awards in 1960 as against 32 in 1959.

The Deshmukh Committee, appointed in September 1959 to work out a suitable programme of national service by students, had submitted its report. Government hopes that it will be possible to launch a programme of national service in the near future.

A scheme has also been drawn up to give a further impetus to the programme of General Education, with a grant from the Ford Foundation. Under the scheme, 6 universities have been selected. The Ford Foundation in India has agreed to make a grant of \$50,000 for the purpose, of which \$25,000 is proposed to be utilised during 1959-60 and the remaining grant in 1960-61.

Almost all the universities have accepted the three-year Degree course pattern, some with certain minor modifications. Of them, 22 universities have already introduced it.

The University Grants Commission framed regulations defining the qualifications that should ordinarily be required of persons to be appointed to the teaching staff of different faculties and departments of the universities.

SOCIAL WELFARE

During the year the Central Social Welfare Board assisted 2,130 voluntary organisations working in different fields of Social Welfare to the tune of Rs. 47.35 lakhs. The Board also established 169 Welfare Extension Projects of the co-ordinated type, bringing the total number to 673.

A decision was taken to provide condensed courses of about

two years' duration to meet the special educational needs of adult women. Grants for this purpose, amounting to Rs. 30 lakhs, were given to 119 institutions. Another important scheme undertaken by the Board during the year was the establishment of Urban Welfare Extension Projects to assist voluntary organisations to provide cultural and social amenities for the less developed localities in urban areas. Grants amounting to Rs. 6 lakhs were given to 24 organisations.

The important developments in the field of physical education were: strengthening of physical education training institutions, a National Physical Efficiency Drive and the holding of efficiency tests, grants to Vyayam-shalas and the implementation of the scheme of scholarships for higher studies in physical education.

The youth welfare programme of the Ministry maintained steady progress during the year.

The National Discipline Scheme was extended to non-displaced institutions also. During the year 1959-60, 2,75,361 students were brought under training in 554 institutions.

DEVELOPMENT OF HINDI

The Government of India took necessary action to implement the recommendations of the Hindi Shiksha Samiti, which included recognition of Hindi examinations conducted by the various Hindi organisations in the country, establishment of a Hindi Teacher Training College in each non-Hindi State and payment of grants by the Centre and the States for opening Hindi medium schools. In addition to substantial grants made to State Governments in the shape of 'ways and means advances', the Ministry paid grants to 16 non-Government organisations and individuals for the propagation and development of Hindi.

In the field of non-Plan schemes, 21 expert committees worked on the preparation of technical terminology in different subjects under the Board of Scientific Terminology. Up to December

1959, about 1,91,000 terms in different subjects were evolved, of which 40,898 had been finally approved by the Government.

A Central Sanskrit Board was also set up to advise Government on matters relating to propagation and development of Sanskrit.

Silver Jubilee Of J.J. Institute Of Art

A New Delhi announcement of March 10 says that the Posts and Telegraphs Department will issue a special commemorative postmark in appreciation of the services being rendered by the Sir J.J. Institute of Applied Art which celebrates its silver jubilee from March 12 to 18.

All incoming and outgoing letters at the General Post Office, Bombay, will be stamped with the mark during the week.

The Institute, which has made distinct contribution to art education, is the only specialised institute of its kind in the country enjoying collegiate status. Its diploma has been recognized by the Public Service Commissions for purposes of recruitment even to the highest posts in the subject and by the Bombay Legislative Department for purposes of voting in the graduates' constituency.

The Institute has been considered an important source of supply of trained designers in various industries and commercial firms.

The Central Government have agreed to give a silver jubilee grant to the Institute equal to 50 per cent of the cost of the project for the establishment of an Industrial Design Centre at the Institute, subject to a maximum of Rs. 1 lakh.

The Institute, which is run by the State Government, had its modest beginnings as a small section of the Sir J.J. School of Art, giving vocational bias to art education to counteract growing unemployment among the artists. After the second war, changing conditions created a demand for greater training faci-

lities for commercial artists and this accelerated the development of the commercial art section. The section has now become a full-fledged institute whose system of training aims at imparting knowledge of both the aspects of commercial art—design and reproduction—while offering scope for specialisation.

Progress Of Technical Education

The progress of technical and engineering education in the country during the Second Plan period was reviewed at a meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee of the All India Council for Technical Education held in New Delhi on March 1.

The broad outlines of technical and engineering education in the Third Five-Year Plan was given to members. The Plan envisages both expansion and qualitative improvement in the field of science and technology.

The Committee also appointed a sub-committee to prepare a blue-print for the provision of amenities for students in technical institutions.

Under the Second Five-Year Plan, eight engineering colleges and 37 polytechnics have already started functioning. One more engineering college and 12 additional polytechnics are in the process of establishment.

The total admission capacity of all technical institutions in the country in 1959 was over 11,000 students for Degree courses and about 20,700 for Diploma courses. With the establishment of new institutions that have been planned the admissions would exceed 13,500 students for Degree courses and 25,000 students for Diploma courses.

In consultation with the Planning Commission, the Union Government approved in 1958 a plan for the establishment of nine regional engineering colleges and 27 polytechnics. Steps were now being taken for the establishment of these institutions.

Award For Scientific Book Series

A New Delhi announcement of March 12 says that, to encourage the publication of high class scientific books, both popular and academic in the various Indian languages, the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs have decided to institute an annual award of Rs. 10,000 to be given to a publisher every year beginning from 1960.

Award will be given to a publisher for the best series of scientific books published in any Indian language in the course of a year. A series will be defined as consisting of at least five books published during one calendar year. Individual authors will not be eligible for the award.

The books should be of a fairly high standard and, in case they are text-books, they should be for use of students not below the graduate level.

Books published during the calendar year 1960 will be considered for the award.

COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION

Replying to a question in the Rajya Saha on March 2, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Minister of Education, said that all the States and Union Territories had submitted their estimates to the Union Ministry of Education for introducing universal, free and compulsory primary education. The total expenditure for the Third Plan period was estimated at Rs. 313 crores.

The estimates were being finalised by Government after due scrutiny.

GOVT. EMPLOYEES LEARNING HINDI

According to an announcement of March 3, over 60,000 employees of the Government of India have learnt Hindi in the classes started by the Centre at 36 places in the country.

The Hindi Teaching Scheme worked by the Union Home

Ministry is expected to cover more than three lakh employees by 1961-62. In the first quarter of the current year, the figure of employees learning Hindi stood at 10,000.

Revised Devanagari Script

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 8, the Education Minister, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, said that the Government of India had suggested to the State Governments that they might adopt the revised Devanagari script in all spheres of Government activity where the Devanagari script was at present being used.

The Minister added that a copy of the communication sent had also been addressed to various Ministries of the Union Government for necessary action.

Indian Languages Taught In Foreign Universities

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 11, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Education Minister, laid a statement on the Table of the House regarding the foreign universities in which Indian languages were being taught at present. The statement shows that in all 8 universities in the U.K. and U.S.A. have facilities for teaching Sanskrit and 3 universities for Hindi. Besides these two languages, the London University has a provision for teaching 9 other Indian languages and the University of Paris provides instruction in Indian Civilisation including Sanskrit.

INDIAN STUDIES IN FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES

Replying to a question on March 10, Dr. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, told the Rajya Sabha that the Indian Council of Cultural Relations had established three chairs of Indian Studies at Cambodia University (Phnom Penh), Ankara University (Turkey) and Tehran University (Iran).

The I.C.C.R. had also accepted a proposal to establish a lectureship in Indian Studies at the University of Melbourne, Australia, in collaboration with the Spalding Trust, Oxford.

Cultural Agreement With Yugoslavia

A Cultural Agreement between Yugoslavia and India was formally signed in New Delhi on March 11. The Agreement aims at further strengthening the existing ties of friendship and promoting further understanding and closer co-operation between the two countries in the fields of science, education and culture. It consists of five Articles and will come into force on the date of exchange of the Instruments of Ratification which will take place at Belgrade.

An Agreement also envisages the setting up, if necessary, of an Indo-Yugoslav Advisory Committee in each country to ensure the implementation of the Agreement.

This is the eleventh Cultural Agreement signed by India since 1951. The earlier Agreements were signed with Turkey, Iraq, Indonesia, Japan, Iran, Poland, Rumania, the United Arab Republic, Czechoslovakia and the U.S.S.R.

FRENCH SCHOLARSHIPS

In a Press Note issued on March 1, the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs has announced that 15 candidates have been selected for the award of scholarships for specialised training in France during 1959-60. The scholarships, offered by the Government of France, relate to architecture and town planning, administration, museology, agriculture, etc.

Names of two more candidates selected for the French scholarships for specialised training in total management were announced by the Ministry on March 6.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

According to a New Delhi announcement of March 9 the University of London has invited applications for Imperial Chemical Industries Research Fellowships in Biochemistry, Chemistry, Chemotherapy, Engineering, Metallurgy, Pharmacology or Physics.

The Fellowships will be within the range of £800 to £1000 per annum and will normally be tenable for three years from October 1, 1960. The last date for receipt of applications is April 30.

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS IN HUMANITIES

In a Press Note issued on March 15, the Ministry of Education announced the names of 29 candidates selected, on the recommendations of a Selection Committee, for the award of scholarships in Humanities during 1959.

The result of other candidates is under consideration and will be announced in due course.

The Government of India instituted in 1953 a scheme for the grant of scholarships to students who have already obtained Master's or equivalent degree and wish to engage in advanced research in any branch of humanistic studies in India.

RECOGNITION WITHDRAWN TO U.K. MONTESSORI

In a Press Note issued on March 13, the Ministry of Education has announced that the Government of India have decided to withdraw the recognition granted to all Institutions in the United Kingdom for Montessori Method of Education, from June 1961, in view of the fact that good and ample facilities for training in pre-primary education already exist in the country.

WORKS REGISTERED UNDER COPYRIGHT ACT

A total of 548 works have been registered by the Registrar of Copyrights up to January 21,

1960, stated Dr. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 11.

The Minister said that this number included 500 literary works, 47 artistic works and one cinematograph film.

ACT EXTENDED TO CEYLON

In a notification issued in the Gazette of India Extra-ordinary dated March 14, the Government of India have extended the operation of the Copyright Act 1957 (14 of 1957) to works of Ceylon.

National Discipline Scheme Day

Over 4,000 boys and girls drawn from various schools in Delhi participated in National Discipline Scheme Day observed in the capital on March 10. Shri Morarji Desai, Union Finance Minister, took salute at the rally.

At present 3,02,000 students are receiving training under the Scheme which embraces 622 schools in the States of Bombay, West Bengal, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi. The targets under the Second Plan have already been exceeded.

INFORMATION & BROADCASTING MINISTRY'S ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 1959-60 was released on March 8. It shows that the intensification and diversification of the 'Help the Plan-Help Yourself' campaign, the inauguration of experimental television and of Radio Rural Forums on a countrywide basis, the issue of documentaries and newsreels in nearly all the languages of the Union, the release of an educational cartoon film, the introduction of road and rail mobile miniature exhibitions, the issue of books in the Builders' of Modern India series and completion of the arrangements for the constitution of the Central Information Service were the main features of the activities of the Ministry during the year.

BROADCASTING

Some new units of All India Radio were completed for improving broadcasting service. Listening in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Bombay and Bihar was strengthened by the installation of a 10 kw short wave transmitter at Bhopal, a 20 kw medium wave transmitter at Bombay and a 2 kw short wave transmitter at Ranchi. A 100 kw medium wave transmitter, the highest powered medium

wave transmitter in India, was put into operation from Delhi in January 1960. Preliminary work for the establishment of a radio station at Sikkim and a recording station at Imphal had been taken in hand.

A countrywide scheme of radio rural forums was launched in November 1959. To begin with, 864 radio rural forums or clubs, each consisting of 15 to 20 persons, had been formed mainly in the community development blocks in the various States.

Under the Government of India's scheme of subsidising the cost of radio sets supplied to State Governments for installation in rural areas, 50,970 community sets had been supplied to various States by December 1959 since the inception of the scheme in 1954-55.

Over 10,000 programmes of spoken words were broadcast in all regional languages. A new half-an-hour daily programme in Urdu was introduced from Delhi. In addition, A.I.R. continued its various national programmes.

The number of radio licences of all types on August 31 was 16,84,378, which marked an increase of approximate 2.75 lakhs over the corresponding figure of the previous year.

April 1, 1960

A new chapter was opened in A.I.R.'s history when an Experimental Television Service at Delhi was formally inaugurated by the President on September 15. A.I.R. had installed 20 television sets at selected community centres in and around Delhi and the average viewing audience is estimated at 150 to 200 persons per centre.

FILMS

The Films Division completed and released its first cartoon film **BANYAN DEER** in colour. All documentaries and newsreels produced by the Division are now being released in 13 languages, namely, Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Gujarati, Marathi, Assamese, Orya, Punjabi, Kashmiri and English. The Division released 112 documentaries during 1959. In collaboration with the Gandhi Samarak Nidhi, work is progressing on a full-length film on Ganoniji.

A Festival of Documentary Films was organised from December 25, 1959 to January 7, 1960 in New Delhi and later in Bombay. Regular matinee shows have been started in Madras and Calcutta. Matinee shows of documentaries and newsreels, started in towns of Uttar Pradesh and Bombay States, have been extended to more district towns.

During 1959 the Division participated in 32 International Film Festivals. The documentary 'Radha and Krishna' won the President's Gold Medal as the best documentary film for the year 1959, Silver Bear at the 9th International Film Festival, in Berlin, and the 'Golden Gate' Award at the San Francisco Film Festival. Another documentary, 'Call of the Mountains' received a shield in the 15th International Competition of Sports Motion pictures held in Italy.

PRESS INFORMATION

There were 174 Indian and foreign press correspondents representing 18 Indian and 76 foreign agencies and eight television and broadcasting systems

on the accredited list of the Press Information Bureau. Facilities were also provided to 28 still and movie cameramen. During the year, 305 foreign journalists visited the country.

Elaborate arrangements were made to provide facilities to nearly 400 press correspondents including 175 visiting journalists, cameramen and radiomen to cover the five-day visit of President Eisenhower to India.

An independent background service on current subjects has been initiated to provide authentic news material. 'Industrial Highlights', dealing with certain industries in the public sector, added to the previous year's feature in the public sector, was added to the previous year's feature series 'Help the Plan Help Yourself', 'Life and Landscapes', 'Do You Know', and 'The Science Newsletter'.

Amongst regional offices of the Press Information Bureau, the Telugu unit has now been shifted from Madras to Hyderabad. The Hyderabad office will also have an Urdu unit. The Hindi services of the Bureau were expanded by opening a Hindi unit in the Calcutta regional office.

PUBLICATIONS

The Publications Division publishes 18 journals on behalf of various Ministries and departments. Between April 1 to December 31, 1959, the Division published 137 books and pamphlets in various languages; another 165 books and pamphlets were being produced and 92 were under preparation. Besides, 20 publications, sponsored by the National Book Trust, were under production. Between April to December 1959, 85 pamphlets on Plan publicity were put out in English, Hindi and regional languages. Regional distribution offices were opened at Bombay, Madras and Calcutta.

FIELD PUBLICITY

The launching of an exhibition-railway coach to cover a large number of wayside stations, the introduction of mobile vans for Plan publicity, the orga-

nisation of a regular family planning exhibition, establishment of a unit to set up exhibitions in different parts of the country, are some of the important developments of the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity. A 'INDIA TODAY' pavilion was set-up in the World Agriculture Fair by the Exhibition Division of the Directorate.

The Field Publicity Mobile Units visited towns and villages including those in remote and inaccessible areas and conveyed information to the people on the progress of development plans and projects. During April-December 1959, these units visited 11,560 places, organised 12,366 film shows and held 15,457 meetings and discussion-groups. An Information Pavilion was set-up in the World Agriculture Fair in Delhi where documentary films on the country's development were screened three times a day twice a week. In addition, cultural programmes, with the Plan as the central theme, were held twice a week. Similar arrangements were made at the *Arana Kumoha Mela* at Allahabad and Urs fairs at Ajmer.

OTHER UNITS

The Song and Drama Division is responsible for Plan publicity through entertainment media of stage and traditional folk music. During the period April-December 1959, 1,327 performances of dramas, songs, Hari Kathas, puppet shows, kavi sammelans, folk dances, etc., were given in different places all over the country.

The Research and Reference Division continued its primary task of furnishing press material and background notes for publicity purposes to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its various media units. The seventh edition of India—A Reference Annual was published in May 1959.

The Press Registrar presented his third Annual Report to the Government on August 24, 1959. According to the report there were 6,916 newspapers and periodicals in existence in the

country on December 31, 1958. The Press Registrar also carried out a study of trends in the circulation and the ownership of newspapers.

The Integrated Photo Unit was formed out of the Photo Units in three media units of the Ministry, Press Information Bureau, Publications Division and the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, on October 6. The Unit has since covered 503 news assignments and provided pictures for 114 feature services.

The Ministry continued to work in co-operation with non-official agencies in furtherance of the programme to organise publicity of the Plan. Financial assistance was given to the Jagran Group of Bharat Sewak Samaj, 12 universities and 72

planning forums. Co-operation was also secured from Bharat Scouts and Guides and the All India Women's Conference for publicity for the Plan.

GRACE PERIOD FOR RADIO LICENCES

According to an announcement dated March 7, the Government of India have decided to allow a grace period of seven days from the date of purchase of a radio set from an authorised dealer for obtaining a broadcast receiver licence.

Hitherto, it was necessary to obtain a licence before the purchase of a set. According to the new procedure, the dealer will issue a certificate of sale on the basis of which a licence may be obtained within seven days.

D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that the U.S. Technical Co-operation Mission have agreed to make available funds to the extent of \$1,18,53,000 equivalent to Rs. 5.64 crores for procurement, through their organisation in the U.S.A., of 17,560 tons of D.D.T. required for spraying during 1960-61.

Rail Concession To T. B. Patients

An announcement of March 8 says that the Railway Board has decided that the travel concession at present admissible to tuberculosis patients for travel to and from T.B. hospitals, sanatoria, institutes and clinics within the State in which they reside should with immediate effect be made available to and from such institutions situated in other States also.

While travelling to or from a T.B. hospital, sanatorium, institute or clinic, the T.B. patient is allowed to travel at one-fourth of the normal fare when travelling alone, and on payment of one single fare when travelling

with an attendant (for both persons).

The concession is allowed on production of a certificate from a registered medical practitioner or the officer in charge of the institution concerned.

Cancer Research And Treatment

An announcement of March 7 says that the Union Ministry of Health has sanctioned during the current financial year a sum of Rs. 8 lakhs to various institutions and hospitals engaged in research and treatment of cancer. The institutions and hospitals to which the grants have been made are: Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital: Rs. 1.5 lakhs; Cancer Institute (W.I.A.), Madras: Rs. 2 lakhs; Cancer Institute, Kanpur: Rs. 2 lakhs; Medical College and Hospital, Trivandrum: Rs. 1 lakh; Kamala Nehru Hospital, Allahabad: Rs. 1 lakh and Kailash Seva Sadan, Bombay: Rs. 50,000.

The provision in the Second Five-Year Plan for giving financial assistance to State Governments for the establishment of cancer research institutes is Rs. 35 lakhs.

MILK POWDER IMPORTED IN 1959

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on March 9, the Health Minister, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, said that, under the Indo-U.S. Agreement, 1951, milk powder, weighing about 54.52 million lbs., was imported during 1959 from the U.S.A.

Besides, 30.37 million lbs. of milk powder were imported by the UNICEF during 1959 for long range feeding programmes in the various States and territories in India. Of this, over 20 million lbs. of milk powder had been distributed so far to expectant mothers, pre-school children and school children.

April 1, 1960

Health

MEDICAL USES OF RADIATION

Replying to a question, the Prime Minister told the Lok Sabha on March 3 that the Government had decided to organise a six-week training course on 'Safety Aspects of Medical Uses of Radiation' at the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay, as a part of the programme of training and teaching interested persons (clinicians, hospital physicists and technicians) from medical research establishments and universities using high energy radiations and radio-active substances.

The Prime Minister added that the first course was expected to commence from April 4 with 24 clinicians and hospital physicists.

A proposal to establish an Isotope Centre in Bombay located in an area with a number of hospitals was also under consideration, he added.

T.C.M. Funds For D.D.T.

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 10, Shri

Indian Information

Social Welfare

DANDAKARANYA PROJECT

The Minister for Rehabilitation, Shri Mehr Chand Khanna told the Lok Sabha on March 3 that it was Government's intention to give notices to the inmates of the refugee camps in West Bengal at the rate of 2,000 families a month to move to Dandakaranya. The programme was to move the entire 20,000 to 25,000 families to Dandakaranya by the end of this year. He gave the assurance that Government would undertake the responsibility of providing every one of them with work, shelter and ultimate rehabilitation.

Shri Khanna said during the 14 months that the Dandakaranya Development Authority had been functioning, 12,000 acres of land had been cleared, of which 4,000 had been fully reclaimed. By the end of the present working season, which was about the beginning of June, 15,000 to 20,000 acres were expected to be reclaimed. About irrigation facilities, he said, one of the two schemes contemplated had been sanctioned. There was adequate rainfall in the area and natural irrigation facilities like rivers were also present. Engineering works costing about Rs. 80 lakhs were now under operation. A number of roads were being constructed and metalling work was going on. Surveys had been made and bridges were to be constructed. A number of schools had been set up. A large number of medical vans were available and hospitals and dispensaries had been put up. About 50 villages had also been built.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna disclosed in another statement that in order to step up the reclamation programme in Dandakaranya after the next monsoon, Government had decided to place a further order for 75 tractors and equipment with the

Director-General of Ordnance Factories. The cost would be about Rs. 1.25 crores.

Ex-Gratia Grants For Tribal D.P.s

In a Press Note dated March 11, the Ministry of Rehabilitation has announced Government's decision to pay an ex-gratia grant of Rs. 2,500 per family to the displaced persons from Tribal Areas of West Pakistan whose applications for rehabilitation grant were rejected for want of documentary evidence.

Necessary instructions have been issued to the Regional Settlement Commissioners for making payments of the ex-gratia grants.

The Tribal displaced persons had represented that they could not furnish any documentary evidence because, in the areas concerned, there was no system of registering sales or purchases of properties, nor were there any local bodies to whom taxes were to be paid.

New Colony For D.P.s

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs, Shri Mehr Chand Khanna, said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on March 3 that, it was proposed to set up a colony in Kalkaji for displaced persons from East Pakistan who were already residing and employed in Delhi.

COMPENSATION TO D.P.s

In a written reply to a question as to when should complete settlement regarding compensation be achieved in respect of claims of refugees from West Pakistan, the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs, Shri Mehr Chand

Khanna, said in the Lok Sabha on March 9 that only about 34,000 cases now remained to be settled against a total of 4.86 lakhs cases. These cases were expected to be disposed of by the middle of 1960.

Claims Of D.P. Govt. Employees

A Press Note issued on March 13, by the Ministry of Rehabilitation says, the Government of Pakistan have agreed that displaced Government servants, who migrated from Pakistan by June 30, 1955 and settled in the former States of Hyderabad, Junagadh and Manavadar, can have their claims on account of pension, provident fund, arrears of pay and leave salary, security deposits, etc. settled through the Central Claims Organisations set up in the two countries.

Displaced Government servants who have still such claims outstanding against the Government of Pakistan are advised to apply to the Officer-in-Charge, Central Claims Organisation, Indra Bhawan, Mussoorie, on the prescribed forms available with that Officer, as early as possible and in any case not later than July 31, 1960.

Former Criminal Tribes

An announcement of March 4 says that an allocation of Rs. 37 lakhs was made for the welfare of de-notified or former criminal tribes in 1959.

The welfare schemes included special educational facilities, reformatories for children, provision of land and house, cottage industries and rehabilitation.

The purpose of this programme, for which about Rs. 3 crores have been allocated in the Second Plan, is to rehabilitate these tribes economically and to wean the younger generation from the anti-social practices.

The tribes referred as de-notified were once subject to restrictions under the various Criminal Tribes Acts. Their population is about 40 lakhs mainly in the

States of: Uttar Pradesh (16.69 lakhs), Bombay (6.24 lakhs), Madras (5.95 lakhs) and Mysore (2.10 lakhs).

COMMISSION UNDER ART-339

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on March 10, the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Shrimati Violet Alva, said that the Government proposed to appoint a Commission under Article 339 of the Constitution to report on the administration of the Scheduled Areas and the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in the States.

Married Women's Property

According to an announcement of March 11, the Married Women's Property Act, 1874, with some amendments, has been extended to the former Part 'B' States and Manipur as well.

The legislative provision to this effect, the Married Women's Property Extension Act, 1959, came into force from March 1, 1960.

Under the Married Women's Property Act, 1874, an insurance policy taken out by a married man on his own life for the benefit of his wife or children is a trust for their benefit outside the pale of creditors. Nor does it form a part of his estate.

Under the Estate Duty Act, 1953, the amount due on a policy is not to be aggregated with any other property and it is to be treated as a separate estate for purposes of estate duty.

Alien Married Women

A New Delhi announcement of March 7 says that the Central Government have been authorised to relax the condition of one year's residence in the country applicable to alien women married to Indian citizens.

The concession will be available to those women who are married to Indian citizens under the employment of a Govern-

ment in India. The rule 4 of the Citizenship Rules, 1956, has therefore been amended.

As on October 31, 1959, the number of foreign women married to Indian citizens and registered as Indian citizens was 72. Foreigners who had been granted certificates of naturalisation during the same period totalled sixty-eight.

Labour & Employment

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CEMENT WAGE BOARD ACCEPTED

In a Gazette of India Extraordinary dated March 1, the Government of India have announced their decision to accept the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Cement Industry.

The resolution embodying the Government's decision says:

After careful consideration of the Board's Report and the Minutes of dissent appended by the employers and the workers, Government have decided to accept the recommendations of the Board subject to the following:

Government consider that a study of workloads in the industry would be desirable, and that while the implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Board, as referred to in the Report, need not be delayed on this account, Government feel that such a study should be undertaken as early as possible, and the recommendation regarding wage increase in the second phase wherever applicable may be implemented after this study is completed.

Subject to the above, the Government request employers, workers and State Governments to take immediate steps to implement the recommendations of the Wage Board in letter as well as in spirit. Government expect that the parties concerned will show a spirit of accommodation in interpreting the recommendations and difficulties, if any, will be solved by direct discussions between them.

