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The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, with Acharya Vinoba Bhave, in a village near Sonapat on April 6. On the left is Shri N.V. Gadgil, Governor of Punjab



Shri Morarji Desai, Union Finance Minister, going round the Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan in New Delhi, on its fifth anniversary on April 13.



Shri S.K. Patil, Union Minister of Food and Agriculture, with Mr. B.H. Benn (right), Minister of Natural Resources, British Guiana, now on a fortnight's visit to India, in New Delhi on April 11

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Political & General

PRESIDENT NASSER'S VISIT TO INDIA

The following Joint Communique was issued in New Delhi on April 10 on the visit to India by H.E. Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of the U.A.R.

On the invitation of the Government of India, His Excellency President Gamal Abdel-Nasser, President of the United Arab Republic, visited India from March 29 to April 10, 1960. The President was accompanied by Dr. Mahmoud Fawzi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Aly Sabri, Minister of Presidential

Affairs, Mr. Tooma El Awad Allah, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs, and other high officials from the United Arab Republic.

The President and members of his party visited some of the principal cities of India. At Delhi, the President addressed the members of the Indian Parliament. At Aligarh, he received an honorary doctorate from the Aligarh University and in Bombay, he inaugurated the Egyptian and Syrian Cotton Festival. He also visited a number of industrial

establishments, scientific institutions and rural development projects. Wherever he went in India, President Nasser was accorded a warm and friendly reception by the people. In the Government of India's view, the enthusiasm shown by the people was a tribute to a leader who has secured and consolidated the freedom of his country. It also provided eloquent evidence of the friendly feelings which the people of India have cherished through the

ages for the people of the Arab countries.

During his stay in Delhi, President Nasser and Prime Minister Nehru had a number of talks on the world situation in general and other problems of mutual interest. The President and the Prime Minister reiterated their faith in the policy of non-alignment and their resolve to maintain friendly relations with all countries. They are of the view that while assistance and co-operation through International agencies otherwise would be welcome for the development of the newly independent countries of Asia and Africa, there should be no interference in the internal affairs of any country.

The President and the Prime Minister welcomed the trend towards relaxation of international tension. They also welcomed the forthcoming meeting of the Heads of Government and expressed the hope that their efforts to reduce tension would meet with success. They pledged their support for any measure of agreement which would promote an atmosphere of peace and reduce the chances of conflict. The President and the Prime Minister welcomed the progress which has already been made by the conference on the suspension of nuclear tests which is now meeting in Geneva. They expressed the hope that final agreement would be reached without further delay, thereby relieving anxiety throughout the world. They regretted that at a time when avenues are being explored for reaching an agreement on the permanent abolition of nuclear tests and considerable progress has been made in that direction, nuclear bombs have recently been exploded over a region in Africa against the wishes of the people who are affected by such explosions and against the consensus of world opinion. They expressed the hope that such tests would be discontinued.

The President and the Prime Minister also discussed the prospects of the disarmament talks which are now taking place in Geneva. They were of the view that the progress on disarmament is an essential condition for reducing tension and promoting a peaceful atmosphere. They

expressed the hope that the meeting of the ten-nation Disarmament Committee of the United Nations would lead to positive results in the field of disarmament.

The President and the Prime Minister discussed the recent developments on the African continent. They welcomed the awakening among the people of Africa and the resurgent spirit of freedom which inspires millions all over the continent. They welcomed the attainment of independence by many nations of Africa and expressed the hope that such nations as are not yet free would achieve their freedom without further delay. They also welcomed the growing sense of kinship and solidarity among the people of Asia and Africa who are facing similar problems and are determined to solve these problems in a spirit of mutual co-operation and understanding.

The President and the Prime Minister deplored the racial discrimination and the denial of fundamental human rights which are being practised as state policies in some parts of Africa. In particular they expressed their sense of shock and profound regret at the recent large scale killing of innocent people in the Union of South Africa. These events have shocked the conscience of civilised people all over the world and the President and the Prime Minister expressed the hope that the weight of world opinion would be brought to bear on the authorities responsible for the adoption and execution of such policies.

The President and the Prime Minister reiterated their view that the question of Palestine should be solved in conformity with the provisions of the U.N. Charter, the resolutions of the United Nations and the principles unanimously adopted at the Bandung Conference of 1955 for the peaceful settlement of the Palestine question. They expressed their concern at the situation in Algeria and reiterated their view that the right of the Algerian people to self-determination and independence should be recognised and fully implemented.

The President and the Prime Minister discussed problems relating to the economic development of the underdeveloped countries. They

agreed that these countries are facing problems of a similar nature and that it is to their advantage to co-operate with one another in their own interest and in the interest of the world as a whole.

The President and the Prime Minister noted with pleasure that friendship and understanding between their two countries is growing day by day. This friendship and understanding is based not only on sharing of common objectives in their approach to world problems but also on close co-operation in the economic and cultural spheres. The President and the Prime Minister look forward to continued co-operation between their two countries in all fields and to the further strengthening of the ties of friendship and understanding as a result of the present visit of President Nasser to India.

STATE BANQUET

A State banquet was held in honour of H.E. Mr. Gamal Abdel-Nasser, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on March 29. Proposing the toast the President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, said:

'President Nasser symbolizes the spirit of awakening in the Arab world. His championship of Arab nationalism is based on no narrow considerations. Indeed, the movement itself is part of the great resurgence which is going on throughout Asia and Africa. Arab nationalism, as symbolised by President Nasser, represents an urge for independence, unity and rapid progress. We who are faced with many similar problems can appreciate this urge. We hope and trust that the cherished desire of the Arab peoples for greater solidarity and progress will be achieved.'

'Contacts between the region represented by the United Arab Republic and India are older than history. They have their roots in the pre-historic era. Our ancient countries have been, in our chequered histories, through many a rise and fall and seen many vicissitudes of fortune. We have known the rise of great empires and awe-inspir-

ing kings, but somehow both of us have managed to survive the endless revolutions of the wheel of Fate. And now in modern times our two countries have emerged, let us hope for ever, from the period of darkness. We are now free to build up our countries and to shape our destinies. There is no doubt we have a leeway to make up, but we in this country have taken in hand the task of reconstructing our economy to the best of our resources. Prosperity at home and peace in the world is our motto.'

PRESIDENT NASSER'S REPLY

In his reply, President Nasser said, 'I hardly think I am in need of stressing the feelings that our Arab people bear for your great country. Apart from the feelings emanating from the heart, there is also an admiration that comes directly from the mind, for your continuous struggle, your big struggle for the development of your country, your continued struggle for the rediscovery of India and for rebuilding it, your struggle for the consolidation of the moral and spiritual values as a contribution to the building of an international society where peace based on justice prevails.'

'In expressing all this, our people speak from practical experience. We have been able to see India, both leaders and people, adopt and enforce the principles and ideals preached by them. India has proved in a practical way that India's positive will is equal to her moral faith and that she can defend her principles and keep up her enthusiasm.'

'We hope that Indo-Arab co-operation will be a powerful force in the consolidation of Afro-Asian solidarity on a big scale and in the building of a better world. We share your view that the way to that is by working for the prosperity of the country and for world peace.'

MESSAGE TO INDIAN PEOPLE

President Gamal Abdel-Nasser broadcast a message to the peo-

ple of India over All India Radio on March 30. He said:

'I feel I am among my own people. The warm reception given to us, the kind words we hear everywhere are a mere proof of the traditional Indo-Arab friendship and love.'

'It greatly pleases me to be able to thank you in person today on behalf of my country for the major role played by friendly India to help us face the 1956 tripartite aggression against Egypt. India's moral help had a tremendous effect on world opinion, while India's material support to us, when an economic blockade was imposed on our country after the failure of the aggression, helped us enormously.'

He continued, 'India and the U.A.R. have a lot in common. Both nations have won their independence after years of domination, both countries have had to be rebuilt and rediscovered so to speak, both nations have enormous difficulties to face in the field of economic reform. Today we both have to work hard to make up for the wasted years, we have to exert enormous efforts for the implementation of both major and minor economic projects alike to ensure the welfare and prosperity of our peoples. And above all we have to toil for the safeguard of world peace.'

CIVIC RECEPTION

The citizens of Delhi gave a reception on March 30 to President Nasser. Replying to the welcome address, President Nasser said that the fight of the people of Asia and Africa for freedom and economic emancipation was bound to be successful and they would see the fruits of their dedicated struggle with their own eyes.

President Nasser, who spoke at length of the Suez crisis and Arab unity, said that the fighting in defence of the Suez canal was not on behalf of Egyptians or the Arabs alone but on behalf of the people of whole of Asia and Africa. Egypt fought for peace and against military

pacts and she knew that the people of India were on her side. The lesson of Egypt gave the Arab countries added strength and the whole Arab world today realised that their freedom and national emancipation lay in their own solidarity. They had now reached the stage when an economic programme would soon be launched to increase national income and democratic institutions would be established in their country.

President Nasser said that a time would soon come when with joint efforts of the United Arab Republic, India and other peace-loving countries, the world would be assured of complete peace and national barriers would not be able to keep the various people aloof from each other.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, who spoke after President Nasser, said that India stood for peace and friendship with all nations of the world. He said, this was the underlying principle enunciated at the Bandung conference of Asian-African countries.

ADDRESS TO M.P.S.

Addressing members of Parliament in New Delhi on March 31, President Nasser said, the recent incidents in South Africa were the most flagrant example of injustice still lurking in some parts of the globe. In South Africa the policy of racial discrimination was spilling blood in addition to destroying freedom. This ignorant policy proved that the South African Government had no consideration for human dignity nor for the nature of the age we lived in.

President Nasser declared that our nations had great obligations to fulfil towards the friendly and brotherly peoples fighting for their freedom and for the restoration of their rights. We, who had marched along the same path, must support those who were still toiling in their march.

About the policy of military pacts, President Nasser said, this had proved a failure and the

Big Powers had learnt a lesson. They knew now that, through friendship and positive co-operation based on equality, they could build for themselves within the independent nations, bases which were more powerful and lasting than the bases of aggression. Speaking of the world situation, he said that the cold war ice was now melting. He expressed the hope that the results of the coming summit meeting would measure up to the hopes of the people.

President Nasser ended his speech with an expression of confidence that the friendship between the peoples of India and UAR would always be an active and creative force for the establishment of peace and prosperity in the world.

Earlier, welcoming President Nasser in Parliament, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, said, 'His visit is a further link between the Asian and African peoples. We are all facing the same problems. We are striving to liberate ourselves from political thralldom, economic slavery, racial intolerance and a feudal structure of society. These are the attempts which many Asian and African nations are now engaged in. It is only a step, I take it, towards world community. Asia-Africa solidarity is not to be regarded in any sense as an impediment to the emerging world unity.'

Shri Anantasayanam Ayyangar, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, proposed the vote of thanks for the address to M.Ps. by President Nasser. Shri Ayyangar said, 'Today you have come not for a political union, but for a union of hearts between your great people and our people. Let this union of hearts continue ever and ever. Social values in our land, as in your land, have never depended on prosperity or power. On the other hand, moral values, as you have just indicated in your speech, have always triumphed.'

Our great leader, the Father of our Nation, said, when somebody asked whether moral law

would succeed or not, cryptically in three sentences: "In the midst of darkness, light persists. In the midst of untruth, truth persists". Therefore, there is a moral law guiding the universe. We entirely depend upon this moral law, and I am sure the erstwhile aggressors will also come round... Let us come more and more close together and let us also, through our moral values, set an example to the whole world.'

President Nasser left India from Bombay for Pakistan on April 10.

British Guiana Minister's Visit

Mr. B.H. Benn, Minister of Natural Resources, British Guiana, accompanied by Mr. G.E. Luck, Secretary to the Government, arrived in Delhi on April 6 on a fortnight's visit to India.

The Minister was to visit Nangal, Agra, Hyderabad, Madras, Bangalore and Bombay.

REPORT OF MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FOR 1959-60

A brief summary of the activities of the Ministry of External Affairs during the year 1959-60 states that the negotiations between India and Pakistan at the Ministerial level on the question of the borders of the two countries in the east and in the west were successfully concluded. This resulted in improving the relations between the two countries.

Pakistan agreed to withdraw her claim to the group of Indian villages in the Kushiya River triangle and also to vacate her occupation of a part of Tukergam village. India agreed to

Foreign Delegations To India In 1959

According to a New Delhi announcement of April, twenty-four delegations from 18 countries visited India during 1959. Of these, six were trade delegations, three cultural and two goodwill. The remaining were of parliamentarians, scientists, pressmen, students, etc.

The largest number of delegations — three — came from the U.S.S.R., followed by two each from Yugoslavia, Pakistan and Hungary. The countries which sent one delegation each included: Afghanistan, Burma, Cambodia, Czechoslovakia, Canada, Iraq, Japan, Poland, Sweden, Sudan, the U.S.A., the U.K. and Viet-Nam.

A large number of delegates also came to India to attend international conferences held last year. Ten such gatherings were attended by representatives from almost all the countries of the world. Two gatherings were U.N. Seminars, and two each were sponsored by the F.A.O. and the UNESCO.

Other conferences included the Indian Science Congress, Quakers International Seminar, All India Writers Conference, World Assembly of Youth, and International Seminar of Students.

draw a rational boundary in the Patharia forest area. An agreement was also reached that no border post would be located within 150 yards of the actual or working boundary on either side, thus mitigating the possibility of border firings and other incidents. Both parties arrived at mutually agreed interpretations of the Radcliffe award in respect of the disputes on the Punjab (India)-West Pakistan border. It was also agreed that ground demarcation of some 70 miles of the Punjab (India)-West Pakistan border should be completed by the end of April 1960.

Some progress towards the solution of the Indo-Pakistan canal water dispute was also made during the year. An inter-governmental agreement for the period from 1 April 1959 to 31 March 1960 was signed at Washington on 17 April 1959. Accord was also reached on several heads of agreement which will form the basis for an international water treaty.

Negotiations to settle outstanding financial issues between India and Pakistan, particularly partition debts, were resumed during the year after a break of about 3 years, and made some progress.

No progress has been made towards the settlement of Indo-Pakistan differences on Kashmir and evacuee property.

OTHER NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Friendly and cordial relations with Afghanistan were sustained and enlarged by mutual exchange of visits, increased cultural co-operation, promotion of mutual trade and mutual support of the policy of non-alignment. The visit of the Prime Minister to Afghanistan in September further strengthened these relations. Similarly, relations with Burma continued to be close and friendly. The President's visit to Ceylon in June strengthened the ties with that country.

Prime Minister Nehru's visit to Nepal in June 1959 and the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India in January 1960 further strengthened the ties of friendship between the two countries. The Prime Minister's statement in the Lok Sabha that India would regard any aggression on Nepal as an aggression on India was welcomed by Nepal's Prime Minister as an expression of friendship towards Nepal. India agreed to afford financial assistance for Nepal's development programme to the extent of Rs. 14 crores during the Third Five-Year Plan period, and in addition agreed to construct the East Kosi (Chatra) Canal at a cost of Rs. 3-4 crores. The total aid of Rs. 18 crores in-

cludes some Rs. 4 crores out of the previous grant which is not likely to be spent during the First Plan period. The joint programmes include the Kosi Project Barrage at Hanuman-nagar and the proposed Gandak Irrigation and Power Project at a cost of Rs. 50.5 crores.

Agreement has been reached for the execution of the Jaldhaka Hydro-Electric project on the border of West Bengal and Bhutan. In addition to the subsidy of Rs. 5,00,000 being paid to Bhutan under the obligations of the 1949 treaty, an annual subsidy of Rs. 7,00,000 from 1960 will replace *ad hoc* grants for development purposes including road projects. India-Bhutan relations were further improved by the visit of Bhutan's Prime Minister, Jigme Dorji, to India in September.

The Seven-Year Plan of Sikkim has made considerable progress and is now in its sixth year. Other development projects are under consideration. The specific announcement of the Prime Minister that India was responsible for the defence of Bhutan and Sikkim has served to reassure these States where a general feeling of uneasiness prevailed on account of happenings in Tibet.

The President's visit in March to the Indo-China States and the informal visit of the Cambodian Prime Minister to India in December and cultural exchanges with the DRVN improved the existing friendly relations between India and these countries. India also tried to reconvene the Laos Commission to initiate measures of mediation in order to ease the tension and conflict in Laos.

As in previous years, a number of Malayan military personnel received training in India. Several Malayan students were admitted to medical and other colleges in India.

The Vice-President visited the Philippines in July 1959 and received a cordial welcome.

India released a sum of Rs. 2,19,150 belonging to Thailand and frozen by the Custodian of

Enemy Property, Bombay, during World War II, and the Government of Thailand was permitted to repatriate the entire sum to Thailand.

CHINA

Relations with China deteriorated during the year. This was increasingly evident after the Dalai Lama, following developments in Tibet, sought refuge in India.

Chinese troops violated the international boundary and entered Indian territory in Ladakh and at one place in the North-east Frontier Agency. A large number of notes and protests were sent to the Chinese Governments during the year.

Premier Chou En-lai in his letter of 8 September, for the first time asserted China's claim to NEFA and large parts of Ladakh and other small pockets well within India's traditional border.

In response to the anxiety in the Indian Parliament at these developments, the Government of India released in two *White Papers* all the notes, memoranda and letters exchanged between the two Governments since the conclusion of the Sino-Indian Agreement of 1954.

Premier Chou En-lai, in his letter of 8 November, suggested that, as a prelude to discussions regarding the border, the two Prime Ministers should agree that the forces of both countries might be withdrawn to 20 kilometres from their existing line of occupation and at the same time two Prime Ministers should meet to discuss the border question.

Two further communications were received from China in December. Premier Chou En-lai's letter of 17 December was a firm reiteration of the earlier Chinese stand and an outright rejection of the Indian approach to the solution of the border problem. He also suggested 26 December 1959 as the date for a meeting between the two Prime Ministers either in China or in Rangoon.

Prime Minister Nehru, in his reply of 21 December, expressed his regret at the reiteration of China's claim to extensive Indian territory and repudiated charges of aggression by Indian border patrols. He also wondered how it would be possible for the Prime Ministers to reach an agreement on principle when there was such complete disagreement about facts.

Relations with Japan continued to be friendly. There was a steady exchange of cultural as well as economic delegations.

Friendship between India and Mongolia was further cemented by the visit to India of the Prime Minister of Mongolia.

Measures were taken to strengthen the bonds of friendship between India and the countries of West Asia. Apart from the cultural exchanges, the Prime Minister's visit to Iran in September went a long way in bringing India and Iran close together. Various categories of technical personnel were also recruited in India for service with the Iranian Government.

AFRICA

Relations with the independent African States continued to be close and friendly and several measures of bilateral co-operation for mutual benefits were undertaken during the year. India's differences with the Government of South Africa over the latter's policies of racial discrimination continued.

Indian technical experts continued to render service in the Sudan. India also agreed to assist Morocco in devising suitable procedure for elections to her local assemblies. The Cultural Agreement with the UAR was ratified by both the Governments. A consignment of medicines was sent for the victims of the Suez crisis and an Indian contingent continued to participate in the United Nations Emergency Force in Gaza. Indian technicians were also sent to Ghana. Seven Indian experts are being sent to assist the Ethiopian Government in implement-

ing her community development schemes.

WESTERN COUNTRIES

The existing cordial relations with all European countries were further strengthened by increasing cultural, trade and economic exchanges.

The Vice-President visited West Germany in July 1959 and the Scandinavian countries — Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden — in January 1960. President Voroshilov, Mr. Kozlov, Mme Furtseva, Mr. Kuznetsov and Prime Minister Khrushchev visited India during the year. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha led a Parliamentary delegation to the East European countries.

An Indian Trade Delegation toured several countries of West Europe with a view to explore ways and means of increasing trade with these countries. Trade agreements were concluded with Czechoslovakia, Poland and another with the Soviet Union which agreed to extend to India credit facilities valued at 1500 roubles. An agreement was also signed with the Soviet Union for the manufacture of medicine and surgical instruments. Various cultural troupes toured both East and West Europe and cultural delegations from these countries visited India.

The year was marked by increasing economic collaboration between the U.S.A. and India. There is also growing understanding of India's foreign policy. The visit of President Eisenhower — the first ever paid by an American President to India — further strengthened the existing friendly and cordial relations between the two countries. With Canada, India exchanged important cultural delegations. India extended recognition to the new Cuban Government in January 1959. Relations with other South American countries remained cordial. Diplomatic relations at legation level were established with Venezuela.

UNITED NATIONS

In the 14th Session of the United Nations General Assem-

bly, India raised once again the question of admission of the People's Republic of China to the UN. India also voted to uphold the right of the Algerian people to self-government and urged negotiations between Algeria and France. India moved the resolution in the United Nations on the suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests, supported the establishment of the 24-member committee on the peaceful uses of outer space, and, with Yugoslavia, sponsored the continuance of the Disarmament Commission as composed last year. India was re-elected to the Trusteeship Council for a period of three years. India also participated in a large number of conferences held under the auspices of the United Nations and its specialised agencies.

The question of race conflict in South Africa, resulting in the policy of *apartheid*, was included in the Agenda of the 14th Session of the General Assembly at the request of India and 12 other members. The General Assembly discussed the situation and adopted a resolution expressing its deep regret and concern that South Africa had not yet responded to the appeals of the General Assembly.

As regards the Portuguese Possessions in India oral hearing in the 'Right of Passage' case before the International Court of Justice at The Hague opened on 21 September 1959 and concluded on 6 November 1959. The judgment of the Court is likely to be delivered in 1960.

NAGA HILLS—TUENSANG AREA

In the Naga Hills—Tuensang Area, a significant feature of the improvement in the political field was the adoption by the third Naga People's Convention of a sixteen-point draft envisaging the formation of a Naga State within the Indian Union.

Development plans also made progress. Rs. 1,35,000 were sanctioned for afforestation, construction of roads, bridges, etc. 65 lower primary schools and 3 middle English schools were set up and additional money sanc-

tioned for schools and equipment. A sum of Rs. 2,23,000 was sanctioned for the purchase of medical stores and equipment and another Rs. 10 lakhs for malaria-eradication programme, dispensaries and staff quarters. Rs. 9 lakhs were sanctioned for power schemes and Rs. 52 lakhs for development of roads.

There are 44 Embassies, 10 High Commissions, 10 Legations, 10 Commissions, 2 Trade Commissions, 5 Consulates-General, 8 Consulates, 4 Vice-Consulates, 3 Special Missions and 3 Agencies. During the year, a separate Embassy was opened in Rumania and the status of the Consulates of India at Muscat and Berlin was raised to that of Consulates-General. The Chancery building in Karachi was completed and occupied by the officers of the High Commission.

According to the revised estimates, expenditure of the Ministry during 1959-60 is expected to be over Rs. 25 crores. This includes grants to the Tribal Areas and the Naga Hills—Tuensang Area, payments to neighbouring States and expenditure on Pondicherry, contribution to United Nations Organisation and expenditure on the delegation thereto and the delegations to International Commission for Supervision and Control in Indo-China, reimbursement of the expenditure of Indian contingents in Gaza to the Ministry of Defence, expenditure on demarcation of boundaries between India and Pakistan, Passport and Emigration establishments and miscellaneous expenditure. The expenditure on External Affairs Relations proper amounts to Rs. 6.83 crores.

AID TO NEPAL

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on April 12, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said that the Government of India had expressed their readiness to assist Nepal's development programmes during India's Third Plan. The assistance would be

to the extent of Rs. 18 crores including the unspent amount from the current offer of Rs. 10 crores and from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 crores for the construction of the East Kosi (Chatra) Canal.

The Finance Minister said that during India's Second Plan period, the aid offered to Nepal was worth Rs. 10 crores in the shape of cash grants, services of technical and other personnel and supply of equipment and material for various development projects and programmes. It was anticipated that a sum of Rs. 3.68 crores would have been spent from 1-4-1956 to 31-3-1960 on technical and economic assistance to Nepal. For the remaining year of the Plan period, a sum of Rs. 2.84 crores had been provided for in the Budget Estimates.

PORTUGUESE ENCLAVES

International Court's Judgement

The International Court of Justice at the Hague gave the ruling on April 12 that Portugal has no right of passage for her armed forces to her enclaves in India, but she has the right of passage for private persons. The Court was giving judgement on Portugal's application asking the International Court to recognise her right of passage between her territory of Daman on the west coast and the inland enclaves of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Portugal lost control on these enclaves after a popular rising in 1954. Portugal claimed that under Article 17 of the treaty of 1779, she had acquired sovereignty over Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The Court found that the 1779 treaty was valid, but did not grant sovereignty. It only allowed a grant of Rs. 12,000 annually. But the Court was of the view that Portuguese sovereignty over the villages had by implication been recognised by the British and subsequently tacitly recognised by India. As a consequence, Dadra and Nagar Haveli acquired the character of Portuguese enclaves within Indian territory.

PASSPORT REGULATIONS

Shri G.B. Pant, Union Home Minister, stated in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 11 that during 1959, 324 persons were arrested and prosecuted for violating passport regulations at the Amritsar border.

Shri Pant added that measures against illegal entry, e.g. patrolling and vigilance on the border, had been intensified.