Government note the view of the Wage Board that, *prima facie*, the industry does not have the capacity to pay the wages recommended on the existing retention prices. Government propose to determine the extent of the increases in the ex-works price payable to the producers consequent on the implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Board, and to grant such increases, with effect from the date when such recommendations are implemented. Any such increase in the ex-works price is proposed to be accommodated within the existing F.O.R. destination price and without any increase in the price to the consumer.

The Government of India wish to express their appreciation of the Board's work in dealing with the matters referred to them thoroughly and expeditiously.

The Wage Board for Cement Industry was set up by Government in April 1952 under the chairmanship of Shri M.R. Meher, I.C.S. It consisted of two representatives each of employers and workers and two independent members. The report of the Board was submitted to Government on October 7, 1959.

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of the Board apply to workers employed at (1) the cement factories, (2) the lime stone quarries (except gypsum quarries) owned by the cement producers, (3) places where calcareous sand or shells are collected and clay is excavated, and (4) cement com-

panies in the transport of lime stone, sand, shells and clay from the quarries to the factory. They also apply to the workmen in the lime stone quarries of the Parshva Properties Ltd. and of the Agricultural Farms Ltd. and to the employees of the United Shippers Ltd., whether engaged in their own barges or barges lent to them by Shree Digvijay Cement Co. Ltd., at Sikha.

The recommendations do not apply to (1) employees engaged in other industries at the same place or elsewhere owned by the cement companies, (2) the convict labour employed in the quarries which supply lime stone to the U.P. Government Cement Factory at Churk and (3) the staff employed at the head offices and branches and to apprentices and learners.

The contract labour employed on construction work or on purely temporary jobs not connected with manufacturing processes (which have been excluded by the Tripartite Industrial Committee on Cement at Hyderabad in 1954) are excluded from the purview of the recommendations. Other contract labour has been covered. The employers have been enjoined to carry more direct responsibility to ensure that the contractors make payment to their labour on the employer's premises and in the presence of a representative deputed by the employer to check and supervise such payments. The Board has, however, suggested that the recommendation of the Tripartite Industrial Committee on Cement at Hyderabad about abolition of contract labour in all operations connected with the manufacturing processes (including quarry operations), except loading and unloading operations, should be given effect to within six months of the coming into force of the recommendations.

MINIMUM WAGE

The Board has recommended total minimum wage of Rs. 94 for an unskilled worker whose family is deemed to consist of three consumption units. This is estimated on the need based formula adopted at the 15th Tripartite Labour Conference. The cash wage is arrived at Rs. 91, after deducting Rs. 3 as value of the amenities provided by the employers, as follows: Basic minimum

wage Rs. 52; Dearness Allowance Rs. 31.50; House Rent Allowance Rs. 7.50.

However, for centres in Gujarat and Saurashtra where the cost of living is estimated to be higher than at other centres, the total minimum wage is fixed at Rs. 101 and the cash wage at Rs. 98. The increase of Rs. 7 is given in the dearness allowance.

The Board has fixed the wage scales and dearness allowance for unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and highly skilled employees at a monthly pay ranging between Rs. 52 and Rs. 110.50.

The grades recommended for operatives should also apply to peons, watchmen, motor drivers, bungalow servants, bearers, cooks, malis, sweepers, ayahs, dressers, club boys, ward boys, laboratory boys, etc. Seven grades of pay have been fixed for clerical and lower technical and supervisory staff, the minimum basic pay ranging from Rs. 70 to Rs. 150 and the maximum from Rs. 150 to Rs. 460. Non-matriculants who are engaged in Grade I (the lowest clerical grade) may be started at Rs. 5 lower than the minimum of the grade, i.e. Rs. 65 per month. Tally checkers (described as tally clerks) should be put in the grade of Rs. 60-4-80/E.B/4-100. The grades for the clerical and lower technical and supervisory staff should also apply to nurses, compounders, health visitors, sanitary inspectors, school teachers, etc., who should be appropriately fitted into those grades.

ALLOWANCES

The dearness allowance of Rs. 31.50 and Rs. 38.50 is linked to the figure 123 for July 1959 of the All India Consumer Price General Index (base=1949) and it is provided that, in the case of the former (i.e. the employees of the factories situated in regions other than Gujarat or Saurashtra) the allowance will rise or fall at the rate of Rs. 1.47 for every two points in the index, and in the case of the latter (i.e. for factories in Gujarat and Saurashtra) at Rs. 1.59 for every two points.

The clerical and lower technical and supervisory staff should be paid dearness allowance at 10 per cent of their basic salary, plus Rs. 40 per month in the factories and quarries

situated in regions other than Gujarat and Saurashtra, and Rs. 47 in the regions of Gujarat and Saurashtra.

The wages and dearness allowance are to come into force with effect from January 1, 1960.

A minimum house rent allowance of Rs. 7.50 per month should be paid to every employee.

Where skilled operatives or clerical and lower technical and supervisory staff are entitled to better type of quarters than unskilled and semi-skilled operatives, employers may pay such skilled operatives or staff higher scales of house rent allowance than the minimum of Rs. 7.50 per month.

PIECE RATES

The existing piece-rates should be so adjusted as to enable the piece-rate operatives to earn not less than the wage recommended for unskilled operatives on the basis of the existing work-loads and other existing conditions. Fixation of piece-rates may be done by the employer in consultation with the Union.

As regards the question of fall-back wage, the Board has recommended that whenever, as a result of reduced output due to causes beyond the control of the workers, the basic earnings of piece-rated operatives fall below Rs. 52 on monthly basis or Rs. 2 on daily basis, their basic earnings should be brought upto Rs. 52 per month or Rs. 2 per day, as the case may be, and they may be paid the dearness allowance and house rent allowance as provided for unskilled workers. However, where output and earnings are affected due to causes within the control of workers, operatives should be paid for the actual output given.

Women workers should be paid the same wages as men wherever they are employed on the same type of work. In the few occupations where women are exclusively employed, no distinction in the wage appears necessary in view of the small number involved.

ADJUSTMENTS

As regards fitting the existing operatives and clerks into their appropriate grades, the Report contains directions in detail. The

classification of the operatives should be done on the basis of the skill, suitability and experience. This is to be done by the employer, after consulting the Unions, within three months of the recommendations coming into effect. Care has been taken to see that most of the employees will get some increase in their existing salaries by way of adjustment and none will suffer adversely.

The allocation of employees in the clerical and lower supervisory and technical grades is to be done by the employer after consulting the Union concerned, within two months of the recommendations coming into effect, and with retrospective effect from that date. However, employees have been given the option to remain in their existing grades or to accept the grade and pay-step indicated by the employer.

Where the lowest total minimum wage recommended by the Board will result in a very big increase over the present wage, the increased wage should not be given in 'one jump' but should be so fixed that the full incidence comes into effect one year after the initial increase is given.

New cement factories, whether owned by the existing cement factories or otherwise (and the quarries, etc.), may be exempted for a period of 18 months from the month the factory goes into production from paying in full the wages and salaries recommended by the Board. During this period the new units should pay the basic wages/salaries, dearness allowance, house rent allowance at 75 per cent in respect of each component.

As the increase recommended in the basic wages would multiply the burden in respect of gratuity schemes, it has been recommended that where gratuity is payable in terms of basic wages, gratuity schemes for operatives in the A,B,C,D and E grades should be modified. The service period of the employee should, for the purpose of gratuity, be broken into two periods, the first period commencing from the date of appointment till the recommendations come into operation. Where gratuity is payable in terms of consolidated wages, the schemes should be suitably revised so as to lessen the burden.

The industry has made out a *prima facie* case that it does not have the capacity to pay the recommended wages on the existing retention prices of cement. The Board has suggested three possible ways of

meeting the incidence of increased wages: (a) by increasing the price to the consumer, (b) by reducing the State Trading Corporation's profit, or (c) by reducing the excise duty.

GOVT. DECISION ON TEXTILE WAGE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the Gazette of India Extraordinary of March 3, the Government of India have announced decision to accept the unanimous recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Textile Industry. The resolution embodying the Government's decision says:

After careful consideration, Government have decided to request the employers and workers and State Governments to take immediate steps to implement the unanimous recommendations of the Wage Board. Since the recommendations represent agreed conclusions between the representatives of employers and workers, Government expect that the parties concerned will show a spirit of accommodation in interpreting the recommendations and difficulties, if any, will be solved by direct discussions between them and, if necessary, with the assistance of the State Government concerned.

The Board have drawn pointed attention to the importance of speedy rationalisation and stressed that the process of rationalisation and modernisation should be enforced, if necessary, even with the assistance of Government's intervention. It may be recalled here that several textile units have varying labour strength for similar units of machinery and plant in the country. The working conditions of different textile units also vary in degree. It is, therefore, very necessary that the work-loads and the working conditions should be rationalised as early as possible within the framework of the recommendations of the Indian Labour Conference. The Industry, labour unions and the Government have, therefore, to bring about the process of

rationalisation with a determined effort.

The Board have recommended that dearness allowance should be linked to the cost of living index in all centres, and if any centre has no such cost of living index, the index of the nearest centre should be taken for such linking. The Board have also recommended that where there is only a consolidated wage or a fixed dearness allowance, it should be made adequate and linked to the cost of living index by a suitable machinery. For facilitating the implementation of these recommendations in an expeditious manner, Government have decided to appoint a National Tribunal which will go into the issues raised, if any, by either of the parties.

There have been certain increases in the wages which have taken place in different textile units since the industry made their submission to the Wage Board. All such increments or increases, excepting the increase awarded by an Industrial tribunal or by any other statutory body, that have been so given by the textile units, will be considered a part of any increase that might take place as a result of the implementation of the Wage Board's recommendations in different aspects.

There have been certain textile units which are at present closed down or which had been or are under enquiry under Section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. Government will consider separately the application of the Wage Board's recommendations to such units.

Government hope that having regard to the need for building up a healthy industry and the

necessity to maintain industrial peace which will assist in rehabilitation and modernisation of the industry, the industry and the employees will take necessary steps to implement the recommendations. Should, however, an occasion arise in which there is any serious difference of opinion in regard to interpretation of recommendations, or where there is any major difficulty in implementing the recommendations, Government may, if necessary, refer the matter to a suitable machinery.

The Government of India wish to express their appreciation of the Board's work in dealing with the complex question of wages in the cotton textile industry and connected matters and reaching unanimous conclusions.

The tripartite Wage Board for Textile Industry was constituted in March 1957, with F. Jeejeebhoy as Chairman. The Board's report was received by Government on December 1, 1959.

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

For a period of 5 years from 1st January 1960, no claim for further revision of minimum wages should be made by either the employers or the workmen.

In the interests of all concerned, it is necessary that the process of rationalisation should continue and progress everywhere in the industry. The rationalisation of several occupations in Bombay, Ahmedabad and Coimbatore should be adopted as useful guides for the progressive rationalisation by mills which have not reached that standard of rationalisation, within the next 5 years.

As a result of rationalisation, there should be no retrenchment or loss of earnings of the existing employees; there should also be an equitable sharing of the gains of rationalisation as between the community, the employer and the worker, and there should be a proper assessment of workloads.

In order to avoid disputes arising out of rationalisation, there should be machinery at Regional and National levels to settle questions of rationalisation.

Time has come for the active participation of the Government

concerned for the speeding up of the process of rationalisation.

WAGES

For the purposes of wages, the industry should be divided into two categories, mills in Bombay city and Island (including Kurla), Ahmedabad, Baroda, Billimora, Navasri, Nadiad, Surat, Phagwara, Hissar, Delhi, Modinagar, Calcutta City, the whole of Madras State and Bangalore, coming in the 1st Category, and mills in other centres in category II.

An increase at the average rate of Rs. 8 per month per worker shall be given to all workers in mills in Category I from January 1, 1960, and a further flat increase of Rs. 2 per month from January 1, 1962. The respective increase for category II shall be Rs. 6 and Rs. 2.

The increases in the basic wage are subject to the condition that the said sums of Rs. 8 and Rs. 6 shall ensure not less than Rs. 7 and Rs. 5 respectively, to the lowest paid, and that the increase of Rs. 2 from January 1, 1962 shall be flat for all.

The dearness allowance should be linked to the cost of living index in all centres, and if any centre has no such cost of living index, the index of the nearest centre should be taken for that purpose.

The dearness allowance in Madras State should be increased so as to give full neutralisation for the rise in the cost of living to the workers on minimum basic wage with 1936-39 as the base.

The dearness allowance should be consolidated with the basic wage at an index which will yield an amount equal to three-fourths of the average dearness allowance of the first 6 months of 1959, and the remaining 25 per cent shall continue as dearness allowance and shall have a flexible character, and shall rise and fall according to the future cost of living; and the difference between the point at which the current index is merged shall be compensated according to existing method and at the existing scale.

The amount of gratuity, wherever calculated in terms of basic wages, shall be paid in terms of the existing basic wage upto 31st December, 1959; but from 1st January 1960 the basic for such purpose will be that basic wage plus the increases given

but excluding the dearness allowance consolidated.

CLERKS

The scales of pay of Junior and Semi-clerks shall be as follows:

1. Junior clerks of mills in category I Rs. 75-5-105-7½-150-EB-10-200-12½-250.

2. Junior clerks of mills in category II Rs. 60-5-90-6-120-EB-7½-150-10-200.

3. Semi-clerks of mills of category I Rs. 50-3-80-EB-5-125.

4. Semi-clerks of mills of category II Rs. 40-3-70-EB-105.

Any Semi-clerk or Junior clerk already in receipt of a higher scale or higher total emoluments than those recommended, shall retain the excess as special pay.

The pay scales of other clerks, stenographers, etc., shall be suitably fixed by the employers in consultation with the employees having regard to their respective duties and responsibilities in such a way that their emoluments are advanced to keep in step with the advances in the wages of the Junior clerks.

It is not feasible to consolidate the dearness allowance with basic wage of clerks because of their time scales. The clerks shall receive monthly the amount of dearness allowance which is merged in the basic wage of the operatives, as a special higher cost allowance, plus the dearness allowance of the operatives plus:

For basic wage up to Rs. 100 Rs. 7½.

Between 101-200 Rs. 15.

Between 201-300 Rs. 22½.

Beyond 301 Rs. 25.

The Semi-clerks shall receive monthly the amount of dearness allowance which is merged with the basic wage of the operatives as a special higher cost allowance, plus the dearness allowance of the operatives.

The special high cost allowance shall be treated as an addition to basic wage and new entrants shall also be eligible for it. The special high cost allowance shall count for Provident Fund, and leave and holidays with pay, but not for gratuity where gratuity is expressed in terms of the basic wage.

The recommendations relating to Junior clerks and Semi-clerks shall take effect from 1st January, 1960.

There shall be no discrimination between men and women doing the same work.

By the introduction of the Board's recommendations no existing amenities or benefits shall be affected, and higher emoluments, wherever they are being paid, shall not be reduced.

Tribunal Award On Cantonment Workers

An announcement of March 4 says that the National Tribunal, constituted by the Government of India for adjudication of the disputes between workmen of certain cantonments and their employers, viz., the Cantonment Boards, has given its award. The National Tribunal was set up in November 1958 with Shri F. Jeejeebhoy as Presiding Officer.

In its award, the Tribunal has said that cantonment workers cannot be declared as Central Government employees in the face of the Cantonment Act of 1924. A cantonment is a corporate body and the rules framed under the Act clearly indicate that its workers are employees of the Cantonment Board.

The Tribunal, likewise, has not accepted the demand that cantonment workers should be given the pay scales of Central Government employees. It has, however, awarded pay scales for each category of post in each of the 58 cantonments covered by the award.

As regards dearness allowance, the Tribunal has awarded that a cantonment employee should get the same D.A. as given by the State Government (in whose area the Cantonment is located) to its employees. Also 50 per cent of the D.A. should be merged with the pay.

The Tribunal has decided that Class III and IV employees of the Cantonment Boards, who have not been provided with accommodation, free or otherwise, should be given the same house rent allowance as is given by the State Government to corresponding categories of employees.

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As regards Provident Fund, the Tribunal has stated that the contribution of the Cantonment Board should be equal to the contribution of the employee. For this purpose, the Cantonment Fund Servants' Rules, 1937, which provide for contribution at the rate of 3.1/8 per cent by the Board and at 6½ per cent by the employee, will require reconsideration.

On the question of bonus, the Tribunal has stated that it should continue to be paid to workers as already provided under the rules.

The Tribunal has not conceded the demand of the workers for provision of a gratuity scheme on the ground that its decisions relating to provident fund and bonus will provide adequate retirement benefit.

On the question of promotion, the Tribunal has awarded that, all things being equal, promotion should be by seniority. Rules should be framed for recruitment of various categories of employees of each Board.

The award of the Tribunal in regard to wages is to be given effect to retrospectively from April 1, 1959.

BOMBAY DIVERS' DISPUTE REFERRED TO TRIBUNAL

An announcement of March 11 says that the Government of India have referred the dispute between the Bombay Port Trust and the divers employed by them to the Additional Industrial Tribunal, Bombay, for adjudication. The divers have been on strike since February 15, demanding, among other things, increased diving allowance, bonus and insurance against death or disability while on duty.

Seminar On Labour Management

The second Seminar on Labour-Management Co-operation, concluded its two-day session in New Delhi on March 9. It was attended by representatives of Central Ministries, State

Governments, Central organisations of workers and employers and of units where Joint Management Councils have been established.

The Union Labour Minister, Shri G.L. Nanda, who presided over the Seminar, said that the scheme of labour participation in management should no longer be regarded as being in a pilot stage; it should now be launched on a bigger scale. He pointed out that 26 Joint Management Councils had been set up since the first Seminar was held two years ago.

The Seminar was of the view that suitable machinery should be set up at the Central and regional levels to ensure that the Joint Management Councils functioned effectively and that the scheme was rapidly extended to more units. It was agreed that a tripartite committee should be constituted at the Centre to review from time to time the progress of the scheme and to sort out difficulties in the functioning of Joint Councils.

The Seminar also laid down certain criteria for assessing the results of the scheme in units where it had been introduced. In this connection, stress was laid on the increase in productivity. It was felt that there should be proper delegation of powers to lower levels of management if the decisions reached by the Joint Management Councils were to be properly implemented.

Meeting Of Standing Labour Committee

The tripartite Standing Labour Committee met in New Delhi on March 10 and 11, to discuss further the draft proposals on labour policy and programme for inclusion in the Third Plan. The Union Labour Minister, Shri G.L. Nanda, presided.

The Committee recommended, among other things, some modification of the approach to industrial relations in the Third Plan with a view to encouraging

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greater recourse to voluntary arbitration to settle disputes. Preparation of lists of arbitrators in consultation with the employers' and workers' organisations and the recognition of trade unions by the employers were amongst the measures suggested.

HOSTELS FOR WORKERS

An announcement of March 10 says, the Government of India have decided that cheap hostel type accommodation for housing non-family industrial workers and slum dwellers could be constructed by State Governments under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme and the Slum Clearance Scheme of the Union Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply. This decision has been taken to meet the demand for houses for non-family industrial workers and slum dwellers who cannot either afford to pay the rent of pucca houses or are averse to living in skeletal houses or self-built huts on open developed plots.

The Union Government have suggested to the State Governments that in the first instance pilot projects should be undertaken to ascertain the utility and acceptability of the hostel type of accommodation, before taking up large scale construction. Wherever such construction is contemplated, the number of units should not be less than 48 or 64 so that it is economical to employ whole-time sanitation staff.

The minimum accommodation per person should comprise of a living room of 104 sq. ft. in the case of single and double storey construction and 100 sq. ft. in the case of multi-storey construction. About 34 sq. ft. of the room might be utilised as kitchen cum-dining space. Common sanitary facilities should be provided.

Financial assistance will be given by the Union Government as envisaged in the two schemes.

E.S.I. Scheme

The Employees State Insurance Corporation met in New

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Delhi on March 7 to fix priorities in the matter of extending benefits under the scheme. The Corporation decided to give priority, in the extension of the Employees State Insurance Scheme, to areas where it has not yet been implemented but where employers are already paying a special contribution for the scheme.

Another matter which is to be given high priority is the provision of adequate medical facilities to insured persons, especially facilities in regard to hospitalisation. For this purpose, construction of hospitals exclusively for insured workers is to be expedited.

The Corporation also decided that families of insured workers should be provided, first, restricted medical care and then full medical care, including hospitalisation facilities. T.B. patients who get benefits under the scheme for a period of six months should get such benefits over a longer period.

Scheme Extended To Madras

According to a New Delhi announcement of February 27, about 8,200 more factory workers in Madras will get benefits under the Employees' State Insurance Act from (February 28) when the Scheme will be extended to the areas of Peelamedu, Perianaickenpalayam, Sivakasi and Rajapalayam in the State. The Scheme is already in force at 9 centres in the State.

The employers of factories now covered by the Scheme will be required to pay the special contribution of 1½ per cent of the total wage bill instead of ¾ per cent which they were paying so far.

Damua Colliery Accident

Replying to a notice calling attention to the accident in the Damua Colliery in Madhya Pradesh on January 5, Shri L.N. Misra, Parliamentary Secretary

to the Union Labour Minister, said in Lok Sabha on February 17 that the Additional Chief Inspector of Mines had made enquiries. It appeared that on the day of the accident, arrangements to set supports at the face of a gallery, adjoining a waterlogged gallery, were being made when the intervening strata between the two galleries collapsed and water from the waterlogged workings rushed in, drowning sixteen persons employed at different places in the dip workings. The management was held responsible for the unfortunate mishap. Appropriate action was being taken.

An ad-hoc relief of Rs. 100 per family to the families of the 16 deceased workers had been paid from the Miners' Emergency Relief Fund. The Management of the mine had also paid Rs. 1600 as immediate relief to the bereaved. A sum of Rs. 2880 had been sanctioned from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund for payment of an allowance at the rate of Rs. 10 per month to each of the twelve widows of the victims for a period of two years. Scholarships of Rs. 5 for a period of 3 years to all the school-going children of the deceased workers had also been sanctioned. This was in addition to the amount payable by the employer to the heirs of the deceased workers under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Dearness Allowance For Bank Employees

According to a notification published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary of February 20, the Government of India have modified the formula recommended by the Bank Award Commission for adjustment of dearness allowance for bank employees. The notification says: 'If the average all-India cost of living index for any quarter after the 31st March, 1959 should rise or fall by more than five points as compared to 144 (1944=100), the dearness allowance payable for the suc-

ceeding quarter shall be raised or lowered, in the case of clerical staff by one-fourteenth, and in the case of subordinate staff by one-twentieth, of the dearness allowance admissible at the index level of 144 for each variation of five points.'

In December 1957 the dearness allowance formula, suggested by the Bank Award Commission, was modified by an agreement between the State Bank of India and its employees to provide for adjustments in the dearness allowance if the average all-India cost of living rose or fell by 5 points during any quarter as against 10 points during a half-year period under the formula. The employees of other banks also represented their case for similar arrangement.

The Industrial Disputes (Banking Companies) Decision Act, 1955, by which the Bank Award Commission's recommendations were implemented, was, therefore, amended in 1958, empowering Government to make necessary adjustments in the dearness allowance formula for any period subsequent to 31-12-57 within the ratio laid down in the Bank Award Commission formula.

National Tribunal For Bank Disputes

In the course of a statement on bank disputes made in both Houses of Parliament on March 11, Shri G.L. Nanda, Minister of Labour and Employment, revealed that, after careful consideration, Government considered that the best course was to set up a National Tribunal under the Industrial Disputes Act to deal with the disputes between employees and all the banks including the State Bank of India. Steps were being taken to appoint a National Tribunal accordingly.

Work Of Employment Exchanges In Jan.

An announcement of March 15 says that Employment Exchanges helped 22,106 persons to secure jobs during January 1960, as compared with 21,858 in the previous month. The number of

employers, who utilised the services of the Exchanges, was about 7,633, which was 233 less than the figure for December, 1959. The number of vacancies notified by them was 33,214 as against 35,553 in December last.

The number of registrations decreased to 1,93,515 from

2,20,310 in December. The number of applicants on the Live Register of Exchanges increased by 4,688 to 14,25,589 at the end of January.

During the month, 9 Employment Exchanges were opened bringing the total number of Exchanges to 257.

The States

DELHI PRIMARY EDUCATION BILL

Dr. K.L. Shrimati, Union Minister of Education, introduced the Delhi Primary Education Bill, 1960, in the Rajya Sabha on March 10. The object of the Bill is to introduce universal, free and compulsory education for children in the age-group of 6-11 throughout the Union Territory of Delhi. It will come into force with effect from the next academic year.

Most of the Compulsory Primary Education Acts in India were passed long ago when little practical experience in the enforcement of compulsory education had been gained. This Bill, which is based on a careful and comparative study of the primary education laws in the different States of India and a number of other countries, removes the deficiencies which were found in the working of the earlier Acts.

It provides for an annual census of all children of school-going age, for issue of notices to all parents of non-attending children before the beginning of the school academic year, for the passing of attendance orders against parents directing them to send their children to schools, and for prosecutions for failure to comply with the attendance orders.

This is the first time that an attempt has been made to intro-

duce a comprehensive and up-to-date law on compulsory education and it is hoped that this Bill will serve as a model legislation to the State Governments.

Free Education In Delhi

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 8, Dr. K.L. Shrimati, Minister of Education, said that the Delhi Municipal Corporation had decided to make education free up to Class VIII (age group 6-14) in all their schools and also in schools aided by them.

The question of making education free up to the same class in schools run and aided by the Delhi Administration was under active consideration.

The Minister added the additional expenditure through loss of fee income was estimated at about Rs. 19 lakh per annum for all schools in Delhi.

Vagrant Children In Delhi

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 11, Shri Violet Alva, Deputy Home Minister, said that, under the Bombay Children Act 1924, which had been extended to Delhi, 1656 vagrant children

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were taken charge of during 1959 in the capital.

POOR HOUSE

Replying to another question on March 8, Shri B.N. Datar, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, said that the Poor House in Delh was proposed to be reorganised and expanded to accommodate 300 adults and 100 children from amongst beggars.

Accommodation For Govt. Employees

Shri K.C. Reddy, Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 9 that the number of Central Government employees of all categories who had been provided with residential accommodation by Government in turn and out of turn in the General Pool was 28,768. Of these Government employees who were entitled to General Pool accommodation, 38,085 were yet to be provided accommodation.