CHINA'S LATEST NOTE

A Note, dated April 3, from the Government of China, received by the Government of India, in reply to their Note of February 12, was presented to the Lok Sabha on April 11 by the Deputy Minister of External Affairs, Shrimati Lakshmi Menon. A copy of the Note was also laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha the same day. The text of the Note is as follows:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of India in China and has the honour to state as follows:

The Chinese Government has received the Embassy's note of February 12, 1960 and has made a careful study of it. The Indian Government has indicated in the note that in the interest of the two countries and of world peace, active steps must be taken to remove the causes of the present tension and to establish a firm foundation of friendship between the two countries, and held that the two Governments must agree on an arrangement without delay, which would completely eliminate the risk of border clashes and facilitate a friendly settlement of the disputes. This accords with the long-cherished desire of the Chinese Government, and the Chinese Government heartily welcomes it.

The Chinese Government, in its note of December 26, 1959, already gave a detailed and comprehensive account of the facts about the Sino-Indian boundary and its stand on this issue. The Indian Government has, in its note, stated many differing views. But the objections raised

by the Indian Government in its note cannot dispute the facts presented in the above-mentioned Chinese note or shake the stand of the Chinese Government. Moreover, the Premiers of our two countries will soon meet in New Delhi. Therefore, the Chinese Government does not propose to answer the Indian Government's above-mentioned note point by point. The present note will only give some necessary explanations about those major questions and some of the facts on which the Indian Government expressed disagreement, as a supplement to the Chinese Government's note of December 26, 1959. Now as before, the Chinese Government clarifies these questions and facts, not for arguing purposes, but in hopes of promoting the understanding of the Indian Government and narrowing down the differences between the two sides, so as to facilitate the forthcoming meeting of the two Premiers.

For convenience' sake, the terms of the western, middle and eastern sectors of the Sino-Indian boundary, as defined in the note of December 26, 1959, will be used in this note.

I. Has the Sino-Indian Boundary Been Delimited and Is There Any Need to Delimit It Formally?

(1) The Indian Government does not accept the conclusion that the entire Sino-Indian boundary has never been formally delimited and that there is no boundary treaty or agreement between China and India. Yet it is unable to cite any fact to refute this conclusion. The Indian Government admits that the 1842 Treaty did not delimit the boundary in the western sector, yet it argues that this sector of the boundary was fixed from the 17th century onwards. However, it is still unable to cite any treaty basis for the delimitation of this sector of the boundary. With respect to the middle sector, the Indian Government admits that there exists no boundary treaty whatsoever. With respect to the eastern sector, the Indian Government can only cite the Simla Convention between Britain and the Tibet local authorities and the secret letters exchanged between them on the so-called McMahon Line in 1914. But the Chinese Government proved long

ago that these documents are illegal and null and void, and that the Simla Conference did not discuss at all the question of delimiting the boundary between China and India. Judging from what has been said in the above, there is no gainsaying the fact that no boundary treaty or agreement exists between China and India, and that the entire Sino-Indian boundary has not been formally delimited.

(2) The Indian Government claims that the entire Sino-Indian boundary, as is well-known, runs along the main watersheds, and that according to international usage, a customary boundary which follows such unchanging natural feature stands defined and does not require formal definition again by the two sides. This argument is unacceptable to the Chinese Government. Firstly, the Chinese Government proved long ago that the claim that the entire Sino-Indian traditional customary boundary follows well-known main watersheds is groundless. Secondly, according to internationally accepted principles, an international boundary signifies a demarcation line up to which neighbouring states exercise their sovereignty over their respective territories, and must be jointly defined by the state concerned. Therefore, even though some sections of the Sino-Indian traditional customary line may have comparatively distinct natural features, it is still necessary for the two sides to define jointly their starting and terminal points and their specific alignments. Thirdly, even Britain never put forward the proposition that there was no need to formally define the Sino-Indian boundary. This is borne out by the following facts: In 1899 Britain proposed to define with China the boundary between Kashmir (including Ladakh) and Sinkiang. Between 1921 and 1927, it entered into talks with China for the delimitation of the boundary between Ladakh and Tibet, talks which were not merely for the purpose of settling the ownership of a few pasture grounds, as alleged by the Indian Government. In 1914 it drew surreptitiously and unlawfully, with the Tibet local authorities, a so-called McMahon Line in the eastern sector of the Sino-Indian boundary. If there had been no need at all to

normally delimit the Sino Indian boundary, as claimed by the Indian Government, why had Britain in the past asked again and again to delimit with China the various sections of the boundary between China and India? It can thus be seen that the assertion that there is no need to formally define the Sino-Indian boundary is untenable.

(3) Since the boundary between two neighbouring countries, according to internationally accepted principles, has to be jointly defined by the two sides, any unilateral announcement by either side of its boundary on maps in any manner obviously has no legal validity and is not binding on the neighbouring country concerned. Naturally, violation of the traditional customary line and expansion of extent of occupation by unilateral action all the more cannot constitute a legal basis for acquiring territory. The Chinese Government has always persisted in this stand on the Sino-Indian boundary question. The following may be recalled. Firstly, no Chinese government has ever recognised Britain's territorial claims on the Tibet and Sinkiang regions of China; secondly, at the Simla Conference and afterwards, the Chinese Government explicitly declared its non-recognition of any treaty or similar document that might then or thereafter be signed between Britain and the Tibet local authorities; thirdly, the Chinese Government and the Tibet local authorities repeatedly lodged protests and made representations against Britain's past unlawful acts of violating the Sino-Indian traditional customary line and seizing Chinese territory; fourthly, since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Government has also clearly stated to the Indian Government that there exists between China and India the question of undelimited boundary and that China has always taken the stand of non-recognition of the so-called McMahon Line. These facts were set forth in detail in the Chinese Government's note of December 26, 1959. The Indian Government, however, repeatedly asserts that the Chinese Government has never raised any objection to the unilateral claims regarding the Sino-Indian boundary left over by Britain, that

the Chinese Government has never protested against foreign encroachment on its territory, and that it was not until September 1959 that the Chinese Government suddenly changed its stand on the Sino-Indian boundary question, and so forth. This is both surprising and incomprehensible to the Chinese Government.

(4) The Indian Government further contends that since neither side asked for a discussion of the boundary question in the 1954 Sino-Indian negotiations, it proves that no boundary question remained between them. This contention does not hold good, either. It is both illogical and inconceivable to argue that an outstanding issue will automatically cease to exist merely because it is not mentioned during certain negotiations. Moreover, the Chinese Government, from the very beginning of the negotiations, repeatedly made it clear that those negotiations were to settle those outstanding questions between the two countries that were ripe for settlement, and the Indian representative agreed to this. It can thus be seen that the 1954 negotiations did not solve, nor tried to solve, all the outstanding issues between the two countries. The assertion that, with the boundary question unsettled, normal relations between India and China's Tibet region could not have been established on a new basis is also untenable. By the establishment of normal relations between India and the Tibet region of China on a new basis is meant, chiefly, that following the liberation of China and the independence of India and the establishment of diplomatic relations between them, the state of affairs with India holding privileges in Tibet left over by Britain must be changed, and that Sino-Indian relations in China's Tibet region must be regulated in accordance with the Five Principles of peaceful co-existence. As for the question of undelimited boundary between the two countries, so long as both sides are willing to maintain the status quo of the border pending a settlement, it need not prevent the establishment of normal relations between them. There have been quite a number of cases like this in international relations.

(5) It can be seen from what has been said in the above that no

boundary treaty or agreement has even been concluded between China and India to formally delimit the boundary between the two countries. The Chinese Government is fully justified in maintaining that the two governments should conduct over-all negotiations and reach agreement on the boundary question. It is obviously incorrect to describe the Chinese Government's proposition as asking to reach a "new" boundary agreement to replace "old" ones, or to determine "afresh" the boundary between the two countries.

II. Individual Questions Concerning the Various Sectors of the Boundary.

THE WESTERN SECTOR OF THE BOUNDARY

(1) Facts about ownership and the exercise of jurisdiction. The Indian Government disagrees to the conclusion that the relevant area in the western sector of the boundary has always belonged to China and not to India, but it fails to produce any weighty piece of evidence to the contrary. In particular, the Indian Government has so far failed to give any explanations for the extraordinary thing that the Indian Government, which claims to have exercised jurisdiction and been sending personnel to carry out regular patrol in this area, should have for a long time been totally unaware of the fact that since 1950 Chinese personnel and supplies have been busily travelling between Sinkiang and Tibet through this area, and a road has been built across it.

(2) Regarding maps. The Indian Government asserts that Chinese maps up to the twenties of the present century drew the boundary line in this sector more or less in consonance with that shown on current Indian maps, and that it is only since then that the delineation has been changed; it also asserts that Chinese maps of the 18th and 19th centuries showed clearly that Sinkiang never extended south of the Kuen Lun Mountains. These assertions are all groundless. The fact is that many Chinese maps and gazetteers published since the 18th century, particularly authoritative ones like the "Ta Ching Yi Tung Chih" of 1784 and the "Chia Ching Revised Edition of the Ta Ching Yi

Tung Chih" of 1820 clearly show that the limits of Sinkiang extend to the mountains south-west of the source of the Karakash River, that is, the Karakoram Mountains. This is in the main consistent with the delineation of the boundary on current Chinese maps, and inconsistent with that on Indian maps. As for the "Postal Map of China" of 1917 referred to by the Indian Government, it was compiled arbitrarily by French and British imperialist elements, who then controlled China's postal service, without the consent of the Chinese authorities. The Indian people who, like the Chinese people, were subjected for a long time to colonial aggression should find it easy to understand that that map did not represent the view of the Chinese people, but only that of the imperialist elements.

The Indian Government asserts that the maps and records of the British surveyors and some of the travellers who visited this area in the 19th century are in consonance with the maps currently published in India. This is also at variance with the facts. As a matter of fact, the maps and records of these persons showed great inconsistency and confusion. This precisely bears out the historical fact that for a hundred years and more Britain kept surreptitiously altering the delineation of the boundary to encroach upon Sinkiang and Tibet. Nevertheless, some of these persons still presented more or less accurately the actual state of the boundary. As the Chinese Government has pointed out, John Walker as well as G.W. Hayward and Robert Shaw mentioned in Prime Minister Nehru's letter understood the boundary in a way approximating the traditional delineation on Chinese maps. Even the Indian Government is unable to deny this. Yet it repudiates their authority and asserts that only the reports of W.H. Johnson and the Second Yarkand Mission are authoritative. But this is also untenable. Take the case of Johnson as an example. There were even obvious mistakes in the topographical survey made by him, as pointed out in the book "Abode of Snow" written by K. Mason, Superintendent of the Survey of India, and published in 1955. Furthermore, without any ground, Johnson's map marked the

Sino-Indian boundary line north of Saittulla in Sinkiang, that is, about 150 kilometers deeper northward into Chinese territory than the line shown on current Indian maps, a delineation to which perhaps even the Indian Government would not agree.

THE MIDDLE SECTOR OF THE BOUNDARY

The Indian Government has not advanced any new argument about the disputed places in this sector of the boundary. The Chinese Government would only make some additional remarks on the question of Puling-Sumdo. The Indian Government assert that Puling-Sumdo and Pulamsumda are two different places, but Puling-Sumdo and Poling refer to one and the same place. This does not accord with the fact. The fact is that Puling-Sumdo is the same place generally known in India as Pulamsumda. It is not hard to see that Pulamsumda is only a different pronunciation of Puling-Sumdo, whereas Poling is entirely another place and has never been called Puling-Sumdo at the same time. In the explanatory note attached to Prime Minister Nehru's letter of September 26, 1959, the Indian Government also explicitly admitted that Puling-Sumdo was none other than Pulamsumda under Indian control.

THE EASTERN SECTOR OF THE BOUNDARY

(1) Historical facts about jurisdiction. The Indian Government indicates that it cannot accept the viewpoint that the entire area south of the so-called McMahon Line comprising the three component parts of Monyul, Loyul and Lower Tsayul always belonged to China and was until recently still under Chinese jurisdiction. The Indian Government tries hard to prove that the entire area always belonged to India. But the reasons newly advanced by the Indian Government are all untenable too.

(a) Firstly, in the Monyul area, the Tibet local authorities not only exercised ecclesiastical authority, which was also admitted by the Indian Government, but, what is more important, they also exercised administrative authority there. The

Chinese Government has already cited many facts in this connection which are adequate proof. In addition, one can point to the fact that the British geographer Kingdom Ward, who had engaged in exploration in the eastern sector of the Sino-Indian border, in his article "The Assam Himalaya: Travels in Balipara" published in the Journal of the Royal Central Asia Society in 1938, while asserting groundlessly that the Monyul area including Tawang "was ceded to India" in 1913-14, could not but admit that not only had Monyul, and particularly Tawang, been "within the Tibetan administrative system" before then, but "the Tibetan administration carries on" even in 1938 when he arrived in Monyul. Secondly, the area of Lower Tsayul including Walong not only was inhabited by Tibetans, but was always under the jurisdiction of Tibet. British troops unlawfully invaded and occupied Walong in 1944, and it was only after the Tibet local government sent a representative of the Dzong Pon of Sangacho Dzong to make representations that the British troops withdrew. As to the Loyul area which is situated between Monyul and Lower Tsayul, it is a well-established fact that the Tibet local government had established extensively administrative organs of various levels and collected taxes there.

(b) The Indian Government claims that, far back in the period before the 8th century, the area south of the so-called McMahon Line was under the rule of the Varman, the Salastambha and the Pala dynasties and not under that of Tibet. But it fails to produce any factual basis. The allegation that the Ahom dynasty gained control over this area from the 13th century onwards is also not true. The rule of the Ahom dynasty extended only to the plains on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River, and never to the southern foot of the Himalayas. It can be seen clearly from the first chapter and the attached map of the book "Anglo-Assamese Relations" published in 1949 by the Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies under the Government of Assam of India that the Himalayas and the areas at their foot inhabited by the Akas,

Dufas, Abors and Mishmis were to the north of the bounds of Assam and not within them. As for the agreements concluded since the 19th century by Britain with certain tribes living in these areas, which were repeatedly referred to by the Indian Government, it is not difficult to see from their provisions that they were merely agreements on mutual non-aggression or the acceptance of British economic aid, and cannot be regarded as proof that these tribes were British or Indian subjects.

(2) Whether the so-called McMahon Line is legal. The Indian Government no longer stresses the assertion that the Simla Convention was binding on the Chinese Central Government. This is because the fact that the Chinese Central Government did not sign the Convention in the first place, and much less ratified it, can in no way be denied (although the Chinese representative Ivan Chen initialled the draft Convention, he stated that it was not a formal signature and that formal signing would have to be approved of by the Chinese Government, and the Chinese Government immediately declared the initialling to be invalid). The Indian Government, however, emphatically contends: (a) that the Simla Conference did discuss the so-called McMahon Line; and (b) that the Tibet local government had the right to conclude treaties on its own. The Chinese Government would like to further clarify these two questions.

(a) Article 9 of the Simla Convention did not touch on the Sino-Indian boundary, nor was the Sino-Indian boundary marked on the map attached to the Convention. This is all the more understandable when seen in relation to the following facts. Firstly, the Indian Government has all along been unable to point to any particular date of the Simla Conference or any particular page of the proceedings of the conference when and where the question of the Sino-Indian boundary, and in particular that of the so-called McMahon Line, was discussed. It is obviously inconceivable that ownership of territory involving such a vast area could have been determined in a treaty and its attached map without any previous discussions. Secondly, the boundary line between

China and India was not marked on the map attached to the Simla Convention. All the documents of the conference contained nothing in writing which could be used as a basis for interpreting a particular section of the red line shown on the map (which actually shows the boundary between Tibet and the rest of China) as a section of the Sino-Indian boundary.

(b) It is absolutely indisputable that the Tibet local authorities had no right to enter into talks and conclude treaties, on its own, with foreign countries. Tibet is part of Chinese territory. China has full sovereignty over Tibet. Without the authorization and consent of the Chinese Central Government, the Tibet local authorities had no right to hold talks and conclude treaties with foreign countries; even if these were done, they were illegal and null and void. Even the British Government of the past dared not ignore this. A case in point is the British-Tibetan Convention of 1904 referred to by the Indian Government, which was imposed on the Tibet local authorities by Britain as the result of war. It may be recalled that, after compelling Tibet to sign this Convention, Britain still asked time and again the Chinese Government to sign and approve it. The question became a subject of repeated negotiations, and it was not until 1906 that it came to a close when another Convention was concluded between China and Britain and the above-mentioned British-Tibetan Convention was annexed to it. As for the secret letters regarding the so-called McMahon Line exchanged between the British representative and the representative of the Tibet local authorities at the time of the 1914 Simla Conference, they were exchanged behind the back of the Chinese Central Government and kept secret for a long time. Moreover, during the Simla Conference, the Chinese Government already made a general statement on its non-recognition of any treaty or similar document that might be signed between Britain and the Tibet local authorities. Those letters exchanged, therefore, are all the more illegal and null and void.

The Chinese Government hopes that the foregoing statement will help further clarify the following

facts concerning the boundary, that is the entire Sino-Indian boundary has never been formally delimited, and the areas now disputed by the two sides have always belonged to China, not to India, with a considerable part of them remaining up to now under the effective control of the Chinese Government. Nevertheless, the Chinese Government would like to reiterate that it has always hoped to achieve a reasonable settlement of the boundary question through friendly consultations with the Indian Government, so that there will be no more dispute between the two sides on the boundary question. Some people seem to think that differences between China and India are almost impossible to solve.

The Chinese Government disagrees to this view. The Chinese Government feels that, no matter how great the present difference between China and India on this particular question, it is after all an issue of limited and temporary nature compared with the fundamental need of the two peoples to maintain friendly co-operation for thousands and tens of thousands of years to come. Provided the two sides value the fundamental interests of friendship between the two countries and world peace, display good faith, adhere to friendly consultations and the Five Principles, and adopt an attitude of mutual understanding and mutual accommodation, it is certainly possible to overcome all difficulties and bring about a settlement of the boundary question satisfactory to both sides. Although the Chinese Government has repeatedly set forth the facts about the boundary and its own stand, yet it has never set any pre-condition for the discussions between the two sides. The Chinese Government is willing, in the discussions, to explore together with the Indian Government various avenues to a resolution of the differences with a conciliatory and reasonable attitude, and to try its best to promote the success of the discussions.

The Chinese Government has always advocated that, pending the settlement of the boundary question, both sides should maintain the present state of the border and preserve tranquillity along it, and see to it that this temporarily unsettled ques-

tion do not affect the consolidation and development of friendly relations between the two countries. The Chinese Government has always been extremely careful on the Sino-Indian boundary question, and has never taken any step which might lead to clashes or tension on the border. For China the occurrence some time last year of tension and unfortunate incidents on the border of the two countries was totally unexpected, and China was utterly unprepared for it. After that, the Chinese Government promptly took measures and put forward proposals designed to ensure the tranquillity of the border and prevent the use of force or the occurrence of clashes. In its note of February 12, 1960, the Indian Government likewise expressed the hope that the two Governments agree on an arrangement without delay to eliminate the risk of border clashes and facilitate a friendly settlement of the disputes. This is worthy of welcome. The Chinese Government hopes that the proposals put forward by Premier Chou En-lai in his letter of December 17, 1959 will be accepted by the Indian Government as the basis for such an agreement, because the above-mentioned proposals were worked out on the basis of full consideration of the previous proposals of the two sides. The Chinese Government further hopes that both sides will not stop at this step, but will jointly make further efforts to arrange for the over-all settlement of the boundary question so that the peoples of the two countries will no longer be troubled and worried about the boundary question.

Thanks to the efforts of the Chinese and Indian Governments and peoples, the once strained relations between China and India have improved. This is reassuring and encouraging. Now, the eyes of the whole world are turning toward the forthcoming meeting of the Premiers of our two countries. The Chinese people, the Indian people as well as other people of the world who love peace and are concerned for Sino-Indian friendship all cherish fervent hopes for this meeting of historic significance. Indeed, the importance of this meeting and the weight of responsibility on the Governments of the two

countries can in no way be over-estimated. The Chinese Government hopes that both the Chinese and the Indian sides will be fully aware of this, and will do their utmost so as not to disappoint the hopes of our two peoples and of all those who are concerned for friendship between our two countries. Of course, the Chinese Government has by no means overlooked the fact that there remain difficulties on the way ahead, and that there are still some people in the world who, harbouring ulterior motives, are trying by all means to spilt and undermine the relations of our two countries and to prevent the success of the talks. The Chinese Government, however, firmly believes that so long as the two Governments display good faith toward each other and endeavour to create conditions, they will certainly be able to bring about a speedy settlement of the boundary issue between the two countries, and the great friendship between the two countries not only will not be shaken, but will be further consolidated and developed.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the Republic of India in China the assurances of its highest consideration.

Bihar-U.P. Border Dispute

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 7, the Home Minister, Shri G.B. Pant, said that, Bihar and U.P. have requested the Government of India for their good offices for an expeditious solution of problems arising owing to periodical changes in the course of the rivers Ghagra and Ganges.

Shri Pant added that, by virtue of a Notification of September 1888, the deep stream of the river Ghagra formed the boundary between the district of Balia in Uttar Pradesh and the district of Saran in Bihar, and the deep stream of the Ganges formed the boundary between the districts of Balia in Uttar Pradesh and Shahabad in Bihar. Owing to periodical changes in

the course of the rivers, difficulties had arisen regarding jurisdiction and ownership of land and standing crops.

Bar Association Of India

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of India, inaugurated the Bar Association of India in New Delhi on April 2.

In his speech, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said, 'I think it is a wise decision that the members of the Bar have taken to establish an All-India Bar Association. It is wise particularly because this decision has been taken in good time.'

Referring to the new role of the judiciary and of lawyers in the new democratic set up of the country, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said, 'The winning of the case is only an incidental thing. The real thing is that the lawyer has to assist the court so that the court may arrive at the correct conclusion. Since there are lawyers on both sides, the idea is that all points of view will be placed before the court and it would be left to the court to choose which would be the best and correct view to adopt.... If that ideal inspires the members of the Bar, I have no doubt that courts also will arrive at correct conclusions in most cases'.

Central Pool Of Employees

An announcement of April 6 says that a Central Pool of Employees is being created from the staff declared surplus by the Ministries of the Government of India. The Union Home Ministry has requested the various departments of the Government to scrutinize their staff position and surrender the surplus for the proposed pool.

The pool will serve as a repository upon which the Ministries will draw as and when they require the staff. The request will, however, be scrutinized and will not in any way alter the one-year ban put on the creation of new posts, the only ex-

ception being the posts connected with the Plan.

NOMINATIONS TO RAJYA SABHA

An announcement dated April 1 says that the President has nominated the following four persons to Rajya Sabha to fill the vacancies of Members retiring on April 2; 1. Shri Tara Shankar Banerjee, 2. Shri M. Satyanarayana, 3. Prof. A.R. Wadia, and 4. Shri K.M. Panikkar.

The President is empowered under Article 80 of the Constitution to nominate to Rajya Sabha 12 members having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art and social service.

ACTING GOVERNOR OF MYSORE

A Press Communique issued on April 1 from the Rashtrapati Bhavan says that His Highness Maharaja Shri Jaya Chamaraja Wadiyar Bahadur, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., Governor of Mysore having been granted leave abroad for about ten weeks from the middle of April 1960, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Mangaldas Mancharam Pakvasa to act as Governor of Mysore during the absence of His Highness the Maharaja.

NEW UPSC MEMBER

An announcement dated April 2 says that the President has appointed Shri M.A. Venkataramana Naidu as Member of the Union Public Service Commission.

Annual Report Of S.P.E.

The annual report for 1959-60 of the Special Police Establishment, released on April 15, points out that one out of every three complaints reaching the S.P.E. was anonymous or pseudonymous.

During the year, the total number of complaints for disposal came to 4,531, including 536 pending from the previous

year. Nearly 600 were found too general and vague for any action, and 1,100 were referred to departments concerned. On the other 2,823 complaints, 255 were found to be false, 760 were dropped for want of proof, and 744 referred to departments concerned. Regular cases for formal investigations were registered in 614 instances and 504 complaints remained pending for inquiry at the close of the year.

During 1959, the number of public servants prosecuted was 200 of whom 22 were gazetted officers.

Including cases pending from previous years, cases involving 49 gazetted officers, 551 non-gazetted officers and two other public servants were pending trial in courts. Cases involving 13 gazetted officers and 190 non-gazetted officers were decided by courts which convicted 10 gazetted officers and 108 non-gazetted officers. The sentences ranged from one to five years' rigorous imprisonment, apart from fines.

Cases of 1,977 public servants, including 386 gazetted officers, were inquired into. About 200 public servants were sent up for trial and 829 for departmental action; 19 cases were disposed of otherwise, and cases against 134 public servants were dropped for want of proof.

CONVICTION

There were 73 cases of cheating and forgery relating to imports and exports pending investigation from the previous year and 86 fresh cases were registered during the year. Of these 39 cases were sent up for trial, 31 reported for departmental action and 10 dropped for want of proof.

In these cases, 58 firms were found to have obtained 139 licences valued at about Rs. 50 lakhs by misrepresentation or on the basis of forged documents. Apart from this, 25 firms wrongfully utilised 62 licences valued at about Rs. 134 lakhs. Firms black listed during the year totalled 129.

The percentage of cases ending in conviction in 1959 was the

highest during the last seven years. The figure stood at 81.9 as against 80.3 in 1958, 64.7 in 1957 and 61.3 in 1956.

The instances of departmental punishment also increased. Every 9 out of 10 cases sponsored by the S.P.E. ended in the punishment of the guilty officers.

In all there were 363 cases, of which 325 resulted in punishment.

At the request of the Union Home Ministry a few State Governments have appointed whole-time Special Judges and Special Magistrates to conduct S.P.E. cases.

Planning & Finance

FIVE-YEAR INTEREST-FREE PRIZE BONDS

Five-year interest-free Prize Bonds were put on sale all over the country on April 1. At a formal ceremony in Delhi the scheme was inaugurated by the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai.

The Bonds are in denominations of Rs. 100 and Rs. 5 in the form of Bearer Bonds. Subscriptions will be made in cash and no application form is necessary. The Bonds will not bear interest but lots will be drawn quarterly for prizes. The first draw will be held on September 1, 1960 and the last draw which will be the 19th, on March 1, 1965.

There are 40 prizes in each of the series of Rs. 100 bonds, the first prize being Rs. 25,000. In each series of the Rs. 5 bonds, there will be 278 prizes, the first being Rs. 7,500. The prize money is not liable to income tax and will be paid in cash to the holders of the bond at any time after the date of the relative draw on presentation of the bond at any of the authorised offices.

The Prize Bonds will be repaid at par on or after April 1, 1965, on presentation.

EXIM BANK CREDIT

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 11, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said that global tenders amounting to \$99.87 million were

invited upto January 1, 1960 for purposes covered within the scope of the U.S. Exim Bank agreement.

Shri Desai added the U.S. Exim Bank credit was available only for purchases in the U.S.A. Global tenders were, however, generally invited for public sector requirements, including those eligible for financing out of this credit, before deciding whether or not to purchase in the U.S.A. and avail of the credit.

ESTATE DUTY IN 1959

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 11, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said that the total amount received by Government by way of Estate Duty in 1959 was Rs. 2,61,59,312. The number of estates assessed in the same year was 8,522 and from October 15, 1953 to December 31, 1958 was 25,854.

Tariff Value Of Engines

A Press Note issued on April 6 by the Ministry of Finance says that by the Finance Bill of 1960, a central excise duty at five per cent *ad valorem* has been levied on stationary internal combustion engines. With a view to eliminating day-to-day disputes that might arise in the matter of determination of the values while making assessment

of duty on such engines, the Government of India have prescribed with immediate effect, a tariff value ranging from Rs. 1,600 to Rs. 4,400 each depending on the horse power of the engine. No tariff value has, however, been fixed for stationary engines below 5 H.P. and above 19 H.P.

Further Schemes Of Duty Drawback

In a Press Note issued on April 3, the Ministry of Finance

says that as a measure of export promotion, the Government of India propose to allow drawback of Customs and Central Excise Duties paid on materials used in the manufacture of certain additional sizes of ply-wood panels of tea-chests and have issued a draft notification in that connection, proposing a rate of drawback of Rs. 1.29 per 100 sq. ft. of ply-wood panels.

Commerce & Industry

REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF IRON AND STEEL FOR 1959-60

The annual report for 1959-60 of the Department of Iron and Steel, in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel, states that it was the first year in which production of iron and steel showed a large increase. It was also the year in which the expansions of the existing steel works and the establishment of the new works at Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur yielded their first fruits. The production of steel was 1.77 million tons against 1.39 million tons in 1958. The production of pig iron for sale recorded a sharp increase from 441,000 tons in 1958 to 752,000 tons in 1959. In iron, the contribution of Bhilai and Rourkela was 429,000 tons. Imports in 1959 were 750,000 tons against 1.17 million tons in 1958.

During the year, the supply position of some items of steel, e.g., heavy structurals, has been easier; supply of billets to the re-rolling industry was larger. This is evidenced by the fact that the industry produced 659,000 tons of steel in 1959 as against 496,000 tons in 1958.

In Rourkela, steady progress was maintained. Since April 1959, the second blast furnace, the second battery of coke ovens, two out of the four open hearths

and all the three L.D. converters have been commissioned. During the first eleven months of 1959-60, Rourkela produced about 280,153 tons of coke, 234,154 tons of iron and 50,329 tons of steel ingots. Some of the ingots were sold to Tatas. Besides, the plant also produced 12,903 tons of crude tar.

At Bhilai, the first open hearth furnace was commissioned in October, the primary mill in November, and the billet mill the second coke oven battery and the second blast furnace by December. During the first eleven months of 1959-60, about 4,45,000 tons of coke, 391,150 tons of pig iron, 70,700 tons of steel ingots, 44,250 tons of blooms 31,050 tons of billets, 1,600 tons of sulphuric acid, 2,000 tons of ammonium sulphate and 17,000 tons of coal tar were produced.

At Durgapur, the first stage was almost completed with the inauguration of production in December. Till the end of February, the first furnace produced about 47,000 tons of pig iron. Over 56,000 tons of coke, 2,400 tons of crude tar and 125 tons of sulphuric acid had also been produced.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

For the three steel plants in the public sector, estimated requirement of technical personnel is about 2,000 engineers and 19,000 operatives and skilled workers. About 1,700 engineers had been recruited by the end of last year and during the current year, 387 graduate apprentices and 214 engineers, besides other officers, were selected by the Hindustan Steel. Under the programme of training about 2,000 engineers, have been sent abroad, of which 851 have already completed their training and returned to the steel plants. Besides, 383 operatives were also sent abroad, and of these 338 have completed their training.

Arrangements have been made with Tatas to train 450 operatives per year. For the training of skilled workers, arrangements had been made with 75 engineering firms in the country primarily to meet the large initial requirement of trained technicians for Rourkela and Bhilai. With the commissioning of these two plants, however, the core of training is now provided in these plants. Training facilities have been created for 300 skilled workers at Rourkela and for 500 at Bhilai in various mechanical and electrical trades. Such facilities will also be provided at Durgapur.

ANCILLARIES

The Hindustan Steel Ltd. are putting up three coal washeries—in Dugda, Bhojudih and Patherdih—to supply washed coals to the steel plants. Orders were placed on a firm, in the USA for the supply and construction of Dugda washery which will have a capacity of 500 tons per hour.

As regards the requirements of alloy and special steels, a contract has been signed with an Indian firm of consulting engineers for the preparation of the detailed project report as well as for providing the consulting services for the plant designed to produce initially 40,000 tons of ingots and at least 25,000 tons of saleable finished products. The

Consulting Engineers will also explain with comparison of costs an alternative scheme for a Works with an initial output capacity of 80,000 tons of ingots capable of rapid expansion to 160,000 tons and ultimate expansion to 300,000 tons per year.

In order to use the large scrap arising anticipated, 28 electric furnaces were licensed during the year.

The re-rolling industry had the first satisfactory year in its history. Of the 4 units licensed in the previous year, the unit in Andhra Pradesh began production.

In the ferro-manganese industry, of the licensed capacity of 233,000 tons, there are six plants with a capacity of 93,000 tons in production.

Government have also approved the setting up of 37 wire drawing units with a capacity of 142,000 tons and a scheme to produce 36,000 tons of wire rods.

It is considered necessary to have at least one new integrated iron and steel works. Bokaro in Bihar, is being developed as the site for the new works. A preliminary project report has been prepared by an Indian firm of Consulting Engineers. Detailed investigation of the site and preliminary work of surveying and levelling are in progress.

Self-Sufficiency In Pig Iron and Billets

Introducing the demands for grants the Union Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, Shri Swaran Singh said in the Lok Sabha on April 7 that the production of iron and steel both in the public and private sectors in the country had resulted in a saving of Rs. 70 crores of foreign exchange during the last financial year. Shri Swaran Singh said the country was now self-sufficient in pig iron and billets, small quantities of which had already been exported. During the next year, plates and sheets would be produced at Rourkela. Bhilai and Rourkela were already producing steel which was sold in considerable

quantities. Durgapur would start the output of steel soon. The Minister said that before the end of the current financial year, he expected the construction of all the three steel plants in the public sector to be completed. This would enable Government to relax controls to a considerable degree. But the Minister made it clear that price control would continue. He was also convinced that there was no need whatever to reduce the proposed selling prices of steel. Shri Swaran Singh said in the next Plan, it might be necessary to set up some new steel re-rolling mills in those regions of the country which were not adequately served now.

MILLION TON CAPACITY

Speaking of the programme for expanding the steel industry in the next Plan, Shri Swaran Singh said it would be necessary to plan for a capacity of ten million tons of steel ingots and about two million tons of pig iron. But, he added, whatever the target, the steel plants at Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur would have to be expanded and the construction of a new steel plant taken up. About the project to manufacture alloy and special steels in the country, the Minister said Government was likely to go in for a big scheme, costing about Rs. 35 crores.

Shri Swaran Singh reported that coal production had shown an upward trend in the private and public sectors. Last year, the production stood at 47 million tons, 1.65 million tons more than the output of the previous year. The Minister indicated that the production target of the Third Plan would be about 93 million tons. Referring to the integrated Neyveli Lignite Project, Shri Swaran Singh said the entire Project would be in full-scale operation before the end of 1963. Lignite in sufficient quantities would be mined from April next year. About mineral development, the Minister said the results of the exploration work for copper in Rajasthan had been sufficiently encouraging to exploit these deposits soon.

Manufacture Of Small Steel Items

According to a Notification issued on April 14 by the Iron and Steel Controller, small units employing less than 50 persons will no longer require the prior approval of the Iron and Steel Controller for installing plant and equipment for the production of steel items like castings, bolts, nuts and rivets, wire and wire nails, pipes, tubes and pipe fittings, bars and rods, etc.

Small re-rollers, which are covered by the notification, are expected to use only locally available scrap as raw material. There will be no restriction on their buying scrap from the market. The finished products, however, will have to be sold at prices not above the rates statutorily fixed.

Import Licences For Steel Goods

In a Press Note issued on April 1, the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel says, the Government of India have decided to issue Import Licences during April-September 1960 period to Established Importers to the extent of 7½ per cent of the base quota for (1) Industrial Scrap, (2) Tool and Alloy Steel excluding Stainless Steel Sheets, Strips and Circles, (3) Wire of all types and (4) Box Strappings.

Applications from Established Importers for the licensable items should reach the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta/Deputy Iron and Steel Controller, Bombay/Assistant Iron and Steel Controller, Madras, by June 15, 1960.

FOR ACTUAL USERS

Imports will be allowed to be made by Actual Users on the basis of sponsoring by the appropriate Sponsoring Authorities for the following categories:

1. Tinplate — Prime and Secondaries;
2. Terneplate;
3. Wire — all types;
4. Box Strappings;
5. Steel strips, tapes, skelp etc.;
6. Tool and alloy steel except stainless steel sheets;
7. Stain-

less steel sheets for industries other than Utensils Industry; 8. Industrial Scrap; 9. Forgings — unmachined; 10. Re-rollable scrap; 11. Wheels, tyres and axles; 12. Cold rolled and deep drawing quality sheets; 13. High tensile steel; 14. Swedish Charcoal iron bars and other wrought iron bars; 15. Nose bars for ring frames for textile and jute industry; 16. Hot rolled black and galvanised plain sheets 24G and thinner; 17. Electrical steel sheets.

As regards tool and alloy steel, in-as-much as import licences have been issued, as per the terms of the Public Notice dated September 30, 1959, to all Actual Users, to cover their requirements for the April-September 1960 period as well, import licences for tool and alloy steel for April-September 1960 period would now be entertained only

ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND FUEL

The annual report of the Department of Mines and Fuel in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel, for 1959-60, states that the total output of coal during the year amounted to 47 million tons and despatches to 41.3 million tons. The figures for 1958 were 45.3 million and 40.34 million tons respectively. The daily average loading in the Bengal Bihar fields was about 4025 wagons as compared to 3910 in 1958. In outlying fields, the daily average loading rose from 977 wagons in 1958 to about 990.

The export of coal was 1.43 million tons as against 1.67 in 1958.

The production from the Singareni collieries was 2.23 million tons against 1.52 million tons in 1955, showing an increase of 0.71 million tons, i.e. about 48 per cent of the target. The target of 0.5 million tons of additional production set for the eleven existing collieries of the National Coal Development Corporation was surpassed by the end of 1958, the production being

from new units to which no import licences have so far been issued and to such of the older units that the sponsoring authorities consider essential to allow to supplement the requirements already covered.

Actual Users should submit their applications, complete in all respects, on or before August 15, 1960. Applications from Actual Users should reach the respective Sponsoring Authorities for grant of Essentiality Certificate on or before June 15, 1960. Applications for grant of Essentiality Certificates submitted thereafter, will not qualify for grant of an Actual Users' Licence.

Actual Users, borne on the Development Wing's list, should send their applications to the Officer on Special Duty in the Department of Iron and Steel, Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi.

3.46 million tons against 2.91 million tons at the beginning of the Second Plan. From the new mines established by the Corporation in virgin areas, 1.27 million tons of coal were raised during 1959. Based on the raisings during December, the annual rate of production from the old and the new mines works out to 5.04 million tons.

During January and February 1960, the Kargali Washery washed 1.76 lakh tons of coal. A portion of the washed coal is being supplied temporarily to the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Burnpur.

On the recommendation of the Productivity Study Team on Coal Mining Industry, sponsored by the National Productivity Council, 10 apprentice mining engineers have been sponsored for training in France for a period of one year.

As against the overall estimate of Rs. 23.18 crores worth of foreign equipment, a sum of Rs. 20.27 crores has been allocated for the N.C.D.C. The bulk of

the orders for the machinery and equipment had been placed.

Production of coal in the private sector exceeded the production in 1955 by 6 million tons. The Committee, set up by the Government to promote voluntary amalgamation of collieries and adjustment of boundaries, received from the colliery owners 62 proposals in 1959, out of which 22 were approved involving a total monthly output of about 2.7 lakh tons of coal. A bill to provide for compulsory amalgamation of collieries is being finalised.

The recommendations made by the Coal Price Revision Committee in their main report on the Bengal and Bihar coalfields and the outlying fields of Madhya Pradesh, Bombay and Orissa were accepted by the Government and necessary changes effected in the price structure of coal and coke. The Committee's recommendations regarding collieries in Andhra Pradesh and Assam, as well as on the price structure of soft coke, contained in their supplementary report, have also been accepted by the Government.

MINES

At Neyveli, the Lignite Corporation had removed a total volume of about 10.9 million cubic yards of overburden from the first mine cut area from the beginning of operations to the middle of February 1960.

Work on the Neyveli Thermal Power Station, at a cost of Rs. 22.56 crores, was progressing.

Government sanctioned the scheme for the production of 1.52,000 tons of urea per annum at Neyveli at a cost of Rs. 26.10 crores. In October, the Lignite Corporation entered into contracts with two foreign firms for the supply of plant and machinery and of technical services.

The Geological Survey of India carried out systematic and large scale mapping, covering an area of 5700 sq. miles, in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Bombay, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Orissa, Rajasthan

and Uttar Pradesh and new deposits of gypsum, chromite, iron ore, etc. were discovered.

New coal reserves were proved in South Karanpura, Rani-ganj and Singrauli coalfields.

Drilling was started in the Kolar Gold Field in Mysore to prove the extension of the auriferous lodes. Regional mapping of the Ramagiri auriferous belt at Anantpur in Andhra Pradesh was completed and large scale mapping of the Gadag gold belt was under progress.

The Indian Bureau of Mines has undertaken the exploration of (1) Khetri and Daribo copper deposits in Rajasthan, (2) Panna diamond deposits, and (3) Amjore pyrites. In addition drilling to the extent of 2,13,027 metres had been done proving a total reserve of about 1,213 million tons of coal. The Bureau has also recently undertaken investigation for copper at Gani in Andhra Pradesh and for limestone at Morni Hills in Punjab and intensified the operation at Khetri and Daribo.

During the period January 1959 to February 1960, 265 applications were received under rule 57 of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1949, for review of the order passed by the State Government, as against 430 applications received in 1958. Of these 289 applications were decided as against 309 during 1958.

The National Mineral Development Corporation, set up in November 1958 to undertake exploitation of minerals in the public sector, excluding oil and natural gas and coal, was entrusted with the Kiriburu Iron-Ore Project in Rourkela area for export of 2 million tons of iron-ore to Japan from 1964. The Japan Consulting Institute submitted its project report in December 1959, which is under examination.

In December 1959, the Corporation was also entrusted with the exploitation of diamond deposits in Panna area in Madhya Pradesh.

The Orissa Mining Corporation was working three mines and the production from them

was 33,950 tons of iron-ore up to February 29, 1960. It has now been granted more areas. The Corporation made a net profit of Rs. 53,757 for 1958-59.

Out of 2411 cases registered upto the end of February 1960, the Controller of Mining Leases decided 893 cases and filed 1143 cases which did not require any modification.

PETROLEUM

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission continued its search for oil in Jwalamukhi and Hoshiarpur areas of Punjab, Cambay area in Saurashtra and Sibsagar area in Assam.

The Indo-Stanvac Petroleum Project continued exploring in West Bengal within the concession area of 10,000 square miles. During the year, the drilling of the wells at Ranaghat, Memari and Port Canning was completed.

A further stage has been reached in the establishment of the two refineries in the public sector. In respect of the Assam Refinery, a supply and technical assistance contract was concluded with the Rumanian Organisation and the first consignment of equipment had already been received.

A similar agreement in respect of the second oil refinery to be located in Barauni (Bihar) was concluded on 28-9-59 with the Government of the U.S.S.R.

During 1959, the refineries in the port towns made further progress towards altering their pattern of production to suit the consumption pattern in the country. The increase in the output of diesel oils varied between 3 per cent. to 6 per cent. over the 1958 production (or about 12 per cent increase in the yield pattern originally programmed).

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959, were promulgated on November 24.

A wholly Government owned Distributing Company, the Indian Oil Company, Limited, with an authorised capital of Rs. 12 crores, was incorporated in June, for the distribution of the

output of the two proposed public sector refineries and also imports of deficit petroleum products.

As a result of further negotiations with the Oil Companies during 1959, an *ad hoc* agreement was reached with them by which they agreed to a reduction in basic prices involving a saving at the rate of Rs. 15 crores per annum for 1-4-59 to 31-10-59 and at the rate Rs. 19 crores per annum for the remaining period up to 31-3-61.

CAMBAY OILFIELD EXPLOITABLE

The Minister for Mines and Oil, Shri K.D. Malaviya, announced that the recently discovered oil field at Cambay was commercially exploitable. Government, he said, were trying to assess its proved reserves of oil and gas. About two hundred wells would be dug to determine the reserves. Shri Malaviya said he was hopeful of starting the planning of a medium-sized refinery at Cambay by the end of the year. Shri Malaviya said very soon a seismic survey of the Cauvery Basin would be undertaken. If the results were encouraging, drilling operations would be started.

PRODUCTION OF CHROMITE

It was announced on April 1 that according to the Bureau of Mines, the production of chromite during the year 1959 was estimated at 85,000 metric tons, representing an increase of 33 per cent over the output in the preceding year.

Orissa was the principal producing State with an output of 81,000 metric tons. The rest of the output was reported from Bihar, Mysore and Bombay States.

Price Of Coal And Coke Increased

The Government of India have increased the price of coal by 81 naye paise per ton and that of hard and soft coke by Rs. 1.08 per ton from April 1.

This has been done to compensate the coal industry for the additional incidence of costs it will have to bear as a result of implementation of the Das Gupta Award and of the Mines (Amendment) Act, 1959, and payment of enhanced dearness allowance to colliery workers.

The increase of 81 nP, however will not uniformly apply to all collieries. In cases where the Das Gupta Award or the Mines (Amendment) Act or the higher D.A. does not at present apply, corresponding reductions have been made.

GROWTH OF SUGAR INDUSTRY

The report of the Tariff Commission observes that the growth of the sugar industry has been 'almost phenomenal' since protection was granted in 1932. During the past ten years production has risen by about 100%. The production rose from slightly more than a million tons to 19.8 lakh tons.

The consumption rose from 1,185,000 tons in 1948-49 to nearly 2,100,000 tons in 1958-59. It is likely to be 30 lakh tons by the end of the Third Plan.

Whereas there were only 29 factories in 1930-31, by 1957-58 the number in operation had risen to 157.

The Tariff Commission's enquiry was undertaken on the basis of a Government of India Resolution dated September 20, 1958.

It selected 48 factories in the principal manufacturing regions for an examination of the cost of production of sugar—12 in West Uttar Pradesh, 10 in East Uttar Pradesh, eight in North Bihar and one in South Bihar, six in Bombay State, two in Madhya Pradesh, four in Andhra Pradesh, two in Punjab and one each in Madras, Mysore and Rajasthan.

The report was submitted to the government in September 1959.

The Commission has come to the conclusion that there is no

case for providing, in the fair selling price of sugar, a uniform allowance for rehabilitation to all units in the sugar industry. These units, which require financial assistance because of plants that may have run its full course of life or for any other reason, should make out a case for rehabilitation and the Government should make necessary arrangements to provide the assistance needed by such units on lines similar to those for meeting the needs of the cotton and jute textile manufacturing industries in respect of renovation and modernisation of plant and equipment.

Cost Structure of Sugar Industry

The Government of India's Resolution on the Tariff Commission's report on the cost structure of sugar (1959) has been published in the Gazette of India dated April 4. The main recommendations of the Commission and the Government's decisions are as follows:—

The Commission has prepared four separate cost schedules applicable to four regions, namely, (a) northern region comprising the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Punjab; (b) Bombay State, (c) Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and (d) southern region comprising the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madras and Mysore. The Commission has clarified that Kerala should be covered by the cost schedule for the southern region, and Orissa, West Bengal and Assam by the schedule for the northern region.

The Commission has recommended that in addition to the cost of production derived from the cost schedules with reference to duration of season and rate of recovery of sugar, 12% return on employed capital should be allowed so as to provide sufficient funds for each unit to meet its commitments under bonus and gratuity, interest on borrowed capital and debentures, dividend on preference shares, managing agents' com-

mission and income tax, and finally leave a residue to a large majority of the units in all regions to declare reasonable dividends.

The Commission has not recommended the grant of any rehabilitation allowance for fixation of ex-factory price, since the Commission has come to the conclusion that such an allowance is not justified for all units in the sugar industry. The Commission has suggested that any unit which requires additional funds for purposes of rehabilitation should seek assistance from the financing institutions.

GOVERNMENT DECISION

The Government of India have accepted these recommendations of the Commission and have decided to make use of the cost schedules prepared by the Commission to determine the control prices of sugar.

The Government of India are satisfied that the present control prices in Uttar Pradesh, North Bihar and Punjab do not call for any change. The Government have, however, come to the conclusion that like the factories in North Bihar, the factories in South Bihar also should be subject to price control.

SUGARCANE PRICE FOR 1960-61

According to a Press Note issued on April 1 by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Government of India have decided that the price of sugarcane to be crushed by the vacuum pan factories during the 1960-61 season should be as follows:

(a) a basic minimum price of Rs. 1.62 per maund for delivery at the gate of the factory and Rs. 1.50 per maund for delivery at rail centres;

(b) a deferred payment of an amount which may be found due under the formula prescribed by the Government of India, or under any alternative scheme applied in a State or region by the State Government concerned,

with the previous approval of Central Government, for linking the price of cane with the price of sugar as realised by the factories concerned.

Control On Sugar Price Extended

In a Press Note issued on April 4, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture says that the Government of India have fixed with immediate effect ex-factory price of Rs. 38.35 per maund for ISS D-29 grade of sugar produced by factories in South Bihar. Ex-factory price of other grades will be according to prescribed differentials. The controlled price will apply to all the stocks available with the mills, and also to the sugar produced hereafter. The entire sugar of these factories will now be allotted by the Central Government for sale at the fixed ex-factory price.

Sugar produced by the factories in Uttar Pradesh, North Bihar and Punjab is already allotted by the Central Government at fixed ex-factory prices.

RELEASE OF SUGAR

A Press Note issued on April 4, by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture says, the Government of India have decided to release 1.85 lakh tons of sugar. There will be no release for free sale from the factories in Uttar Pradesh, North Bihar, South Bihar and Punjab except a small quantity which will be released to each factory for sale to its employees.

Allotments will be made at prices fixed under Notifications No. GSR 1188/ESS.Com/Sugar dated October 25, 1959 and GSR 386/Ess.Com/Sugar dated April 4, 1960. The controlled ex-factory price for U.P. and North Bihar factories is Rs. 37.85 per Punjab and South Bihar Rs. 38.35 per maund for ISS D-29 grade with 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.

Report Of Productivity Team

The report of the Small-Scale Industries Productivity Team was released on April 8. The Team, one of the seven recently sponsored by the National Productivity Council of India under the T.C.M. Aid Programme, made a special study of the development of small industries in Sweden, Germany, Japan and U.S.A.