The intention was to provide residential accommodation to 80 per cent of the Central Government employees.

Government had sanctioned construction of 27,639 quarters during the two Plan periods. Of these, 17,800 quarters had been completed so far. The rest were under construction. Proposals for the Third Plan were under consideration.

Patients On Waiting List In Delhi Hospitals

In a statement laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha during question hour on March 9, the Minister of Health, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, said that the number of patients for surgical operations on the waiting list of Government hospitals in Delhi were as follows: (i) Irwin Hospital — 1000, (ii) Willingdon Hospital — 569, (iii) Safdarjang Hospital — 2,555.

In the Irwin Hospital children chronic cases (Hydrocele, her-

nia, etc.) and orthopaedic cases have been on the waiting list for a period of one year and other cases for 3 to 6 months. In the Willingdon Hospital the patients have been on the waiting list since 1957 whereas in the Safdarjang Hospital the patients have been on the waiting list since January 1959.

Power Supply To Rajasthan

An announcement of February 27 says that the Rajasthan grid substation at Rajgarh, at present under construction, will receive electricity supplies from the Bhakra Nangal system by the first week of March 1960.

The substation at Sri-Ganganagar has already started receiving electricity supplies from January 15. Electrification of Gajsinghour, Kesrisinghour, Karanpur and Raisinghnagar and other places is now in hand, and supply of power is being arranged for Hanumangarh, Sangria Mandi and Suratgarh.

The constructions of transmission lines and substations and setting up of local distributary systems for this purpose are also in progress.

After completion of these works, all important points in Sri-Ganganagar and Bikaner districts of Rajasthan will have received electricity supplies from the Bhakra-Nangal Project.

Rice For Mizo District In Assam

Shri A.M. Thomas, Deputy Minister for Food, made a statement in the Lok Sabha on March 2 regarding the supply of rice to the scarcity area of Mizo district in Assam.

The statement says that the Mizo district has bamboo forests which flower once in about fifty years, and when this flowering takes place, there is a phenomenal multiplication of rats. The flowering occurred last year and the rat population increased tremendously. In spite of the measures taken to kill the rats, 60 to 80 per cent of the rice crop in the district has been destroyed.

The Assam Government's estimate is that about 5 lakh maunds of rice will be required for feeding the population of this district till the next crop is harvested in October-November 1960. They have requested the Government of India to make available 10,000 tons of rice to meet the emergency. Accordingly, supplies from Central stocks have already started. About 3,400 tons of rice have already been supplied from the Hojai, Gauhati and Calcutta depots. Up to February 19 about one lakh maunds of rice had already been received in Mizo district by road, boat and air.

The possibility of sending some rice through the Pakistan territory via Chittagong and from Burma has also been explored.

The Assam Government have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 44 lakhs for various relief operations.

For February and March, about 50 lakhs of rupees will be sanctioned for subsidized sale of rice in the district and for subsequent months also similar heavy subsidies will be provided.

ASSENT FOR MADRAS BILL

According to an announcement of March 6, the President has given assent to the Madras Land Improvement Schemes Bill, 1959, which seeks to provide for preparation and execution of soil conservation and land improvement schemes in Madras State.

The legislation replaces the Madras Land Improvement Schemes (Contour Bunding and Contour Trenching) Act, 1949, which has been found to be defective and also inadequate for dealing with the serious erosion problem in the districts like the Nilgiris.

ASSENT FOR M. P. BILL

An announcement of March 14 says that the President has given assent to the Madhya Pradesh Accommodation Control (Amendment) Bill, 1960, which replaces

an Ordinance promulgated on the subject on December 30 last year.

The Madhya Pradesh Accommodation Control Act, introduced in 1955, was due to expire on

December 31, 1959. Extension for another year was considered necessary and, therefore, an Ordinance was promulgated because the State Assembly was not in session.

Defence

REPORT OF DEFENCE MINISTRY FOR 1959-60

The annual report on the activities of the Defence Ministry during 1959-60 was issued on March 12. The report states that necessary adjustments in the civil and military forces have been made in the northern border to meet the new situation created by the Chinese incursion during the past year. Provision of border road communications has also been taken up. The report says:

In 1958 there were a number of firing incidents on the Indo-Pakistan border on the eastern side. When the situation deteriorated, in June 1958, the Army took over operational control of the international border between Assam and Pakistan. During 1959, as a result of Chinese incursion in the Longju area in Subansiri Frontier Division of NEFA, it was decided to give the responsibility for the entire NEFA border with Tibet to the Army. A little later when there were some incidents on the Ladakh border of Tibet, in October 1959, the Army took over similar responsibility for the Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and U.P. borders with Tibet. All civil forces deployed on border security were placed under the operational control of the Army. In November 1959 the security of border of Sikkim with Tibet was entrusted to the Army.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES

It has recently been decided to establish a National Defence Col-

lege in India on the lines of the Imperial Defence College, London. It will impart training to Service Officers of the rank of Colonel and above and equivalent in the Navy and Air Force who have already held responsible appointments and are earmarked for further advancement. Civilian officers of appropriate rank will also be admitted.

It has been decided to start another college at Nowgong for training promising other ranks for entry into the Commissioned ranks, with a view to feeding the Indian Military Academy with best available material from the ranks. The proposed college will serve purposes similar to that of the Kitchner College before the last war.

During the year, improvement in attendance and training of Territorial Army Units was maintained. Fifty-nine persons were granted Officers Commissions and 126 JCO Commissions. On the 31st December 1959, actual strength of the Territorial Army was 90 per cent of the sanctioned strength.

NAVY

The year witnessed a gradual expansion in all spheres of activities in the Indian Navy. The first phase of the Dockyard Expansion Scheme at Bombay is nearing completion, and it is hoped to take up the second phase soon.

The Fleet has been augmented by the addition of anti-sub-

marine frigates INS KIRPAN and KUTHAR on 10th November, and four more ships, INS TALWAR, TRISHUL, BEAS and BETWA, which were commissioned in the United Kingdom, are due to join the Fleet in 1960. With the refit of the Navy's 19,000 ton aircraft carrier going apace in the United Kingdom, which is expected to be commissioned in 1961, steps were taken to acquire the required aircraft for the carrier. They include Seahawks and some other types of aircraft. These additions to the Fleet would also mark the end of the present construction programme of new ships in the United Kingdom. Meanwhile, a beginning has already been made in building small ships for the Navy in the country.

The starting of a number of specialist courses for the different branches of the Service provided the highlights of Naval training. For the first time, a whole phase of the Commonwealth Naval exercises was conducted by the Indian Navy. Today, practically the entire training of officers and men, except for some highly specialised courses, is undertaken in India. During the year, one officer and 93 sailors from Ceylon and 8 sailors from Indonesia have been trained by the Indian Navy and 8 officers from Ceylon, Indonesia and Ethiopia, 23 sailors from Indonesia, and 33 from Ceylon are now under training.

A unique event, the second of its kind in naval history, was the success achieved by a Naval expedition in scaling the 22,510 feet high Nanda Kot in the Kumaon Range.

AIR FORCE

During the year the Indian Air Force made steady all-round progress. A new command under an Air Vice-Marshal has been formed with its Headquarters at Calcutta. The rank of AOC Maintenance Command has been upgraded to Air Vice-Marshal. Steps are being taken for building, under licence, at Kanpur of AVRO 748, a transport aircraft to replace Dakota aircraft.

During the year two Auxiliary Air Force Squadrons have been formed, one at Bhubaneswar and the other at Chandigarh. After completion of basic training in piston-engined aircraft, jet training has been introduced in Delhi, Madras and Bengal Auxiliary Air Force Squadrons. The air-men of the first two batches of the Delhi and Bombay Auxiliary Air Force Squadrons and those of the first batch of the Madras Auxiliary Air Force Squadron have completed their basic training and are now undergoing advanced training on Squadron aircraft. The Delhi, Bombay, and Madras Squadrons carried out a fly past at their respective centres during the Annual Territorial Army Day Parade.

DEFENCE PRODUCTION

The value of overall output of the Ordnance Factories inclusive of items for civil trade consumption was Rs. 20 crores during 1958-59 as against 18 crores in 1957-58 and Rs. 14 crores in 1956-57. The value of goods produced for Armed Forces as well as for civilian use up to December 1959 amount to Rs. 15 crores and it is expected to reach the target of Rs. 26 crores by March 1960.

The Ordnance Factories helped in conservation of foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 16 crores during the years 1957-58 and 1958-59 and Rs. 6.61 crores during 1959.

CADET CORPS

The rate of growth of the National Cadet Corps increased during the year. The Auxiliary Cadet Corps, which had a strength of 15,807 teachers and 8,38,307 cadets, increased to 16,690 teachers and 9,20,271 cadets by the end of 1959. To provide for military training to students on substantially larger scale, it has been decided to raise NCC Rifles on the analogy of Rifle Regiments of the Infantry. Expenditure on units of NCC Rifles is expected to be about 25 per cent. of that on NCC Units of similar strength. It is proposed to raise a strength of 2,50,000 by the 31st March, 1961.

Indian Information

NCC RIFLE UNITS

An announcement of March 9 says that out of the target of 50,000 cadets proposed to be enrolled in the newly-raised National Cadet Corps Rifles during the current financial year 1959-60, about 29,000 have already been enlisted in its ranks. Madras alone has enrolled 9,200 cadets, while U.P. has enlisted 5,200, Punjab 3,800, Rajasthan 3,100, Madhya Pradesh 2,000, Mysore 1,500, Bombay 2,300 and Andhra Pradesh 1,600.

It was because of the increasing demand for the allotment of N.C.C. units from the various colleges, universities and educational institutions in the country that the Government of India recently decided to introduce this new scheme for the enrolment of a quarter million cadets before the close of the 1960-61 financial year.

The scheme, which envisages the expansion of the Cadet Corps by raising N.C.C. Rifles units, provides an opportunity for students to enter the ranks of the N.C.C. in larger numbers. Broadly, N.C.C. Rifles units are to be organised, equipped and trained on the analogy and pattern of rifle regiments in the Army.

Entry into units of the N.C.C. Rifles is open to senior students, both boys and girls, above 16 years of age on a voluntary basis, and their training does not involve any military liability. Recruitment is made for two to three years, each year coinciding with the academic year of the college or university. All cadets are required to do one training camp for a fortnight's duration in their second year of training.

ARMY HORSE SHOW

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, gave away the prizes to the winners at the conclusion of the four-day Army Horse Show in New Delhi on March 6. The show was inaugurated by the Defence Minister Shri V.K. Krishna Menon on March 3.

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The Horse Show was preceded by polo tournaments during February.

"Exercise Deccan"

An Army Training Exercise-cum-Study Week 'Deccan' was launched at Secunderabad on March 8 by the EME (Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) Centre to study and evaluate the performance capacity of weapons, equipment and vehicles of various descriptions.

In the exercise model room, Shri Krishna Menon spoke to the assembled officers on the development of the country's industrial potential and its impact on defence production. Defence production during the past two years, he said, had assumed a new tempo and the output of the defence factories had more than doubled. It was the desire of Government to give to soldiers the best and most modern weapons which could be secured and produced in the Ordnance Factories.

RIMCOLLIANS REUNION

General K.S. Thimayya, Chief of the Army Staff, presided over the Foundation Day dinner of the RIMCOLLIANS — old boys of the Rashtriya Indian Military College at Dehra Dun on March 13. Nearly 50 old boys of the college were present. During the two-day programme of celebrations, sports competitions between old and present boys in cricket, hockey and other games were held.

The Rashtriya Indian Military College was opened in 1922 by the then Prince of Wales, now the Duke of Windsor, to feed the Armed Forces of the country. Besides Gen. Thimayya, three Lt-Generals, 15 Major-Generals, one Air Commodore, are serving in the Armed Forces from this college.

The college is shortly to be opened and additional dormitories and classrooms are nearing completion. The strength of the college will be increased from 180 to 200 in the next term and it is expected that the strength will go up to 300 in the near future.

April 1, 1960

India & The World

RELIEF SUPPLIES TO AGADIR

The first consignment of Indian relief supplies for the victims of the Agadir earthquake in Morocco was sent by a plane which left Bombay on March 7 for Paris from where the Moroccan Airlines will carry the supplies to Morocco. The consignment includes Penicillin, Etkocine, Sulpha Guinidine, TAB Vaccine, Streptomycin, Vitamin tablets and other drugs.

TO MAURITIUS

A New Delhi announcement of March 8 says the Government of India have donated relief supplies worth rupees two lakhs for the Mauritius cyclone victims. These supplies, along with other free gifts of 476 blankets, 3200 yards of saree cloth and 2400 yards of grey sheetings, received through the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, were scheduled to reach Port Louis on March 8.

Indian Trophy For Spanish Football

India's cup for the Spanish Junior League Football Championship, awarded by the Indian Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, was presented by India's Charge d'Affairs, Shri Mohamad Yunus, to the winners in

the presence of a large crowd at Madrid, says a New Delhi announcement of March 14.

Indian Books For Tunis Library

India's Ambassador to Morocco, Shri R. Gohardhan, presented on behalf of the Government of India ninety-four books to the National Library, Tunis on March 8, says a New Delhi announcement of March 10.

'GLIMPSES OF WORLD HISTORY'

In the exhibition of the Book Society opened by the Iranian Education Minister, Dr. Mahmood Mehran, at Tehran on March 9, Mr. Mahmoud Tafazoli's translation of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru's book 'Glimpses Of World History' was adjudged as one of the ten best books and one of the three best historical books of the year, says a New Delhi announcement of March 11.

Rumanian Cultural Troupe

A Troupe of Classical Opera and Ballet artists from Rumania arrived in Bombay on March 2, at the invitation of the Government of India. The group consists of two vocalists, a pianist and two ballet dancers. It gave

eight performances in Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi from March 3 to 18.

INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO NETHERLANDS

India's Ambassador to the Netherlands, Shri R.K. Tandon, presented his credentials to Queen Juliana of the Netherlands at Palace Huis Ten Bosch on March 2, says an announcement from New Delhi.

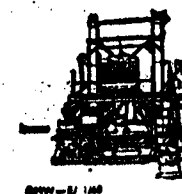
HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR

Dr. Laszlo Reczei, Ambassador-designate of Hungary, presented his Credentials to the President at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on March 10. Presenting his Letter of Credence Dr. Laszlo Reczei expressed his happiness at being the first Ambassador of the Hungarian People's Republic to India subsequent to the decision to raise mutually the diplomatic missions to the rank of embassies.

CUBAN MISSION RAISED TO EMBASSY LEVEL

In a Press Note issued on March 14, the Ministry of External Affairs has announced that with a view to further strengthening the friendly relations existing between the Republics of India and Cuba, the Governments of the two countries have decided to raise, with immediate effect, their diplomatic representation to the level of Embassies.

Shri M.C. Chagla, India's Ambassador in United States of America, will concurrently be Ambassador to Cuba with residence in Washington.



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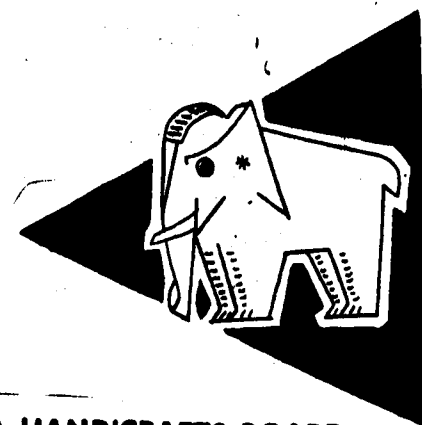
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S. Ranganathan (right), Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Mr. Shigeo Nagano, Leader of the Japanese Mission, signing an agreement in New Delhi on March 10 of the supply to Japan of four million tons of iron ore per year from Bailadila Iron Ore Project from the year 1966



Shri Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, and H.E. Mr. Dusan Kveder, Ambassador in India of the People's Republic of Yugoslavia, signing a Cultural Agreement between India and Yugoslavia in New Delhi on March 11

Members of the delegation of educationists from the German Democratic Republic, with Shri Humayun Kabir, Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, in New Delhi on March 15



Members of the troupe of ballet and opera artistes from Rumania at Delhi Railway Station where they arrived on March 15





Shivaji, the horse exhibited by the Chief of the Army Staff, General K.S. Thimayya, which won the King of Afghanistan Challenge Cup at the Army Horse Show in New Delhi on March 5

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Indian Information

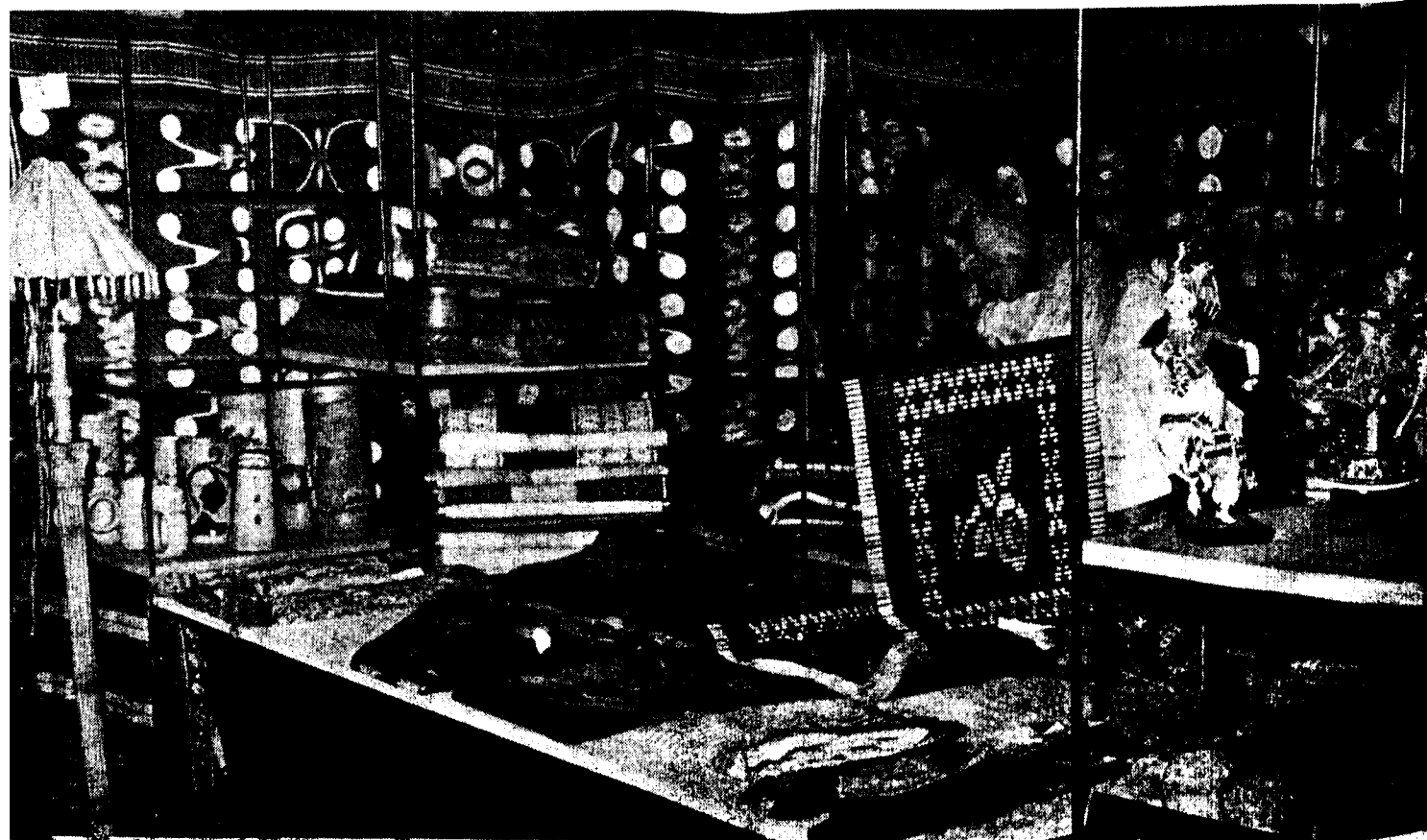


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No. 6

A view of the Manipur Stall at the exhibition organised by the Central Social Welfare Board, which was inaugurated in New Delhi on March 15





Mr. Eugenio Soler Alonso, Ambassador-designate of Cuba, presenting his Credentials to the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, on March 17



Mr. E. Yamada (second from left), President of the Citizen Watch Company of Japan, and Shri R.V. Raman, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, signing in New Delhi on March 25, an agreement to set up a factory for the manufacture of watches in the Public Sector

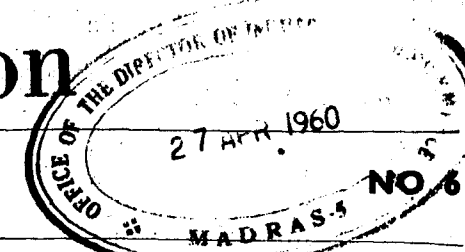


Shri Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, with four Sikkimese teachers, now on a study-cum-training tour of India, in New Delhi on March 21

Indian Information

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Calcutta 26, 1982



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Political & General

REPORT OF MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS FOR 1959-60

The annual report for 1959-60 of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, issued on March 15, indicates that the Ministry has reorganised the pattern of its work so as to effect quick disposal and improve efficiency.

Consequently, the disposal of receipts has gone up, from 96 per cent in 1957 to 97.5 per cent in 1959. In terms of numbers, out of 2,25,417 receipts 2,19,850 were dealt with, and only 4,390 were pending.

On the results of the combined competitive examination held in 1958, 248 candidates were appointed to the All India Services and Central Services Class I and II. During the year 117 and 88 new officers were appointed in the I.A.S. and I.P.S. cadres respectively including those promoted departmentally.

Out of 212 candidates selected by the U.P.S.C. for appointment to the Industrial Management Pool, offers have gone to 185.

Efforts are being made to absorb the remaining candidates.

The training of Government servants has been reorganised to give them not only professional skill and experience but also a wider outlook, greater adaptability and a deeper realisation of the ethics and obligations of public service. In Mussoorie, the National Academy of Administration has been set up to impart training to Class I officers in 'background and fundamental subjects.'

The syllabus at the Central Police Training College, Mount Abu, has been revised to inculcate in the young police officers the necessary attribute of public service.

STAFF COUNCILS

In order to ensure co-operation of the staff and to provide them with the necessary opportunity of association with welfare work, Staff Committees elected by the Staff Councils of each Ministry have been attached to the Welfare Officer.

A sum of Rs. 4,10,000 sanctioned by Government towards amenities was distributed during the year. Nine Welfare Centres for the benefit of the families of Government employees were set up, bringing the total to 17.

The Hindi Teaching Scheme has been extended to three new centres, namely, Kozhikode, Ambernath and Indore, bringing the total number of centres to 56. The Railway administrations also are now participating in the Scheme.

Over 60,000 Central Government employees have so far received training under the Scheme including 17,000 in 1959, and 10,000 persons are attending classes at present. Arrangements have also been made to impart training in Hindi typing and shorthand, and 200 Lower Division Clerks have started their training in Hindi typing.

ZONAL COUNCILS

During the year, the Northern and the Eastern Zonal Councils held their meetings. The Northern Zonal Council approved the report about the formation of a Zonal Police Reserve Force. The Eastern Council constituted a Committee of Chief Ministers of the States in the Zone to go into the question of implementation of the prescribed safeguards for linguistic minorities. The Southern Zone has already submitted a comprehensive report on the subject.

A sum of Rs. 2,68,375 from the Home Minister's Discretionary Grant was disbursed from April 1 to December 31.

Indian Information

The Superintendents of Census Operations in various States and Union Territories started their work. Matters relating to the conduct of the next Census as well as the questionnaire and the forms have been finalised.

Various reforms have been introduced in jails in the Union Territories. The Panchayat system for promoting welfare activities has been adopted in the jails of Delhi and Tripura. A system for release of prisoners on parole and furlough has been introduced in Himachal Pradesh and Manipur in addition to Delhi and Tripura.

A revised wage-earning scheme has been adopted in Delhi jail and a number of new industries, e.g., Ambar Charkha, Bandsaw-mill and flour mill, have been established.

It has been decided to open a 'Jail Without Walls' in the new township of Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh to facilitate the rehabilitation of certain categories of prisoners by employing them on public utility projects.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Relevant articles of the Indian Constitution have been extended to Jammu and Kashmir (a) enabling the Supreme Court to grant special leave to appeal from the judgments and decisions of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court; (b) bringing the position of the Judges of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court on par with that of High Court judges in the rest of the country, and (c) empowering the Election Commission of India to supervise, direct and control the conduct of elections to the Jammu and Kashmir Legislature which will continue to be held under the laws made by the State Legislature.

During the floods in July, Indian Armed Forces rendered great help to the flood-stricken people of the State.

A school has been opened at Leh to give advanced instruction in Buddhist Philosophy and the Pali language to lamas and others in Ladakh. The number

of scholarships to students from Ladakh studying at the institutions run by the Maha Bodhi Society of India at Sarnath has been increased from 12 to 18.

WELFARE ACTIVITIES

More than Rs. 12 crores were disbursed for schemes for the welfare of Backward Classes. Forty-three special multi-purpose tribal blocks have been started for the intensive development of selected areas mainly inhabited by the Scheduled Tribes.

Special efforts have been made to increase the intake of members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes in the various Services.

A study of the requirements of the educational personnel below the University stage during the Third and Fourth Plan periods has been carried out. A detailed survey of the requirements of engineering personnel has also been conducted by the working group on technical education with which the Manpower Directorate of the Home Ministry was closely associated. The All India Survey of the pattern and the graduate employment and training requirements of different occupations in key industries have also been undertaken.

By the end of 1959, about 46,000 persons had been registered in the general section of the Register and about 3,500 in the Special Section relating to Indians abroad. For the pool of Indian scientists and technologists, 123 persons were selected, of whom 57 had accepted the offer.

FOREIGNERS

Foreigners visiting India for 30 days or less are not now required either to register themselves or to obtain formal residential permits. They have also been exempted from filling in 'hotel arrival' reports while staying in hotels.

Orders were also issued that foreigners, who by virtue of their stay in the country on or

before August 19, 1943, were not required to take out residential permits, should be required to do so before January 5, 1960. Necessary amendments to the Foreigners Order, 1948, have been made. As on December 1, 1959, 55,653 foreigners have been registered under the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, as against 52,647 on December 31, 1958.