The report stresses the need for legislative measures and observes that although small scale industries fall within the sphere of State Governments, substantial efforts on the part of the Central Government are necessary to co-ordinate the activities of State Governments and evolve a suitable pattern of development. It has suggested that the Small-Scale Industries Board should consider the legislative measures as are in force in the U.S.A. and Japan.

INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVES

The report recommends the formation of different types of industrial co-operatives of small entrepreneurs, particularly co-operatives for common service facilities required by them. Such co-operatives, like those of Japan where several units join together for rendering to themselves various kinds of services, can do a great deal to increase the productivity of individual units, beside effecting savings in national resources.

The Team favours a co-ordinated attempt by all organisations concerned with the industrial development of the country to popularise the system of sub-contracting and facilitate development of ancillary industries. It has recommended the publication, by associations of small industries in the States, of an annual directory of small and large industries, containing detailed information about the products of each unit. The large industrial establishments, in its opinion, should take greater interest in developing ancillaries and the system of sub-contracting. Government should issue instructions to public sector pro-

jects to encourage small business sub-contracting. New industries applying for licence should be persuaded not to invest on machinery for manufacture of items, for which there is capacity in the small-scale sector.

Among other recommendations made by the Productivity Team are the adoption in India of the system of 'Participation' loans, as practised by the Small Business Administration of America and a system of employing, on a part-time basis, experienced men drawn from industrial enterprises. Government organisations and other technical institutions for training the technicians of small industries.

The Team has suggested that the Industrial Designs Cell in the office of the Development Commissioner of Small-Scale Industries should be raised to the status of an Industrial Arts Institute which should undertake research on problems of small industries, in co-operation with other technical and research institutions for utilisation of indigenous raw materials and evolution of new and attractive designs.

Village Industries Commission

According to an announcement of April 9, the Government of India have reconstituted the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. The term of the first Commission, appointed in April 1957, had expired on March 31 last.

Shri Vaikunth Lallubhai Mehta has been reappointed Chairman of the Commission. Members of the Commission are Shri A. W. Sahasrabudhe, Shri Pranlal Sunderji Kapadia, Shri Dhawaja Prasad Sahu and Shri K. Arunachalam.

The Government have also reconstituted the Khadi and Village Industries Board and reappointed Shri Vaikunth Lallubhai Mehta as Chairman.

AMBAR CHARKHA

The Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, informed the Rajya Sabha during question hour on April 7 that, as on December 31, 1959, there were 3,238 production centres, 61 Vidyalayas for training instructors, 17 Vidyalayas for training carpenters and 108 large and 485 small Saranjam Karyalayas for manufacturing Ambar Charkhas. In addition, there were a number of centres for the training of spinners which was imparted on a completely decentralised basis.

Shri Shah stated that out of 2,82,499 Ambar Charkhas distributed to spinners from April 1956 to December 1959, about 1,70,000 were being plied. The Minister added that no Ambar Charkha had so far been manufactured for spinning wool. Research was, however, being conducted to evolve an improved charkha for this purpose.

FOUNDRY FORGE PLANT

The Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, disclosed in the Lok Sabha during question hour on April 12 that the Heavy Engineering Corporation had entered into a contract with Technoexport, Prague, on March 30 last for the supply of a complete range of machine tools and equipment for establishing a Rolls shop at the Heavy Foundry Forge Plant. The Rolls shop would cost Rs. 87 lakhs.

Shri Shah added that the Detailed Project Report of the Plant, which had been received in November last, was likely to be accepted very shortly.

Capacity To Be Licensed In Industries

According to an announcement of April 8, the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has drawn up a list of 49 industries in respect of which licences for setting up fresh capacity will be issued freely. Another list of industries, where it has been decided not to sanction fresh capacity, has also been finalised.

The lists will be in operation for the time being and will be subject to review from time to time.

The list of industries for which licences will be issued freely, contain 22 engineering and 27 non-engineering industries.

The engineering industries listed are: boilers and steam generating plant; industrial machinery; machine tools; earth moving machinery; industrial instruments; malleable castings and C.I. castings; small tools; such as cutters, cutting tools; garage tools excluding garage equipment; sluice gates and gearings; transmission towers; winches; ropeways; electrical switch gear; instruments of all types such as meter measuring instruments, drawing and surveying instruments, scientific and optical instruments, but excluding measuring gauges and electrical instruments; garage equipment excluding garage tools; conveyers tools; conveyers-chain, belt and screws; construction machinery; ice making machinery; knitting machinery; machinery for milk and dairy industry; structurals, and steel forgings.

NON-ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

The non-engineering industries listed for free licensing are: sulphuric acid; laboratory glassware; Penicillin vials; glass shells for electric lamps; heat resisting glass and glassware; glass building blocks; refractories; high tension and L.T. insulators; bicycle tyres and tubes; rubber prophylactics; rubber-canvas footwear; V and fan belts; camel back (tyre retreading material); solvent extraction from cotton seed and cake (provided the State Governments concerned certify the availability of oil seeds and cakes in the area); technical edible and photographic gelatine; finished leathers; sheet glass; glass tubes and rods; plate glass; China and potteries (crocery); roofing tiles; L.T. insulators; S.W. pipes; photographic chemicals, laboratory chemicals, etc; and processing of textiles including sizing operations.

Industries, where no fresh capacity is to be sanctioned for the time being, number 72 including 32 engineering industries.

Self-Sufficiency In Radio Receivers

The Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, said in the Rajya Sabha during question hour on April 7 that the country was already self-sufficient in regard to radio sets and that there had been a total ban on imports since October 1957. Some parts and components to the extent of 35 to 40 per cent of the ex-factory value of a radio, however, were allowed to be imported. It was expected that in respect of these parts and components also, the country would be self-sufficient by the end of the Third Plan period.

Leather Development Council Meets

Inaugurating the first meeting of the Development Council for Leather, Leathergoods and Picker Industries in New Delhi on April 11, the Union Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, said that the export target of two million pairs of footwear, fixed under the Second Plan, had already been exceeded. During the first 11 months of 1959 over 2.27 million pairs of leather footwear, valued at Rs. 2.17 crores, had been exported.

Shri Shah disclosed that during the Third Plan period production of footwear was to be raised from the Second Plan target of 102 million pairs to 153 million pairs. An export was being considered.

Shri Shah pointed out that leather and leather goods industries were of major economic importance to the country, and said that India had about the largest herds of cattle in the world and was consequently the foremost producer of hides and skins. Out of the total estimated annual world production of 157 million pieces of hides, India produced 23 million pieces. In

regard to sheep and goat skins, our annual production was 47 million pieces out of an estimated world production of 229 million pieces.

The indigenous production of hides, constituting about 14.6 per cent of the total world production, was inadequate to meet the demand of domestic tanning industry, which had been working, in certain sectors, well below its installed capacity. The export of raw hides had now been banned and steps were being taken to facilitate their imports, in order to augment the domestic production.

INQUIRY INTO INDORE MILLS

According to a Press Note issued on April 10 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Government of India have ordered an inquiry into the affairs of Messrs. Kalyanmal Mills Limited, Indore, under Section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

The investigation body will consist of Shri Chandan Sinha Bharkatya of Indore (Chairman), Shri R.G. Chandorkar and Shri S.M. Yousuf.

FOREIGN TRADE IN FEBRUARY 1960

A Press Note issued on April 8 by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta says, the provisional figures of foreign trade of India by all routes i.e. sea, air and land, on private and Government accounts during February 1960, according to information available to date in the Department, are as follows:

Merchandise, excluding overland trade with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan: Exports Rs. 47.09 crores, re-exports Rs. 2.72 crores, imports Rs. 69.12 crores. The import figures are exclusive of the value of certain consignments of Government stores awaiting adjustment and of private merchandise under reference to customs for verification.

Treasure: Exports (including re-exports) of currency notes Rs. 1.28 crores, gold nil and cur-

rent coins (excluding gold coins) Rs. 1 lakh. Imports of currency notes Rs. 52 lakhs, gold Rs. 6 lakhs, current coins (excluding gold coins) negligible.

Balance of trade: Subject to the limitation in import figures mentioned above, the total value of exports (including re-exports) of merchandise and gold fell short of imports by Rs. 19.37 crores.

Forward Trading In Cottonseed

A Press Note issued on April 13 by the Forward Markets Commission, Bombay, says that the Government of India, on the recommendation of the Commission, have granted recognition to the Indian Exchange Ltd., Amritsar, for a period of three years in respect of forward trading in cottonseed.

The hedge contract to be traded under the auspices of the Exchange will have cottonseed of 32 of average quality as its basis. The other varieties tenderable against the contract, besides the basis variety, are cottonseed 32 of Khichri of average quality and cottonseed desi of average quality. The Board would fix the tendering differences before the start of trading in a contract. In addition to Amritsar, five centres of delivery have been prescribed. There would be four deliveries in a year, viz. January, March, May and July. The unit of trading would be 150 maunds.

The Commission has accorded permission to the Exchange to 1961 delivery with effect from April 13, 1960, subject to a system of special margins.

Amritsar is the sixth futures market in cottonseed set up under the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952.

Free Trade Zone At Kandla Port

Shri Raj Bahadur, Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications, said in a statement in Lok Sabha on April 9 that the future of Kandla and the township of Gandhi-

dham had engaged the attention of the government. As one of the effective measures towards increasing the employment potential of the port, a tentative scheme had been formed for the setting up of a Free Trade Zone at Kandla. The idea was to cordon off a small area at the port with a high barbed wire fencing, the entry into and the removal of goods from which could be suitably controlled. Within this area, facilities may be given for the establishment of appropriate industries and permission given to them for the import of raw materials and semi processed goods for conversion into finished goods and export, without the need for the payment of import duty.

FOREIGN BUSINESS OF L. I. C.

According to a statement placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha during question hour on April 6 by Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha, Deputy Minister for Finance, new business procured by the Life Insurance Corporation of India outside India during 1959 amounted to Rs. 9.47 crores, as compared to Rs. 5.62 crores during 1958.

Rules For Issue Of Share Certificates Revised

An announcement dated April 7 says that the Government of India have revised the rules relating to the procedure for the issue of share certificates by companies.

Under the revised rules, the issue of share certificates in exchange for those which are subdivided or consolidated has been exempted from the requirement of prior approval of the Board. Similarly the issue of share certificates in replacement of those which are defaced, torn or old, decrepit, worn out or where the cages on the reverse for recording transfers have been duly utilised, will not require the prior approval of the Board.

The earlier requirement that the sealing and signing of share certificates should be done only in the presence of two directors

in addition to the Secretary or some other persons appointed by the Board for the purpose has also been modified. It will now be permissible for duly appointed attorneys of directors to be entrusted with this work. The revised rules also provide for the signature of the director being affixed by mechanical means such as engraving in metal or lithography but not by means of rubber stamp. The director concerned will be responsible for the safe custody of such machines used for the purpose.

The earlier definition of the 'Board' has been modified and it has been made easier for companies to comply with the requirements about the composition of committees of the Board.

Commodity Prices In February 1960

According to a Press Note issued on April 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), advanced by 0.6 per cent to 119.5 during the month of February 1960, as compared with 118.8 for January 1960. The index was higher by 5.5 per cent when compared with 113.3 for February 1959. During the month under review, the index for 'Food Articles' moved up by 1.1 per cent to 118.8, 'Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants' by 0.3 per cent to 117.9, 'Industrial Raw Materials' by 0.5 per cent to 131.6 and 'Manufactures' by 0.2 per cent to 116.2, while the index for 'Tobacco' declined by 5.3 per cent to 94.2.

FOOD ARTICLES

Higher prices of all the cereals (viz., rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, barley, maize and ragi) raised the index for this sub-group by 2.7 per cent to 104.4. The index for cereals was, however, lower by 0.7 per cent when compared with that of a year ago. An increase in the prices of gram,

arhar, mung and urad pushed up the sub-group index for 'pulses' by 3.5 per cent to 95.1; the prices of masur, however, drifted down. The index for 'fruits and vegetables' rose by 3.2 per cent to 113.1 due to an increase in the prices of oranges, bananas and cashewnuts notwithstanding a decline in the prices of potatoes and onions. An advance of 4.4 per cent to 111.5 in the sub-group index for 'milk and ghee' was caused by higher prices of both milk and ghee. Prices of all the edible oils were marked up and the index for this sub-group went up by 5.0 per cent to 137.7. A decline in the prices of fish and eggs brought down the index for 'fish, eggs and meat' by 3.4 per cent to 110.5 although the price of meat exhibited a rise. An advance in the prices of gur raised the index for 'sugar and gur' by 0.8 per cent to 145.2. Lower prices of tea, chilies, turmeric, cummin (jira), cardamoms and salt caused a fall of 8.5 per cent to 168.6 in the index for 'other food articles' despite a rise in the prices of coffee, black pepper and betelnuts.

The index for 'Tobacco' receded by 5.3 per cent to 94.2 owing to a fall in the prices of raw tobacco.

A rise of 0.3 per cent to 117.9 in the index for 'Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants' was brought about by an advance in the prices of kerosene oil, petrol, aviation spirit and castor oil.

INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS

Lower prices of raw cotton, raw jute and raw silk brought down the index for 'fibres' by 2.8 per cent to 123.0; the prices of raw wool, however, moved up. The index for 'oilseeds' went up by 3.5 per cent to 140.8 as a result of higher prices of groundnuts, castorseed, gingellyseed, cottonseed and copra; there was, however, a fall in the prices of rapeseed. The sub-group index for 'minerals' remained stationary at its earlier months' level of 95.2. Higher prices of raw hides, lac and logs and timber raised the sub-group index for

'other industrial raw materials' by 0.8 per cent to 133.2, notwithstanding a decline in the prices of raw skins, tanning materials and bamboos.

INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS

A fall of 0.9 per cent to 120.5 in the index for 'Intermediate Products' was caused by a decline in the prices of cotton yarn and zinc although the prices of linseed oil, leather, rayon yarn, coir yarn, brass, copper, tin and lead showed advances during the month under review.

FINISHED PRODUCTS

An increase in the prices of cotton manufactures (+1.5 per cent to 125.2) raised the index for 'Textiles' by 0.8 per cent to 115.1, despite a fall in the prices of silk and rayon manufactures (-1.4 per cent to 103.4). Among cotton manufactures, mill-made cloth exhibited a further rise, while hand-loom cloth did not show any change during the month under review. The sub-group index for 'metal products' stood unchanged at its previous month's level of 145.2. A decline in the prices of general chemicals caused a fall of 0.9 per cent to 105.8 in the sub-group index for 'chemicals' although the prices of dyeing materials exhibited an increase. 'Oilcakes' moved down by 1.1 per cent to 144.6. A fall in the prices of leather belting was neutralised by an increase in the prices of cycles and sub-group index for 'machinery and transport equipment' remained unchanged at its earlier month's level of 106.1. The index for 'other finished products' advanced by 0.3 per cent to 112.7 as a result of an increase in the prices of shoes (leather) and bricks and tiles, although the price of glass showed a fall. On the whole, the index for 'finished products' moved up by 0.4 per cent to 115.6 during the month.

Communications

ANNUAL REPORT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

The annual report on the activities of the Posts and Telegraphs Department during 1959-60 states that from April to December 1959, 2,716 new Post Offices were opened and another 2,082 were proposed to be opened by the end of March 1960. There were 64,993 Post Offices in the country on March 31, 1959.

The facility of withdrawal to the limit of Re. 20 in branch offices without reference to their account offices has been extended to all branch offices doing Savings Bank work.

With a view to removing difficulties in obtaining legal proof of succession involving considerable delay and expense, necessary legislation has been passed to allow depositors or holders the right to nominate a person or persons to receive the amounts due to the deceased depositors or holders without production of legal documents.

An Air Parcel Service was introduced to the People's Republic of China and the U.S.S.R. from March 15, 1959.

Insured airmail letter services were introduced from India to Aden, British East Africa, Burma, Japan and Pakistan. The insured air parcel service was extended to Egypt, Malaya and Netherlands. At present ordinary air parcel service is available to 41 countries, insured air parcel service to 22 countries and insured air mail letter service to 21 countries.

Another exchange of verification lists in respect of unverified claims regarding Savings Bank accounts and Postal Certificates with the Pakistan Liaison Officer started on February 9, 1959 and continued upto April 22, 1959. During this exchange more

than 34,500 Indian verification lists covering more than Rs. 1.52 crores were handed over to Pakistan Liaison Officer for verification. In addition 1131 Indian verified lists for Rs. 6,71,344 were also received from Pakistan and were passed on to the heads of Circles concerned for settlement of the claims involved. It has been arranged to exchange the remaining unverified lists by post.

In the meantime, payments continued to be made on the execution of an Indemnity Bond to the claimants. Upto August, claims amounting to Rs. 40 lakhs had been settled.

The ad-hoc committee, which was set up in October 1958, is adjudicating the claims of those claimants who had registered their claims by the original prescribed dates but who could not produce the Pass Books or Certificates. Upto January 1960, it had sanctioned 1,017 claims amounting to Rs. 7,94,566.

The result of actuarial valuation of the Post Office Insurance Fund at the end of March 1957 has shown a substantial surplus, and bonus for the quinquennium 1952 to 1957 has been granted to the holders of life insurance policies which constitute the liability of the Government of India.

As a result of the revised Universal Postal Convention (Ottawa) coming into effect from April 1959, the foreign postage rates and fees have been revised.

TELEGRAPHS

Under the liberalised policy of the Department to extend telegraph facilities to the rural and undeveloped areas, considerable progress has been made. At the end of December 1959, only

3 district towns (in remote N.E.F.A.) out of 329 in the whole of the country, 5 out of 500 sub-divisional towns and 125 out of 1,356 headquarters of tehsils and corresponding units remained without telegraph facility. Even out of these places telegraph offices have been sanctioned for 2 district towns, 3 sub-divisions and 78 tehsil and corresponding units.

During April to December 1959, 94 additional telegraph offices were opened, thus increasing the total number of telegraph offices in the country from 5,895 to 5,989. The main telegraph network in the country was expanded by 3,500 channel miles.

The number of subscribers to Printogram service at Bombay increased from 26 to 42. Accredited correspondents were permitted to send two 'Flash Press Telegrams' per day with a maximum wordage of 75 in each. This limit was raised to four telegrams per day with a maximum wordage of 100 each. A direct photo telegraph service was introduced between New Delhi and Tokyo (Japan) in December.

From August, an airflash service at inland express rates has been introduced in favour of the bonafide Airways Companies operating in India conveying news solely relating to movements of the aeroplanes, booking of passenger traffic and other allied matters.

The telegram service in Devnagari script was extended to more offices during the year raising the total number to 1,530 including 47 railway telegraph offices.

Two new greetings phrases were introduced, bringing the total number of stock phrases to 27.

In pursuance of the decisions at the plenipotentiary conference of the International Telecommunication Union at Geneva in October, changes in the International Telegraph Regulations have been accepted by the P. and T. Department and as a result thereof a number of rules

in respect of foreign telegrams have been amended.

Special arrangements to handle telegraph facilities were made during the visits of President Eisenhower of U.S.A., and the President and the Prime Minister of U.S.S.R.

TELEPHONES

The liberalised policy for providing telephone facilities permitting the opening of exchanges at the district headquarters and P.C.Os. at Sub-Divisional head-quarter towns continued to be operative during the year. By the end of December, only 21 out of 329 district towns remained to be provided with telephone exchanges. The number of Sub-Divisional towns without telephone facility (P.C.O.) was 56, out of which sanction in respect of 11 places has been issued. During April to December, 26,336 new exchange lines had been added taking the total of direct exchange lines to nearly 296,000.

During the period, 49 new telephone exchanges were opened and 81 exchanges expanded or rehabilitated. The equipped capacity of all departmental exchanges increased from 3,23,690 to 3,65,000 lines. Besides, 211 long distance P.C.Os. and 205 local P.C.Os. were opened making a total of 1928 P.C.Os.

One twelve-channel carrier telephone system between Jodhpur and New Delhi, 23 three-channel systems and 29 single channel systems were installed.

Co-axial cables have been laid from Agra to Kanpur and Kanpur to Lucknow, a distance of 180 miles and 50 miles respectively.

A new electrification circle has been formed to lay cables and instal equipment to divert telecommunication circuits to underground cables where these would run parallel to tracks covered by the railway electrification scheme.

The Message Rate System was extended to Asansol, Bhavnagar, Muzaffarpur, Mysore and Vellore.

At the Telecommunication Research Centre, a number of designs, which had been completed earlier, were put to use. Of these, the more important developments were the introduction of single link operator dialing on many of the trunk routes, call queueing for special services, and the manufacture in the Indian Telephone Industries of a large variety of equipments worth several lakhs of rupees for the railway electrification scheme from the designs produced at the Centre.

WIRELESS

The grace period of 14 days for obtaining B. R. licences for imported sets has been extended to one calendar month with effect from November 16, 1959.

The licence fee for additional sets has been reduced, since January 1960, from Rs. 15 to Rs. 3 per annum for domestic licences and from Rs. 50 to Rs. 5 per annum for commercial B. R. licence. The institutions for the blind have been exempted from the payment of licence fee.

The licence fee fixed for B. R. licence for television sets is Rs. 30 for domestic, Rs. 120 for commercial, Rs. 30 for demonstration and Rs. 10 for schools.

The Workshops Organisation, apart from improving the existing products, developed a Tone Generator, and a Battery Eliminator.

GENERAL

Efforts have been continued for the propagation of Hindi in the P. and T. Department and various steps have been taken for acquainting the staff with a working knowledge of Hindi.

The metric system of weights and measures was introduced in the Telegraph Engineering branch in April 1959 for certain types of work. Arrangements are under way to introduce the system in the Postal branch during 1960-61.

Postage Stamps bearing the values in annas and pies, except those of the 4 as., 8 as., 12 as. and Rs. 1/8/- denominations, were withdrawn from use from

October. Their use as service postage stamps on official correspondence has, however, been permitted in order to use up the existing stocks.

The following number of personnel in the engineering non-gazetted categories were trained during the year: 1. Engineering Supervisors 220; 2. Repeater Station Assistants 103; 3. Wireless Operators 33; 4. Mechanics 202; 5. Telegraph Masters 92; 6. Telephone Inspectors 79; 7. Wiremen 140.

In addition, arrangements were made for giving training to two officials deputed by the Nepalese Government under the Colombo Plan.

Engineering students from various institutions of the country were also given facilities for practical training at the telecommunication installations.

Commemorative stamps were issued on the occasions of: (i) Death Centenary of Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, First Indian Baronet, (ii) 40th Anniversary of the International Labour Organisation, (iii) Children's Day, and (iv) First World Agriculture Fair, New Delhi.

P. & T. Circles In South Reorganised

The Government of India have reorganised with effect from April 1, 1960, the jurisdiction of P. and T. Circles in the South in the light of the pattern of traffic and postal and telegraph work as it had settled down after reorganisation of the States. Under the revised pattern, a new P. and T. Circle has been created by the merger of the Andhra and Hyderabad Circles, and another new P. and T. Circle of Mysore has been formed and consequential re-adjustment of charges of Bombay and Madras Circles made. Briefly the changes effected are as follows:

The new Circle with headquarters at Bangalore is known as the Mysore Circle.

The Aurangabad and Nanded Postal Divisions are transferred

from Hyderabad Circle to the Bombay Circle.

The headquarters of the enlarged Andhra Circle, which consists of the present Andhra

Circle and the residuary portion of Hyderabad Circle, are at Hyderabad. The Madras Circle consists of its present jurisdiction minus the area transferred to the new Mysore Circle.

ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT FOR 1959-60

The annual report for 1959-60 of the Department of Transport in the Ministry of Transport and Communications indicates that the Indian Shipping Companies continued to make steady progress in the matter of expansion of their fleet despite the continued foreign exchange difficulties. The total Indian owned tonnage at the end of December 1959 stood at 7.39 lakh gross tons as compared to 6.38 lakh gross tons at the end of 1958.

During the year, a Statutory Shipping Development Fund was constituted under the Merchant Shipping Act 1958 with a sum of Rs. 1 crore to start with, and the Fund Committee granted loans to the extent of Rs. 52 lakhs. The Government also granted a loan of Rs. 7.35 lakhs.

The National Shipping Board was set up on March 17, 1959 as a permanent Statutory Body under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, to advise Government on all policy matters relating to Shipping.

During the year, the Eastern Shipping Corporation made a profit of Rs. 15.32 lakhs and the Western Shipping Corporation made a profit of Rs. 2.60 lakhs. The total tonnage of the Eastern Shipping Corporation at the end of the year was 69,602 G.R.T. and that of the Western Shipping Corporation 31,400 G.R.T.

Problems relating to the training of merchant navy personnel were reviewed and training facilities were geared up to meet the increasing manning requirements of the steadily expanding merchant shipping. The annual intake of the T.S. 'Dufferin' and of the D.M.E.T. was increased. A Merchant Navy Training Board has also been set up to advise Government on all training problems and to supervise

the training imparted in various merchant navy establishments.

There were two major Shipping casualties in Indian waters, one of S.S. 'Margaret Rose', which sank off Dwarka on the Saurashtra Coast, resulting in the loss of 11 members of the crew and the other of the R.S.V. 'Empire Oberon' which sank off Ankra Column outside the Calcutta Harbour, resulting in the loss of five lives. In both cases, formal investigations were ordered.

Government approved the constitution of Central and Regional Advisory Committees for Sailing Vessels to advise them in organising and developing the sailing vessels industry. Work was started on the schemes for the training of tindals and seamen under sail and the issue of identity cards to the crew of sailing vessels.

SHIPYARD

During the year 1958-59, the Hindustan Shipyard at Visakhapatnam delivered four ships totalling 16,144 G.R.T. One more vessel of 3,440 G.R.T. is expected to be delivered during the current year. During the year 1958-59, three ships were launched, and during the current year two more.

The total value of production during 1958-59 was Rs. 345.36 lakhs as against Rs. 343.31 lakhs during the previous year.

The Government have decided that, subject to the results of further investigations into the soil conditions being satisfactory, the second shipyard should be located at Cochin at the site recommended by the U.K. shipyard Mission.

The Committee, which was appointed in November 1957,

has made several recommendations for promoting the indigenous manufacture of materials and equipment required for shipbuilding and ship-repairs and these are under consideration.

The Ship Repairs Committee submitted its report in June.

As regards lighthouses and lightships, the following works were completed during the year: (i) New Lights at Uttan Point, Bhatkal, Johnston Point, Boria Bay, Palshet, Janjira, Shrivardhan, Musakazi, Tivri Point, Purangad, Rampar, Achra, Kõilthottam and Alleppy; (ii) new M.F. Radio Beacon at Okha; (iii) Fog Signal at Bhatkal; and (iv) Construction of two 32 feet long motor boats.

The training scheme provides for the training of lightkeepers, and mechanics. The training centre started functioning at Calcutta in January 1960.

In the field of inland water transport, the upper Ganga pilot project was commenced from July between Patna-Buxar. Development of river port at Pandu in Assam has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 28.81 lakhs.

The Inland Water Transport Committee submitted its report in June.

PORTS

The total traffic handled by the major ports during 1958-59 was 28.74 million tons as against 31 million tons during 1957-58.

The Capital Budget (Revised Estimates for 1959-60) provides for an expenditure of Rs. 145 lakhs for the Kandla Port Project, Rs. 28 lakhs for the Gandhidham Township project and Rs. 60 lakhs for financing the capital works at Vizagapatnam Port. In addition, it includes a provision of Rs. 160 lakhs for loan assistance to the major ports of Calcutta and Bombay. All these works are in various stages of progress.

At Calcutta, 'D' Berth in King George's Dock was converted into a general cargo berth and brought into commission in October. Technical investigations relating to the setting up of an auxiliary port at Haldia,

65 miles down the river Hooghly, are in progress. Meanwhile, as an experimental measure, an anchorage has been set up at Haldia for the lightening of foodships proceeding to Calcutta.

At Bombay, electrification of the cranes in the Alexandra Dock is in progress. As regards the dredging of the main harbour channel experiments for the purpose of selecting a suitable dumping ground for the dredged spoil have been carried out. Field experiments for determining the suitability of the dredged spoil for reclamation purposes are in progress.

At Madras, the construction of a six-berth wet dock is in progress.

At Vizagapatnam, the work of deepening the approaches to the oil tanker berths is nearing completion.

At Cochin, the construction of four additional wharf berths continues. Four of the twelve cranes required for the additional wharf have been erected. The second coal berth has been brought into commission. The Black Oil installations on Willingdon Island are nearing completion.

At Kandla, all the four cargo berths have been in commission since July 1957. Work on the two additional cargo berths is in progress; pile foundations for the additional cargo berths to a length of about 1,125 feet and superstructure on the first 375 feet of one of the berths have been completed;

Loans to the extent of Rs. 73.83 lakhs were advanced to the State Governments during the first three years of the Second Plan for the execution of development schemes relating to minor ports. The Revised Estimates for the year 1959-60 and the Budget Estimates for the year 1960-61 contain provisions of Rs. 35 lakhs and Rs. 50 lakhs respectively for this purpose.

The construction of pier and ancillary works at Pondicherry is in progress and is expected to be completed by November 1960.

The scheme to create a 'Dredging-cum-Survey Launch Pool' at a cost of Rs. 217.79 lakhs has been sanctioned and arrangements to procure dredgers and survey launches are being made.

ROAD DEVELOPMENT

The total length of extra-municipal roads in the country increased from 3,28,000 miles at the end of 1956-57 to about 3,57,600 at the end of 1957-58, achieving the targets laid down in the Nagpur Plan.

A sum of Rs. 8.9 crores is expected to be spent on the development of National Highways during 1959-60 against a total provision of Rs. 45 crores made in the Second Plan. About 140 miles of missing links and by-passes on 8 major bridges were constructed, about 525 miles of existing sections improved and provided with one lane asphalted carriageway, and about 75 miles of improved sections widened to two lane carriageway.

The total provision included in the Second Plan for the development of roads other than National Highways in the Union Territories, NEFA, NH-TA and certain roads in Sikkim amounts to Rs. 15.39 crores. Against this provision an expenditure of about Rs. 11.41 crores is expected to be incurred during the first four years of the Plan, including a provision of Rs. 3.56 crores for 1959-60.

Besides, 230 miles of new roads were constructed and 325 miles of existing roads improved in the various States. The expenditure is expected to amount to Rs. 307 lakhs against the expenditure ceiling of Rs. 21 crores for the current Plan.

During the year, schemes worth Rs. 10.80 crores were approved for being financed out of the Central Road Fund allocations.

With a view to facilitating smoother working of the Road Transport Corporations set up by the State Governments, the Road Transport Corporations

Act, 1950, was amended and enforced with effect from September 1, 1959.

A Road Transport Corporation was set up in Bihar on May 1.

A high-level Committee has been set up to examine the questions relating to co-ordination between different modes of transportation, particularly rail and road transport, and their future development and to draw up the broad outlines of a national transportation policy.

The Road Transport Re-organisation Committee submitted its report and its recommendations are under examination.

Loans amounting to Rs. 40 lakhs were advanced to the Delhi Transport Undertaking for the purchase of vehicles, etc.

TOURISM

In order to co-ordinate governmental action on problems concerning tourism, a high level committee, known as the Tourist Promotion Committee, has been set up.

Most of the recommendations of the Hotel Standards and Rate Structure Committee, which submitted its report in 1958, have been accepted by the Government. The Industrial Finance Corporation of India has since agreed to entertain loan applications without floor limit from hotels which are constituted either as public limited companies or co-operative societies.

In order to impart training to junior information staff of airlines, travel agencies, hotels and tourist offices on a systematic basis, a Staff Training School has started functioning from March 1, 1960.

The number of foreign tourists visiting India has increased by more than four times since 1951. The number of foreign tourists (excluding Pakistanis) during 1958 was 92,202 and during the first nine months of 1959 was 75,512. The earnings during 1956, 1957 and 1958 were Rs. 15.5 crores, Rs. 16.00 crores and Rs. 17.5 crores respectively.

The Central and State Governments have formulated plans to provide for the development of tourism.

During the year, subsidies totalling Rs. 21.41 lakhs were offered to the State Governments for providing tourist bureaus and for the construction of low income group rest houses, etc. In addition, a grant of Rs. 3 lakhs was given to the Damodar Valley Corporation for construction of rest houses at Tilaiya and Maithon. New tourist bureaus were opened at Rajgir, Rourkela, Hirakud, Dalhousie, Ajmer and Jodhpur.

Indo-Pakistan Talks On Rail Problems

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Railways on April 14 says that a Pakistan Government delegation, headed by Mr. S.A. Suhrawardy, Chairman, Pakistan Railway Board, arrived in New Delhi the same morning to hold discussions with an Indian Government delegation, headed by Mr. K.B. Mathur, Chairman, Indian Railway Board, on transport facilities between East and West Pakistan across the Indian railways and similar facilities between West Bengal on the one hand and Assam and Tripura on the other, across East Pakistan railways.

A meeting of the Pakistan and Indian delegations was held later in the morning. After some preliminary discussions, the meeting broke up into committees to consider various aspects of the question further.

Railway Wagons Factory

The Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 13 that Messrs Hindustan General Industries, New Delhi, who were selected on the recommendation of the Railway Equipment Committee for the manufacture of railway wagons, have set up a wagon factory at Nangloi. Against an educational order for 100 C.R. type wagons

placed on them, no wagons have so far been supplied. The firm however, expects to start production shortly.

RAILWAYS OPEN-AIR SCHOOLS

The Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, informed the Lok Sabha during question hour on April 13 that open-air schools were run by the Central Railway at 55 places. The expenditure on these schools was met from the Staff Benefit Fund and amounted to about Rs. 16,500 annually.

RAILWAY WEEK

The Indian railways celebrated the Railway Week from April 10 to 16. The Week coincided with the 107th anniversary of the running of the first train in India — and in Asia.

RAILWAY EXHIBITION

Seventyseven employees of the Indian railways and members of their families were awarded prizes for their exhibits

displayed at the All India Railwaymen's Arts and Crafts Exhibition, which was inaugurated in New Delhi on April 11.

National Shipping Board Meeting

The National Shipping Board, which met in Bombay on April 9, unanimously endorsed the views of its Chairman, Shri G.L. Mehta, in regard to the need for larger financial allocation for the accordance of highest priority in the Third Five Year Plan. The Board decided to represent this point of view to the Ministry of Transport and Communication.

The Board considered the recommendations of the Estimates Committee of the Parliament pertaining to the role of public sector in the development of shipping and the relationship between the private and public sectors. The Board appointed a committee with Shri G.L. Mehta as its chairman to examine this aspect in detail.

PROGRESS OF CIVIL AVIATION DURING 1959-60

The annual report on the activities of the Department of Communications and Civil Aviation, in the Ministry of Transport and Communications states that two of the three Boeing 707 jet aircraft on order at a total cost of Rs. 11.50 crores were received in February and early March 1960. The third Boeing was due to be delivered before the end of March 1960 and the fourth in April 1961.

The Air India International Corporation lost one of its Super-Constellation aircraft in July as a result of an accident while landing at Santacruz airport, thus reducing the fleet to 9 Super-Constellations.

On April 1, 1959, the Indian Airlines Corporation had an operational fleet of 80 aircraft, but the strength was reduced to 75 aircraft by February 1960, comprising of 57 Dakotas, 5 Sky-

masters, 3 Herons and 10 Viscounts.

The question of selection of a suitable aircraft to replace the Dakotas is still under consideration. Meanwhile, the Corporation has placed an order for the purchase of 5 Fokker Friendship aircraft at a cost of Rs. 234.21 lakhs, on the basis of a barter deal. An agreement in this regard was signed in January 1960.

The capacity ton miles operated by the Indian Airlines Corporation during 1958-59 were 64.075 million which represented an increase of 12½ per cent over those of the previous year. During 1959-60 it is estimated that the capacity ton miles would be 66.360 million.

The Indian Airlines Corporation has entered into an arrangement with the Punjab Govern-

ment for the operation of a twice weekly service between Delhi and Kulu during the summer of each year. Under an Agreement reached with the Rajasthan Government the Corporation have started from February 1960 two services, namely, (1) Delhi/Jaipur/Udaipur/Ahmedabad—thrice weekly, and (2) Delhi/Jaipur/Jodhpur—twice weekly. With the introduction of these services, the Corporation has reduced the frequency of its daily Delhi/Jaipur service to twice a week.

The Corporation introduced its winter schedule from 1-12-1959, the important features of which are: (a) an additional Viscount service between Bombay and Delhi with a frequency of four times a week, supplementing the existing twice daily service; (b) a new service with a thrice weekly frequency on the route Delhi/Gwalior/Bhopal/Indore/Bombay; and (c) an additional Viscount service between Calcutta and Bombay with a frequency of three times per week, supplementing the existing daily service.

The position of Government investments in the two corporations was reviewed and it has been decided that in respect of both the corporations, the total capital advanced by Government should be treated as if half of it were equity capital and the other half as debenture. The rate of interest on the debenture will be 4½%. It has also been decided to waive payment of interest on the debenture.

CAPITAL WORKS

Some of the important capital works completed during the year 1959 include the construction of a sound proof engine test bed at Delhi (Safdarjung) airport; extension of the non-instrument runway at Dum Dum; repairs to the East-West runway at Delhi (Palam) airport and the extension of the western end of the East-West runway at Bombay (Santacruz) airport. Among the important new works taken in hand during the year include the construction of a new runway at Palam for use by Boeing jet aircraft; the

construction of the terminal building at Trivandrum aerodrome; construction of an office block at Calcutta (Dum Dum) airport; construction of residential quarters and extension of runway at Gauhati aerodrome; earth work for the construction of a fair weather airstrip at Behala; strengthening of runway at Ahmedabad and strengthening and regrading of runway at Aurangabad. Work of cutting of Kurla Hills No. 1 and 4 at Bombay near the Santacruz airport was also taken in hand, as a part of the main project of extending the East-West runway at Bombay (Santacruz) airport for operation of Boeing Jet aircraft.

There were 135 navigational aids and 548 communication facilities available at 80 aeronautical tele-communication stations maintained by the Civil Aviation Department at the end of December. Aeronautical communication stations were established at Banihal, Kandla, Pataudi and also at Bhuntar during the year.

During the year, 25 ultra-light 'PUSHPAK I' aircraft, designed and manufactured by the Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., were registered. This adds a new type to the Indian registered aircraft.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Civil Aviation Training Centre, Allahabad, trained 304 students in various courses during the year and 135 students were under training. Two Afghan, one Philippine, one Nepalese, one Thai national and one candidate from Singapore were also trained.

At the end of December, there were 16 subsidised flying clubs, including two new flying clubs—the Kerala Flying Club at Trivandrum inaugurated in September and the Gujarat Flying Club at Baroda inaugurated in October. These clubs had 669 persons undergoing training. The total number of 'A' and 'B' pilots trained by the flying clubs during the year is 215 and 10 respectively. The Government sanctioned 60 scholarships during 1959-60 for deserving stu-

dents for free flying training at the flying clubs.

During 1958-59, a total flying of 26788 hours and 20 minutes was carried out by the subsidised flying clubs, and during 1959-60 (up to December), 18746 hours and 45 minutes of flying was done by the 16 clubs.

The Birla Gliding Club, Pilani, was included in the Government subsidy scheme from October. There were 727 flying members at the Delhi Gliding Club, New Delhi and the three Government Gliding Centres.

The 'Ashvini', a two-seated training glider designed and constructed by the Technical Centre of the Civil Aviation Department, was type-certificated in February 1959. A technical certificate to the two-seater 'Pushpak' MK. I aircraft built by the Hindustan Aircraft Limited was issued by the Type Acceptance Committee.

The third prototype of the 'Ashvini' glider with modified aileron system was successfully test flown in November. The glider has been accepted by the Air Headquarters as a standard equipment for training pilots of the National Cadet Corps.

A bilateral Air Services Agreement between the Governments of India and Italy was signed at Rome in July. The India/U.K. Air Services Agreement was reviewed in three inter-governmental discussions and the two delegations agreed to arrangements for the operation of commercial air services between the two countries in accordance with the Agreement. An agreement with Australia is being negotiated.

An agreement between the Governments of India and the Czechoslovak Republic was initialled in February 1960.

During the year, 32 major accidents occurred in India. Of these eight accidents were fatal resulting in the loss of 41 lives.

METEOROLOGY

Efforts at modernisation of meteorological facilities for aviation were intensified during the

year and two weather radars were installed—one at Madras aerodrome and the other at Gauhati aerodrome; thus six aerodromes have so far been equipped with radars. Arrangements are also in progress for the installation of a storm detection radar at Mohanbari (Dibrugarh).

Weather bulletins for mercantile and naval ships were issued regularly. Supply of special weather bulletins for the Andaman Seas to the Port Commissioner, Andamans was commenced in June. Special warning messages were issued to selected C.D. and N.E.S. Blocks. A new feature of the weather service to the public in Delhi and Calcutta was the introduction of telephone weather service.

The co-ordinated crop-weather scheme for sugarcane was taken over by the department from April 1959 for a period of five years in the first instance.

Seismological observations and publication of the data were continued. A new Seismological station was started at the Bhakra Dam.

The intensive observational programme, undertaken by the department for the International Geophysical Year (1957-58), was continued till the end of December, 1959. As a part of the programme of modernisation of the astrophysical observatory at Kodaikanal, Lyot coronagraph and a large solar tele-

scope were installed. A Radio-Teletype link between New Delhi and Moscow was established from January 1, 1960.

A Departmental Research Committee has been formed for planning and co-ordination of researches in meteorology, geophysics and astrophysics.

As the central licensing and regulating authority of the country in wireless matters, the Ministry renewed 3247 existing licences granted to establish and operate fixed and mobile wireless stations and issued 378 new licences during 1959. Four examinations were conducted at different centres for the award of certificate of proficiency as wireless operators in which 966 candidates appeared.

The installation of the International Monitoring Station at Delhi was completed and the station inaugurated on December 19.

TELEPHONE INDUSTRIES

The Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore continued to make steady progress during the year. There was an all round increase in production as compared to earlier years, the annual targets for the Second Plan period having been exceeded even during 1958-59. As a result, the Second Plan target of 3,20,000 telephones and 2,15,000 lines is likely to be exceeded considerably by the end of the Plan period. The Company has developed a new tele-

phone, production of which in large scale will be taken in hand shortly. The Industries has also taken up, for development and manufacture, a number of items of equipment required for the railway electrification project.

From April 1959 up to February 1960, the Industries produced 90,322 telephones, 48,900 exchange lines and 612 long distance transmission channels.

The prices of manufactured equipment have shown a further decrease. For example, the automatic telephone instrument came down further from Rs. 79 during 1958-59 to Rs. 73.

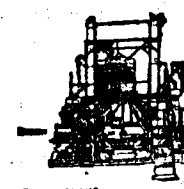
Various turned-precision parts like bolts, nuts, screws, etc. have also been manufactured by the I.T.I., for the use of various other industries. Over 36 million turned parts were produced upto February.

The I.T.I. developed new designs of 33 items including 8-channel carrier telephone system, 24-channel equaliser teleprinter exchange, etc.

Production of these items will be taken on hand shortly.

During 1958-59 the Company made a net profit of Rs. 26.98 lakhs. After providing for taxes and reserves the Company declared a dividend of 2½ per cent for 1958-59 as compared to 2 per cent for the previous year.

Total value of sales during 1959-60 is estimated at Rs. 359 lakhs as compared to Rs. 334.5 lakhs during 1958-59.



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ATOMIC POWER PROGRAMME

The annual report for 1959-60 of the Department of Atomic Energy outlines the plans of the Atomic Energy Commission for the development of an atomic power programme suited to India's requirements. It observes that in order to be able to produce cheap and abundant power, India has to base its programme on thorium which is available in abundance in the country.

The report states that preliminary work on the first atomic power station, which will be located between Bombay and Ahmedabad and which will serve both the regions, has made 'considerable progress' and the station is expected to go into operation in 1965 producing 300,000 kw of power.

Steps have been taken to open up a uranium mine in Bihar, which will supply sufficient raw material to feed this station. A uranium processing mill for producing uranium concentrate from this ore is being designed at Trombay and will be erected near the mine.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The most notable achievement of the year was the successful production of fuel elements from uranium ore mine in India at Trombay in June.

There has been a rapid increase in the production of nuclear electronic instruments at the Trombay Establishment. Some eight hundred nuclear instruments of various types were fabricated in 1959, thus saving approximately Rs. 10 lakhs of foreign exchange (as compared to the saving of Rs. 5 lakhs during the previous year) and it is expected that by the end of the current year the number will increase to about 2,000 instruments.

India will have three atomic research reactors working within the next 6 months. The Apsara, India's first reactor which will soon complete 4 years of operation, was utilised for over 1,000,000 kWh last year, compared to the previous year's 291,000 kWh. The Canada-India Reactor, India's second, is likely to go into operation in May next and the Zerlina by September.

Increasing quantities of radioactive isotopes have been produced in the Apsara and supplied to an increasing number of laboratories and hospitals in the country. The Commission is now able to supply the entire national requirements for some of the more important isotopes. Isotopes for medical use were prepared at Trombay for the first time during the past year.

Community Development

INDIA'S BEST VILLAGE AND GRAM SEVAK

According to a New Delhi announcement of April 15, this year's prize of Rs. 5,000 for the best village in the country is to be awarded to Averegere village

in Davanagere Block in Chitradurga district of Mysore State. The village falls in the Alur circle of the Gram Sevak who was adjudged best for the award

of the National level prize.

The scheme for the best village at the National, State and District levels was started by the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation last year. The criteria for the selection of the best village are the same as in the case of Gram Sevaks, namely outstanding performance in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation and co-operation.

The scheme is supplementary to the prize competition scheme for Gram Sevaks. While the village adjudged best at the National level gets a prize of Rs. 5,000, there are 15 prizes of Rs. 1,000 to be awarded to villages adjudged best at the State level and 330 prizes of Rs. 250 for villages adjudged best at District level.

The prize money for the best village at different levels is given to the panchayat or the Vikas Mandal of the village, to be utilised for increasing agricultural production and for furthering the common programme of the village.

BEST GRAM SEVAK

This year's prize for the best Gram Sevak in the country has been won by Shri V.S. Karjigi of Davanagere Block in the Chitradurga District of Mysore State. The amount of Rs. 2,500, earmarked for the prize, was awarded by Shri S.K. Dey, Union Minister for Community Development and Co-operation, on April 7, in the shape of a bicycle and the balance as National Plan Savings Certificates.

The award relates to the second all-India competition, organised by the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, to give prizes to Gram Sevaks for outstanding work at the National, State and District levels, and is part of a scheme for introducing healthy competition among Gram Sevaks and villagers in C.D. Blocks for excelling each other in good performance. Last year's prize at the National level was won by a Gram Sevak from Reslepara Development Block in the Garho Hills in Assam.

Names Of C.D. Training Centres Changed

A Press Note dated April 7 says that the Trainers' Training

Institute, run by the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, at Rajpur near Dehra Dun will in future be known as 'The Institute of Study for Instruction on Community Development'. The Orientation Training Centres, run by the Ministry, have also been redesignated as 'Orientation and Study Centres'.

These changes in designation have been introduced to reflect the new role of these institutions, brought about by a shift in the emphasis from the traditional lecturing methods of 'training' to 'study and orientation' through group discussions, syndicate studies and informal talks among experienced people at various levels, officials and non-officials, including M.P.s., M.L.As., Pradhans and Pramukhs.

The Central Institute of Study and Research in C.D. at Mussoorie will be the apex institution for orientating key personnel, administrative and technical, and will function as the brains trust on C.D. for all other institutions in the country.

APPRENTICE FIELD ASSISTANTS

A New Delhi announcement dated April 10 says that to ensure closer liaison between officials and non-official workers and associates engaged in C.D. work for the training programme, a team of 11 apprentice field assistants is to be formed for a period of 6 months in the first instance.

The field assistants, who are selected graduates from the Rural Institutes, will ensure co-ordination between the State Governments and the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation on the one hand, and the non-official institutions engaged in the training programme on the other; this will, at the same time, ensure that these young graduates receive sound practical training in rural development.

The training programme, which is to embrace 16 lakh Panchas, five lakh youth leaders, five lakh women workers, two

lakh members of Panchayat Samitis or Development Committees at the Block level, and 1½ lakh Panchayat Secretaries, is being implemented by the State Governments, with the assistance of official as well as non-official agencies.

The nucleus team will also help the non-official institutions in solving their day-to-day problems and will visit training camps, where they will stay with

the trainees for such periods as may be necessary.

With the implementation of the scheme of Panchayat Raj in different States, the training programme for non-officials has assumed special importance; for the Panchayats at the village level and the Panchayat Samitis at the Block level are now playing a very important role in the socio-economic development of the countryside.

Education & Culture

STATE AWARDS FOR FILMS FOR 1959

According to an announcement of April 9, 'Apar Sansar,' a feature film in Bengali, has been adjudged as the best by the Central Committee for State Awards for Films for 1959 and has won the President's Gold Medal. Its producer will get a cash prize of Rs. 20,000 and its director Rs. 5,000.

The All-India Certificate of Merit for the second best feature film goes to 'Heera Moti' in Hindi with a cash prize of Rs. 10,000 for the producer, and of Rs. 2,500 for the director. As the third best, 'Sujata' in Hindi will get the All-India Certificate of Merit.

The Children's film 'Banyan Deer' in English has been selected for the All-India Certificate of Merit.

Among the documentaries 'Kathakali' has been awarded the All-India Certificate of Merit with a cash prize of Rs. 2,000 for the producer and of Rs. 500 for the director. 'Mayurakshi', another documentary, secures the All-India Certificate of Merit only.

For the regional awards 'Anari' in Hindi, 'Pubarun' in Assamese, 'Bagapirivina' in Tamil and 'Namminabantu' in

Telugu have been chosen for the President's Silver Medal. 'Bicharak' in Bengali, 'Veerapandiya Kattabomman' and 'Kalyana Parisu' both in Tamil, and 'Maa Inti Mahalakshmi' and 'Jaya Bheri' in Telugu, 'Jagat-Joythi Basaweswara' in Kannada and 'Chaturangam' in Malayalam have been recommended for Certificates of Merit.