ADMINISTRATIVE VIGILANCE DIVISION

The annual report of the Administrative Vigilance Division in the Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 1959-60 was issued on March 22. The report says that the Division has started scrutinizing the reports of Parliamentary Committees like the Public Accounts Committee and the Estimates Committee to follow-up the irregularities mentioned. In 1959, 53 such instances, reported by the Public Accounts Committee, were referred to the various Ministries.

During the period from April 1, 1956, to the end of December 1959, the Division dealt with 32,178 complaints and 18,059 vigilance cases. Gazetted officers numbering 113 and non-gazetted 1,546, were dismissed, removed, compulsorily retired or reduced in rank. Minor penalties were imposed on 222 gazetted officers and 4,179 non-gazetted officers.

In 1959, out of 10,649 complaints including those pending from the year before, 2,316 related to gazetted officers and 8,333 to non-gazetted employees.

During the year, prosecution was launched in 264 cases, and 232 cases were decided by courts. Of these, 190 cases resulted in conviction giving a percentage of successful cases at 81. The persons convicted included 10 gazetted officers and 108 other Government servants and 75 private persons. Fines totalling Rs. 2,68,930 were also imposed by courts.

Besides 363 cases were decided departmentally, of which 325 ended in punishment, giving a percentage of successful cases at 89.5. These involved gazetted

officers, 291 non-gazetted officers and 7 other public servants.

A Vigilance Officer has been appointed in each of the Ministries, Corporations, and Semi-Government organisations to deal with cases and complaints against Government servants. The Division has also taken several steps to prevent illegal practices.

S.P.E.

A Fraud Squad was set up in July in the Special Police Establishment.

Including new cases and those pending investigation, trial or departmental action from the previous year, cases involving 3,004 public servants—541 gazetted officers, 2,350 non-gazetted officers and 113 other public servants were dealt with by the Special Police Establishment during the year as against 2,641 cases last year. Nearly 120 Government employees, including 10 gazetted officers, were convicted in courts.

Public servants, numbering 1,164—207 gazetted officers—were involved in the new cases taken up for investigation during 1959 as against 968 public servants including 185 gazetted officers in the new cases of last year. In the new cases of 1959, there are 28 other public servants who are equivalent in status to gazetted officers.

During the year 44 traps were laid in which 48 Government servants were caught red-handed while accepting illegal gratification.

Border Road Development Board

An announcement of March 31 says that in order to accelerate the economic development of border areas, which has hitherto been hindered by lack of communications, the Government of India have set up a high-powered Border Roads Development Board with the Prime Minister as Chairman and Defence Minister as Deputy Chairman. The first meeting of the Board was held on March 29, 1960.

Indian Information

The Board has been given the powers of a Department of Government with its own Financial Adviser. A plan of road construction for these areas has been prepared to be implemented by the Board expeditiously with due regard to priorities.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Another Committee has been set up in the Cabinet Secretariat to ensure the effective co-ordination at the Centre of development programmes in these border areas. The States and the local administrations are being given financial assistance in this matter.

New districts have been created in the border areas of U.P. and Jammu and Kashmir, each in charge of a Deputy Commissioner with wide administrative and financial powers. The key staff has already got in position. In the Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, new districts will be formed as soon as the snow melts.

Development schemes have been prepared by the State Governments which have been authorised to proceed with urgent schemes in anticipation of the approval of the Central Government.

The development programme concentrates on small projects such as minor irrigation works, improvement of livestock and pastures, cottage industries and the construction of feeder roads and bridle paths. Attention will also be given to medical services and to social and cultural activities.

New Border Districts

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 21, the Home Minister, Shri G.B. Pant disclosed that it was proposed to set up a number of new districts in the border areas to secure more intensive administration and accelerated development of these areas.

Shri Pant added that the Central Government had discussed the necessary measures with the State Governments concerned.

April 15, 1960

Successors To Rulers Of Former Indian States

It was announced on March 21 that the President recognised the succession of six Rulers of former Indian States during 1959.

The Rulers were: Raja Suraj Mani Deo, Raja of Athmallik; Thakor Shri Jorawarsinhji, Thakor of Tharad; Thakur Vishwaraj Singh, Chief of Kowardhha; His Highness Maharaja Satbir Singh, Maharaja of Jind; Raolji Shri Vanrajsinhji, Thakor of Mansa; and Raja Pratap Chandra Singh Mardaraj Jagadeb, Raja of Hindol.

According to Clause 22 of Article 366 of the Indian Constitution, a 'Ruler in relation to an Indian State means the Prince, Chief or other person' by whom a covenant or agreement 'was entered into and who for the time being is recognised by the President as the Ruler of the State, and includes any person who, for the time being, is recognised by the President as the successor of such Ruler.'

CHIEF JUSTICE OF KERALA

A Press Communique issued on March 23 by the Ministry of Home Affairs says, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Mohammad Ahmed Ansari, Judge of the Kerala High Court, to be the Chief Justice of that High Court vice Shri Justice K. Sankaran due to retire on March 29, 1960.

Eight New Awards Of Ashoka Chakra

According to an announcement of March 20, the President has approved the award of eight new Ashoka Chakra decorations for acts of conspicuous gallantry. The recipients are (1) 2/Lieutenant Raj Mohan Sharma, (2) Subedar Satlal Pun, (3) Rifleman Jut Bahadur Thapa, (4) Shri Pfuldilu Angami, (5) Grenadier Sardari Lal, (6) Lance/Havildar Bombahadur Thapa, (7) Naik Lal Bahadur Thapa and (8) Shri Sono Lovaraj, first four being given the Ashoka Chakra Class II and the other four Ashoka Chakra Class III.

Indian Information

According to the citation, Subedar Satlal Pun, who was in command of a platoon of the 4/8th Gorkha Rifles in the Sema area of the Naga Hills, was responsible for the infliction of a major reverse on a party of over a hundred fully armed and equipped hostiles under the self-styled leadership of 'Field Marshal' Kaito. In an encounter on May 25, 1959, along the track from Kichlimi towards the river Diyung, Subedar Satlal Pun tactically deployed his men and engaged the hostiles, who subjected the platoon to heavy and concentrated small arms fire and charged them three times in twenty minutes.

In the same encounter Rifleman Jut Bahadur Thapa captured one of the hostile's weapons and carried his unconscious comrade back to his section and later went forward to take up a tactical position and shot dead two hostiles but was himself hit by a bullet in his left shoulder. Despite his wound, he continued to fire and held up the encircling movement of the hostiles until another bullet hit him in the chest and killed him. The prompt action of this young rifleman enabled the remainder of the patrol to assault the camp and prevented the hostiles from escaping.

When 2/Lieutenant Raj Mohan Sharma, who was in charge of a jeep convoy moving along the Kotsenyu-Chaphimi road in the Naga Hills-Tuensang Area on May 23, 1959, started to climb Chaphimi village, his convoy was attacked by a gang of 60 Naga hostiles who were in prepared positions in thick grass and scrub and were firing at point blank range from all directions. Lieutenant Sharma immediately ordered his men to abandon the jeep and he himself jumped out when he was hit by an LMG burst in the back and the right arm. Two of his men were killed and two others wounded. Although himself severely wounded, Lt. Sharma helped the wounded Other Ranks to get under cover and from there kept up steady small arms fire on the hostiles.

On the evening of June 4, 1959, Village Guard Subedar Pfuldilu, son of Lhuputse of the South Angami village of Kigwema, personally reported to the Commandant, Village Guards (NHTA) at Kohima that he had discovered the secret jungle hideout of the notorious Naga hostile Yanio, a self-styled 'General' of the Hostile Home Guard for whom the authorities had been searching for many months. In order that the opportunity should not be lost, Subedar Pfuldilu volunteered to lead a handful of his Village Guards. After a skilful approach he achieved total surprise and seized the self-styled 'General' before either he or his followers had time to make use of their weapons. The remainder of the gang of about 30 hostiles fled into the jungle. Subedar Pfuldilu has been the leading figure in organising popular resistance to the hostiles by means of the Village Guards since the beginning of the Naga Hills disturbances.

Gallantry Awards To M.P. Police Officers

According to a notification in the Gazette of India dated March 19, the President has awarded the Police and Fire Services Medal for gallantry to Shri R.P. Modi, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Madhya Pradesh and Police Medal to Shri Madho Singh, Assistant Commandant, Special Armed Force, Madhya Pradesh.

On November 13, 1959, Shri Rajendra Prasad Modi of Bhind Police Station led a gallant party against the combined gang of dacoits, Gabbarsingh and Dulare, who were hiding in a depression near Village Ghum-ka-pura. Shri Madho Singh with his party provided strong covering fire during the brave assault. In this encounter, 11 dacoits were killed and a large quantity of ammunition with 4 rifles, 4 guns and 2 mausers were recovered.

Secretariat Training School

The annual report of the Secretariat Training School,

Delhi, under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, for the year 1959-60 states that during the year training was imparted to 601 Government servants, making a total of 1399 trained so far. These included 37 Assistant Superintendents, 249 Assistants, 30 IFS Assistants, 21 Railway Board Assistants, 255 Lower Division clerks and 9 other officers. In addition, training was given to 511 typists making a total of 4065 typists trained so far. Tests in typewriting and shorthand were conducted for 4118 and 652 candidates respectively, besides conducting another test in typewriting for 4479 candidates on behalf of the U.P.S.C.

The syllabus of the school has been designed to impart to probationers the spirit of human approach and to maintain a high code of conduct.

The Secretariat Training School was established in May 1948 and was placed on a permanent footing in 1957.

P.M.'S RELIEF FUND

It was announced on March 20 that the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund received a sum of Rs. 1,74,600 as contributions from individuals and institutions within the country and from abroad during the period November 21, 1959 to January 31, 1960. The largest contribution, Rs. 73,724 came through the Embassy of India at Tehran.

President Nasser's Visit To India

H.E. Gamal Abdel-Nasser, President of the United Arab Republic, arrived in New Delhi on March 29 on a twelve-day State visit to India. He was received at the Palam airport by President Rajendra Prasad, the Vice-President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Nehru and the Cabinet Ministers, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Service Chiefs, and others.

The same day, President Rajendra Prasad held a State banquet in honour of the distinguished visitor. On March

Indian Information

30, President Nasser was given a civic reception. On March 31 he addressed Members of Parliament in the Central Hall, and the same evening left Delhi on a tour of the country.

Chinese Premier To Visit India On April 19

Prime Minister Nehru received the following reply to his letter of March 5 from the Chinese Premier, Mr. Chou En-lai:

Peking,
March, 19, 1960.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

The Indian Ambassador to China, Mr. Parthasarathy forwarded your letter on 5th March. You suggested that the time for my visit to Delhi might be about 20th April. This time is suitable to me and I entirely agree to it. If it suits your convenience and that of the Government of India, I am prepared to visit Delhi for seven days, from April 19th to 25th.

I am eagerly looking forward to meeting you again and visiting your great country.

With cordial regards,

Sd/- (Chou En-lai)
Premier of the State
Council of the People's Republic of China.

YUGOSLAV ARTISTS' GOODWILL TOUR

A five-member delegation of artists from Yugoslavia, led by Dr. Milos Zanko, member of the Cabinet of the Croation Republic and Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Croatia, arrived in Bombay on March 16, on a four-week goodwill tour of the country at the invitation of the Government of India.

Lok Sabha Resolution On Firing In S. Africa

The Lok Sabha unanimously adopted the following resolution, on the notice firing in South Africa, on March 28:

'This House deplores and records its deep sorrow at the tragic

incidents which occurred at Sharpeville and in Langa township near Capetown in South Africa on March 21, 1960, resulting in the death of a large number of Africans from police firing. It sends its deep sympathy to the Africans who have suffered from this firing and from the policy of racial discrimination and the suppression of the African people in their own homeland.'

Earlier, moving the resolution, the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, said:

'It is not the custom of this House normally to consider such matters which are supposed to be in the internal jurisdiction of another country nor indeed would we like the other countries to consider matters in the internal jurisdiction of this country. After all, this House is and ought to be to some extent a mirror of our people's feelings and therefore, although this is not a normal procedure, we felt that this House should be given an opportunity of expressing the strong feelings which it has in regard to these tragic incidents.

'It is bad enough for a large number of people to be killed or for there being a mass killing as there has been in this place in South Africa a week ago. It is worse to have this killing in the manner it was done, so far as accounts have appeared. You must remember that behind all these lies a certain deliberate policy which the South African Union Government is pursuing. In principle and in theory this policy is the negation of everything that the UN stands for and we stand for, of course. It is the negation of what presumably every civilised Government today stands for or should stand for. That is a serious matter.....

'In regard to the actual practice of it, I wonder how far Hon. Members are really aware of the details of how the Africans have to live, what they have to submit to—to what conditions of living, where families are torn asunder, husband from the wife, father from the son. Without special permission, they

cannot leave; they cannot move or do anything without special permits and passes.'

CONCERN OF HUMANITY

Referring to the circumstances of the firing, Shri Nehru said, 'Something terrible has happened there; something terrible not only on that particular occasion but in the context of the modern world; and it is not surprising that there has been this great reaction all over the world, and I believe the matter is going to be brought before the United Nations.'

'Now, the United Nations Organisation also, normally, does not interfere in the internal affairs of another country although there have been cases when it has interfered and rightly interfered in giving consideration to those matters. It may be said that this is not a matter for the United Nations — a matter that is likely to lead to violation of international peace and security, that is, the Charter of the United Nations. Well, in that sense, in the strict sense of the word, perhaps it is not. But in any real sense of that word, of that phrase, it is very much a matter in which the United Nations, as representing the international community, should consider this, because it involves something of the most intimate concern to humanity itself.'

'This problem is dividing today, and will divide even more, humanity into large differing and conflicting sections. It means something even worse than a normal war between nations, something of racial conflict spread all over the globe. I do not say all these things will come but they may come and they will undoubtedly come if this kind of policy is persisted in.'

'So, this matter is not one merely affecting the South African Union. It affects the whole of Africa and indeed it affects all of us, whatever we may be. It is an odd position that a member of the United Nations is using its State power for suppression, for the assertion of its

racial superiority within its territory; that is the question; using the State power in doing something which is objected to and denied by the United Nations in its Charter.'

Violations Of Air Space

Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, Defence Minister, made a statement in the Lok Sabha on March 18 regarding the reported incidents of violation of India air space by unidentified aircraft after December 18 last.

The statement points out that all the reports related to flights at night when in most of the cases only sounds were heard and in a few cases red lights were seen. It says:

'From the collation of the reports our experts consider that these flights appear to follow a pattern wherein the sounds disappeared towards the North. In some cases the report of the sound as being of Jet Aircraft has been made.'

'We have at present about 42 reports of having heard sounds of aircraft or having seen some lights. Most of these no doubt refer to the flights of the same aircraft seen several times or reported by different persons or at different places at short intervals. It is not, therefore, possible to state the number of the aircraft engaged in these violations though they must be much smaller than 42.'

'The occurrence now under mention cover the period from the 6th February to the 23rd February. Our experts have examined all these reports. They are of sounds of what are believed to be of Aircraft or of having seen them at great height at night in cloudy weather. Experts can, therefore, only speak at present of unidentified aircraft. They are also of opinion that these cannot be reconnaissance aircraft as the ground features cannot be seen by aircraft from that height at night and if photographs were being taken at night there would be flashes. Such flashes have not been observed by anyone. The

expert view is that these flights follow a pattern and they have certain views about their purpose.

'I may now refer to occurrences not over the NEFA. From the 15th January to the 23rd February there have also been intrusions into our air-space reported by Indian Air Force and Army Establishments in the Punjab and West Bengal areas. These aircraft, which are all identified, flew back to Pakistan. Protests have been lodged in respect of these.'

SUPREME COURT OPINION ON TRANSFER OF BERUBARI

A special bench of the Supreme Court gave its opinion on March 14 that the 1958 Agreement between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan regarding the transfer of a part of Berubari Union and exchange of Cooch Bihar enclaves amounted to cession of a part of Indian territory in favour of Pakistan and that Parliament was not competent to make law for implementation of the agreement under Article 3 of the Constitution. The Court held that implementation of the Agreement could be effected only by an amendment of the Constitution as provided under Article 368 of the Constitution. The matter was referred to the Supreme Court by the President for its opinion under Article 143(1) of the Constitution.

FOREIGN MISSIONARIES IN INDIA

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 16, the Home Minister, Shri G. B. Pant said that, as on January 1, 1959, 4,802 foreign missionaries were registered in India. The number of missionaries who were granted visas for India during 1959 was 282. A sum of Rs. 506.3 lakhs was received by foreign Christian Missions in India during the period from January to June 1959.

Annual Report Of Dept. Of Parliamentary Affairs

According to the annual report of the Department of Parlia-

mentary Affairs for 1959-60, which was released on March 18, the Lok Sabha held three sessions lasting for 168 days and the Rajya Sabha 4 sessions lasting 115 days during 1959.

Apart from 13 bills carried forward from 1958, 60 new bills were introduced—57 in the Lok Sabha and 3 in the Rajya Sabha. Out of these 79 bills, 63 were put on the Statute. The year closed with 15 pending bills—9 in the Lok Sabha and 6 in the Rajya Sabha.

Non-legislative business transacted by the Parliament during the year included important debates on foreign affairs, food situation in the country, President's Proclamation regarding the State of Kerala and damage to the hoist-chamber in the Bhakra dam.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

The number of Consultative Committees for various Departments increased to 27 as eight Committees were constituted for various railway zones and one for the Department of Atomic Energy.

A special small Consultative Committee was constituted to consider questions connected with the formulation of the Third Plan. Besides, 4 Sub-Committees of the Informal Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation were constituted for closer study of the subjects of Panchayats and Democratic Decentralisation, training and education, co-operation and community development.

The working of these Committees has, it is felt, provided adequate opportunities to members to gain specialisation in subjects of different Ministries in which they are interested. Twentyfour recommendations appearing in different reports of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation were accepted by the Government in consultation with the Ministries. Three recommendations could not be accepted.

During the year, 106 Members of the Lok Sabha and 99 Members of the Rajya Sabha were appointed, with the approval of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on different Committees, Councils, Boards, etc. set up by the Government.

From the proceedings, 1,138 assurances given by Ministers were recorded in both the Houses—903 in the Lok Sabha and 235 in the Rajya Sabha. Of these, 627 assurances were implemented during the year.

Planning & Finance

MEETING OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The fourteenth meeting of the National Development Council was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, in New Delhi on March 19. Addressing the meeting, Shri Nehru said that the proposals contained in the draft memorandum on the Third Five Year Plan, to be discussed by the meeting, were very tentative. He observed that the perspective of future planning was embodied in the Second Plan and we would have to keep in mind the fourth and even the fifth Plans in finalising the Third Plan.

The Prime Minister emphasised that only scientific planning using modern technology could get the country out of the rut of traditional ways of production and distribution. Referring to the human factor in progress, he stressed the need of co-operation and self-reliance.

PRICE POLICY

During the course of discussions on the first day, the Council considered some basic questions relating to the Third Plan, specially price policy, financial resources, the contribution of the States, priorities and the conditions essential for a Plan involving a net investment in the economy of Rs. 9,950 crores.

On price policy, there was complete agreement that the Third Plan could be formulated only on the basis that the price line would be held. A number of

factors were emphasised in this connection, particularly the need for maintaining the prices of food and essential consumer goods at steady and reasonable levels, for ensuring a proper relationship between the prices of food crops and cash crops and for securing the supply of the farmers' requirements of industrial goods at fair prices.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The Working Group on Resources has proposed that for financing a total outlay of Rs. 7,000 crores in the public sector in the Third Plan, there should be a total additional taxation of about Rs. 1,650 crores of which about Rs. 1,150 crores might be raised by the Central Government and about Rs. 500 crores by the State Governments. According to the proposals of the Working Group, out of the outlay of about Rs. 3,650 crores which is likely to fall within the plans of States, their total contribution is expected to amount to about Rs. 1,150 crores. The Council agreed that more detailed discussion between the Planning Commission and individual States should now proceed on the basis of the recommendations made by the Working Group.

Reference was also made to the prize bond scheme. The Union Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, indicated that half the proceeds of prize bonds

would be made available to the States.

OBJECTIVES

After considering the suggestions contained in the Planning Commission's draft memorandum, the Council agreed that the main tasks to be undertaken should be to secure during the Third Plan period a rise in national income of at least 5 per cent per annum, the pattern of investment being designed also to sustain this rate of growth during subsequent plan periods; to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains, and increase agricultural production to meet the requirements of industry and exports; to establish basic industries like steel, fuel and power and, in particular, machine-building capacity, so that the requirements of further industrialisation can be met within a period of ten years or so mainly from the country's own resources; to ensure a substantial expansion in employment opportunities; and to bring about a reduction of inequalities in income and wealth and a more even distribution of economic power.

During the discussion of priorities for the Third Plan, it was agreed that the first priority should be given to agriculture. There had also to be necessarily considerable emphasis on the development of basic industries, specially steel, machine-building, fuel and power. Technical education at all levels was also emphasised.

The need for securing the utmost economy in construction programme, specially through the adoption of austerity standards and the proper planning of supplies of materials such as steel, was pointed out. It was generally agreed that in the development of village and small industries the emphasis should shift more and more from subsidies to positive measures, so that all these industries became self supporting.

DISTRIBUTION OF OUTLAYS

On the second day, the Council completed its preliminary consideration of the Planning

Commission's draft memorandum on the Third Plan.

The memorandum contemplates a total outlay of Rs. 7,000 crores in the public sector, of which the investment component or expenditure devoted to the creation of physical assets is estimated at Rs. 5,950 crores, and current outlay, which broadly corresponds to expenditure on revenue account, at Rs. 1,050 crores.

In the private sector, the total investment for the Third Plan has been estimated at Rs. 4,000 crores, of which industry and minerals are expected to account for Rs. 1,000 crores, transport, communications and power for Rs. 250 crores, agriculture for Rs. 800 crores, village and small industries for Rs. 275 crores, urban and rural housing and construction for Rs. 1,075 crores and inventories for Rs. 600 crores.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In the course of the discussion on the need for providing balanced development in different parts of the country, reference was made to the suggestion made in the Second Plan that in locating new enterprises, whether public or private, the regional factors should receive special consideration and it was urged that the possibilities of resource utilisation in different regions should be carefully investigated.

BENEFITS TO RURAL AREAS

Referring to the impact of the Plan on rural areas, the Minister of Community Development and Co-operation, Shri S.K. Dey, urged that if the rural economy was to advance more rapidly, agriculture and community projects would not be enough. It would also be necessary to locate as many institutions as possible in rural areas — whether these be industrial plants or research centres or training institutions — and to use numerous small towns and villages which had electricity as centres for locating new activities.

The meeting of the National Development Council was fol-

lowed on March 21 by a conference of State Planning Secretaries who discussed questions relating to the work on financial estimates and the State Plans, preparation of programmes for agricultural production and co-operative development, and the preparation of district and block plans for the Third Plan.

Indo-Pakistan Financial Talks

The following Joint Communique was issued simultaneously from New Delhi and Rawalpindi on March 27 on the financial talks between India and Pakistan held at Rawalpindi from March 24 to 27.

The Finance Ministers of India and Pakistan concluded their discussions on the outstanding financial issues this afternoon. Some of the points which were outstanding were resolved, but a few points still remain before an overall settlement could be reached. The Finance Ministers hope to meet again in the near future to consider the matter further.

Indo-Norwegian Taxation Agreement

Instruments ratifying the Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation of Income between India and Norway, which had been signed at the governmental level at New Delhi on July 20, 1959, were exchanged in Oslo on March 23 by the representatives of the two governments. A Notification under Section 49A of the Income-tax Act has also been issued for publication in the Gazette of India Extraordinary. With the completion of these formalities, the Agreement will come into force in both countries.

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

The Agreement will be effective in India for and from the assessment year beginning on the first day of April 1959.

International Bank Mission

A six-member Mission of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is to spend nearly ten weeks in India to study the economy of the country on the eve of the Third Plan.

The leader of the Mission, Mr. Michael Hoffman, who is Director of the Economic Development Institute and Mr. Peter Wright, one of the members, arrived in New Delhi on March 26, and two more members on March 28. Another member is expected by the middle of April and the sixth is stationed in New Delhi.

A similar Mission visited India on the eve of the Second Plan. The present team follows the visit of the Three Wise Men sponsored by the President of the World Bank.

NICKEL-BRASS COINS

In a statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha during question hour on March 21, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shri B.R. Bhagat, explained that the nickel-brass one-anna and half-anna coins had been demonetised in pursuance of the general policy of Government to withdraw, according to a phased programme, all coins of the anna-pie series, as early as possible. He said, upto November 30, 1959 a total of 3,04,96 lakh nickel-brass one anna and half anna coins had been minted, and 1,19,42 lakh one anna and half-anna coins withdrawn. The balance, that is, 1,85,54 lakh coins, had either been destroyed or lost or were in circulation in Burma or Pakistan (during the war or before partition) or not tendered at treasuries and other offices where these coins could still be received.

COMPULSORY G.P. FUND

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March

24 the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said that, after carefully considering the representations received, Government had come to the conclusion that compulsory subscription to the Provident Fund was necessary.

A sum of Rs. 3.5 crores per annum was estimated to be the additional amount of subscription to accrue to the General Provident Fund as a result of compulsory deduction from Central Government employees, he added.

SEIZURE OF SMUGGLED GOLD

Replying to a question on March 16, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, confirmed in the Lok Sabha today that gold and gold ornaments weighing approximately 614 tolas and

valued at about Rs. 78,000 were seized from the manager of a bank in Calcutta on February 15. He said, two Nepalis had been arrested in this connection and released on bail. The case was under investigation.

Shri Desai added that the Government of India had no reason to believe that smuggling of gold from Nepal into India was on the increase.

FORGED 100-RUPEE NOTES

Replying to a question on March 21 the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, informed the Lok Sabha that a few forged 100-rupee notes had been detected in the Amritsar district. As was usual in such cases, investigations were undertaken, but no arrests had been made.

Commerce & Industry

ANNUAL REPORT OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

The annual report of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for 1959-60, published on March 21, says that, despite the tight foreign exchange situation, it was possible to ensure that industrial production was not hampered. The index of industrial production for the first ten months of 1959 recorded an increase of 10.4 points — from 138.9 to 149.3 — over the previous year's figures, as compared with an increase of less than 2 points in 1958 over 1957. The actual increase would be larger if the new items such as penicillin, the production of which started after 1951, were included in the index. Also the weightage in favour of traditional industries, like cotton and jute textiles and sugar was very heavy in the index as composed at present.