These awards have been announced by the Government of India on the recommendation of the Central Committee for State Awards for films, presided over by Dr. K.B. Bharucha. The Committee was in session in New Delhi from March 23 to April 2.

There were 59 feature films, 27 documentaries, 11 children's films, 6 educational films and 5 filmstrips entered in the competition. The Central Committee previewed 17 feature films, 4 children's film and 8 documentaries recommended by the Regional Committees.

The Government of India have from this year instituted two additional awards, one for educational films (16 mm) and another for filmstrips (35mm). The length of the children's films has been fixed at 8,000 ft. in 35 mm and 3200 ft. in 16mm.

Auditorium For A.I.R.

Shri K.C. Reddy, Union Minister of Works, Housing and Supply initiated the construction of the building of All India Radio Auditorium by digging the first sod of earth in Broadcasting House lawns in New Delhi on March 31. He was also joined in the digging by Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting.

The three-storey, 40 feet high, air-conditioned auditorium will cover a total area of 39,441 sq. ft. It is proposed to be completed before the Silver Jubilee of All India Radio next year. The auditorium which will be on the first floor will have a capacity of 650 seats, including those in the balcony.

Akashvani Sahitya Samaroh

Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, inaugurated the fifth Akashvani Sahitya Samaroh (Radio Literary Forum) in New Delhi on April 15. Over 100 literateurs from all over the country participated in the Samaroh, which lasted till April 17.

The theme for this year was the 'Growth and Development of Prose Style in Indian Literature'.

The Forum, an annual feature of All India Radio, provides an opportunity to eminent literary figures in various languages in the country to get together on one platform and discuss common problems.

AID TO EMINENT WRITERS

Dr. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 4 that, 107 writers were granted Government aid during 1958-59 under the Scheme of Financial assistance to persons distinguished in Letters, Art, etc.

Protected Monuments

In a Gazette Notification published on April 1, the Govern-

ment of India have deprotected 107 ancient and historical monuments in different parts of the country.

These monuments are hereafter to be looked after by the State Governments. The Centre's decision has been taken on the recommendation of the Standing Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology.

At present there are about 5,000 monuments on the National List to which additions are made periodically.

The Central Government have also a proposal to give grants to State Governments to enable them to properly look after the monuments transferred to them.

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, which came into force on October 15, 1959, envisages a greater measure of protection to cultural relics than was possible under the earlier Act of 1904. Under the new Act, 10 State Governments have set up Archaeological Departments.

Cultural Delegations To India In 1959

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 11, Dr. M.M. Das, Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, said, seven foreign cultural delegations visited India since August 1959. Of these three delegations were from Yugoslavia and one each from North Viet-Nam, Rumania, East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

In reply to another question Dr. Das said that nine cultural delegations were sent abroad from India during 1959. Of these six delegations were fully sponsored by the Government and three partially assisted by Government. The countries visited included Afghanistan, Belgium, Japan, Nepal, France, Switzerland, U.S.S.R., Yugoslavia, Poland and Rumania.

Advisory Committee On Higher Education

A meeting of the Advisory Committee on All India Institu-

tions of Higher Education was held in New Delhi on April 14.

Among other matters the Committee generally discussed the criteria for selection of institutions for assistance under this scheme and the scope and pattern of Central assistance. It also selected a number of institutions for assistance. In case of certain institutions it was decided to depute two of the Committee members to inspect them before arriving at any decision in regard to their selection for assistance.

Age Limit For Admission To Universities

In a statement laid on the table of the Rajya Sabha on April 12, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said that the University Grants Commission had decided that the age '17 plus' would be a desirable minimum age for admission to University courses. However, as it would be difficult immediately to enforce this, the Commission decided to suggest to the Universities that, for the present, as a first step, the minimum age of '16 plus' might be prescribed for admission to the first degree courses.

The main reason for prescribing the minimum age limit was that many Indian Universities took students at too early an age when they were neither sufficiently mature intellectually and otherwise nor adequately equipped to take full advantage of higher education.

NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR OF B.H.U.

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on April 11 says, the President, in his capacity as Visitor of the Banaras Hindu University, has been pleased to appoint Mr. Justice N.H. Bhagwati as the Vice-Chancellor of that University vice Dr. V.S. Jha resigned.

Advisory Board Of Anthropology Meets

The third meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Anthro-

pology was held in New Delhi on April 9, 1960, under the chairmanship of Dr. M.M. Das, Union Deputy Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

Measures for ensuring closer co-operation between the Central Department of Anthropology and the Universities in promoting research work, bringing up to date tribal monographs relating particularly to tribal groups in Southern India and expansion of certain activities of the Department of Anthropology were some of the subjects discussed at the meeting.

The Board has been set up by the Government of India with a view to promoting closer contacts between the Department of Anthropology, Universities and State Governments. Its main function is to advise the Government of India on matters relating to anthropology in India referred to it by the Central and State Governments or Members of the Board.

FRENCH SCHOLARSHIPS

According to a New Delhi announcement of April 12, the Government of France have offered nine scholarships to Indian nationals for study/research in France in any subject in Humanities during the academic year 1960-61.

The value of the scholarship is about Rs. 388 p.m. with exemption from tuition fees. Free medical service is provided and the cost of second class sea passage both ways is borne. The scholarship is tenable for eight months with the possibility of extension, if necessary.

The last date of receipt of applications in the Ministry of Education, Government of India, is May 15.

U.K. BURSARY IN HIGHWAY ENGINEERING

A New Delhi announcement of April 10 says, that the Federation of Manufacturers of Construction Equipment in the United Kingdom has offered a bursary to an overseas engineer for the Graduate Course in High-

way Engineering at Birmingham University.

The Federation will pay the bursar a sum of £ 400, in monthly instalments, to cover living expenses in addition to University and special fees and an allowance to meet the cost of travel in the United Kingdom. The cost of travel to and from the U.K. will not be met by the Federation. The duration of the bursary course will not exceed ten months.

Candidates should submit their applications to the Federation of Manufacturers of Construction Equipment, 121, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C. 4, England direct by June 6, 1960.

Sports Council Meets

The All-India Council of Sports, which met in New Delhi on April 11, recommended to the Government of India to locate the proposed National Institute of Sports (Central Coaching Institute) at Patiala. The Council unanimously elected Rajkumari Amrit Kaur as Vice-President of the Council.



HEART OPERATION

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 6, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that a successful heart operation on a dog by suspension of heart beat for 27 minutes was performed by a doctor at Kanpur.

The Minister added that experiments on temporarily suspending the heart were being carried out at several places in the country. In human beings also such experimental work had been undertaken in Bombay and Vellore for the performance of heart operations.

Surgical operations could help to relieve certain rheumatic heart diseases, particularly mitral stenosis.

In a Resolution the Council congratulated the Indian Table Tennis Team for winning the Rubber against Viet-Nam in the recent test series.

The request of the Indian Style Wrestling Federation, which has since changed its name to the Wrestling Association of India (Akhil Bharatiya Kushti Sangha), for recognition by the Council was approved.

The Council did not accept the programme for coaching in tennis submitted by the All-India Lawn Tennis Association, since the Rajkumari Coaching Scheme was already there for the purpose.

The request of the All-India Lawn Tennis Association for a grant for holding the annual Inter-State Junior Championships and a training camp during 1960 was examined and it was recommended that a grant upto 75 per cent of the admissible expenditure on the coaching camp and another grant not exceeding Rs. 5,000 for the championships may be paid.

D.D.T. Prices Reduced

A New Delhi announcement of April 8 says that a further cut of 20 per cent in the selling price of technical D.D.T. from Rs. 4 to Rs. 3.20 per kg. has been announced by the Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. Simultaneously, a reduction of 18 per cent in the selling price of formulated D.D.T. from Rs. 3.40 to Rs. 2.80 per kg. has also been announced. The reduced prices will apply to sales effected from April 1.

The Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. is managing the Government-owned D.D.T. factories at Delhi and Alwaye.

The price of D.D.T., both technical and formulated, has been progressively reduced, since production started in the Delhi factory in March 1955.

At the Alway factory, a peak production of over 250 tonnes of formulated D.D.T. was reached in January last. This exceeds not only the monthly target of 223 tonnes but also the installed capacity of 240 tonnes for the plant. In the Delhi factory, production of technical D.D.T. during the last 6 months averaged 130 tonnes per month, about 12 per cent higher than the rated capacity of the plant.

DRUGS CONTROL ACT VIOLATIONS

Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 13 that 275 cases of contravention of Drugs Control Act were detected in Delhi during 1959 and 20 prosecutions were launched. Four cases had been decided and 16 were pending.

Social Welfare

REPORT OF MINISTRY OF WORKS HOUSING AND SUPPLIES

The annual report for 1959-60 of the Union Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply indicates that out of the revised Second Plan allocation of Rs. 84 crores for Housing, Rs. 56 crores will have been spent by the end of this financial year.

During the year, three new schemes, namely, the Middle Income Group Housing Scheme, the Rental Housing Scheme for State Government Employees and the Land Acquisition and Development Scheme, were introduced.

PROGRESS OF HOUSING

Financial assistance sanctioned under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme, since its inception in September 1952 up to the end of December 1959, amounted to Rs. 35.34 crores, for about 1,09,600 houses, of which nearly 85,800 had been completed. The scheme has been amended to enable State Governments to provide open developed plots and skeletal houses at lower rents.

A sum of Rs. 29.72 crores had been advanced as loans to various States up to the end of March 1959 since the Low Income Group Housing Scheme was introduced in November 1954. Out of 71,400 houses

sanctioned up to July 31, 1959, about 42,660 had been completed.

Between May 1955, when the slum clearance scheme was started, and the end of December 1959, 145 slum clearance projects estimated to cost Rs. 10.31 crores were sanctioned or approved for the construction of 34,164 houses in various States. About 3,233 units had been completed and 11,761 were in progress.

The Plantation Labour Housing Scheme had not made satisfactory progress on account of inadequate response from planters. Up to the end of 1959, since the inception of the Scheme in April 1956, assistance of Rs. 5 lakhs had been sanctioned for 281 houses, of which 213 had been completed.

RURAL HOUSING

Of 5,000 villages to be selected during the Second Plan period under the Village Housing Projects Scheme, introduced in October 1957, 1,900 villages had been selected by various State Governments up to November 30, 1959. Approximately Rs. 100 lakhs had been sanctioned and Rs. 21 lakhs disbursed as loans up to the end of December, when 850 houses were completed and another 1,000 were under construction. Besides, 6 research-

cum-training centres were set up to undertake work on regional basis in building material and construction techniques.

Most of the States had drafted rules under the Middle Income Group Housing Scheme and begun disbursement of loans. Since its introduction in February 1959, the Life Insurance Corporation, which is financing the scheme, has allocated Rs. 7.44 crores for it.

The Corporation is also financing the Rental Housing Scheme for State Government employees announced in February 1959 and has loaned a sum of Rs. 3.56 crores to various States.

A provision of Rs. 15 crores for the remaining period of the Plan has been made under the Land Acquisition and Development Scheme launched in October 1959. The State Governments, however, can utilise during this period an amount not exceeding Rs. 2.90 crores.

Since the revival in April 1956 of the Scheme for the grant of advances to Central Government servants for building houses, 566 applications for loans aggregating to Rs. 83.38 lakhs have been approved.

The National Building Organisation organised two training courses for engineers — one in productivity in Building Industry and the other on Timber Engineering. It has prepared designs and estimates for rural houses after carrying out social, economic and engineering surveys in selected villages, one each in the States of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. It has also drawn up project proposals for the manufacture of boards and tiles out of low-grade gypsum, light-weight aggregates, and asphaltic corrugated roofing sheets.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Central Public Works Department completed in one season of about 8 months the barrage across the Jamuna river at Wazirabad near Delhi to improve water supply to the capi-

tal. Among other completed works are the raising and strengthening of the Shahdara bund and the bund between Shah Alam bridge and Grand Trunk road, desilting and removal of humps in the Najafgarh Jheel drain, a multi-storeyed office building on Parliament Street, about 2,400 quarters of various types in the General Pool office building for the Indian Medical Council, and additional blocks in the Safdarjang Hospital. Work on Maulana Azad's tomb and the submersible bridge over the river Chambal at Dholpur was also completed.

The Chief Technical Examiner's Organisation took up 15 vigilance cases for investigation during the year, bringing the total number so far under investigation to 39. Of these, 10 were finalised and disciplinary action taken against 23 officers.

To improve the functioning of the Estate Office, it was decided to reorganise and raise it to the status of a Directorate.

The Directorate of Supplies and Disposals made purchases amounting to Rs. 105.74 crores during the period April to December. Encouragement to indigenous industries enabled the Directorate to purchase Rs. 86.83 crores of stores of Indian manufacture during this period. The purchases made from the small-scale and cottage industries were valued at Rs. 2.98 crores.

The Inspection Wing inspected stores costing Rs. 151.80 crores during April to December against the value of stores amounting to Rs. 164.08 crores. The Disposals Wing cleared goods worth Rs. 1.55 crores against Rs. 11.06 crores total book value of surplus stores including the balance of Rs. 3.62 crores.

The Indian Store Department, London, made purchases of railway stores, plant and machinery, paper and paper machinery, engineering, electrical and scientific stores, chemical and aircraft equipment of the order of Rs. 30 crores during 1958-59 and Rs. 15 crores during April to December 1959.

The Indian Supply Mission, Washington, procured supplies under various aid agreements and under the P.L. 480 Programme. The total value of purchases during 1958-59 and 1959-60 (April to December 1959) was Rs. 112 and Rs. 70 crores respectively.

ENTERPRISES

The major Government of India Presses continued to work in multiple shifts to cope with the increasing requirements. Due to acute shortage of paper, a 15 per cent cut was imposed in the scale of issue of paper and paper-made stationery products to the Government departments. A committee has been set up to go into the matter to improve printing.

The Explosives Department inspected 5310 premises and 1,500 more are expected to be visited by the end of March 1960. It organised lectures at various institutions. A large number of live bombs were opened, examined and made harmless.

The Hindustan Housing Factory, which is now being run as a State enterprise, is being reorganised. The net profit so far has been over Rs. 1 lakh for the three years ended July 31, 1958.

In the case of the Ashoka Hotel, the rate of average occupancy per day, which was 80 during the first year ended September 1957, increased to over 280 in 1959.

Loans To States For Police Housing

A New Delhi announcement of April 13 says that more than Rs. 9 crores have so far been advanced as loans to the various States for their police housing schemes.

Loans were granted earlier on a matching basis, i.e., the State Governments meeting 50 per cent of the cost. Later, the Centre decided not to insist on the States providing a sum equal to the loan sought. The loans are repayable in 20 annual equated instalments, the first instalment commencing 5 years after date of receipt.

The break-up of figures from 1956-57 to 1958-59 showed that Madras drew the maximum amount, over Rs. 106 lakhs, while Uttar Pradesh came next with Rs. 97 lakhs. West Bengal received Rs. 70 lakhs, Bombay Rs. 63 lakhs, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa about Rs. 58 lakhs each, Madhya Pradesh Rs. 38 lakhs, Kerala Rs. 34 lakhs, Assam Rs. 21 lakhs, Mysore Rs. 33 lakhs, Bihar Rs. 3 lakhs, Punjab Rs. 15 lakhs, Rajasthan Rs. 21 lakhs and Jammu and Kashmir Rs. 9 lakhs.

Land Acquisition Loans To States

An announcement dated April 10 says that the Government of India have sanctioned loans totalling Rs. 38 lakhs to seven States under the Land Acquisition and Development Scheme of the Union Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply. Andhra Pradesh will be given a loan of Rs. 3.25 lakhs, Bombay Rs. 15 lakhs, Madras Rs. 4.25 lakhs, Mysore Rs. 2.20 lakhs, Orissa Rs. 60,000, Punjab Rs. 2.70 lakhs and Uttar Pradesh Rs. 10 lakhs. The loans will be repayable in 10 instalments. They carry an interest of 4 per cent per annum.

Rebate On Land To D.Ps.

An announcement dated April 6 says that the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation has decided to allow rebate at certain rates to displaced persons from West Pakistan who are in possession of urban evacuee houses in the Punjab. This concession will benefit displaced persons who had been allotted land in rural areas but had occupied evacuee urban houses.

Allottees of land up to 10 standard acres will now be allowed a rebate of Rs. 800; those having lands from 10 to 50 standard acres will be given a rebate of Rs. 1,200 and allottees of over 50 standard acres Rs. 1,500.

This decision will lead to a total rebate of Rs. 35 lakhs to

displaced persons while recovering the price of the urban houses from them.

Two 1000-Acre Farms In Dandakaranya

A New Delhi announcement of April 1 says that two 1000-acre mixed farms are being set up in Dandakaranya for the benefit of D.P.s from East Pakistan.

The farms for which the Dandakaranya Development Authority has sanctioned Rs. 25 lakhs will be in Paralkote (Madhya Pradesh) and Umerkote (Orissa).

Being set up to rehabilitate 2,500 displaced families, the farms will have 5 sections: seed multiplication, horticulture, dairy, poultry and fishery.

DAMS IN DANDAKARANYA

A New Delhi announcement of April 15 says that two earthen dams are to be constructed in Dandakaranya for providing irrigation facilities to displaced persons from East Pakistan who are being settled there.

Estimated to cost over Rs. two crores, the dams will be constructed across the Bhaskel and Sattiguda rivers in Umerkot and Malkangiri areas of Orissa.

The foundation stone of the Bhaskel dam is scheduled to be laid during the last week of this month.

Designed to irrigate 11,000 acres of Khariff crops and 5,500 acres of Rabi crops, the Bhaskel dam will be over 5,000 feet long and 74 feet high at the deepest bed level.

The Sattiguda dam will irrigate 30,000 acres during Khariff and 15,000 acres during Rabi. It will be more than 6,000 feet long and 74 feet high at the deepest bed of the river.

Loans To D.P.s. From E. Pakistan

A New Delhi announcement of April 5 says that more than eight lakh D.P.s from East Pakistan will benefit by the Union Government's decision to convert certain types of loans given to them into grants.

According to this decision all maintenance loans given to the D.P.s so far by the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation will not be recovered. Such loans total to Rs. 5.5 crores.

It has also been decided that loans advanced so far to the State Governments for meeting the recurring expenditure on educational institutions for East Pakistan D.P.s will be converted into grants.

In the case of loans advanced to non-official educational institutions for building capital assets, each case would be considered on its merits and remissions allowed after taking into consideration the outstanding amounts and the paying capacity of the institutions. Under this decision loans amounting to about Rs. one crore would be remitted.

The Government has also decided to liberalise the terms and conditions for urban, trade, agricultural and housing loans. Urban and trade loans will now be recovered in 10 years and agricultural and housing loans in 20 years. Previously the period of repayment ranged from six to 10 years.

Reference To Caste Dropped

An announcement of April 14 says that the Centre has informed the State Governments to delete the reference to caste or sect in registers or forms used for purposes of services, education, judicial proceedings, etc.

The new forms or registers will seek information only on nationality, religion and whether a person is a member of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe, the reference to which is for fulfilling the statutory obligation.

The column on religion will be retained because it is felt that such an information is likely to be useful in connection with the compilation of vital statistics and for the maintenance of records.

Earlier, the Union Home Ministry had asked the State Governments their views on the subject. All the State Governments accepted the need for abolition of references to castes, sects, etc., in matters relating to State or its Services.

Already it has been decided that castes will not be enumerated in the 1961 Census except in the case of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes where it is necessary to know their total population to implement the guarantees provided in the Constitution.

Labour & Employment

STUDY REPORT OF NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

The report of the National Employment Service of the Ministry of labour and Employment, released on April 5, shows that, craftsmen, who had passed Matriculation, got preference in employment over others. Out

of the total number of craftsmen who had registered at Employment Exchanges, 29.3 per cent had passed Matriculation or higher examinations.

The report says that, out of every 100 craftsmen, registered

at the Exchanges, ten sought employment in Government. The percentage of applicants desiring Government jobs was the highest among overseers, (21%), draughtsmen (civil), turners, wiremen, sign-writers (14% each) and plumbers and carpenters (12% each).

TRADE-WISE DISTRIBUTION

Occupationally, a large number of craftsmen were registered in the trades of carpenter, fitter, automobile mechanic and electrician (above 3,000 each). Few persons registered in the trades of sign-writer, wireless operator, refrigeration mechanic, electroplater, instrument mechanic, metal grinder, watch and clock repairer, pattern maker, tool-maker, tractor mechanic and stationary engine driver (less than 500 each). Other trades ranged between these two groups. Women craftsmen were registered in small numbers only in the trades of draughtsmen, radio-mechanic, surveyor and overseer.

By and large, the age of craftsman did not seem to confer any advantage in placement, younger and other groups competing on equal terms in this respect.

INSTITUTIONAL TRAINING

Of those registered at Exchanges, 50 per cent had certificates of institutional training as craftsmen. The percentage of certificate holders was high among overseers, draughtsmen, surveyors, pattern makers, radio-mechanics and wireless operators. The percentage was low among watch and clock repairers, painters, grinders and carpenters.

Over fiftyfour per cent of the craftsmen on the Live Register had no previous experience (as distinct from institutional training) in the trade in which they had registered. Experienced craftsmen appear to have a better chance of placement than others. The position, however, varied from trade to trade.

Out of 1.2 million employment-seekers of all types, who had registered till the end of

September 1958, 45,000 i.e. 3.75 per cent, were craftsmen.

A study of the Statewise distribution of craftsmen showed that West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Bombay accounted for 47 per cent of the total number of craftsmen.

The report embodies the findings of a study undertaken to collect details regarding the age, general education, training, previous experience and occupational preference of craftsmen on the Live Registers of Employment Exchanges in 31 trades in which training facilities are provided by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment. A sample of 11,172 craftsmen from the Live Registers of 196 Exchanges was chosen for this purpose. This represented 25% of the applicants in these trades.

EDUCATED UNEMPLOYED

The Union Deputy Minister for Labour, Shri Abid Ali, said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 12 that till the end of March, 1960, 26,380 educated applicants were on the Live Register of the Employment Exchange in Delhi. This consisted of 4,014 Graduates, 2,202 Intermediates and 20,164 Matriculates.

Employment Exchanges Act To Be Enforced

A New Delhi announcement of April 7 says that the Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959, will come into force on May 1, 1960 in all States, except Jammu and Kashmir, and in the Union Territories of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur and Tripura.

The Act requires employers to notify compulsorily to Employment Exchanges certain categories of vacancies and also furnish them staff strength returns at regular intervals.

Government have drawn up draft rules to carry out the purposes of the Act. These rules have now been published and will be finalised after the comments of interests concerned are received.

Incentive Scheme For Chittaranjan Workers

The Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 1 that the workers and supervisors up to the level of chargeman directly engaged on the production of locomotives had been brought under an incentive bonus scheme.

Under the scheme, the maximum bonus earning of a worker had been limited to 50 per cent of his standard basic wage.

Replying to another part of the question, the Deputy Minister said that the total basic wages of the workers on the incentive scheme and their bonus earnings for December 1959 were Rs. 2,24,000 and Rs. 89,000 respectively.

Provident Fund For Workers' Housing

An announcement of April 12 says that the Government of India have amended the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952, to enable industrial workers to draw non-refundable advances from their deposits in the Fund for acquiring houses under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme or for purchase or construction of houses by them direct.

As regards acquisition of a house under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme, a worker, who is a member of the Fund, can draw an advance not exceeding 12 months' basic wages or his own total contribution in the Fund, with interest thereon, or his own share of cost of the house, whichever is less.

Where a member wants to purchase or construct a house independently, he will be entitled to an advance not exceeding 12 months' basic wages or his own contribution, with interest thereon, whichever is less.

The Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, which initially applied to 6 industries, has now been extended to 41 industries. Till the end of December 1959,

7,182 establishments, employing 26.46 lakh employees were covered by the Scheme. The total accumulations in the Fund were about Rs. 160 crores ex-

cluding the amounts refunded or paid out as loans or given to members for financing insurance policies.

The States

Budget Of Manipur For 1960-61

A New Delhi announcement of April 10 says that the Union Territory of Manipur will spend during 1960-61 almost 13 times more than its earnings—Rs. 525.97 lakhs against Rs. 39.89 lakhs. The deficit will be made up by the Centre which has brought the Territory under its fostering care to help it develop as fast as possible.

A substantial portion of Manipur's budget goes to roads and social services. Out of the Second Plan's provision of Rs. 186.72 lakhs for roads, Rs. 116.72 lakhs are expected to be spent by April this year and the rest by April next year.

A net of small channels irrigated during the last year over 2,900 acres of land. More than 1,600 acres of land were reclaimed and another 559 brought under terraced cultivation.

ASSENT FOR BOMBAY BILL

An announcement of April 12 says that the President has given assent to the Bombay Co-operative Societies (Extension) Bill, 1960.

The legislation seeks to replace the Bombay Co-operative Societies (Extension) Ordinance promulgated in February 1960 in the State.

In view of the impending bifurcation of the State, it is also proposed to constitute separate Co-operative Tribunals for the areas concerned.

ASSENT FOR RAJASTHAN BILL

An announcement of April 11 says, the President has given

assent to the Rajasthan Tenancy (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 1958, which seeks to provide for the imposition of ceilings on holdings of agricultural land.

Provision has also been made in the Bill for acquisition of lands and payment of compensation.

Defence

DEFENCE SCIENCE LABORATORY

The Defence Science Laboratory was formally opened at its new premises in Delhi by the Defence Minister, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, on April 9.

The Laboratory had until recently functioned at its former location in the National Physical Laboratory in New Delhi. Since its start in 1950, its activities have embraced various aspects of defence science, including operational research, ballistics, environmental physiology, military explosives, soil research, time and motion study and electronics. It has thus been responsible for fundamental and applied research on scientific matters relating to defence.

One of the chains of technical establishments and research laboratories under the Defence Research and Development Organisation, the Laboratory has gradually expanded its activities with the growing emphasis on self-sufficiency in defence equipment.

ASSENT FOR BOMBAY BILL

According to an announcement of April 13, the President has given assent to the Bombay Khadi and Village Industries Bill, 1960.

The Bill seeks to replace the Bombay Khadi and Village Industries Ordinance, promulgated in February, 1960, to consolidate different Acts now in force in various parts of Bombay State on the subject. It will also enable the Government to form regional Boards so that from the very day of bifurcation of the State, the new Boards set up might continue to function in the two States without further legislative action.

Concurrently with the opening of the D.S.L., an exhibition of some important defence equipment of general interest was arranged to create among the public an awareness of the problems connected with scientific research in defence.

N.C.C. Rifles Target Exceeded

Inaugurating the 18th N.C.C. Circle Commanders' Conference on April 1, the Defence Minister, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, announced that 55,700 cadets, including more than 3,000 girls, had been enrolled to the new National Cadet Corps Rifles during the 1959-60 financial year, thus exceeding the target by 5,700.

The target set for 1959-60 was 50,000 while that for 1960-61 is 2,00,000. The State of Madras had enrolled the largest number of cadets (9,412), followed by Bombay (7,110), Uttar Pradesh (6,000), Punjab (4,650), Bihar (4,600), Kerala (4,472), Rajasthan (4,400) and Andhra Pradesh (4,098).

Shri Krishna Menon also disclosed that the present strength of the N.C.C. stood at 2,35,480 cadets and 5,246 officers and that of the A.C.C. at 9,53,994 cadets and 16,754 teachers. During the past year alone 47,000 cadets had been enrolled to the N.C.C. and 1,16,000 to the A.C.C.

CONTINGENT IN GAZA

Lt.-Gen. P.S. Gyani, Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force in the Gaza Strip, presented UNEF medals to 992 officers and other ranks of the Indian contingent, comprising the 4th battalion, the Kumaon Regiment, on March 31.

At a ceremonial parade of the Indian contingent, Gen. Gyani took the salute. Addressing the parade, he congratulated the battalion on winning the UNEF medal. Recalling the war service of the 4th battalion in Palestine where it won the battle honours, he said that the battalion was now in the same region

on a different role as guardians of the peace.

Refreshers' Course For Cantonment Officers

The Defence Minister, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, inaugurated the second three-week refreshers' course for a batch of 20 senior officers of the Military Lands and Cantonments Service in New Delhi on April 11.

Those participating in the course will prepare reports on suggested contents of the third five-year development programme in the cantonments, which includes low-cost housing, introduction of compulsory education, urban water supply and sanitation plans, establishment of industrial estates in selected areas for the resettlement of ex-Servicemen, raising the non-tax resources of the cantonment boards and development of an urban co-operative movement in the cantonments.

AIR FORCE DAY

Air Force Day was celebrated all over India on April 1—the day on which fell the 27th anniversary of the Service.

Ceremonial parades, sports, dramatic and cultural programmes formed part of the celebrations at all Air Force units and stations. Collections for the Air Force Benevolent fund were also made.

Auxiliary Air Force squadrons and NCC units, located near the Air Force stations, participated in the celebrations.

Bombay was the venue for the main celebrations on April 3. Lakhs of people gathered at Marine Drive to witness an air display and fire-power demonstration by jets and other aircraft. As part of the celebrations, a static display of IAF aircraft and equipment was also held at the Santa Cruz airfield for a week starting from April 2 to 10.

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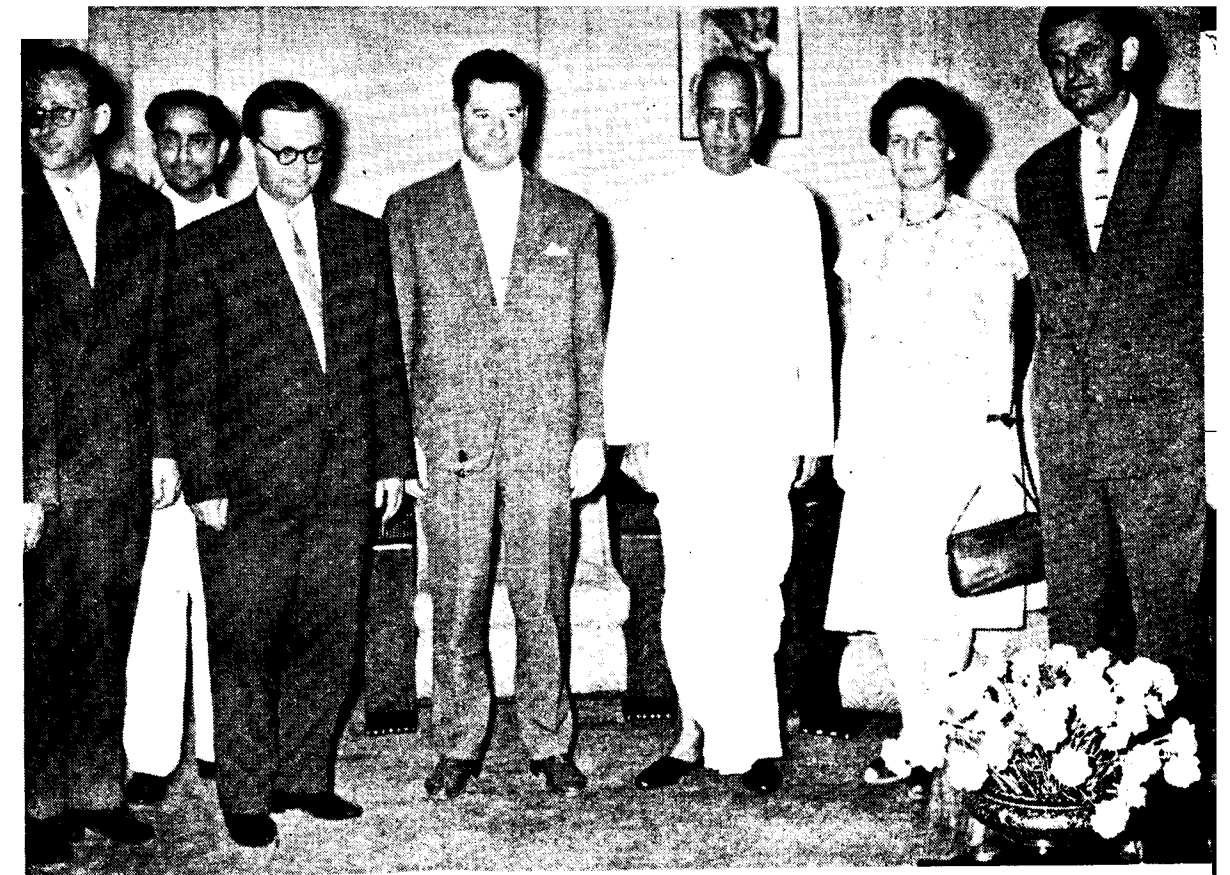
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Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Chanakypuri, New Delhi-21.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

APRIL 1 To 15

- April 1** — Five-Year Interest-Free Prize Bonds are put on sale all over the country by the Government of India
- Air Force Day is celebrated by the Air Force units at all stations in the country
- 2** — The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, inaugurates the Bar Association of India in New Delhi
- 4** — The Government of India announce decision on the Tariff Commission's Report on the Cost Structure of Sugar (1959)
- The Government of India extend the control on sugar prices to factories in South Bihar
- The All-India Manufacturers' Organisation concludes its two-day session in New Delhi
- 6** — Mr. B.H. Benn, Minister of Natural Resources, British Guiana, arrives in Delhi on a fortnight's visit to India
- The Rajya Sabha resumes its session after a break of twenty-five days
- 7** — The World Health Day is observed in India
- 8** — A cultural delegation from Yugoslavia arrives in New Delhi on a week's visit
- The report of the Small Scale Industries Productivity Team, sponsored by the National Productivity Council of India, is released
- 9** — The third meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Anthropology is held in New Delhi
- 10** — H.E. Gamal Abdel-Nasser, President of the UAR, leaves Bombay for Karachi
- Celebrations of the Railway Week begin
- 11** — The latest Note from China, dated April 3, received in reply to the Government of India's Note of February 12, is placed on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament
- The thirteenth meeting of the All-India Council of Sports is held in New Delhi
- 12** — The International Court of Justice at the Hague gives its judgment on Portugal's application for recognition of her right of passage through Indian territory between Daman and the inland enclaves of Dadra and Nagar Haveli
- President Rajendra Prasad gives away the Sangeet Natak Akademi awards at a special ceremony in New Delhi
- 14** — A Pakistan Government delegation arrives in New Delhi for talks on transport facilities between East and West Pakistan across the Indian railways and similar facilities between West Bengal and Assam across the East Pakistan railways
- 15** — Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, inaugurates the fifth Akashvani Sahitya Samaroh in New Delhi
- The All-India Law Conference opens at Patna

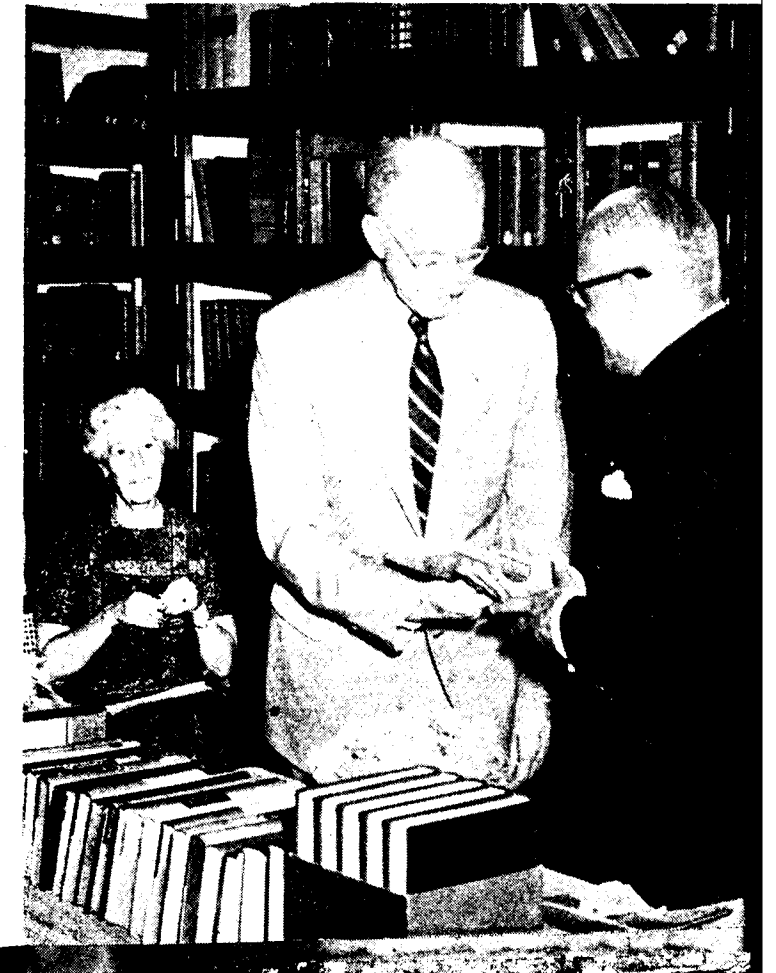
Members of the Yugoslav Cultural Delegation, now touring India, with the Vice-President, Dr. Radhakrishnan, in New Delhi on April 9



Shri S.K. Dey, Minister for Community Development and Co-operation, awarding on April 8, a prize comprising a bicycle and National Plan Savings Certificates worth Rs. 2,270, to the best Gram Sevak in the country, Shri V.S. Karjigi of Daranagere Block in the Chitradurga District of Mysore State



The U.S. Ambassador in India, H.E. Mr. Ellsworth Bunker, presenting on behalf of the Executive Committee of International Commission of Jurists, a set of books on American Jurisprudence to the Chief Justice of India, Shri B.P. Sinha, in New Delhi on April 6





Shri K.P.S. Menon, India's Ambassador in the U.S.S.R., presenting on behalf of the Government of India, a *Veena* to the Director of the Zunacharsky Institute of Dramatic Art in Moscow

Smt. Ram (left), wife of the Railway Minister, examining an embroidery work displayed at a Handicrafts Exhibition in New Delhi on April 11, held as part of the Railway Week celebrations



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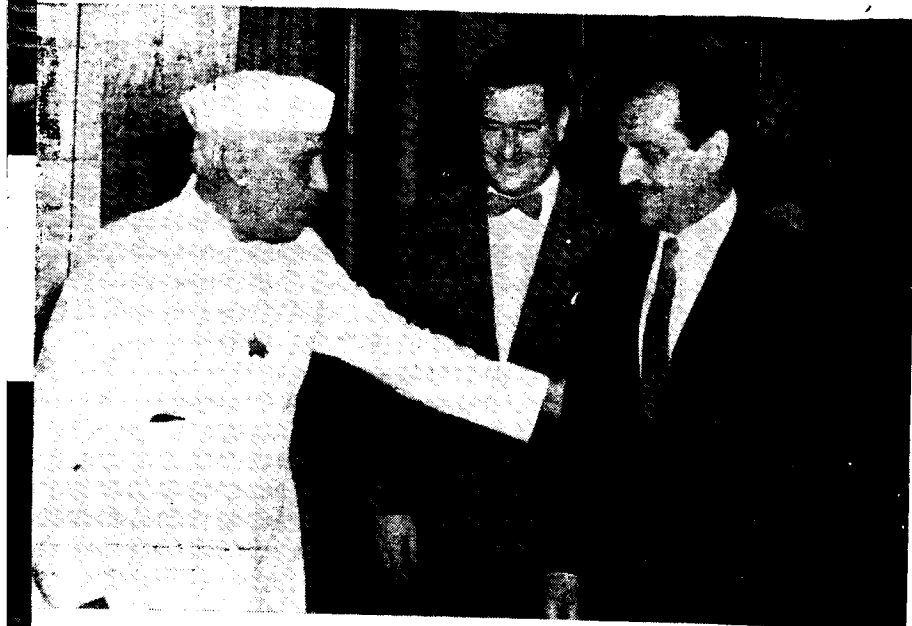
May 15, 1960 (Vaisakha 25, 1882)

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The Vice-President of the Philippines, H.E. Mr. Diosdado Macapagal and Mrs. Macapagal, who are on a short visit to India, with the Vice-President, Dr. Radhakrishnan, in New Delhi on April 29



The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, with H.E. Mr. Koca Popovic, Foreign Minister of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, in New Delhi on April 27



Dr. B.V. Keskar, Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Leader of the Indian Delegation, and Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Minister of National Reconstruction and Information and Leader of the Pakistan Delegation (third from left) at a meeting of the Indo-Pakistan Information Consultative Committee in New Delhi on April 27

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COVER: H.E. Mr. Chou En-lai, Prime Minister of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, being received at the Palam Airport, New Delhi, by the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, on April 19.

(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

TALKS ON SINO-INDIAN BORDER ISSUES

The following Joint Communiqué was issued in New Delhi on April 25 at the conclusion of the talks between Prime Minister Nehru and Premier Chou En-lai on the Sino-Indian border issues:

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, His Excellency Mr. Chou En-lai, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, arrived in Delhi on April 19 to discuss certain differences relating to the border areas which have arisen between the Government of India

and the Government of the People's Republic of China.

His Excellency Mr. Chou En-lai was accompanied by His Excellency Marshal Chen Yi, Vice-Premier of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Mr. Chang Han-fu, Vice-Foreign Minister of China, and other officials of the Chinese Government. His Excellency the Premier and his party concluded their visit to India on the morning of April 26.

The two Prime Ministers had several long, frank and friendly talks between themselves. Their Excellencies the Premier of the Chinese People's

Republic and the Vice-Premier also had long talks with the President, the Vice-President and several senior Ministers of the Government of India.

The two Prime Ministers explained fully their respective stands on the problems affecting the border areas. This led to greater understanding of the views of the two Governments, but the talks did not result in resolving the differences that had arisen. The two Prime Ministers were of the opinion that further examination should take place by officials of the two sides

of the factual material in the possession of both the Governments.

The two Prime Ministers, therefore, agreed the officials of the two Governments should meet and examine, check and study all historical documents, records, accounts, maps and other material relevant to the boundary question, on which each side relied in support of its stand, and draw up a report for submission to the two Governments. This report would list the points on which there was agreement and the points on which there was disagreement or which should be examined more fully and clarified. This report should prove helpful towards further consideration of those problems by the two Governments.

It was further agreed that the officials should meet from June to September, 1960, alternately in the capitals of the two countries. The first meeting should take place in Peking and the officials would report to the two Governments by the end of September, 1960. During the period of further examination of the factual material, every effort should be made by the parties to avoid friction and clashes in the border areas.

Advantage was taken of the meeting by the two Prime Ministers to discuss certain other important problems in world affairs. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the forthcoming conference in Paris of the heads of Governments and expressed the hope that this conference would help in lessening international tensions, banning the production and use of nuclear weapons and promoting disarmament.

RECEPTION AT PALAM

Earlier welcoming Premier Chou En-lai at Palam Airport, on April 19, the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, said:

'In welcoming you today as our honoured guest, I am reminded of your previous visits to India. You came here first nearly six years ago after the Geneva Conference on Indo-China. Later, Your Excellency came about three years ago as the representative of a great people conveying your greetings and good wishes to our people, which we reciprocated in full measure. It had been our firm policy previously, and it was so then and later, to have a

bond of friendship between our two great countries without in any way interfering with each other's internal affairs. That was confirmed at Bandung and by the five Principles. We felt that that friendship was necessary not only for our two countries, but for peace in Asia and the world.

Unfortunately other events have taken place since then which have put a great strain on this bond of friendship and which have given a shock to all our people. Thus our relations have been imperilled in the present and for the future, and the very basis on which they stood has been shaken.

It is our belief that peace is essential for the world, and necessarily for our two countries in their relations with each other. But that peace has to be based on good faith and understanding and in a strict adherence to those principles we had once proclaimed. It has to be not only an external peace, but also a peace of the mind.

We are thus faced with grave problems which disturb the minds of millions of people. It is a hard task to go back and recover that feeling of good faith and friendship, and yet the future depends upon this. I earnestly trust that our efforts will be directed towards undoing much that has happened and thus recovering that climate of peace and friendship on which our relations ultimately depend.

CHINESE PREMIER'S REPLY

In reply, Premier Chou En-lai said:

I am glad to come once again to the capital of our great neighbour, the Republic of India. I am sincerely grateful for the invitation extended by Prime Minister Nehru and for the welcome accorded to me by you, my Indian friends. On behalf of the Chinese Government and people, I would like to extend cordial greetings to the Indian Government and the great Indian people.

Both our countries, China and India, are now engaged in large-scale and long-term economic construction. Both of us need peace. Both of us need friends. Peace and friendship are the fundamental interests of the peoples of our two

countries. We have jointly initiated the Five Principles of peaceful co-existence. There is no reason why any question between us cannot be settled reasonably through friendly consultations in accordance with these principles. The Chinese Government has always advocated the holding of talks between the Prime Ministers of the two countries to seek avenues to a reasonable settlement of the boundary question and other questions. This time, I have come with the sincere desire to settle questions. I earnestly hope that, through our joint efforts, our meeting will be able to yield positive and useful results.

The friendship between the peoples of China and India is everlasting. Our two peoples have been friendly to each other over thousands of years in the past. We shall remain friendly to each other for thousands and tens of thousands of years to come. History will continue to bear out that the great solidarity of the one thousand million people of our two countries cannot be shaken by any force on earth.

Long live China-India friendship.

STATE BANQUET

Speaking at a State banquet held in honour of Premier Chou En-lai at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on April 20, the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, said:

We are meeting here today to do honour to the Prime Minister of China who is our respected guest not only on his individual capacity, but also as the representative of a great nation. We have had the privilege and pleasure of welcoming him on several occasions previously in our country. It was a matter of deep satisfaction to us that the two great countries of Asia, India and China, were forging bonds of friendship in the present age, even as they had lived in friendship through ages past. This friendship and co-operation appeared to us to be a guarantee of peace in Asia. Thus this friendship with this great neighbour of ours became one of the cornerstones of India's policy.

We meet today, however, under different circumstances when serious disagreements have unfortunately arisen between us. That is a misfortune for all of us and, I think,

for the world. It is a double misfortune for us in India because we have been conditioned for long years past to believe in peace and in peaceful methods and to consider war a thing of horror, unbecoming to civilised nations. We have opposed not only war but also what is called the 'cold war' because this represented the approach of hatred and violence. We have endeavoured to follow, in our limited and imperfect way, the teaching of two great sons of India, the Buddha and Gandhi.

It is strange and a matter for great sorrow for us that events should have so shaped themselves as to challenge that very basis of our thinking and caused our people to apprehend danger on our peaceful frontiers along the great Himalayan mountains which we have loved for thousands of years and which have stood as sentinels guarding and inspiring our people.

You, Sir, have come here at this critical moment and we welcome your visit. Much has happened which has pained our people, much has been done which we think should be undone, much has been said which had better been left unsaid. We have to try to the best of our ability to find a right and peaceful solution to the problems that have arisen. That solution must be in consonance with the dignity and self-respect of each country as well as in keeping with the larger cause of peace in Asia and the world.

We have raised the banner of peace before other countries and we cannot afford, and the world can ill afford, for us to let this slip from our hands.

We meet here at a difficult and crucial moment in the world's history and in our own relations. Thousands of years of two great and ancient civilisations stand as witness to our meeting, and the hope of hundreds of millions for a happier future are tied up in our endeavours. Let us pray for our success so that we may be true to this past of ours as well as the future that beckons to us. For our part, I can assure you, Mr. Prime Minister, that we shall endeavour to do our utmost so that our efforts may lead to success and to the maintenance of peace with dignity and self-respect

of both our great nations. As the Buddha said, the real victory is the victory of all which involves no defeat.

I feel that you have the same urge for peace and co-operation and that with our joint endeavours, we shall not only halt the unhappy process of deterioration in our countries' relations, but also take a step towards their betterment.

CHINESE PREMIER'S SPEECH

Replying to the toast, Premier Chou En-lai said:

Nearly three and a half years have passed since I last visited your great country. During this period, great changes favourable to world peace and human progress have further taken place in the world, and our two countries have scored not a few achievements in building our respective lands. In the last one year and more, although there occurred certain difficulties in the relations between our two countries owing to temporary differences of opinion on the boundary question between the two countries and certain unfortunate and unexpected incidents, this should not, nor can it, shake the foundation of the long-standing friendship between our two peoples. The friendly contacts between our two peoples have a history of thousands of years. Since our two countries attained independence respectively, this age-old traditional friendship has undergone further development on a new basis. In order to build up our respective countries and safeguard Asia and world peace, we need to continue to strengthen our mutual friendly co-operation. I am deeply convinced that the profound friendship between our two peoples is unshakable.

There is nothing more important to our two peoples than our respective cause of construction. Although our countries have different social systems and follow different roads in their construction, they suffer from equally serious poverty and backwardness caused by colonialism and face equally arduous tasks of construction. It is therefore very natural that our two peoples should be concerned for each other and learn from each other while engaging in their respective construction. The Economic Construction Exhibi-

tion held by India in our country in 1956 aroused the great interest of our people. The Indian people, too, attached importance to the Chinese Agricultural Exhibition held in Delhi this year. The Chinese people have had the honour of receiving quite a number of specialised Indian delegations, and Chinese delegations of similar nature have also visited and studied in India. It should be admitted that not enough has been done in the past to exchange experience in construction between our two countries. In the future, along with the further development of construction in our two countries, it is necessary to strengthen particularly this important link in the friendly co-operation between our two countries.

The Chinese people are devoting all their energy to increasing production, improving the living standards and rapidly building their country into a truly prosperous and strong one. In the past ten years and more, the Chinese people have scored some achievements in these respects. However, those achievements are still extremely limited compared to the tremendous tasks to be accomplished in the future. The Chinese people are fully aware that they will have to make strenuous efforts for several more decades in order to completely lift themselves from backwardness. The Chinese people not only are determined to build up their own country, but sincerely hope that their friendly neighbour India and other Asian and African countries will also quickly grow prosperous and strong. The Asian and African peoples are all industrious and talented, and they all cherish the strong desire of freeing themselves from poverty and backwardness. With this most favourable condition plus our rich resources, it is entirely possible for us to overcome all the difficulties encountered in our construction and to develop our industrial and agricultural production. We Asian and African countries should have the self-confidence that what the Western countries can do, we also can do, and will certainly do even better than they. The dire sufferings brought by colonial rule made us unite together; the glorious tasks of construction should make us unite together even more closely.