Among the industries which recorded substantial increase in

production, special mention should be made of sugar machinery, diesel engines, machine tools, automobiles, sulphuric acid, iron and steel, aluminium, super-phosphate, soda ash, cement and paper and paper board. The country was currently producing 1,32,000 tons of steel structures, one lakh tons of steel pipes and tubes, 30,000 tons of steel castings and 12,000 wagons and under-frames. Of finished machinery and equipment, production in 1959 included sugar mill machinery worth Rs. 2.5 crores and machine tools worth Rs. 4 crores. The country also produced 30,000 diesel engines, two million ball bearings, 34,000 automobiles, 175 diesel road-rollers, 6,00,000 H.P. of electric motors, one million KVA of power transformers and 288 million running feet of welding electrodes. As for metals, 16,000 tons of aluminium, 7,500

tons of copper, 60,000 tons of ferro-manganese and some quantities of lead, zinc and antimony are produced annually. The capacity for producing caustic soda, soda ash, sulphuric acid, cement and calcium carbide has increased substantially and many new lines of production have been established including hydrogen peroxide, industrial and mining explosives, ammonium nitrate, acetone, etc.

As regards the projects which are in varying stages of construction, the first phase of the Heavy Electrical Project at Bhopal was nearing completion.

It has been decided to expand the capacity of the Heavy Machinery Project at Ranchi from 45,000 to 80,000 tons of machinery a year. The construction of the Project was in progress. Besides, a number of other machine building projects, including a Mining Machinery Project, a Heavy Machine Tools Project, a Heavy Structural Project, a Heavy Plate and Vessels Works and two more Heavy Electrical Projects have been approved by Government to go into production during the Third Plan period. In addition, a number of fertiliser plants, drugs and pharmaceutical projects, an intermediates plant to provide the basic raw material for organic chemical industries as well as a project to produce cinematographic and X-ray films are expected to commence production during the Third Plan period.

In the recent past there has been a steady increase in the number of applications for licences under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act for setting up capacity for industrial machinery of all kinds as well as for providing the basic needs of machine building industries. Additional capacity for making transformers to the extent of 2,32,000 KVA, structurals to the extent of 20,000 tons a year, steel castings to the extent of 12,000 tons a year and high quality grey iron castings for automobile and other industries will shortly come into being. The sanctioned schemes for the manufacture of aluminium now

amount to over 75,000 tons a year.

FOREIGN TRADE

During 1959, the earnings from exports amounted to Rs. 626 crores, making an increase of 10.2 per cent over 1958. The rise in exports was spread over a number of commodities. Cotton textiles fared better and tanned hides and skins and finished leather fetched more. Cement and pig iron figured in the export list and some of the engineering manufactures were commanding increasing acceptance in neighbouring markets. The agricultural products, however, did not fare so well. Earnings from tea, raw cotton, tobacco and some vegetable oils declined.

The total value of imports was Rs. 869 crores as against Rs. 864 crores during 1958. The main commodity which was imported in larger quantities was cereals, the increase in January-October, 1959 over January-October 1958 amounting to Rs. 38 crores. There was a rise in the imports of components for the manufacture of trucks, and chemicals needed by the textile and other industries. Import of raw jute recorded a fall and, in fact, this item figured on the export list for the first time in the past few years.

A number of administrative measures were taken to promote exports. The list of commodities subject to export control was reviewed, and as a result, some were de-controlled and for others, the policy was liberalised. Long-term policies were announced for a number of items. Foreign markets were studied for many products and manufacturers were assisted in securing raw materials and other requirements.

Steps were taken to enter into new trade agreements and to renew those that had expired. The year was marked by a series of new agreements with the USSR and other East European countries on a new pattern, the main feature of which is that the trade will be in non-convertible Indian Rupees. A series of understanding with Italy, France, Switzer-

land and West Germany were also negotiated with a view to increasing the country's exports and redressing the imbalance in the trade.

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

Adequate funds were placed at the disposal of the State Governments for disbursement of loans to small scale industries. Out of 100 Industrial Estates planned, 96 have already been sanctioned.

On the basis of an estimated production of Rs. 10 crores worth of Khadi of all types during 1959-60. Government allotted Rs. 3 crores as grants and Rs. 50 lakhs as additional loans for the programme. The production of Khadi with pure traditional Charkha yarn during the year has been estimated to be of the value of Rs. 13 crores.

The Special Police Establishment under the Home Ministry constituted a 'fraud squad' to deal, in close liaison with the Department, with serious company offences. During January-October, 1959, as many as 2,410 prosecutions were launched against 647 companies and their officers.

During the first 11 months of 1959, 18 new Government companies were formed. On November 30, there were 113 Government Companies at work having an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 439.57 crores. Besides 1,284 new companies with a total authorised capital of Rs. 159 crores were registered during the period, as against 943 companies registered with a total authorised capital of Rs. 156 crores during the corresponding period of the previous year.

Industrial Machinery Production

According to an announcement dated March 26, the details of industrial machinery manufacture in 1959 show that not only has the production almost doubled since 1956 in established fields, but several new lines of manufacture have also been taken up for the first time in the country.

A significant rise was recorded in the production of sugar mill machinery. As against Rs. 32 lakhs worth of machinery fabricated in 1956, the 1959 production was valued at about Rs. 2.5 crores. At present 6 firms are manufacturing complete sugar mill machinery.

The production of spinning and weaving machinery increased by about 25 per cent in 1959 compared with the previous year. In the case of draw frames, ring frames and looms, production was particularly higher. During the year, 26 new units were granted licences.

Jute mill machinery worth about Rs. 1.8 crores was produced, representing a six-fold increase since 1956. Carpet-making looms were manufactured for the first time.

COAL MINING MACHINERY

A number of schemes for the manufacture of mining machinery in collaboration with foreign agencies were approved during the year. Work in connection with the coal mining machinery project at Durgapur has also been taken in hand. About Rs. 12 lakhs worth of machinery was produced as against Rs. 9 lakhs in 1958.

Manufacture of constructional machinery was double that of the previous year and valued at Rs. 62 lakhs. During the year, two more units were approved for the manufacture of 4,000 concrete vibrators annually.

The rise in production of tea machinery was from Rs. 58 lakhs in 1957 to Rs. 82 lakhs in the last year. With two more units starting production during the year the present production capacity is sufficient to meet the entire domestic demand.

Production of chemical and pharmaceutical machinery amounted to about Rs. 75 lakhs in 1959 as against Rs. 41 lakhs in 1957. In the case of weighing machines, production increased from Rs. 17 lakhs in 1956 to Rs. 48 lakhs in 1959. A scheme for substantial expansion of one of the units was approved.

Among the new lines of production taken up for the first

time, a scheme for producing flat-bed printing machines was approved. For paper mill machinery, 10 schemes were approved with a capacity of 14 complete plants per annum. Paper machinery worth Rs. 1 crore will be produced every year under these schemes, making the country self sufficient in this respect.

Steps were also taken during the year for the manufacture of a complete range of dairy machinery. Three schemes were approved.

Production Of Electric Locomotives

The Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri S.V. Ramaswamy, told the Lok Sabha during question hour on March 23 that arrangements were in hand to start manufacture of electric locomotives at the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and the first 1500 Volt D.C. electric loco was expected to be manufactured by about the middle of 1961.

The Deputy Minister added that a contract had been awarded to the English Electric Co. by the Railway Board for complete electric equipment for the manufacture of electric locomotives in India. The total cost of the equipment, would be £336,000 (F.O.B. U.K. Port).

Manufacture Of Refractories

An announcement of March 28 says, the Government of India have decided to license additional capacity for the manufacture of refractories in the country and assist entrepreneurs, particularly in the production of blast furnace refractories, ladle refractories, silica refractories, basic refractories such as magnesite, chrome-magnesite, magnachrome, etc., including chemically bonded and steel clad bricks, deadburnt magnesite, glass house refractories (high alumina type) and any other special refractories.

Priority consideration will be given to projects proposed to be located near steel producing

areas and for capacities of about 20,000 to 30,000 tons per annum or multiples.

Applications for licence, accompanied by import applications for plant and machinery, terms of foreign collaboration, if any, may be submitted in the prescribed manner to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi with copy to Development Wing (Mineral Industries Directorate), New Delhi, not later than June 15, 1960.

Production Of Sulphur

An announcement dated March 24 says that the National Industrial Development Corporation has set up a subsidiary company for the manufacture of sulphur, sulphuric acid and other products from the pyrite deposits in the Amjer area of Bihar State.

The Pyrites and Chemicals Development Company Limited, which will undertake this public sector project, will have an authorised capital of Rs. 5 crores. The entire capital will be held by the N.I.D.C.

The estimated cost of the project will be between Rs. 6 to 7 crores. The company will undertake the mining of large quantities of pyrite ore which would be smelted for the production of sulphur. The smelting capacity of the project will be 200 to 300 tons of sulphur every day and it will be expanded later.

At present, India imports over 1.2 lakh tons of sulphur annually.

The N.I.D.C. had engaged a Norwegian expert for studying the pyrite deposits in Bihar and recommending measures for the exploitation of this valuable mineral.

Projects For Basic Chemicals

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 22, the Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, stated that in the Indo-German project for manufacturing basic chemicals and intermediates, the Government

and the consortium of West German firms would be the only participants in the capital structure of the company. For the consortium of West German firms, certain shares, about 10 per cent of the total share capital, were to be allotted against fees for technical assistance to be rendered by them.

Shri Shah further stated that negotiations had been concluded with a consortium consisting of Messrs. BASF, BAYERS, HOECHST and UDHE on February 9, 1960, for setting up the project. An agreed draft had been prepared which would come into force after approval by the Government of India and the West German firms.

Production Of Iron Ore In January

The Indian Bureau of Mines announced on March 26 that the production of iron ore during January 1960 was estimated at 816,000 metric tons, the highest monthly output ever recorded.

Orissa was the chief producing State with an output of 323,000 metric tons followed by Bihar with 234,000 metric tons. Mysore, Madhya Pradesh and Bombay States recorded a production of 110,000, 97,000 and 21,000 metric tons respectively.

During the month despatches of iron ore for consumption in the iron and steel plants totalled 565,000 metric tons while the despatches to export market were 180,000 metric tons.

COPPER ORE

The Indian Bureau of Mines announced on March 17, that the production of copper ore during January 1960 was 30,538 metric tons as against 31,735 metric tons in January 1959. The entire production was reported from the Singhbhum district of Bihar State.

The production of copper metal during the month was 676 metric tons as compared to 596 metric tons in January 1959, representing an increase of 13 per cent.

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COTTON TEXTILES

A Press Note issued on March 16 by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, says, the production by cotton textile mills during February 1960 was provisionally estimated at 138 million lbs. of yarn and 402 million yards of cloth.

At the end of February 1960, composite units of the cotton textile industry carried an estimated stock of 2.60 lakh bales of cloth comprising of 1.40 lakh bales of unsold cloth and 1.20 lakh bales of cloth sold but not lifted.

Production Of Opium

According to the annual report on the operations of the Narcotics Department for the year ending September 1959, released on March 18, the two Government Opium factories at Ghazipur and Neemuch showed a net profit of Rs. 81 lakhs — an increase of Rs. 12 lakhs over the previous year.

Both production and export of opium during the year were higher than in 1957-58. The area under poppy cultivation was 74,205 acres as against 63,934 acres in the previous year, and production was 20,422 maunds as against 17,602 maunds respectively.

Export of opium amounted to 520 tons, valued at about Rs. 3.43 crores — an increase of 77 tons valued at Rs. 50 lakhs over exports in 1957-58. The total sale of alkaloids in the year rose to 3,775 lbs. from 3,637 lbs. in the previous year.

The purchase price of opium was fixed on a sliding scale between Rs. 33 to Rs. 37 per seer. Payments made to cultivators amounted to Rs. 2.7 crores as against Rs. 2.2 crores in the earlier year.

As a result of intensive preventive measures introduced during the year, there was appreciable decline in the number of smuggling cases.

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CEMENT INDUSTRY

Manufacture of Portland cement in India began in 1904 with the establishment of a small factory in Madras State. The venture was not successful and the project failed. Nine years later, a small factory was started at Porbandar, which still exists and soon after factories were built at Lakheri and Katni. Among other factors, the impetus provided by war conditions enabled these new ventures to be successful.

In 1920 the production of cement was 91,253 tons and by 1930 the output increased to 5,64,000 tons.

As suggested by the Tariff Board, the Indian Cement Manufacturers' Association was formed in 1926. In 1927 the Concrete Association of India was formed to popularise the use of cement and in 1930 the Cement Marketing Company of India was formed to take over the distribution and sale of the output of member-companies.

There has since been a steady expansion of the industry. In 1947 there were 18 factories which produced 1.44 million tons of cement, while in 1958 the number increased to 31, producing 6.06 million tons. A firm capacity of nearly 10 million tons is expected to be reached during the Second Plan period.

It is expected that by 1962 a substantial part of the country's requirements of cement machinery will be met from indigenous production.

Efforts are being made to develop export markets for cement. Out of a quota of four lakh tons of cement set apart for export, contracts for export of 3,01,410 tons have been concluded and nearly 2,39,000 tons were exported up to the end of January 1960.

CEMENT PACKING CHARGES

A Press Note issued on March 24 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry says, the Government of India have fixed the

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charges for packing one ton cement (20 bags) in New D.W. Heavy Cees quality gunny bags for the next quarter commencing from April 1 at Rs. 12.80 nP. All the State Governments have been informed.

Corresponding packing charges for the current quarter (January-March) were fixed at Rs. 12.09 nP.

LOCATION OF SECOND SHIPYARD

The Union Minister for Transport and Communications, Dr.

P. Subbarayan, made a statement in Lok Sabha on March 18 in connection with the location of the second shipyard.

The statement assured the members, particularly those coming from the Kerala State, that the decision to locate the second shipyard at Cochin was final and there was no going back on it.

The construction of the shipyard would be fully justified on its own merits. It was hoped that the construction would be started during the Third Plan period.

NEW INDO-PAKISTAN TRADE AGREEMENT

The following Joint Communiqué was issued in New Delhi on March 21 regarding the new Trade Agreement between India and Pakistan:

A Trade Delegation from Pakistan, led by the Hon'ble Mr. Hafizur Rehman, Minister of Commerce, arrived in New Delhi on March 14, 1960, for negotiating a new Trade Agreement to replace the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement which expired on January 31, 1960.

After preliminary discussions between the Hon'ble Mr. Hafizur Rehman, Pakistan Minister of Commerce, and Hon'ble Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry, negotiations continued between the Pakistan and Indian Delegations at official level. The two Delegations exchanged views on the impediments in the smooth flow of trade between the two countries and felt that closer trade and economic relations would be to their mutual benefit, and that there was considerable scope for expanding the present level of trade between the two countries.

As the result of these negotiations, a new Trade Agreement was signed today by Mr. I.A. Khan on behalf of Pakistan and by Shri K.B. Lall on behalf of India. The validity of the Agreement, which comes into immediate effect, will be for a period of two years and may be extended for a further period of one year provided either Government does not give notice to the contrary. Letters have also been exchanged

between the two Delegations extending the validity of the last Trade Agreement till March 20, 1960. The new Trade Agreement comes into force from today.

Appended to the new Trade Agreement are two Schedules, indicating the commodities available for export from India and Pakistan respectively. The export and import of commodities mentioned in the Schedules as well as those not mentioned therein will be subject to the laws, regulations and procedures of either country. The Agreement also provides for the most favoured nation treatment being accorded to the commerce of either country.

A Protocol to the Agreement has also been signed, which supersedes the Limited Payments Agreement signed at Karachi on December 3, 1959. The values of commodities to be exchanged under this Protocol, have been raised from Rs. 2 crores to Rs. 4.10 crores either way. Under this arrangement, Pakistan has agreed to supply India with jute cuttings to the extent of Rs. 1 crore and also to raise the ceiling for cotton from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 1.5 crores. India, on the other hand, has agreed to supply Pakistan with iron and steel to the extent of Rs. 1 crore and has raised the ceiling for cement and biri leaves from Rs. 70 lakhs to Rs. 150 lakhs. The list of items to be exchanged has also been enlarged to cover, inter-alia, the following items:—

Betel leaves, films, fish (dried and salted), drugs and medicines (Ayur-

vedic and Unani), rock salt, betel nuts, Kapok, etc. from Pakistan, and betel leaves, films, spices, groundnut seeds H.P.S. and stone boulders etc., from India.

As in the previous Agreement, the two Governments have entered into special arrangements by means of another Protocol, for supply by India of coal, hard and soft wood and stone boulders to Pakistan. Pakistan has also agreed under this Protocol to supply India with raw jute, the quantity and value will be determined as heretofore. In spite of India's own difficulties in regard to movement and supply of coal, she has agreed to make available to Pakistan, by rail and by sea, an additional quantity of 30,000 tons per month over and above one lakh tons of coal per month to both wings of Pakistan in accordance with the provisions of the last Trade Agreement.

The question of the extension of the border trade arrangements provided for under Schedule 'D' of the last Trade Agreement for meeting the day-to-day requirements of the people living within a ten-mile belt of the border between East Pakistan on the one hand and West Bengal, Assam and Tripura on the other, was also discussed. While the Pakistan Delegation felt that border trade did not lead to bona fide trade, they, however, agreed to hold further consultations in this behalf.

The two Delegations also felt that there was scope for co-operation in respect of the production and exchange of several commodities, such as raw jute, raw cotton, coal, newsprint, pig iron, steel of different sorts including structurals, cement and wood and timber. The two Delegations agreed that it would be desirable to take such steps as might be found practicable to promote to entering into long-term arrangements of mutual benefit.

The two Delegations expressed the hope that the new Trade Agreement would lead to a considerable expansion of trade and economic co-operation between the two countries to their mutual advantage.

The working of the Agreement will be reviewed from time to time, at least once a year. The Protocols will also be subject to review every six months.

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AGREEMENT ON U.A.R. RICE

An agreement was signed in New Delhi on March 21 under which India will soon be importing rice from U.A.R. The agreement was between the Government of India and the Misr Trading Company, Cairo.

The agreement provides for the import of one lakh tons of rice from U.A.R. against non-convertible Indian rupee which will be utilised by the sellers for purchasing from India jute, tea and certain non-traditional items.

The supplies will begin in April 1960 and be completed by July 1960.

UTILISATION OF RUPEE PROCEEDS

A New Delhi announcement of March 31 says that an agreement has been concluded between the Government of India and the Misr Foreign Trade Company, Cairo, for the utilisation of the rupee proceeds, approximating Rs. 4 crores, arising out of the proposed sale of 1 lakh tons of U.A.R. rice to India.

The Misr Company will utilise Rs. 1 crore each on purchases of tea and jute manufactures from India. A sum of Rs. 1 crore will be utilised for buying non-traditional items listed under the Trade and Payments agreement between India and U.A.R. concluded on August 1, 1959 and another Rs. 1 crore for non-traditional governmental purchases.

In regard to governmental purchases, the agreement stipulates that, if no purchases materialise within a period of six months, the U.A.R. authorities may utilise this amount equally for the purchase of tea and jute goods. These purchases would be additional to the normal purchases made by them and would be effected within a period of 12 months.

The supply of rice to India will begin in April and will be completed by July 1960.

Establishment Of Watch Factory

An agreement between the Government of India and the

Citizen Watch Company of Japan, for the establishment of a watch factory in India, was signed in New Delhi on March 25.

The proposed watch factory, which will be in the Public Sector, will be located at Bangalore near the Hindustan Machine Tools Limited and will undertake the manufacture of low and medium priced watches of full lever 17-jewel type with shock absorber device.

The factory is expected to go into production in 1962. Beginning with an annual output of 1,20,000 watches in the second year, it will attain full production of 3,60,000 watches from the sixth year onwards. The indigenous content of the watches will progressively rise from 34 per cent at the beginning to about 84 per cent by the time full production is attained.

Inclusive of the cost of factory blocks and services, the total cost of the plant will be over Rs. 1 crore.

The Citizen Watch Company will assist the Union Government in establishing the factory, supply of technical know-how, research and development. It will also render assistance in the manufacture of jigs, tools and fixtures and guarantee the performance of the plant and the product for an eight-year period. The Japanese firm will also train 100 Indian technicians in a period of five years.

The Government of India have also approved a scheme of the Phoenix Watch Company, Bombay, to set up a watch manufacturing plant in collaboration with a French group of firms, with annual capacity of 3 lakh watches. Two more proposals from industrialists for manufacture of watches are under Government's consideration.

SOVIET GEOLOGISTS IN INDIA

Mr. P.Y. Antropov, U.S.S.R. Minister for Geology and Mineral Resources, arrived in New Delhi on March 29 on a fortnight's visit to India.

Mr. Antropov, who is accompanied by two geologists, Mr. Kalinin and Mr. Famin, has

arrived at the invitation of the Government of India. Two other members of the party, Mr. Kalyashnov and Mr. Shreider, have arrived earlier.

Import Policy For April-Sept.

In a Press Note issued on March 31, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced the import policy for the next half year April-September 1960. The Press Note says:

While the general outlook for the next licensing period remains much the same as for the current licensing period which ends today, an effort has been made to adjust quotas in a manner which will give relief, where urgently necessary, by finding exchange by reduction of quotas of items which are comparatively non-essential or where the indigenous production has increased to some extent.

The policy provides for a somewhat larger allocation of foreign exchange for essential industrial raw materials and spares. The items for which quotas have been increased are industrial exhaust fans and blowers, lightning arrestors and high voltage fuses, certain types of transformers, switches, air and oil circuit breakers, parts of motor cycles and scooters, water meters and parts of musical instruments. Import quotas have also been increased for copper, unwrought and brass scraps. It is hoped that established importers will ensure controlled distribution of these non-ferrous metals according to the directions of Government.

ANNUAL LICENSING FACILITY

Having regard to the progress made by the indigenous industries and the stock position, quotas have been reduced for items like boiler tubes, mechanical tubing, antimony ingots, bifurcated rivets, wood working band saws, files and rasps, leather belting, pickers, picking bands, gambier, gum arabic, dammer including unrefined

batu, pine oil, certain textile chemicals such as hydrosulphite of soda, carboxy methyl cellulose and its salts, certain items of drugs and medicines such as acid acetyl salicylic, methyl salicylate, nicotinic acid and nicotinamide excluding preparations thereof, cyanocobalamine (Vitamin B-12) excluding preparations thereof, etc., certain items of chemicals such as barium carbonate, calcium carbide, ammonium phosphate (mono and di), cuprous oxide, bleaching paste and bleaching powder, etc. and certain motor vehicle parts such as electric horns, gaskets, thin walled bearings, and inlet and exhaust poppet valves.

The list of items for which Actual Users will be granted licences has been expanded. The licensing in respect of a number of actual user items has been decentralised.

The basic period for 34 items has been extended. The more important items for which the basic period has been extended are milk foods for infants, natural and synthetic essential oils, paper items, rubber contraceptives, printing machinery, machine tools, coal-tar dyes, chemicals not otherwise specified, etc.

With a view to curtailing procedural delay in the issue of import licences, the scheme of 'Repeat' licensing, introduced in the period October 1959, March 1960, is being continued during the period April-September 1960. As a measure of further help especially to the industries, the facility of annual licensing has been provided for Actual Users and some established importers within the limitations of the foreign exchange available.

INDIA'S EXPORTS

ELECTRIC FANS

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 22, the Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, said that export of electric fans during 1959 numbered approximately 38,000 valued at Rs. 38.5 lakhs. At present

there were 24 firms in the large scale sector producing electric fans. Total production of these firms during 1959 was about 7,31,100.

Shri Shah added that the requirements of electric fans had been estimated by the Development Council for light electrical industries at 8.5 lakhs per year.

LEATHER

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Satish Chandra, said in the Lok Sabha during question hour on March 17 that exports of leather, consisting of tanned hides and skins and finished leather, had shown a considerable increase in 1959. The total value of exports in 1959 was Rs. 28.62 crores as against Rs. 18.36 crores in the preceding year.

COMPANY LAW ADMINISTRATION

The Third Statutory Annual Report on the Working and Administration of the Companies Act, 1956, for the year 1958-59 was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on March 25. It contains a detailed review of the administration of the Companies Act for the three-year period ended March 1959.

Reviewing the experience of the Department of Company Law Administration during the three years, the report says that 'the working and administration of the Companies Act since April 1956 has, for the first time in the corporate history of this country, succeeded in focussing attention on the primacy of those basic factors relating to the structure and working of joint stock companies, on which the quality of their performance and the standards of company management in any country must ultimately depend'.

Much detailed information about the manner in which joint stock enterprises are organised and about their day-to-day practice, which was hitherto known only to company managements or to the individuals or groups

closely associated with them, has now become available not only to the shareholders, creditors and others interested in their work, but also to the Government and to all informed students of economic affairs in the country.

The efforts of the Administration during the year 1958 were directed towards removing marginal obscurities in the language of the law through interpretational guidance and facilitate the removal of avoidable difficulties in the day-to-day working of the Act by suitable procedural adjustments, wherever possible. At the same time steps were taken to tighten up the enforcement of the Act, particularly in respect of those elements in the corporate sector which might be reasonably suspected of abusing their position and powers to the detriment of the interests of the companies' shareholders and creditors'. The time was ripe for a more vigorous enforcement of the Act in future.

NEW REGISTRATIONS

During the three years, new company registrations have been steadily on the rise and totalled 848 in 1956-57, 961 in 1957-58 and 1,095 in 1958-59, in all 2,904 new companies for the period. Of these, public companies numbered 207 and private companies 2,697. The States of Bombay, West Bengal and Madras and Delhi accounted for 2,268 companies. The individual share of the States of West Bengal and Bombay in the total registrations was 35 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

A great majority of the new companies were formed for industrial and manufacturing purposes and for carrying on trading and financing activities. The number of industrial and manufacturing companies was 1,259, while those for trading and financing activities were 875. As regards the size pattern, 60 per cent of the new companies were small-sized and 78 big-sized.

At the end of 1958-59, the total number of companies at work was estimated at 27,479, including 7,760 public companies and

19,719 private companies. The total paid-up capital had been provisionally estimated at Rs. 1,510 crores, out of which Rs. 784 crores belonged to public companies and Rs. 726 crores to private companies.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The paid-up capital of the companies at work increased by Rs. 486 crores during the three years. The shares of the Government and non-Government companies in this increase were Rs. 358 crores and Rs. 128 crores respectively. In the Government companies sector, a sum of Rs. 300 crores was accountable by the Hindustan Steel Limited alone. The increase in the paid-up capital of the private corporate sector was estimated at Rs. 47 crores in 1956-57, Rs. 38 crores in 1957-58 and Rs. 43 crores in 1958-59.

The total number of Government companies at work was 103 with a total paid-up capital of Rs. 424 crores at the end of 1958-59. During the three years, 47 new Government companies were set up.

Since the Companies Act came into force, 338 public companies converted themselves into private companies — 227 in the first year, 54 in 1957-58 and 57 in 1958-59.

During the three-year period, the Central Government received 151 applications seeking Government's approval to loans totalling Rs. 11.57 crores out of which 70 applications involving Rs. 7.13 crores were approved. Besides, 90 applications were received for inter-company investment involving Rs. 8 crores; of these, 80 per cent were approved.

INVESTIGATIONS

During the three years, 84 cases were received for the appointment of Inspectors to look into the affairs of the companies allegedly mismanaged. Investigations were ordered in 14 cases, while in 65 cases the appointment of Inspectors was not made, as the facts of the case did not warrant such appointment. At

the end of the year 1958-59, five cases were pending consideration.

The Department of Company Law Administration has strengthened its Prosecution Division by appointing company prosecutors in the States to ensure the effective implementation of the Act and to check the instances of defaults committed in the past. During 1958-59, 2,495 prosecutions were instituted by the Department against the companies and their officers. Including 738 pending cases, a total of 5,110 prosecution cases were attended to by the Department. Of these, 3,474 were disposed of by the Courts, 2131 cases resulting in conviction. For the three-year period, the amount imposed by the Courts as fine on the convicted parties totalled Rs. 1.82 lakhs.

The steady decentralisation of the discretionary powers, vested in the Central Government under the Act, to officers of the Department at the regional headquarters, was introduced as an experiment in 1957-58. It has succeeded in cutting down the time-lag in the issue of necessary orders.

A major step taken towards developing closer contacts with non-official bodies was the setting up of a Technical Advisory Committee in 1958.

Advisory Board For Company Secretaries

According to an announcement of March 28, the Government of India have decided to set up an Advisory Board for assisting them in standardising the basic qualifications for appointments as Company Secretaries and holding the qualifying examination.

The Board, which is expected to start functioning from April 1, 1960, will consist of experienced representatives of the profession, nominees of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and representatives of Union Ministers. The tenure of the Board members will be one

year in the first instance. The Secretary of the Department of Company Law Administration will be the Chairman of the Board. All members, except the nominees of the FICCI and of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, will be nominated by the Central Government.

REAPPOINTMENT OF MANAGING AGENTS

An announcement of March 28 says that the Government of India have decided to extend the last date up to April 15, 1960 for receipt of applications from companies seeking Government's approval for re-appointment of their managing agents, whose term of office is due to expire on August 15, 1960 or earlier.

Approval For Industrial Undertakings

The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has formulated broad principles to govern the sanctioning of new industrial undertakings in the country.

These decisions, which have been communicated to important Chambers of Commerce and trade bodies, have been taken in order to expedite the disposal of cases requiring Government's sanction.

Regarding agreements with overseas firms for technical collaboration or financial participation, the need to consider each case on its merit cannot be dispensed with. The broad principle, however, is that technical collaboration agreements should have a limited period of life, as a rule, not exceeding ten years. The agreement should not lay down any restrictions on exports from India, at least permission for exports to some countries should be necessarily there.

Government are also averse to approving a clause in the agreement which will restrict the freedom of choice of the Indian firm for obtaining certain equipment required.

Another undesirable feature in some agreements is the provision for payment of a minimum

royalty. When payments are to be related to turnover, it is reasonable to expect that these would vary with the turn-over and no payment would be guaranteed regardless of turnover.

LICENSING COMMITTEE'S WORK

A number of measures have been taken to speed up the disposal of applications seeking Government's approval for capacity, location, etc. of new units. Besides meeting at more frequent intervals, the Licensing Committee has decided that in some industries, where it is not proposed to sanction fresh capacity, all future applications may be turned down without reference to it during the next 6 to 12 months. A list of industries, for which licences would be freely given, has also been drawn up.

Another major step lately taken in this regard is the Government's decision that industries employing less than 100 workers and having fixed assets of less than Rs. 10 lakhs need not obtain any licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act.

As a result of these measures, the Licensing Committee will now mainly deal with cases relating to major projects or development of industries where regional considerations, availability of raw materials, port problems and similar factors play an important part.

IMPORT OF CAPITAL GOODS

In view of the country's limited foreign exchange resources, the possibilities of obtaining import licences for capital goods are limited to cases where either (i) the applicant himself can make satisfactory arrangements for raising external finance or (ii) Government have facilities in the shape of credits or payment arrangements with particular countries to finance such imports.

The size of the credits, however, is smaller than the demand for them. In view of this, applicants for import licences for capital goods should clearly

specify the countries from which imports are to be made. Alternative sources of supply in the order of preference should also be indicated.

It is also essential that applicants should clearly indicate whether, in the event of their being given an import licence against the credits available to Government, they would be in a position to find the rupee resources and take advantage of the licence granted.

PUBLIC SECTOR INDUSTRIES

In reply to a question on March 30, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, laid a statement on the Table of the Lok

Sabha. The statement revealed that the total capital invested in public sector industries during 1957-58 was Rs. 57,09.48 lakhs. Of this, Rs. 48,35.59 lakhs was invested in industries making profit and Rs. 8,73.90 lakhs in industries running at a loss. Profit less loss (Rs. 9.08 lakhs) amounted to Rs. 280.32 lakhs. The percentage of profits made to capital invested was 4.9.

In 1958-59 the total investment amounted to Rs. 64,72.71 lakhs and the profit less loss was Rs. 445.43 lakhs. The percentage of profits made to capital invested was 6.9.

In this statement, projects under construction have been excluded.

Communications

MEETING OF TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The second meeting of the Transport Development Council was held in New Delhi on March 26 and 27. Inaugurating the meeting, Shri Raj Bahadur, Minister of State for Transport and Communications said that State Governments should plead to the Planning Commission for increased allocations in the Third Plan.

Shri Raj Bahadur pointed out that the Chief Engineers of the State Governments had submitted a plan for road development during the next 20 years. That plan envisaged an expenditure of Rs. 590 crores on development of roads during the Third Plan. Considering the necessity of opening up the country by constructing rural roads, the need to create communication facilities in the border areas and the urgency of widening and improving National and State Highways, it was felt that the provision should not be less than Rs. 1050 crores. While the Third Plan envisaged an expenditure

in the public sector twice as much as that provided in the Second Plan, the tentative allocations made for road development had been kept almost at the Second Plan level.

MORE FUNDS DEMANDED

After its deliberations, the Council unanimously demanded that the Planning Commission should allot more funds in the Third Plan for roads and road and water transport development.

At present, the Planning Commission has allotted Rs. 250 crores for roads, Rs. 18 crores for road transport and Rs. 5 crores for inland water transport.

The Council suggested that for raising additional resources small savings might be tapped.

The Council accepted the principle of single-point taxation and consolidation of taxes on motor vehicles.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Masani Committee had stated that the present dual control of the Police and Transport Departments regarding enforcement was not satisfactory and the Transport Department be in full charge of enforcement, excepting traffic with which the Police should be concerned. The Council accepted the suggestion for a better enforcement agency in principle and as the final objective.

The Council recommended that the State Governments might set up Finance Corporations for providing easy credit to motor transport operators for buying vehicles or evolve some other system for the purpose.

The scheme for setting up co-operative societies for running goods transport services was endorsed by the Council. The pilot scheme in this regard envisaged the setting up of such societies at Bombay, Madras, West Bengal, Kerala and Delhi. It was agreed that the unit allotted to Bombay might be transferred to Orissa.

Under the scheme, a co-operative society has already been set up in Kerala. The training of personnel was almost completed and the society was likely to start operation next month. The Kerala Government was granted a loan of Rs. 3 lakhs for the implementation of the scheme.

CLAIMS TRIBUNALS

The Council also endorsed the Masani Committee's view that Claims Tribunals should be set up in all States to ensure prompt payment of compensation to those involved in accidents. It recommended that proper machinery should be set up to investigate causes of road accidents and to suggest measures for reducing them.

Another suggestion of the Masani Committee which the Council accepted laid down that neither the Railways nor the road transport operators should be represented on State Transport Authorities, so that the State Transport Authority could

function in an independent manner.

It was accepted that the size of a region of the Regional Transport Authority might remain flexible depending on the administrative convenience.

It was agreed that the Registering Authorities should maintain and supply relevant statistics not only to State Transport Authorities but also to those applying for them. Statistics regarding motor vehicles should be made available to the public on payment.

It was recommended, following Masani Committee's suggestion, that there should be a Transport Advisory Committee in each State to advise on the development of road transport.

World Bank Loan To Railways

Shri S.V. Ramaswamy, Deputy Minister of Railways, stated in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 23 that during the Second Plan period, the world Bank had given three loans, totalling 225 million dollars, for the railway development programme and there was a possibility of another loan being given this year.

He said that all the three loans had been given for the rehabilitation, modernisation and expansion of the railways in the Second Plan and were to be used for the acquisition of the locomotives, rolling stock, spare parts and other railway materials and equipments and services connected therewith.

WORLD BANK TEAM

A two-member World Bank team arrived in New Delhi on March 16 for a three-week tour of railway centres in India.

The two members of the team, who will be guests of the Indian Railways during their stay in the country, are Mr. R.A.D. Loven and Mr. Joseph Heymans.

During their tour, the team will have discussions with senior railway officials and will again meet the Railway Board before

their departure from the country.

Two New Railway Lines

The Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, told the Lok Sabha during question hour on March 18 that the work on the Rourkela (Bondamunda) — Barsua (Dumaro) line was almost complete and the line was expected to be opened to goods traffic by the end of March.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan added that the total of 40.5 miles of double track had been opened for traffic upto the end of February 1960 on the Vijayawada-Gudur section.

Chief Ministers Confer With Railway Minister

A conference of State Chief Ministers with the Railway Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, was held in New Delhi on March 20.

The Railway Minister pointed out that crime in passenger trains was causing serious anxiety to the Railway Minister, but the railways could not by themselves take any effective action without the co-operation of State Governments, as crime on the railways was closely connected with the crime situation in the adjoining districts.

The Railway Minister suggested that in the areas which were particularly noted for crime incidence, the strength of the Government Railway Police, which was under the State Governments, should be suitably increased. He also requested the Chief Ministers to be more liberal in the loan of experienced police officers for service under the Railway Protection Force.

NEW LINES

Chief Ministers of various States pressed demands for the construction of new railway lines in their States. The Railway Minister explained that the Railway Ministry had, in its draft Third Five Year Plan, provided for 2000 miles of new rail-

way lines. However, in view of the funds likely to be allotted by the Planning Commission, only about 1200 miles of new lines would be possible during the Third Plan period. All these would be 'committed lines' about which announcements had already been made. This meant that, for all practical purposes, no more new lines could be constructed during the Third Plan period.

The conference discussed at some length the question of construction of over-bridges at level crossings. State Governments had already been requested to draw up lists of over-bridges with relative priorities to be constructed during the next ten years.

India-Australia Air Services Agreement

A New Delhi announcement of March 16 says that, inter-governmental consultations between delegations representing the Government of India and the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia on the Air Services Agreement between the two countries, which began in Melbourne on March 3, concluded on March 14.

The delegations agreed on certain modifications to the present Air Agreement, which was concluded in 1949, to bring it in line with the current requirements of the airlines of the two countries.

The delegations also took note of the Tripartite Partnership Agreement between Air India, Qantas and BOAC, and agreed on the arrangements for the operation of air services by their respective airlines for the duration of the Partnership Agreement.

Telegraph Service To Laccadives

Another major step in bringing the Laccadive group of islands and the mainland closer together was taken on March 17 with the opening of three new wireless telegraph stations by the Posts and Telegraphs De-

partment at Androth, Amindivi and Kavarthi Islands.

In his inaugural message to the Islands, the Home Minister, Shri G.B. Pant, said that other measures were also being undertaken to develop communica-

tions in the Islands. He specifically referred to the proposal to procure a vessel for running steamer services during the next year and to start a motor boat service for inter-communication between the Islands.

Food & Agriculture

MEETING OF COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The fourth session of the Indian Council of Agricultural Education concluded in Bombay on March 19. It was inaugurated by Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, Union Minister of Agriculture, on March 17. It recommended the starting of refresher courses to impart training in improved methods of agriculture to sons and daughters of farmers at the agricultural and veterinary colleges and also in other types of agricultural institutions. It suggested that teacher-training cen-

tres should be started to cope with the present critical shortage of trained technical teachers and provide 'in-service training' to junior teachers.

The establishment of administrative staff colleges, starting of training centre for instrument technicians were other important recommendations of the Council. Many specific suggestions were also made for promoting scientific agriculture through orientation and co-ordination of

SOME FACTS ABOUT COFFEE

Coffee is one of the important plantation crops. In India, two varieties, *Arabica* and *Robusta*, are commonly grown over an area of about 2.5 lakh acres.

The total production of coffee amounted to 43,000 tons in 1957-58, *Arabica* accounting for two-thirds of the production.

It takes nearly three to four years for the plant to yield coffee seed, an average plant giving half to one pound of the seed.

Two methods are followed in processing coffee. The mature red fruit or cherry is either depulped, fermented, washed and dried as such to give parchment or plantation coffee, or it may be dried before dehusking to

give cherry coffee. Parchment coffee costs a little more than cherry coffee and is better in quality.

Green coffee has no aroma and the typical coffee aroma is developed only in the process of roasting. Among the various principles contributing to the aroma, about 30 chemicals have so far been identified.

A cup of coffee gives about 1 mg. of niacin which is one of the important water-soluble vitamins required by the human system.

Besides niacin, other nutrients present in coffee are riboflavin, pantothenic acid, choline, folic acid, vitamin B⁶ and vitamin B¹².

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Monuments and sites of national importance in Jammu and Kashmir were taken over.

ANTHROPOLOGY

As many as 367 Indian scholars went abroad under scholarships offered by foreign Governments for cultural, scientific and technological subjects.

The Children's Wing of the National Library at Calcutta was opened on January 22, 1960.

The Copyright Office had registered upto January 21, 1960, 500 literary works, 47 artistic works and one cinematograph film.

The Department of Anthropology made a number of field investigations and surveys, including a linguistic investigation on the transition between the Munda and Bhumij dialects. A study of Ujjain and Brahmagiri skeletons had also been started.

MEETINGS OF C.S.I.R.

The annual meetings of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research were held in New Delhi on March 22 and 23, respectively. The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, presided.

Plans for the National Aeronautical Laboratory at Bangalore, and the Regional Research Laboratory in Assam were approved in principle.

The immediate programme of work at the Laboratory will be the establishment of the Transonic/Supersonic Wind Tunnel.

The Regional Research Laboratory, Assam, will, to begin

with, have two divisions in applied chemistry and engineering. These two broad divisions would be able to undertake research works on problems relating to the north-east area in the fields of chemical industries, leather, coal, minerals, various agricultural products, forest produce and also special engineering problems relating to housing, sanitation, roads and earthquakes, etc.

Financial assistance to the Indian Rubber Manufacturers' Research Association to the extent of 50 per cent of their recurring expenditure for 1960-61 was also sanctioned.

CENTRAL PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

The Governing Body of the Council also approved the appointment of an 11-member Executive Council for the establishment of a Central Institute of Petroleum at Dehra Dun. The Executive Council will be headed by the Minister of Mines and Oil.

The Institute will provide facilities for research, training and documentation in the field of petroleum and natural gas and cover all aspects of petroleum from the crude point onwards.

Dr. J.W. Wotaker, Director, Central Mining Research Institute, Dhanbad, has been entrusted with the task of preparing a plan and taking necessary preliminary steps for the establishment of the Institute.

Proposals for stepping up research on biological sciences were approved in principle. These related to the establishment of research wings, centres of research, hill laboratories and hydrobiological stations. The research wings and centres would be located in Universities where necessary facilities already exist. Hill laboratories would be established at Mussoorie, Dharamsala, Darjeeling and Kodaikanal. Fresh water biological stations would be set up at Dal Lake in Kashmir and Chilka Lake in Orissa.

The Governing Body also approved proposals for holding a number of symposia on import-

the activities of the agricultural institutions offering agricultural courses at different levels. A committee was set up to go into the question of syllabus in the multi-purpose high schools in order to see how best undergraduate syllabus in agricultural colleges could be linked up with the high school syllabus.

The Council resolved to analyse the background information already obtained by it from the various agricultural and veterinary colleges in order that the minimum standards for the undergraduate institutions may be laid down. It also decided to set up a suitable committee for inspection of the colleges to begin with and other institutions below the college level at a later stage and review the reports of such inspection committees with a view to bring about gradual improvement in the standards of all types of agriculture teaching institutions in the country.

River Projects & Power

REPORT OF MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER FOR 1959-60

The annual report for 1959-60 of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, released on March 18, points out that, at the end of 1958-59, the percentage of the utilisation of the irrigation potential created by the First and Second Plan schemes was 82 as against 79 per cent for 1957-58 and 64 per cent for 1956-57. In terms of million acres, the potential created and utilised in 1956-57 were 5.3 and 3.4; in 1957-58, 6.2 and 4.9; and in 1958-59, 7.2 and 5.9.

Against a potential of 5.3 million acres created at the end of the First Plan period through major and medium irrigation schemes, the actual additional area irrigated was 2.9 million acres. It is expected that at the end of the Second Plan period, the additional potential created would be 13 million acres.

Final Estimate Of Mesta

A Press Note issued on March 29 by the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture says that according to the Ministry's Directorate of Economics and Statistics, the All-India Final Estimate of Mesta, 1959-60, puts the current year's area and production at 706,000 acres and 1,098,000 bales respectively. As compared with the partially Revised Estimates of 825,000 acres and 1,488,000 bales for 1958-59, the estimates for 1959-60 show a decrease of 119,000 acres, or 14.4 per cent, in area and 390,000 bales, or 26.2 per cent in production.

The decrease in area and production has occurred mainly in the most important mesta growing State of West Bengal and is attributed to low market price of mesta fibre during the previous year. Bihar recorded increase in area as well as production.

to hand over the project to the State Government on April 1, next. In DVC, the Panchet Hill dam was completed and the hydro-electric power station, with a generating capacity of 40,000 kw., put into commercial operation. In the command area of the Tungabhadra project, about 93,077 acres were brought under irrigation in Mysore.

All these projects had generally adhered to the schedule of work drawn up for the year.

The rules under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, were promulgated on June 23, 1959.

INDO-PAKISTAN DISPUTE

The report gives a summary of latest developments in regard to the Indo-Pakistan Canal Waters Dispute, and states that an Inter-Governmental Agreement for ad hoc transitional arrangements for the period from April 1, 1959 to March 31, 1960 was signed at Washington on April 17, 1959 by the representatives of the two Governments.

On the basis of the understanding reached by the President of the World Bank in May, discussions were resumed in London from August 5, and agreement reached on several 'Heads of Agreement', which have since formed the basis for an International Water Treaty. The discussions are being continued in Washington from October 19, 1959. The draft of Water Treaty is being examined by Government.

WATER RESOURCES

A summary of the activities of the Water Wing of the Central Water and Power Commission indicates that study of the irrigation potential of the river systems was continued and a report on 'navigable waterways in India' prepared. A hydrographic survey of the Gomti river from Lucknow to its confluence with the Ganga was carried out.

Technical examination covering planning, hydrology, irrigation, designs, estimates, etc., was completed in respect of 12 schemes and preliminary comments furnished to the State Governments. Final comments were also drawn up in respect of 14 projects.

The work connected with the utilisation of machinery, declared surplus by projects nearing completion, was co-ordinated by the Plant and Machinery Directorate, and machinery valued at about Rs. 79 lakhs was transferred to other projects. Spare parts of the value of Rs. 10 lakhs were also disposed of.

Detailed designs and drawings were completed in respect of four cases, including the construction of a trestle bridge for the Nagarjunasagar dam and undersluice gates and double-tier regulator gates for the Kosi project. Project reports and drawings of 12 projects were studied in addition to certain specific problems referred to the Commission by State Governments.

The drawings of the Kosi barrage, specifications and drawings for Mundali weir (Orissa), and the remodelling proposals in respect of Jobra and Birupa weirs across the Mahanadi river, were completed.

Among the problems under investigation at the Poona Research Station, the more important, are (i) Tailrace tunnel of the Koyana hydro-electric project, and (ii) use of radio-active tracers for the study of sediment movements near Bombay harbour.

POWER GENERATION

Referring to the work of the Power Wing of C.W. and P.C., the report states that a proposal, with an estimate of cost, for Neyveli Thermal Power Project was prepared and sent to the Neyveli Lignite Corporation for sanction. Plans and designs for a thermal power station of 300 MW installed capacity are under preparation to meet the power requirements in the vicinity of Ranchi.

A preliminary project report for a thermal power station, utilising available gas from wells in Naharkatiya (Assam), is being drawn up.

A reconnaissance survey of the proposed 66 kv. double circuit line from Trisuli power house to Kathmandu was carried out.

The Second Five Year Plan provides for an increase of 3.5 million kw in the installed generating capacity of power plants in the country. During the first three years of the Plan, the installed capacity increased by 0.9 million kw and 5,57,000 kw are likely to be added in 1959-60.

State Electricity Boards were set up in the Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh under the provisions of Section 5 of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

FLOOD CONTROL

Reviewing flood control works, the report points out that there are at present Flood Control Boards in 12 States and 4 River Commissions (Floods) for the Brahmaputra, the Ganga, the North West Rivers, and the Central India Rivers respectively.

The flood control works executed since 1954-55 have afforded protection to about 60 lakh acres of land and 46 towns. The level of 4,200 villages in Uttar Pradesh has been raised above flood level. Most of the flood control works executed during the past few years withstood the floods of 1959 well.

Basin-wise data volumes have so far been completed in respect of 83 rivers.

Irrigation Schemes In Two Plans

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 18, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister for Irrigation and Power, said that 6 major irrigation schemes (costing more than Rs. 5 crores each) and 196 medium schemes (costing between Rs. 10 lakhs and Rs. 5 crores each) were taken up under the First and Second Plans

and completed upto December 1959.

Shri Hathi added that the target for creating irrigation facilities at the end of the Second Plan by the major and medium irrigation projects was 16.7 million acres, against which actual irrigation facilities were likely to be created for 13 million acres. The shortfall of some 22 per cent was largely due to lack of technical personnel.

Kundah Power House Inaugurated

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, inaugurated one of the power houses of the Kundah Basin Hydro-electric Project in the Nilgiri Hills near Coimbatore in Madras State on March 25.

The biggest undertaken in the Second Plan period in Madras State and the second biggest so far in Southern India, the first being the Sharavathy project in Mysore, the Kundah project has an installed capacity of 180,000 kw.

The works for the project include two power houses, four dams including a forebay dam, and four tunnels.

The reservoirs have a combined storage capacity of 9000 million cubic feet of water, and the total length of the tunnels is about 7 miles.

The work on the project commenced in 1956, and will be completed in 1960-61.

EQUIPMENT FOR POONA RESEARCH STATION

In a written reply to a question on March 28, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, told the Lok Sabha that the Central Water and Power Research Station, Poona, received equipment worth about Rs. 4.6 lakhs as gift under the Colombo Plan.

Shri Hathi added that the equipment would be utilised for conducting research on river training, flood control and other related hydraulic investigations.

POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 22, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, stated that the Government of India had decided to set up a Power Research Institute at Bangalore at an estimated

cost of Rs. 220 lakhs. The scheme was being taken up in two stages. The first stage, costing Rs. 36.42 lakhs, had already been sanctioned.

Shri Hathi added that the U.N.E.S.C.O. had agreed to give assistance from the U.N. Special Fund for this Institute to the extent of Rs. 16 lakhs.

Education & Culture

REPORT OF MINISTRY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The annual report of the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, for 1959-60 was released on March 22.

The report points out that engineering colleges and polytechnics were being established throughout the country under the Second Plan by the Centre, the States and private agencies. Seven engineering colleges and 20 polytechnics scheduled by private agencies have already been established. Of the 9 engineering colleges and 47 polytechnics planned to be set up by the States, 7 colleges and 37 polytechnics had started functioning. In the Central sphere, 1 out of 9 regional engineering colleges and 4 out of 27 polytechnics had been set up.

Schemes for the improvement and development of 9 non-Government technical institutions in the private sector had been approved.

MORE FACILITIES

Satisfactory progress had been made in the implementation of the scheme of expansion of the training capacity of selected engineering colleges and polytechnics. Admission capacity had been increased by about 2,500 seats for degree courses.

The third higher technological institute, the Indian Institute of Technology at Madras, started functioning in July 1959, while

preliminary plans had been formulated for the fourth institute to be started at Kanpur in July 1960.

Steps had also been taken to improve the scales of salary of teachers of technological institutions. The Centre had agreed to bear, for a period of five years in the first instance, the entire additional expenditure involved in the adoption of the revised scales in all State Government and non-Government institutions.

RESEARCH FACILITIES

During the year, 119 additional research scholarships were sanctioned, bringing the total in force to 800, the target proposed in the Second Plan. Twenty-three National Research Fellows continued their work at various research centres and 26 fresh scholars were selected for the award of fellowships.

Block grants were made under the C.S.I.R. scheme for establishing schools of research in Universities and other institutions. The University Grants Commission set apart funds for exchange of scholars, financial assistance for publication of research material and improvement of workshop facilities in various universities.

During the year, 7 more Vijnan Mandirs were set up, bringing the total to 38. The Bal-

wantray Mehta Committee, constituted to assess the working of the Vijnan Mandirs, was expected to submit its recommendations by the end of April 1960.

The National Research Development Corporation of India released for development 62 new inventions by National Laboratories and other institutions. In addition, it negotiated 23 licence agreements for the commercial development of various articles.

The Government of India approved the creation of a Central Scientific Instruments Organisation to function under the C.S.I.R.

CULTURAL RELATIONS

Cultural agreements were concluded with the Republic of Czechoslovakia and the U.S.S.R. Financial assistance in the form of *ad hoc* grants was given to a number of societies engaged in promoting closer cultural relations with foreign countries. The Ministry also sponsored delegations of poets, dramatists and sportsmen to visit, among other countries, Afghanistan, Belgium, Burma, Japan and Nepal.

Under the Cultural Activities Programme, visits were arranged of cultural delegations from the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Yugoslavia.

A party of 100 Bhutanese was taken round the country on a 'Bharat Darshan' tour. Indian exhibitions were organised in Western Germany, Malaya and France.

The Lalit Kala Akademi organised exhibitions of Polish Graphic Art, Photographic Exhibition of Historical and Other Important Monuments in the U.S.S.R. and a 'German Art of To-day' exhibition from Western Germany.

Construction work on the first phase of Azad Bhavan, headquarters of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, is almost complete.

In the sphere of cultural activities within India, a Centenary Committee, with the Prime Minister as Chairman, was formed

to draw up a comprehensive programme to celebrate in 1961 the birth centenary of Poet Rabindra Nath Tagore. The foundation stone of the Rabindra Bhavan, which will house the three Akademis was laid in April.

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ANTHROPOLOGY

As many as 367 Indian scholars went abroad under scholarships offered by foreign Governments for cultural, scientific and technological subjects.

The Children's Wing of the National Library at Calcutta was opened on January 22, 1960.

The Copyright Office had registered upto January 21, 1960, 500 literary works, 47 artistic works and one cinematograph film.

The Department of Anthropology made a number of field investigations and surveys, including a linguistic investigation on the transition between the Munda and Bhumij dialects. A study of Ujjain and Brahmagiri skeletons had also been started.

MEETINGS OF C.S.I.R.

The annual meetings of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research were held in New Delhi on March 22 and 23, respectively. The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, presided.

Plans for the National Aeronautical Laboratory at Bangalore, and the Regional Research Laboratory in Assam were approved in principle.

The immediate programme of work at the Laboratory will be the establishment of the Transonic/Supersonic Wind Tunnel.

The Regional Research Laboratory, Assam, will, to begin

with, have two divisions in applied chemistry and engineering. These two broad divisions would be able to undertake research works on problems relating to the north-east area in the fields of chemical industries, leather, coal, minerals, various agricultural products, forest produce and also special engineering problems relating to housing, sanitation, roads and earthquakes, etc.

Financial assistance to the Indian Rubber Manufacturers' Research Association to the extent of 50 per cent of their recurring expenditure for 1960-61 was also sanctioned.

CENTRAL PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

The Governing Body of the Council also approved the appointment of an 11-member Executive Council for the establishment of a Central Institute of Petroleum at Dehra Dun. The Executive Council will be headed by the Minister of Mines and Oil.

The Institute will provide facilities for research, training and documentation in the field of petroleum and natural gas and cover all aspects of petroleum from the crude point onwards.

Dr. J.W. Witaker, Director, Central Mining Research Institute, Dhanbad, has been entrusted with the task of preparing a plan and taking necessary preliminary steps for the establishment of the Institute.

Proposals for stepping up research on biological sciences were approved in principle. These related to the establishment of research wings, centres of research, hill laboratories and hydrobiological stations. The research wings and centres would be located in Universities where necessary facilities already exist. Hill laboratories would be established at Mussoorie, Dharamsala, Darjeeling and Kodaikanal. Fresh water biological stations would be set up at Dal Lake in Kashmir and Chilka Lake in Orissa.

The Governing Body also approved proposals for holding a number of symposia on import-

ant subjects of research covering physics of cloud and rain in the tropics, proteins, rodex processes, high polymers, plant embryology, electrical machine designs and high atmosphere, etc.

A large number of applications for renewal of grants for research schemes and Senior and Junior Research Fellowships were sanctioned.

RESEARCH IN EXPERIMENTAL ASTRONOMY

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 21, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said that, on the recommendation of a Special Expert Committee, the University Grants Commission had selected only one University Centre, viz., Nizamiah Observatory of the Osmania University, for the development of facilities for training and research in Experimental Astronomy during the Second Plan period. A giant telescope was being built in the U.S.A. for the Observatory.

The Minister added that the U.G.C. had also selected the Delhi University for development of facilities for training and research in Theoretical Astronomy and Astro-Physics.

Lalit Kala Akademi Awards For 1960

An announcement of March 19 says that the Selection and Judging Committee for the sixth National Exhibition of Art, 1960, which met at New Delhi from March 10 to 13, have selected five works for Lalit Kala Akademi Awards this year, of the ten provided for. Two of the awards have been made for paintings and three for sculptures. The names of the five artists are:

Paintings: 1. Somnath Hore; 2. Himatlal D. Shah.

Sculptures: 1. Narendra M. Patel; 2. M. Dharmani, 3. Rajnikant R. Panchal.

The Committee, after careful scrutiny, selected 104 paintings and graphics and 23 sculptures out of a total of 1446 submitted for selection. Exhibits were re-

ceived from 624 artists and works by 109 artists have been finally selected for display. The National Exhibition of Art will be inaugurated by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President of India on March 30. The award of Gold Plaque of the Akademi was withheld as no work was adjudged of outstanding merit.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards For 1959-60

The Sangeet Natak Akademi announced on March 31 the following Akademi Awards for the year 1959-60:

Hindustani Music: Vocal — Ustad Altaf Hussain Khan; Instrumental — Ustad Wahid Khan (Sitar).

Karnatak Music: Vocal — Shri Madurai Mani Iyer; Instrumental — Shri Shermadevi L. Subramanya Shastri (Veena).

Dance: Eminent Creative Artist — Shri Uday Shankar.

Drama: Acting — Shri Ashraf Khan (Gujrati); Shri Gopal Govind alias Nanasaheb Phatak (Maharashtra); Shri C.I. Parameswaran Pillai (Malayalam).

Film: Acting — Shri Chhabi Biswas.

Medium Of Instruction In Universities

Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, laid a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on March 16 in respect of the medium of instruction in universities. The statement said that the University Grants Commission, at its meeting held on June 17 and 18, 1959, passed a resolution to appoint a Working Group to study this question further and to draw a plan of action for the change of the medium of instruction from English to an Indian language consistently with the maintenance of high standards in English.

In pursuance of the above resolution, the Working Group had been appointed. The first meeting of the Working Group

was held on February 15, 1960 and the next meeting would be held at Delhi on April 19.

A number of Universities in India had introduced, or had plans to introduce, Hindi or a regional language as the medium of instruction for certain courses of study. There was no power with the Central Government to issue directives to Universities on the question.

Hindi Shikshaka Mahavidyalaya

An announcement of March 27 says that the Government of India have established a Kendriya Hindi Shikshaka Mahavidyalaya at Agra to promote the study of advanced Hindi literature and comparative philology of different Indian languages. The Institute will also provide facilities for training Hindi teachers and research in Hindi teaching.

The Union Government have vested the administration of the Mahavidyalaya in a 33-member Kendriya Hindi Shikshana Mandal which will have full powers of managing the institution. Shri M. Satyanarayana, M.P., has been appointed Chairman of the Mandal.

The Mandal is composed of the Chairman, two representatives of the Government of India, 13 members nominated by the Government of India, and representatives of 17 voluntary organisations working for the promotion of Hindi.

The Mandal has a Governing Council which will act as the executive body. The Chairman of the Mandal is the ex-officio Chairman of the Council, with six other members—two representatives of the Government of India (same as on the Mandal) and four members nominated by the Ministry of Education out of members of the Mandal.

SAHITYA RACHANALAYAS

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 30, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said that 10 States

had been given financial assistance since 1955-56 for the organisation of Sahitya Rachanalayas for training authors in the technique of preparing literature for children, as well as for neo-literates. During 1959-60, 39 authors were trained in the technique of preparing literature for children.

Council For Rural Higher Education

Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, inaugurated the seventh meeting of the National Council for Rural Higher Education in New Delhi on March 23.

In his address, Dr. Shrimali said that students from these Institutes had opportunities of serving the country in many fields, such as social education, co-operation and rural industries.

The National Council examined the employment position of graduates and diploma holders who had passed out of the 11 Rural Institutes in the country. Almost all the students in engineering and agricultural courses and about 50 per cent in the Diploma course had already found employment. In order to widen the scope of employment, it was recommended that each institute should set up an agency which would collect information regarding employment opportunities, follow up their careers and work as a liaison between the students and the employing agencies.

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEES

The Council agreed to the setting up of small committees to conduct effective assessment of the various technical courses conducted in the Rural Institutes. It also approved rules relating to the grant of recognition to Rural Institutes.

It was suggested that there should be a governing body or management committee to advise on the administration of the Institutes.

It was agreed that short-term courses for non-officials should

be introduced in Rural Institutes in co-operation with the Ministry of C.D. and Co-operation for the training of workers at Panchayat and District levels.

The objective of Rural Institutes is to provide higher education, after the secondary stage, to the rural people in their own setting, to create leadership among the rural youth, and to train personnel for the Community Development programme of the Government of India.

Ten Rural Institutes were started in 1956 in implementation of the Shrimali Committee Report. Another Institute was established at Kasturba Sewa Mandir, Rajpura, in 1959.

ENGINEERING DIPLOMAS RECOGNISED

According to an announcement of March 28 the Government of India have decided to recognise the Diplomas in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering awarded by the Department of Industries, Government of Punjab, to students of Guru Nanak Engineering College, Ludhiana and Mehrchand Technical Institute, Jullundur, who passed the examinations held by the Department in 1956 and 1957.

The recognition has been accorded for purposes of recruit-

ment/appointment to subordinate posts and services.

HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINEERING INSTITUTE

The eighth meeting of the Executive Council of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, was held in New Delhi on March 20 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. The Council approved in principle that the advance course in the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute be reorganised with a view to synchronising it with the basic course so that some 20 persons may be trained in advanced technique every year. The Council also noted with gratification that students from most of the States in India have shown keen interest and joined the courses at the Institute.

The proposal for conducting rock climbing courses in the various States was approved by the Council and a lumpsum provision of Rs. 15,000 in the budget estimates for 1960-61 was made for this purpose. The tenure of Brigadier Gyan Singh as the Principal of the Institute was extended for a further period of two years.

Health

ANNUAL REPORT OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The annual report for 1959-60 of the Ministry of Health, issued on March 29, stated that almost the entire population exposed to malaria is now covered by the National Malaria Eradication Programme started in April 1958. The number of malaria units functioning in various States on October 31 was 386.25 against the allotted number of 390.

Survey work under the National Filaria Control Programme is still in progress in

some of the participating States. The total population covered by the sample survey up to October 31 is 22.94 million. Under anti-parasitic measures, 48.92 lakh persons were treated with Het-razan. Under anti-mosquito measures, 24.59 lakh houses were sprayed once, 9.83 lakh twice and 2.40 lakh thrice.

A check-up clinic was started under the scheme and up to December, 598 persons were examined.

As against 4,610 isolation beds sanctioned in various States, 2,710 were established up to the end of 1958-59. X-Ray and laboratory equipment was distributed to 60 T.B. clinics in the States and the opening of other 96 clinics was approved. Besides 10 Aftercare and Rehabilitation Centres for T.B. patients were sanctioned. A sum of Rs. 15 lakhs was disbursed as grants to T.B., leprosy, cancer and other voluntary organisations and institutions. The number of beds in the Mental Hospital Ranchi, was raised to 453 from 420.

PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES

Since the inception of the scheme of Primary Health Centres in December 1954 up to March, 1959, 1399 centres were opened. A further allocation of 12.64 million dollars was made by the UNICEF for the development of health services in rural areas, bringing the total of its contribution to 72.1 million dollars.

A scheme for the establishment of Health Education Bureaus in States was sanctioned and the setting up of Bureaus in 7 States was approved.

With WHO-UNICEF assistance, a National T.B. Institute for training workers has been established at Bangalore and it is expected to begin functioning by the middle of 1960. At the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, 400 students are expected to continue training in different courses. A new 18-month course in Preventive and Social Medicine has been introduced.

The expenditure on the Family Planning Programme from April to December 1959 was Rs. 44.75 lakhs. There are at present 1184 clinics (744 in rural areas), 1318 M.C.H. centres, 262 district hospitals, 21 medical colleges and 63 other training centres, giving family planning advice. Over 2,500 persons have been trained and about 50 lakh have been contacted. In 1958 as compared to 1956 the off-take of contraceptives has increased over six times and the number

of sterilisation operations to three times.

INDIGENOUS SYSTEMS

For the development of indigenous systems of medicine, apart from a sum of Rs. 15.25 lakhs allocated to various State Governments to meet expenditure on the establishment and expansion of institutions, an additional sum of Rs. 2,66,650 was sanctioned as grants-in-aid for research at the Central Institute of Research in Indigenous Systems of Medicine, Jamnagar. So far five State Governments, four universities and two private institutions have started courses of study for the Diploma in Pharmacy.

Under the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme loans totalling Rs. 30.14 crores, including the provision made for 1959-60, were sanctioned to the State Governments for the execution of 278 water supply and 61 sewage schemes. Against the provision of Rs. 10 crores for water supply and drainage schemes of Corporations, 9 schemes are under execution.

For rural water supply a sum of Rs. 6.997 crores, including the provision for 1959-60, was sanctioned as grant-in-aid to the participating States. At the end of the year, 232 schemes, at an estimated cost of Rs. 17.87 crores, were under execution. A sum of 6.2 million dollars has been made available by the U.S. Government for this programme.

International agencies continued to give assistance to several health schemes. The W.H.O. provided assistance amounting to \$881,983. A provision of \$33,640 has been made under the Malaria Eradication Special Account. The Government of India contributed Rs. 20 lakhs to W.H.O. and Rs. 16 lakhs to the UNICEF which has allocated 5.1 million dollars to India.

ANTI-V.D. CAMPAIGN

For the control of venereal diseases, 4 clinics were established during the year, bringing the total to 49. In the clinics estab-

lished under the Second Plan, 2,26,972 cases were treated up to October.

An intensive mass V.D. treatment campaign was launched in the Kulu Valley in September in collaboration with UNICEF. Up to the end of October, 50 per cent of the population at risk had been treated.

A mass V.D. campaign programme for the Jaunsar Bawar area in Uttar Pradesh will be initiated on the basis of data being collected through a pilot survey in the area.

Yaws is being satisfactorily tackled in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh. Bombay State will soon start an anti-yaws programme.

Up to the end of December 1959, nearly 14 crore persons were tuberculin tested and of these 4.9 crore vaccinated with B.C.G. The manufacture of dry freeze vaccine on an experimental basis is expected to start this year at the B.C.G. Laboratory, Guindy.

For the control of leprosy, there are 4 treatment and study centres and 95 subsidiary centres in various States. A scheme has been sanctioned for training 60 medical officers every year in leprosy at the Medical College, Nagpur, and the first training course began in September.

Under the Trachoma Control Pilot Project, survey and treatment programmes were undertaken in U.P., Rajasthan and Punjab.

TRAINING

During the year, the Government of India offered financial assistance for the expansion of 7 colleges. The entire amount of 6.5 crores allocated for this purpose in the Second Plan has been consumed and a sum of Rs. 2.15 crores required for the expansion was found from other savings.

The Government of New Zealand has given further assistance of £100,000 under the Colombo Plan in addition to the original aid of £1 million towards the establishment of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. The Rockefeller

Foundation has also given grants totalling 200,000 dollars for the purchase of scientific equipment and books.

A sum of Rs. 42.23 lakhs was sanctioned for the construction of buildings for the Maulana Azad College, Delhi, and Rs. 2.35 crores for the buildings for the Pondicherry College.

Post-graduate training courses in medicine, surgery, midwifery pathology and anatomy with 33 students were started in November in Government hospitals in Delhi.

During the year, financial assistance was offered for increasing the number of admissions in Calcutta Dental College. A sum of Rs. 2.95 lakhs was diverted towards the establishment of a Dental College at Nagpur. Post-graduate training courses in dentistry with 37 students were started in Bombay.

Under the programme of training health visitors and midwives, about 1400 candidates were trained in various centres. The existing 9 health centres under the Community Development programmes were expanded and new centres were opened. The number of institutions training auxiliary nurse-midwives rose from 107 to 124 up to October. A short 6 months' course was started to orient the indigenous dais in modern techniques for work in rural areas. Up to November, 2004 personnel of various categories were trained at the three orientation Training Centres.

During the year, 131 scholars and fellows were placed for training in different institutions in India and 70 Indians were sent abroad.

C.H.S. SCHEME

Under the Contributory Health Service Scheme, 9 static and one mobile dispensaries were opened, bringing the total to 34 (expected to be 40 by March) and 4 respectively. The number of patients treated was over 40 lakhs as against 37 lakhs last year.

More D.D.T. For Malaria Eradication

An agreement was signed in New Delhi on March 25 between the Government of India and the U.S. Technical Co-operation Mission for the utilisation of \$2,124,000 by T.C.M., together with \$2,520,000 allocated by the Government of India, for purchasing additional 7,540 long tons of DDT for the National Malaria Eradication Programme this year.

An additional sum of \$456,000, originally earmarked by T.C.M. for buying microscopes and jeeps for anti-malaria operations, will now pay for a part of the DDT. The decision of the Government of India to buy the vehicles locally, has enabled T.C.M. to send the dollars saved on DDT imports.

Last year was the first full year of the Malaria Eradication Programme. The experience gained during the year made it apparent that quantities of DDT, additional to those already provided under a U.S. grant, would be necessary to keep the programme going at full tempo.

The United States had already granted Rs. 37.2 crores of assistance to both the malaria eradication and control programmes.

Control Of V.D.

According to an announcement dated March 20, the Union Ministry of Health has sanctioned the establishment of four V.D. clinics during 1960-61 by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene in India.

Studies show that in large cities and industrial areas the incidence of syphilis alone is estimated to be 5 to 7 per cent of the population. The magnitude in rural areas is not fully defined. Sub-Himalayan tracts extending from Kashmir to Assam appear to have a high incidence of syphilis.

A review of clinic admissions in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta hospitals reveals that 66 to 75 per cent cases are of early infectious syphilis. The age group between 15 to 35 is at greater

risk and is responsible for 80 per cent of the total infectious load.

The sex ratio of early infectious syphilis has been found to be 6 males to one female. This shows that there must be a considerable reservoir of infection among women. Studies among pregnant women in larger cities show a seropositivity rate ranging from 5 to 12 per cent. In a survey of 1,000 pregnancies in 260 women with untreated syphilis, the results as related to the infant were: Healthy non-syphilitic children — 30 per cent; syphilitic babies — 40 per cent; still births and neo-natal deaths — 30 per cent.

CONTROL MEASURES

In 1949 the Government of India in collaboration with the World Health Organization set up a V.D. Demonstration Centre in Himachal Pradesh. Recent reports show a considerable reduction in the incidence of syphilis in this State. The centre is engaged in training personnel besides survey and mass treatment. So far, 17 teams from different States participated in the training programme at the end of which each team was supplied with laboratory equipment and penicillin (PAM) by the UNICEF.

A scheme for the control of venereal and other allied diseases has been included in the Second Five-Year Plan with an allocation of Rs. 84.28 lakhs including the Central Government's share of Rs. 58.67 lakhs. It envisages the establishment of V.D. clinics in headquarters of the States and 75 V.D. clinics in district headquarters. The Government of India shares 75 per cent of the non-recurring expenditure subject to a maximum of Rs. 15,000 per clinic and 50 per cent of the recurring expenditure up to Rs. 1,55,000 per clinic per year during the Plan period. It is also proposed that each State should set up a V.D. Control Section for an effective organisation of the programme.

PROGRESS OF SCHEME

Up to December 1959, 3 headquarters V.D. clinics and 47 District clinics were set up in vari-

ous States. On an average about 675 patients report in each of these clinics every month for treatment. Arrangements have also been made for free supply of PAM worth Rs. 1,35,500 to these clinics. Training arrangements have been made for refresher courses at the V.D. Training Centre, Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi, and Government General Hospital, Madras.

Intensive control schemes, which include field survey and mass treatment, have been conducted in the Mahasu district of Himachal Pradesh. A short intensive anti-V.D. Control Programme, based on treatment of the total population of 1,30,000 in an area of 1,934 sq. miles, was launched on September 1, 1959, in the Kulu sub-division of Punjab. About 77,413 persons were given treatment during this campaign.

A pilot survey work is expected to begin shortly in Janusar Bawar area of Uttar Pradesh to prepare a scheme for the region. Facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases are also available for seamen at various ports.

Yaws, a non-venereal treponemal disease, is a lesser problem. It is prevalent in some of the districts of Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. Anti-Yaws campaigns are in progress in these States except Bombay. The programme is scheduled to be completed by 1963. A scheme for anti-Yaws work in Bombay is under consideration.

Production Of Freeze Dried B.C.G. Vaccine

An announcement of March 25 says, the Government of India have decided that manufacture of freeze dried BCG vaccine should be taken up on an experimental basis at the BCG Vaccine Laboratory, Madras. The production is expected to begin by the middle of this year.

The plant which has been installed was obtained from France and the staff trained by French

engineers. The plant has a capacity to freeze dry 4000 ampoules of 50 doses each in one shift.

Freeze dried B.C.G. Vaccine has been extensively and successfully used in Japan. This vaccine can last for several months unlike liquid vaccine.

CANCER INSTITUTE IN KANPUR

During question hour on March 23, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, told the Lok Sabha that a cancer institute would be attached to the Kanpur Medical College. It would be established during 1960-61.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh had asked for financial aid

for the Institute and the Government of India had sanctioned a grant of Rs. 2 lakhs this year.

COBALT PLANT IN DELHI

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 28 Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that a proposal to set up a Cobalt Plant to treat cancer patients in the Irwin Hospital, Delhi, had been received. The cost of the plant would be about Rs. 2,50,000.

The requirements of the Hospital would be kept in view while forwarding the request for cobalt units to the Colombo Plan authorities under the Capital Aid Programme for 1960-61.

Social Welfare

ANNUAL REPORT OF MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

The annual report for 1959-60 of the Ministry of Rehabilitation, released on March 27, states that the year 1959 marked the beginning of the final phase in the work of rehabilitation of D.Ps. from East Pakistan, while with the virtual completion of the work relating to payment of compensation to West Pakistan D.Ps., the task of rehabilitation in the western region has practically come to an end.

According to the report, a sum of Rs. 352.52 crores will have been spent on displaced persons from both East and West Pakistan up to the end of 1959-60. Out of this, Rs. 165.71 crores will have been spent on relief and rehabilitation of D.Ps. from East Pakistan alone. A provision of Rs. 16.17 crores has been made for East Pakistan D.Ps. for 1960-61, as against Rs. 6.08 crores for D.Ps. from West Pakistan and Rs. 4 crores for migrants from the Pakistan-held areas of Jammu and Kashmir. In addition, Rs. 7.52 crores have been

allocated for the Dandakaranya Project and Rs. 2.30 crores for the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation, both meant for the benefit of D.Ps. from East Pakistan.

RESIDUARY PROBLEMS

The population of camps and homes in the Eastern region came down by over 75,000 persons and 56 camps and homes including those in Tripura and Orissa were closed, and one in Bihar is to be closed shortly. This will leave camps only in West Bengal during the next year.

During the year, 26,000 more families were given rehabilitation assistance raising the total number of families so far assisted to 6.02 lakhs. Rehabilitation schemes costing Rs. 8.84 crores were sanctioned.

The assessment of non-camp families revealed that the remaining work of rehabilitation in Orissa and Bihar would be

completed by the end of 1960, and in Tripura and Assam by the close of the next financial year. The residuary problem in West Bengal and Tripura involved a further expenditure of Rs. 646.96 lakhs for additional assistance to 53,818 families. Of this, a sum of Rs. 380 lakhs, covering 34,880 families, has been sanctioned. Besides, a sum of Rs. 21.93 lakhs was sanctioned for non-camp families in Bihar, Orissa and Assam. An amount of Rs. 11.50 lakhs was also sanctioned for the acquisition, reclamation and development of colonies in Assam, and Rs. 14.40 lakhs to the displaced persons settled in Tripura for terracing the land allotted to them.

At Bonhooghly and Behala, the construction of 560 tenements has been completed and another 800 tenements are under construction. A sum of Rs. 5.37 lakhs has been sanctioned for the construction of a school and a production centre for displaced girls.

A sum of Rs. 18.88 lakhs was sanctioned during the year for acquisition of 219 acres of land in West Bengal.

Out of 144 squatters' colonies, 90 have been regularised in full and 13 in part. For providing business facilities to displaced persons, schemes costing Rs. 2.47 lakhs were sanctioned for construction of markets at Dubri and Paltan Bazar in Assam during the year.

INDUSTRIAL SCHEMES

Twenty schemes of medium industries have so far been sanctioned, involving a total expenditure of Rs. 191 lakhs, to provide employment to 7900 persons. Besides assistance to the extent of Rs. 130 lakhs has been sanctioned to the West Bengal State Transport Organisation and Cooch-Bihar State Transport Organisation for expanding transport facilities and thus providing employment to about 3400 displaced persons.

A total sum of Rs. 219 lakhs has been advanced to industrialists and to the State Transport Organisations and about 4,000

displaced persons have received employment.

The Rehabilitation Industries Corporation has sanctioned loans amounting to Rs. 27.03 lakhs to 10 industrial concerns. These scheme are likely to provide employment to 1,300 persons.

Besides, 141 schemes of small-scale and cottage industries and production centres, costing Rs. 124.39 lakhs have been sanctioned so far to provide employment to 18,000 persons, in addition to 24 schemes in Assam and 148 schemes in Tripura.

About 41,000 displaced persons from East Pakistan have completed training and about 3,500 are undergoing training. During the year, 44 training schemes have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 27 lakhs to provide training to about 3,000 displaced persons.

SOCIAL SERVICE

So far, 583 primary school buildings have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 40.59 lakhs and grants exceeding Rs. 2 crores for meeting the recurring expenditure on about 1,700 primary schools. One multipurpose school and 24 new Secondary Schools have already been set up. In addition, 449 Secondary schools have been assisted with capital grants aggregating Rs. 110.66 lakhs.

Ten degree colleges have been set up at a cost of Rs. 105.30 lakhs. Capital grants to the extent of Rs. 75.90 lakhs have been sanctioned to 57 non-official colleges to provide additional accommodation and equipment.

Schemes for the training of 1,155 teachers in West Bengal and 40 teachers in Assam have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 12.68 lakhs, and a Training School has been set up in West Bengal.

The camps have been provided with 16 hospitals with a provision for 591 indoor beds and 16 dispensaries with regular out-patients departments. Seven mobile medical units and 2 ambulance vans have also been sanctioned for camp inmates.

For providing medical facilities to displaced persons in general, 712 T.B. beds, 43 maternity beds, 56 beds for the treatment of children and nine beds for mental patients have been reserved in various hospitals. Besides, one full-fledged hospital, 67 dispensaries and three maternity centres have been set up. The building for one chest clinic is under construction and sanction for two more clinics has been accorded.

It has been decided that the maintenance loans given to displaced persons in the past on their dispersal from camps for rehabilitation be converted into grants, thus giving a relief of about Rs. 5.5 crores to more than one lakh families.

The loans granted to the State Government of West Bengal to meet the recurring expenditure on educational institutions will also be converted into grants.

DANDAKARANYA PROJECT

Regarding the Dandakaranya Project, large areas for reclamation of land were made available by the State Governments in October 1959, and about 11,500 acres had been reclaimed by the middle of February 1960. The movement of displaced persons from camps in West Bengal to Dandakaranya was resumed in November and upto the end of February, 1631 families had been moved.

Most of the staff required for engineering works in Dandakaranya has been recruited and plans for various types of works have been finalised. Works of the value of over Rs. 87 lakhs are in progress. Thirty Work Centres have been constructed and 45 others are under construction. The construction of a new 50 mile road and improvement of other roads totalling 163 at a cost of Rs. 1.5 crores have been sanctioned in addition to the expenditure on the improvement of National Highway 43.

D.Ps. FROM WEST PAKISTAN

Reviewing the work in the Western Region, the Report says, out of the total number of 4.85 lakh displaced persons who filed

compensation applications upto January 31, 1960, about 4.49 lakhs were paid compensation amounting to Rs. 128.30 crores.

Out of this amount Rs. 56.48 crores were paid in cash, Rs. 51.53 crores by transfer of properties and Rs. 20.29 crores by way of adjustment of public rules. The residuary work relating to the remaining cases is likely to be finished in the next few months.

During the year, various concessions were given to D.P.s. under the Compensation Scheme. It has been decided to grant relief to migrants from Pakistan-held areas of the Jammu and Kashmir State in the shape of ex-gratia *ad hoc* assistance. For displaced persons from tribal areas of Tirah, an ex-gratia grant of Rs. 2,500 each has been announced.

Out of 4.77 lakh families who were allotted evacuee lands in Punjab on a quasi-permanent basis, permanent rights were transferred to 2,63,804 allottees upto December 31, 1959, covering an area of 19,32,408 standard acres valued at about 87 crores. Proprietary rights in 84,459 houses allotted along with the lands were also transferred.

Upto December 31, 10,528 non-Punjabi land claimants were allotted 30,589 standard acres, 1,57,465 ordinary acres of land and groves worth about Rs. 37 lakhs in various States.

About 2.03 lakh displaced persons had been placed in Government and private services through employment exchanges upto December 31.

ADVANCES TO DISPLACED PENSIONERS

A Press Note issued on March 25 by the Ministry of Finance says, the Government of India have decided to extend for a further period upto September 30, 1960, the existing arrangements for the payment to displaced Central and Provincial Government Pensioners of advances of pension pending the transfer of their pensions from Pakistan.

Conference Of Chairmen Of State S.W.A. Boards

The three-day conference of Chairmen of the State Social Welfare Advisory Boards concluded in New Delhi on March 20. Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh, Chairman of the Central Social Welfare Board, presided.

The Conference considered the role of voluntary agencies in welfare work in the field, in the light of the formation of panchayats and zila parishads in some of the States. It went into the question of establishment of cadres for social workers and grants-in-aid programme. It also discussed measures for affording more opportunities for gainful employment of a large number of women, by way of providing them a living wage or by supplementing the family income by work during leisure hours.

SMALL PRODUCTION UNITS

The steps which were being taken in conjunction with different organisations, such as the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, the Handloom Board, etc., for framing suitable schemes for starting small production units were examined in detail.

Large scale industrial ancillary units where women were being trained and employed in the manufacture of various components of machinery have been started in a few places.

The conference was of the view that welfare work pertaining to women and children should continue to be handled by voluntary organisations which should work in close co-ordination with and extend full co-operation to the panchayat samities.

Members were also informed of the progress made by the Bulsara Committee in drawing up a code for grants-in-aid to voluntary welfare institutions.

SOCIAL WELFARE GRANTS

An announcement of March 25 says that Rs. 35.35 lakhs were

sanctioned as grants-in-aid to 2268 social welfare institutions by the Central Social Welfare Board at its last meeting.

Institutions which were sanctioned the grants for the first time numbered 689.

In the field of child welfare, 893 institutions were allotted Rs. 13.54 lakhs, while institutions working for women's welfare, numbering 815, were given Rs. 13.19 lakhs.

Besides, 36 institutions for the handicapped received grants of Rs. 1.31 lakhs, and 526 institutions engaged in general welfare work were given Rs. 7.3 lakhs.

Till the end of 1959, the Board had given grants totalling Rs. 297 lakhs to about 5,170 institutions catering for children's and women's welfare, uplift of the handicapped and other programmes.

Harijan Welfare

An announcement dated March 17 says that on an average Rs. 1.2 crores were spent every month on the welfare schemes of 'Backward Classes' in 1958-59. The current year's allocation is about Rs. 1 crore a month.

The total expenditure in 1958-59 amounted to Rs. 14.2 crores Rs. 9.9 crores in the State sector, that is, the Centre and the State sharing the cost equally, and Rs. 4.3 crores in the Central sector, that is, the entire amount given by the Government of India.

The allocation made in 1959-60 is Rs. 12.2 crores, Rs. 5.77 crores in the State sector and Rs. 6.43 crores in the Central sector. In addition, a sum of Rs. 1.16 crores has been allocated for the advancement of underdeveloped areas during 1959-60. The Second Plan's outlay is Rs. 90 crores.

The term 'Backward Classes' covers: (a) Scheduled Castes, (b) Scheduled Tribes, (c) Ex-criminal Tribes, etc.

Labour & Employment

REPORT OF MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT FOR 1959-60

The annual report of the Ministry of Labour and Employment for 1959-60 was released on March 29. The report states that during 1959, there was a substantial decrease in man-days lost through work stoppages. As compared with 78 lakh man-days lost during 1958, time-loss in 1959 was about 56 lakh man-days.

The Code of Discipline, has met with an encouraging measure of success. From June 1958, when it came into force, till the end of December 1959, 777 cases of breaches of the Code were reported to the Evaluation and Implementation Division of the Ministry. Of these, 226 did not require action, and 180 were referred to the State Governments concerned. Of the remaining 371 cases, 242, i.e. 65 per cent, were settled or the breaches brought home to the guilty parties for setting them right. The rest were under investigation.

During the year, the Evaluation and Implementation Division succeeded in bringing about out-of-court settlement in eleven cases of industrial disputes out of 27 cases taken up by the Division. In 9 cases, attempts at settlement did not succeed and the remaining cases were in the process of negotiation.

The recommendations of the Wage Boards for the Cotton Textile and Cement industries were published, along with Government decisions thereon. The Wage Board for Sugar industry expects to submit its report sometime in September 1960. In the meantime, the Board made a unanimous recommendation for the grant of interim relief to workmen in sugar factories and almost all factories have implemented the recommendation.

WELFARE ACTIVITIES

About 14.43 lakh employees at 86 centres in the country had been getting the benefit of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme. The year witnessed further extension of the Scheme to families of insured persons. The total number of family units covered was 4.10 lakhs, i.e., about 11.84 lakh additional beneficiaries.

The Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952 which initially applied to 6 industries, has been extended to 33 additional industries and establishments. The membership of the Fund stood at 25.4 lakhs at the end of March 1959. It has now been decided to extend the benefit of the Employees' Provident Funds Act to all establishments employing 20 or more persons.

Besides, up to the end of October 1959, over 12 lakhs of colliery workers in 1,181 coal mines were receiving provident fund benefits under the Coal Mines Provident Funds Scheme.

The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Organisation maintained steady progress. During 1958-59, the per capita expenditure incurred by the Fund was Rs. 20 as compared with Rs. 17 in 1957-58. The income of the Fund during 1959-60 is expected to be over Rs. 1.76 crores, of which about Rs. 1.70 crores will be spent on general welfare and housing programme during the year.

EMPLOYMENT

It is estimated that the first 4 years of the Second Plan would have provided employment to 4.5 to 5 millions as compared with the Plan target of 6.5 millions. The remaining employment opportunities were ex-

pected to be created in the coming year.

At the end of 1959, 248 employment exchanges were functioning as against 212 at the end of the previous year. The number of applicants on the Live Register was 14,20,901 as compared with 11,83,299 at the end of the previous year, registering an increase of 2,37,602 i.e., 20.1 per cent. Some of this addition was due to the establishment of new employment exchanges.

Before the beginning of the Second Plan, the capacity of various Industrial Training Institutes and Centres was 10,534 seats. The target of additional seats for the Second Plan was placed at 30,000, and the expansion programme has been substantially achieved.

Out of the 50 units, which agreed to introduce the scheme of labour participation through joint councils of management, 23 units have so far implemented the scheme.

Additional Employment In Second Plan

The report issued on March 26 on the study, undertaken by the National Employment Service of the Labour Ministry to examine the impact of the Second Plan on employment in the public sector, reveals that, the additional employment generated since April 1956 up to March 1959 was 11.39 lakhs, while the number of persons employed in the public sector at the end of March 1959 was 63.74 lakhs.

Information regarding the increase in employment was sought from 27,781 establishments of which 23,653 i.e. 85.1 per cent submitted returns.

At the beginning of the Second Plan, employment in public sector establishments, was 45.3 lakhs, which increased to 53.9 lakhs at the end of December 1958, i.e. a rise of 18.9 per cent. By the end of March 1959 the rise mounted to 21.8 per cent.

RATE OF INCREASE

In the Central Government, the largest increase, nearly

82,000 took place in the railways. Posts and Telegraphs provided additional jobs for 37,000, Educational and Scientific Services for about 10,000, Medical and Health Services for 1,700 and other departments for 48,000. Activities connected with mining and quarrying provided additional employment for 4,000 and the C.P.W.D. for 4,500, not counting those employed under contractors.

Over half the increase (4.84 lakhs) occurred in 'services', which included the educational services, medical and health services, legal, community and personnel services and administrative offices. The largest increase occurred in administrative offices and departments where employment rose from 20.5 lakhs to 24.0 lakhs.

The Study has also revealed that with the exception of transport and communications, the rate of increase in employment has been the lowest in 'Services'. The percentages of increase for various industries and Services are: Agriculture, Live Stock, etc. — 20.1; Mining and Quarrying — 26.7; Manufacturing — 33.7; Construction — 30.6; Electricity, Gas, Water — 30.0; Trade and Commerce — 95.8; Transport and Communications — 10.5; and Services — 19.2.

Employment in the public sector works out to 4 per cent of the total working population in India.

EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND

The Central Board of Trustees of the Employees' Provident Fund, which met in New Delhi on March 30, recommended to the Central Government that subscribers to the Fund might be granted interest at the rate of 3.75 per cent on their accumulations for the year 1960-61.

The Board also recommended that the question of financing a Special Reserve Fund to help workers whose provident fund dues are not received, wholly or partially, from their employers might be considered by a tripartite conference.

Indian Information

The Budget Estimates of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation for 1960-61 were approved.

About 26.46 lakhs of workers in about 7,200 establishments are getting the benefit of provident fund at present.

PROVIDENT FUND BENEFIT FOR MICA WORKERS

An announcement of March 19 says, the benefit of compulsory contributory provident fund under the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, is to be extended to workers in mica mines and mica factories employing 50 or more persons, from May 31, 1960. It is estimated that over 25,000 workers in more than 200 mica mines and factories will get this benefit.

The number of industries covered by the Act will now increase, from 39 to 41. About 26.2 lakhs of persons in various industries are at present getting the benefit of provident fund under the Act. The total net accumulations in the provident fund so far amount to Rs. 165 crores. Also, up till now, Rs. 47 crores have been either refunded to outgoing members or advanced as loans to existing members.

E.S.I. SCHEME EXTENDED

The Employees' State Insurance Scheme has been extended to Sirpur in Andhra Pradesh, Dalmianagar, Banjari and Japla in Bihar, Dalmiapuram in Madras and Hubli in Mysore from March 27, covering about 19,450 factory workers in the areas.

Medical care in these areas will be provided by the respective State Governments under service system and seven whole-

time dispensaries have been set up for this purpose. In addition, two mobile dispensaries-cum-ambulance vans have also been provided to cater to the needs of insured persons living in outlying villages in the areas of Dalmianagar, Banjari and Japla.

National Tribunal For Banks Appointed

The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated March 2, has notified that the Government of India have constituted a National Tribunal to adjudicate the dispute between banking companies and their employees. Shri Justice Kantilal Thakordas Desai of the Bombay High Court has been appointed Presiding Officer of the Tribunal, with headquarters at Bombay.

The names of 67 banking companies and corporations, excluding the Reserve Bank of India, where disputes exist or are apprehended and which will be adjudicated by the National Tribunal have been published in a separate schedule to the Gazette.

By another notification published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary today, Government have also referred the dispute between the Reserve Bank and their employees to the same Tribunal.

STRIKE PROHIBITED

According to a Press Note issued on March 21 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the Government of India have prohibited continuance of the strike by the employees of the State Bank of India following reference of the dispute between them and their employees to a National Tribunal for adjudication.

Works, Housing and Supply, said that, about 4,000 houses of different types were under construction, in Moti Bagh, Netaji Nagar and on the 1200-acre area South of the Ring Road in Delhi for Government employees.

The States

Houses For Government Employees In Delhi

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 25, Shri K.C. Reddy, Minister of

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April 15, 1960

ASSENT FOR W.B. BILL

An announcement of March 21 says that the President has given assent to the West Bengal Premises Requisition and Control (Temporary Provisions) (Amendment) Bill, 1960.

The legislation seeks to extend for three years the life of the West Bengal Premises Requisition and Control (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1947, which is due to expire after March 31, 1960.

ASSENT FOR ANDHRA BILL

An announcement of March 31 says, the President has given assent to the Andhra Pradesh Buildings (Lease, Rent and Eviction) Control Bill, 1959.

The Bill seeks to introduce a uniform law in the State on the regulation of raising of buildings, control of rent and prevention of unreasonable evictions of tenants from premises.

Defence

Compassionate Gratuity Fund Awards

A Press Note issued on March 31, by the Ministry of Defence says, further awards ranging between 1,875 and Rs. 8,000 and aggregating to Rs. 61,050 have been sanctioned from the Compassionate Gratuity Fund in favour of the widows of dependents of 12 Service Officers. The claims in respect of other officers who died since June 1, 1953, are under consideration.

The Compassionate Gratuity Fund (Defence Services) was created early in 1958 for the grant of ex-gratia awards to widows and children of deceased commissioned officers of the three Services, who died while in Service on or after June 1, 1953, or who die hereafter but whose deaths are not due to, or hastened by, a wound, an injury, or disease which is attributed to or aggravated by Service.

Under the scheme a sum of four lakhs was provided for ex-gratia awards to dependents of officers who died between June 1, 1953 and April 1, 1958.

Total amount to be paid in respect of deaths on or after April 1, 1953, will be Rs. one lakh per year.

Sikh Battalion Redesignated

At a solemn ceremony in New Delhi on March 22 the famous

Indian Information

5th Battalion (Duke of Connaught's Own) of the former 11th Sikh Regiment was resurrected into being by the redesignation of the 7th Battalion, the Sikh Regiment, which is now on guard duty at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

After sports and prize distribution the bands played retreat.

The famous 5th Sikh Battalion had an eventful history since it was raised in Sialkot in 1901, which was then known as

India & The World

ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS

SWITZERLAND

Mr. Jacques-Albert Cuttat, Ambassador-designate of Switzerland, presented his Credentials to the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on March 22.

CUBA

A New Delhi announcement dated March 17 says that, Mr. Eugenio Soler Alonso, Ambassador-designate of Cuba, presented his Credentials to the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan the same day.

ARMY HONOURS

The names of nine Army personnel were announced on March 19 for distinguished service and devotion to duty. They have been awarded COMMENDATION CARD, an entry of which will be made in their Record of Service. Of them, three were in service in Jammu and Kashmir, five in N.E.F.A. and one at Roorkee.

FLAG DAY COLLECTIONS

An announcement of March 18 says, the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund collections made during 1958, amounting to over Rs. 9 lakhs, have been allotted to various States, the Red Cross Society, the Services Sports Control Board and the three Services/Headquarters.

E.M.E. OFFICERS CONFER

The four day conference of Senior Officers of the Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at Army HQ concluded in New Delhi on March 24, after an address by Lt. Gen. M.S. Wadalia, Deputy Chief of the Army Staff.

Ambassador To Finland

India's Ambassador to Sweden, Shri Kewal Singh, presented his letters of credence as India's Ambassador to Finland to the Finnish President, Dr. Urho Kekkonen in Helsinki on March 25.

During the Finnish Premier's visit to India in February last, the Governments of India and Finland had decided to raise their diplomatic representation from Legation to Embassy level.

April 15, 1960

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

MARCH 16 To 31

- March 16 — A two-member World Bank Team arrives in New Delhi for a three-week tour to study the working of Indian Railways
- A five-member delegation of artists from Yugoslavia arrives in Bombay on a four-week goodwill tour of India
- 17 — A conference of the Chairmen of State Social Welfare Advisory Boards begins in New Delhi
- Three new wireless telegraph stations are opened in the Laccadive group of islands, connecting them with the mainland
- 19 — A two-day meeting of the National Development Council opens in New Delhi
- 21 — A new Trade Agreement between India and Pakistan is signed in New Delhi
- An agreement is signed in New Delhi between the Government of India and the Misr Trading Company of Cairo for the supply of one lakh tons of rice to India from the U.A.R. in 1960
- The Government of India announce the constitution of a National Tribunal for Banks
- 23 — Instruments ratifying the Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation of Income between India and Norway are exchanged in Oslo
- The seventh meeting of the National Council for Rural Higher Education begins in New Delhi
- 25 — An agreement is signed in New Delhi between the Government of India and the Citizen Watch Company of Japan for the establishment of a watch factory in India
- An agreement is signed in New Delhi between the Government of India and the T.C.M. of U.S.A. for the purchase of additional 7,540 long tons of D.D.T. for the Malaria Eradication Programme in India
- Prime Minister Nehru inaugurates the first power house of the Kundah Basin Hydro-electric Project
- 26 — Mr. Michael Hoffman, leader of the six-member Mission of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, arrives in New Delhi
- A two-day session of the Transport Development Council begins in New Delhi
- 27 — The Indo-Pakistan financial talks at the Ministerial level, which began on March 24, conclude at Rawalpindi
- Prime Minister Nehru inaugurates the twenty-third annual session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries in New Delhi
- 28 — The Government of India announce decision to set up an advisory board for standardising the basic qualifications for appointments as Company Secretaries
- 29 — H.E. Gamal Abdel-Nasser, President of the U.A.R., arrives in New Delhi on a twelve-day visit to India
- Mr. P.Y. Antropov, U.S.S.R. Minister for Geology and Mineral Resources, arrives in New Delhi, along with four Soviet geologists, on a fortnight's visit
- 30 — The Vice-President, Dr. Radhakrishnan, inaugurates the sixth National Exhibition of Art, organised by the Lalit Kala Akademi, in New Delhi
- 31 — The Government of India announce the import policy for the half-year from April to September 1960
- It is announced that an agreement has been concluded between the Government of India and the Misr Trading Company of Cairo for the utilisation of the four-crore rupee proceeds of the sale of U.A.R. rice to India

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NOW-METRIC CAPACITY MEASURES

The Metric capacity measure—LITRE—comes into use from April, 1960 when the PAINT and PETROLEUM industries change over to the Metric System. Paint will be sold in litres and the entire distribution of petroleum will be in litres only.

CONVERSION TABLE

1 GALLON = 4 LITRES approx.

1 LITRE = 1,000 MILLILITRES

DA-9W577

FL. OUNCE	MILLILITRES (ml) (to nearest ml)	GALLONS	LITRES	MILLILITRES (to nearest 10 ml)			
1	28	1	4	550			
2	57	2	9	90			
3	85	3	13	640			
4	114	4	18	180			
5 (= 1 Gill)	142	5	22	730			
GILLS	MILLILITRES (ml) (to nearest ml)	6	27	280			
1	142	7	31	820			
2	284	8	36	370			
3	426	9	40	910			
4 (= 1 Pint)	568	10	45	460			
PINTS	LITRES (l) (to nearest ml)	GALLONS	LITRES	MILLILITRES (to nearest 100 ml)			
1	—	20	90	900			
2 (= 1 Quart)	1	30	136	400			
		40	181	800			
QUARTS	LITRES	50	227	300			
1	1	60	272	800			
2	2	70	318	200			
3	3	80	363	700			
4 (= 1 Gallon)	4	90	409	100			
		100	454	600			
MILLILITRES	FL. OUNCES (to nearest 1/2 fl. oz.)	LITRES	GALLONS	QUARTS	PINTS	GILLS (to nearest gill)	
10	1	1	—	—	—	2	
20	1	2	—	—	—	4	
30	1	3	—	—	—	6	
40	1	4	—	—	—	8	
50	2	5	—	—	—	10	
60	2	6	—	—	—	12	
70	2	7	—	—	—	14	
80	3	8	—	—	—	16	
90	3	9	—	—	—	18	
100	3	10	—	—	—	20	
MILLILITRES	PINTS	GILLS	FL. OUNCES (to nearest 1/2 fl. oz.)	LITRES	GALLONS	QUARTS	PINTS (to nearest pint)
200	—	1	2	10	2	1	—
300	—	2	4	20	4	2	—
400	—	3	6	30	6	3	—
500	—	4	8	40	8	4	—
600	—	5	10	50	10	5	—
700	—	6	12	60	12	6	—
800	—	7	14	70	14	7	—
900	—	8	16	80	16	8	—
1000 (= 1 litre)	1	9	18	90	18	9	—
		10	20	100	20	10	—

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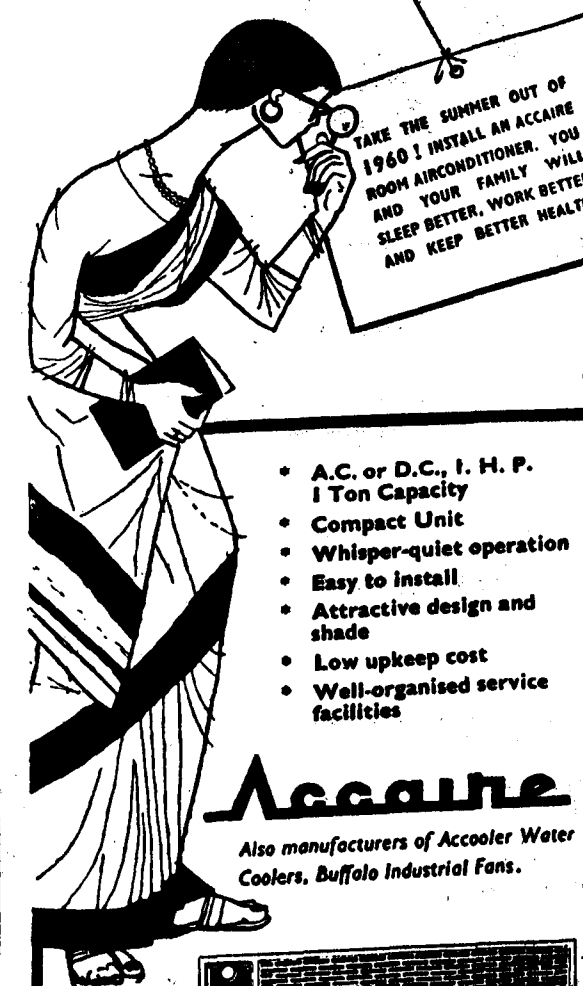
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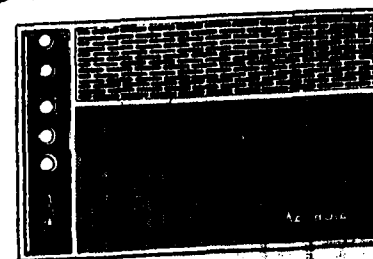
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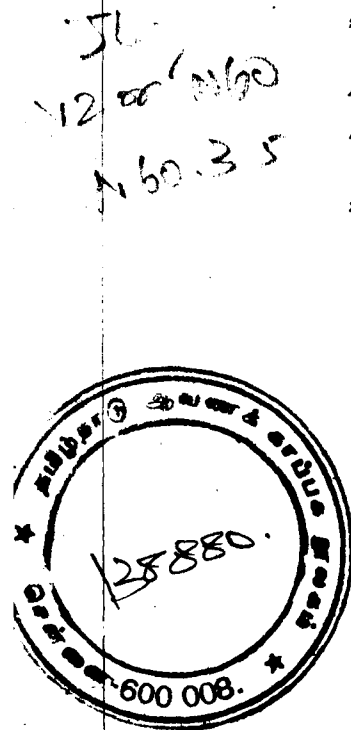
Dr. K.L. Shrimall, Union Minister for Education, addressing the Sixth Annual Conference of Chairmen of the State Social Welfare Advisory Boards, in New Delhi on March 17



Shri K.C. Reddy, Union Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, digging the first shod of earth to initiate the construction of the All India Radio Auditorium in New Delhi on March 31



Maj-Gen. Harbaksh Singh, Colonel of the Sikh Regiment, presenting at the Red Fort on March 22, the Colours to the 7th Battalion, the Sikh Regiment, which has been redesignated as the 5th Sikhs





Regd. N
D-941

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, feeding the cow of record milk yield "Levsha," in New Delhi on March 27, when he received it as a gift presented by the Soviet Ambassador in India, H.E. Mr. I.A. Benediktov, from the Soviet Government and the Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers

Shri Morarji Desai, Union Finance Minister buying prize bonds from Dr. P. Subbarayan, Union Minister for Transport and Communications, while inaugurating the Government Prize Bond Scheme, in New Delhi on April 1



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