We all urgently need a lasting peaceful international environment so that we can devote all our efforts to domestic construction. Both our countries have made unremitting efforts in the cause of safeguarding Asian and world peace. We jointly initiated the Five Principles of peaceful co-existence and carried out good co-operation at the Bandung Conference, that the movements against colonialism and racial discrimination and for winning and safeguarding national independence in Asia, Africa and Latin America have won a continuous series of victories. The Chinese Government and people have adhered faithfully to the five Principles and remained loyal to the Bandung spirit; they have always supported the struggles of Asian and African peoples and safeguarded the solidarity of Asian and African countries; this stand of China's is firm and unshakable. Some people do not think so, but this we do not mind. We believe that, provided they do not bear us any ill will, they will come to a correct understanding after a period of observation.

As to the present world situation, the prospects for winning peace are brighter than ever before. Like India, China hopes that the conference concerning disarmament and the forthcoming East-West conference of government heads will lead to further relaxation of the international situation. But some influential circles in the world are still engaging in armament expansion and war preparations, reinforcing their aggressive military alliances, expanding their military bases abroad, and seeking by every means to poison the international atmosphere and obstruct East-West agreement on a number of important international issues. What is particularly worthy of note is that, fostered by these circles, the militarist and fascist forces which launched the last World War are now reviving and once again menacing the peace and security of the world. All this shows that the safeguarding of world peace is still an arduous task. Under these circumstances, it is necessary for China and India to strengthen their friendly co-operation so that they, together with other peace-loving countries and people of the world, can make significant

contributions to world peace and the progress of mankind.

As to the boundary question between our two countries, it is, in our opinion, only an issue of a limited and temporary nature compared with the fundamental question of preserving friendly co-operation between our two countries. To use a common Chinese expression, it concerns only one finger out of ten. Of course, we recognize that a settlement of the Sino-Indian boundary question has its difficult aspects, because this is an extremely complicated question left to our two countries by colonialism; yet, on the other hand, we also have favourable conditions for settling this question, because both our countries have attained independence and share the desire for friendly co-operation, and it is possible for us not to be bound any longer by outdated ideas. The Chinese Government and myself are deeply convinced that so long as we constantly care for the long-term interests of the friendship between our two countries, take into consideration both the historical background and the present actualities, act on the basis of the Five Principles and in the spirit of mutual understanding and mutual accommodation, it is entirely possible to achieve a fair and reasonable overall settlement of the boundary question between the two countries. The Sino-Indian boundary question is left over by history; it is not created by either of our two Governments. The Chinese Government, in particular, does not wish to see the relations between our two countries affected by the boundary question. In order to seek various avenues to a peaceful settlement of the boundary question, the Chinese Government has never stinted exerting its greatest possible efforts. I sincerely hope that the present meeting between the Premiers of the two countries will yield positive and useful results.

As His Excellency Prime Minister Nehru aptly put it, friendship is necessary not only for our two countries, but for peace in Asia and the world. I believe that our joint efforts will surely uphold and develop the friendship between our two countries. I thank once again His Excellency Prime Minister Nehru and the Indian Government for their

invitation and hospitality and heartily wish even more and greater achievements for the Indian people in the great cause of building up their country and defending peace in Asia and the world.

LOK SABHA DEBATE

On April 26, the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha a copy of the joint communique on his talks with Premier Chou En-lai. Replying to a number of questions on the subject, the Prime Minister referred to the Press conference by Premier Chou En-lai the previous night in Delhi.

According to the script which was given to the press, Premier Chou En-lai made the following six points:

1. There exists a dispute on the boundary between the two parties.
2. There exists between the two countries a line of actual control up to which each side exercises administrative jurisdiction.
3. While determining the boundary between the two countries, certain geographical principles such as watershed, river valley and mountain passes could be applicable equally to all sectors of the boundary.
4. A settlement of the boundary question between the two countries should take into account the national feelings of the two peoples for the Himalayas and the Karakoram mountains.
5. Pending settlement of the boundary question through discussions, both sides should keep to the line of actual control and should not put forward territorial claims as preconditions, but individual adjustments may be made.
6. In order to ensure tranquillity on the border so as to facilitate the discussions, both sides should continue to refrain from patrolling along all sectors of the boundary.

Commenting on the last point, Shri Nehru said: This is what he has said. This is not something that I agreed to. In fact, he said before stating this, that: "On the boundary question, it is not impossible for the two sides to find common point or points of proximity, which in my view may be summarised as follows: .."

and then he has summarised them. He has given his view; it is not so clear, but there it is. Anyhow, I am not agreeable to this particular approach, but I should like to make one or two things clear.

I believe he was asked something about 'Were you asked to vacate?'. In what form, I do not remember. I think he said that he was not asked to vacate or something like that.

The Prime Minister of the Chinese People's Republic presumably came here because something important had happened, the important thing being, that according to us they had entered our territory, over a large area of our territory, which we considered aggression. That was the whole basis of his coming here. In one or two public statements I made at the airport and at the banquet, I had repeatedly referred to something which had been done and which should be undone...

The whole argument was based, our argument was based, on the Chinese forces having come into our territory. Their argument was based on the fact that they have always been there, that is to say, not those particular forces, but that the Chinese authorities either of Sinkiang in the north or of Tibet have been in constructive or actual possession of these areas not now, but for two hundred years. That was such a variance in the factual state that there was no meeting-ground, when, according to us, and we repeat that now too after all these talks, that their forces came into this area within quite recent times; naturally, they did not enter a broad area on

one date, but in the main, they had come to this area in the course of the last year and a half or so. That is our position...

Their reply to that was that they have been in constructive and actual possession or actual possession of this for two hundred years. Now, there is some difference, factual difference between the two statements, a very considerable difference, and there it is.

And naturally, in the course of our long talks, we considered various things they had to say and I had to say. We listened to each other. This basic disagreement about historical and actual facts came up again and again.

Now, we are quite clear in our minds about our facts, and we are prepared to, and we did state them, and we are prepared to establish them with such material as we have got. The Chinese position was, as I said, basically different from facts; historically, actually, practically, they are quite different.

Also, the attempt was made, it was frequently stated, to equate the eastern sector with the Western sector. That is, according to the Chinese, although in the eastern sector, we had no right to be there, we had nevertheless advanced gradually in the course of the last few years, last six or seven or eight or ten years to the present boundary line which we call the MacMahon Line. They equated it to the Western sector, although the conditions are quite different and the facts are quite different.

So the position emerged that apart from friendly sentiments and all that, the actual discussion came against a rock of an entirely different set of facts. If facts differ, if inferences differ, arguments differ; after all, every argument, every inference, depends on a certain set of facts. If the basic facts are different, then, there is no meeting-ground at all, unless some slight clarification takes place about certain basic facts.

Therefore, it was suggested and ultimately agreed to, that

these facts should be explored from the material available with us and with the Chinese Government. I had suggested that it might be done here and now, but, to that, while we were prepared to do it, they said they did not have most of their material here, so that we could not advance much on that line...

Thereafter, it was suggested that this pure examination, factual examination might be done on an official basis later, that is, after our talks, and this was agreed to.

It is obvious that the officials who might do it have no authority or competence to deal with this problem in the sense of suggesting anything, in the sense of dealing with the political aspect of the problem or suggesting any solution or recommending anything. All they can do is to examine such facts, and as is stated in the communique, to more or less list the facts that are agreed to, the facts on which there is a difference of opinion or such on which perhaps some further inquiry may be necessary. Anyhow, I do not imagine that this process will clarify the situation and make it easy of solution. I do not think so, but it might somewhat make some basic facts clear or at any rate, we would know exactly on what evidence their case stands. For the moment, we do not know that except what they state. They know to some extent our evidence not all of it, because when they could not produce all their evidence, there was no reason why we should produce all of it. Anyhow, that is the position... Some of our officials are going to meet some of their officials with our set of facts, material, documents, etc. and to examine their set of material, maps, documents, and all these—there are such things as revenue reports, revenue records, collection of taxes and all kinds of things. They will give an objective report which, presumably, would not be a report in which both agree. But anyhow they will draw up a list.

That is as far as we have gone at present—to present that re-

port.—Then presumably that report will be considered by the two Governments and they will decide what other steps might be taken...

In the Communique itself a period of four months has been fixed for this process, for the meetings which are going to take place in Peking and New Delhi—two centres—for examining these papers. Probably the first meeting will take place right at the beginning of June, the first week of June. No exact date has been fixed.

Broadly speaking, the position, therefore, is that after these prolonged talks, which consisted of our stating fully whatever we thought about our respective stands and positions we were unable to convince each other and we—both parties—remained unconvinced at the end of it—we standing for what the House knows we stand for, and they standing for something entirely opposite and based on an entirely different set of facts...

Their case is that from immemorial times you might say, or at any rate, for hundreds of years, their border has been from the Karakoram Range to the Kongka La Pass. Unless you have maps, you will not be able to understand it. If you accept that border, a large area of Ladakh is cut off. They say that this area, the northern part pertained to Sinkiang, not Tibet at all, and the little lower part to Tibet. That is, broadly, their case. They say that they came there—not the present Government but the previous Chinese Government—previously. They referred to something that I had said in Parliament here which some hon. Members perhaps did not like. They took advantage of that from their own point of view. They said, 'How is possession there in an area which is an arid area where nobody lives?'...

They said that most of this area is like the Gobi desert. You do not have normal administrative apparatus in such areas. You have constructive control in addition, sometimes an

administrative officer goes there, occasionally some tax collector goes there. They do not sit there. It is because it is so deserted. During winter periods, nobody can go there at all; nobody can move about there. They said, 'But we have been in constructive and actual possession of this all along, long before the present People's Government came, before that too'. That is their case, and they gave this boundary.

But one thing which is worth noticing is that through our correspondence or talks, the boundaries have never been given precisely by them, as we have—latitude, longitude, mountain peaks, this and that. Hon. Members will see how even in the White Paper we have given very precise boundary. But in spite of our efforts to get a precise boundary we did not succeed except these broad ranges.

MEETING OF INDO-PAKISTAN INFORMATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The following joint communique was issued in New Delhi on April 28 on the Indo-Pakistan talks for fostering better understanding between the two countries through information media.

The Indo-Pakistan Information Consultative Committee met in New Delhi on April 27 and 28, 1960. The Pakistan Delegation was led by the Minister for National Reconstruction and Information, Government of Pakistan, Mr. Z.A. Bhutto, while the Indian Delegation was led by Dr. B.V. Keskar, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

The Committee reviewed the working of the Indo-Pakistan Agreement of 1948 and the Prime Ministers' Agreement of 1950 in relation to the information media. The Committee recognised the vital role that the Press, Radio and other information media could play in promoting greater understanding and

Asked what would be the situation, if our patrol personnel were not allowed to go to patrol the territory, Shri Nehru replied, 'our people will be completely free to move about these areas without coming into conflict.'

Map Of India's Northern Frontier

The Government of India released a map on April 18 showing India's northern frontier extending from Jammu and Kashmir to the North-East Frontier Agency. The map, which shows the exact boundary line, is based on custom and tradition and follows natural features and, in the main, the water-shed principle. It also shows, in different insets, details of India's 2,500-mile long frontier with China in three sectors—the Ladakh, the middle and the NEFA areas.

in helping the Governments concerned to resolve outstanding disputes in a peaceful and friendly manner.

The Committee felt that the common attitude of the two countries should be to promote and encourage objective and helpful treatment of material, particularly that relating to subjects in dispute and to ensure that presentation reflects the attitude of friendly countries resolved to remain friendly.

The Committee welcomed the distinct improvement and greater understanding that had come to mark the relations between the two countries since the assumption of office by President Mohammed Ayub Khan.

The Indo-Pakistan Information Consultative Committee, whose members include representatives of the Press of Pakistan and India, examined in detail the joint Press Code which was adopted by the A.I.N.E.C. and the P.N.E.C. in 1950, and in

view of the desire of the press in both countries to assist in the promotion and maintenance of friendly relations, adopted the following resolution reaffirming and enlarging the principles governing the Press Code:

Noting the common desire of the Press of both countries to exercise restraint and to assist in the maintenance and promotion of friendly relations between India and Pakistan;

Recalling that an Indo-Pakistan Joint Press Code had been adopted in May 1950 to facilitate further implementation of the Indo-Pakistan Agreement;

Reiterates that the Press in both countries observe voluntary restraint in publishing matter concerning both countries:

(a) by avoiding dissemination of news calculated to undermine relations between the majority and minority communities in the two countries; (b) by refusing to give currency to mischievous opinion of individuals or organisations likely to rouse communal passions or create a sense of insecurity among members of the minority community; (c) by excluding rigorously from the Press of each country opinion directed against the territorial sovereignty of the other or purporting to incite war; (d) by seeking through normal Press channels or Government Agencies verification of news of communal incidents before it is published; (e) by exercising due care and caution in publication of reports of communal incidents; (f) by avoiding alarming headlines for reports of communal incidents; (g) by avoiding publication of pictures, poems and cartoons likely to excite communal passions; (h) by affording full facilities to Governments for correction or contradiction of published reports; (i) by examining objectively outstanding problems between the two countries with a view to promoting just and amicable solutions; (j) by confining comment to the merits of the problem or problems in dispute and not making such problem or problems the basis of a general attack on the two Governments; (k) by eschewing personal, contumacious or scurrilous attacks on the respected leaders of either country or the religion, culture and faith of the people of both

countries; and (l) by avoiding historical controversies which may create or revive bitterness between the two countries.

Bombay Reorganisation Bill

According to a New Delhi announcement dated April 25 the President has given assent to the Bombay Reorganisation Bill, 1960. The Bill comes into force on May 1 this year.

The Bill, recently passed by the two Houses of Parliament, is meant to bifurcate the present State of Bombay into two States—Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Governor Of Gujarat

According to a Press Communique issued on April 25 from the Rashtrapati Bhawan, the President has been pleased to appoint Shri Mehdi Nawaz Jung Bahadur Nawab to be the Governor of the new State of Gujarat.

GUJARAT HIGH COURT

According to an announcement of April 28, the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, has directed that the principal seat of the new High Court of Gujarat will be at Ahmedabad. The Court will begin functioning from May 1, 1960.

Five Judges of the Bombay High Court will now be the Judges of the High Court of Gujarat.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF GUJARAT

A Press Note issued on May 1 by the Ministry of Home Affairs says, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Sunderlal Trikamlal Desai, to be the Chief Justice of the High Court of Gujarat, with effect from May 1, 1960.

President's Directions On Official Language

The President's directions on the report of the Parliamentary Committee on official language were presented to the Lok Sabha

on April 29. The President has asked the Ministry of Home Affairs to draw up and implement plan or programme of preparatory measures to facilitate the progressive use of Hindi in the Union administration. The plan should also promote the use of Hindi in addition to English for the various purposes of the Union. For the present, no restrictions are to be imposed on the use of English for any of the official purposes of the Union. The Presidential order says the extent to which Hindi can be used in addition to English will depend largely on the effectiveness of the preparatory measures. The President's directions cover various aspects of the problem of change-over, including terminology, recruitment to All-India services, the language of Acts and Bills, and the language of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

State Bills Assented To By President

A New Delhi announcement of April 18 says that almost one-third of the 156 State Bills which received the President's assent last year effected land, agricultural or tenancy reforms. Of these, 27 bills either introduced or improved the existing legislation on the abolition of intermediaries, preservation of forests, reclamation of land and prevention of fragmentation of holdings; 13 provided security of land tenure, vesting of proprietary rights, compensation for improvements by tenants, etc., and another 11 dealt with the acquisition of land.

The largest number of such bills was initiated by Bombay, 11 of them. Punjab introduced 7 and Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan 6 each. Andhra Pradesh voted 5, Madras 4 and Orissa 3. Bihar, Kerala, Mysore and West Bengal sent 2 each, and Uttar Pradesh one.

The subjects of other bills sent for President's assent related to rent control on buildings, panchayats, sales tax, municipalities, and essential articles control.

Out of 156 bills, 34 came from Bombay, 18 from Rajasthan, and 14 from Madhya Pradesh; Punjab sent 13 bills, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar 12 each, Madras 11, Kerala 10, Mysore and West Bengal 9 each, Uttar Pradesh 7, Orissa 4 and Assam 3.

Parliament Adjourned

Both the Houses of Parliament adjourned *sine die* on April 29.

The Lok Sabha Session began on February 8 and Rajya Sabha on April 6. During the session Lok Sabha had 60 meetings and Rajya Sabha 22 meetings.

In the Lok Sabha 16 Bills were introduced while 9 Bills were pending at the commencement of the session. The House passed 20 Bills, 34 statements were made by Ministers when their attention was called to matters of urgent public importance, 4843 questions were answered of which 1870 questions were starred. During the session, 43,647 visitors' passes were issued.

The Rajya Sabha passed six bills during the session. In the House 608 questions were admitted besides 4 short notice questions. During the session 2,342 passes were issued.

National Awards Presented

An investiture ceremony was held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on April 26 when 20 recipients of National Awards announced on the eleventh Republic Day received their medals from the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

They were: Padma Vibhushan — 1; Padma Bhushan — 4, and Padma Shri — 15.

Eleven awardees could not attend the Ceremony.

Three Sanskrit Scholars and one Persian Scholar also received their Certificates of Honour. Their names were announced on the Independence Day.

The recipients of awards, including 4 women, are the persons who have excelled them-

selves in the fields of education, science, music, sports, Government service, art and literature.

Since the introduction of Awards in 1954, there have been 238 recipients: Bharat Ratna — 3; Padma Vibhushan — 18; Padma Bhushan — 101; and Padma Shri — 111.

Meeting Of Southern Zonal Council

The fifth meeting of the Southern Zonal Council was held in New Delhi on April 16. The Union Home Minister, Shri G.B. Pant, presided.

Addressing the meeting the Home Minister congratulated the Ministerial Committee of the Council for producing a unanimous report on the implementation of the various safeguards provided for the linguistic minorities in the Government of India's memorandum on the subject. He said that the report was the first of its kind and 'will, no doubt, help the other States in their consideration of the problems.'

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS

Shri Pant commended the Southern States for making 'notable progress' in several directions, such as electrical power generation and distribution, including rural electrification, the development of road links, the construction of new bridges, and the provision of facilities for education at various stages.

He said that in accordance with the decision of the Government for the construction of a shipyard at Cochin, preliminary steps including the acquisition of land was being taken up. Plans had also been finalised in consultation with foreign technical collaborators for the establishment of a watch factory at Bangalore, a raw film factory at Ootacamund and a factory near Madras City for the manufacture of surgical instruments.

The Neyveli Project had made substantial progress in recent months and the programme envisaged that the first power sta-

tion would be commissioned in 1961, and that about two years thereafter full production of lignite and the production of fertilisers would be achieved. Ancillary industries would also come into existence in Madras State as well as in the other neighbouring areas.

The Home Minister also told the members that Mysore, which had for all practical purposes been a member of the Southern Zonal Council ever since the reorganisation of States, had now been included as a full-fledged member. The States Reorganisation Act would be amended accordingly.

DECISIONS

Kerala conveyed to the Council its desire to join the Common Reserve Police Force for the Southern Zone, confined so far to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madras and Mysore.

The main discussion of the Council centred on the report of the Ministerial Committee formed to consider the safeguards to be afforded to the linguistic minorities in the Southern Zone. The report, a unanimous one, was approved.

A Standing Committee was appointed to discuss any difficulty that arose with regard to the implementation of safeguards afforded to linguistic minorities. Each one of the States of the Council would be represented on the Committee.

REGIONAL POWER GRID

The Power Development Committee informed the members of the deliberations held so far on the question of establishing 'Regional Power Grid', recommended by the Council in its meeting held at Ootacamund in June 1958.

Having regard to the possibility of power being available for inter-change among the States, the Committee had recommended the establishment of certain transmission links between Mysore and Madras and between Kerala and Madras. It was agreed that detailed reports be prepared by the respective States and submitted for ap-

proval to the Central Water and Power Commission and the Planning Commission.

As regards the construction of inter-State links between Mysore and Andhra, the Committee agreed that this could wait for some more time when the power facilities in the States got augmented to some extent.

In order to determine the overall pattern of the Southern Zonal Grid, it was agreed that a technical study group be set up to go into the matter and also undertake a detailed study.

The members once again reiterated the need of a speedy electrification of rural areas. They passed a resolution to request the Government of India and the Planning Commission that Central assistance by way of interest-free loans or outright subsidies might be granted for all rural electrification schemes.

Crime Report Of 1958

According to the 'Crime in India' report issued by the Union Home Ministry on April 28, a decline of 16.2 per cent in the dacoity cases was noticed in 1958, i.e. from 5,560 in 1957 to 4,658. Similarly, the incidence of counterfeiting declined by 11.8 per cent, from 629 in 1957 to 555. The cases of robbery and house-breaking also showed a drop of almost 4 per cent.

However, the total number of cognizable cases was practically the same, 5,90,987 in 1958 as against 5,81,371 in 1957 and 5,85,217 in 1956.

A small increase was visible under the heads like murder, kidnapping and abduction, breach of trust and cheating.

Among the States where the cognizable crime showed a noticeable fall were: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Bombay, and Mysore. The Union Territories following suit were: Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Naga Hills and Tuensang Area. A rise was noticed in Kerala, Jammu and

Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Tripura and Delhi.

In two cities the crime went up; in Calcutta from 10,725 to 12,247, and in Kanpur from 1,461 to 1,828.

CONVICTIONS

At the beginning of 1958, 1,49,344 cases were pending disposal in the Courts and 55,664 cases pending investigation with the police. During the year, 590,987 cases were registered with the police. In 539,603 cases, investigation was found unnecessary for various reasons. Charge-sheets were submitted in 256,392 cases. Of these, 137,046 cases were convicted, 78,666 acquitted or discharged and 40,680 were compounded or withdrawn.

The percentage of conviction to true cases investigated was above the all-India figure of 27.0 in the States of Madras (47.6), Himachal Pradesh (45.3), Andhra Pradesh (41.3), Mysore (41.2), Punjab (36.1), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (32.2), and Kerala (30.9). Amongst the cities, it was (59.5) in Madras and (56.5) in Bangalore.

During the year, 56 police officers and men were killed and 1,739 injured while performing their duty. The highest number killed was in Punjab — 12. The toll was six each in Madhya Pradesh, Madras and Bihar, four each in Assam and Uttar Pradesh, and three each in Rajasthan and Mysore.

Among the injured, Bombay City accounted for 806, Bihar 271, Rajasthan 171, West Bengal 144, Madras 82, and Mysore 80.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Children between the age of 7 and 21, arrested for crimes like murder, robbery, housebreaking, thefts, etc., totalled 29,744, including 1,813 girls. The largest number of offenders — 14,191 boys and 663 girls — was between 17 and 21 years. A large number of offences were such as have been prohibited under the Children's Act, that is, begging, betting, smoking and drinking.

Juveniles sent to courts were 27,601 and to institutions 9,795. About 12,000 were either admonished, fined or bound down for good behaviour.

Rewards For Discovery Of Uranium Deposits

In a Press Note issued on April 27, the Department of Atomic Energy says that the Government of India have announced the grant of rewards for the discovery of new deposits of uranium and beryl ores. The terms and conditions governing such rewards are as follows:—

Uranium Ores:

Reward of Rs. 10,000

I. (a) The newly discovered deposit should be at least 30 miles away from those deposits of the mineral as are already known to the Government. (b) The newly discovered deposit should be capable of producing at least 50 short tons (2000 lbs per ton) of uranium-oxide. (c) The ore should contain not less than 0.1 per cent U308 as the major radio-active constituent.

II. Smaller rewards will be awarded on *pro-rata* basis for discoveries of smaller deposits provided that the conditions stated at I(a) and I(c) above are fulfilled.

III. Rewards ranging between Rs. 10 and Rs. 100 will be granted for representative samples of Uranium ores weighing at least 2 lbs each obtained from new localities and of the grade as provided in I(a) and I(c) respectively.

Beryl Ore:

Reward of Rs. 2,000

I. The newly discovered deposit should yield not less than 50 tons of beryl with a minimum of 10 per cent BeO or other beryllium ore of higher grade containing an equal quantity of BeO provided that the occurrence is outside a 50 miles radius of other such deposits already known to the Government.

II. Smaller rewards will be awarded on *pro-rata* basis for discoveries of smaller deposits of beryl ore capable of producing

not less than 10 tons of beryl or any equivalent quantity of any other beryllium ore, fulfilling the conditions with regard to grade and location specified under I above.

Applications for rewards together with samples should be addressed to the Director, Atomic Minerals Division, Department of Atomic Energy, 9-B/6, Northern Extension Area, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi.

NEW CHAIRMAN OF RAILWAY BOARD

A Press Note issued on April 19 by the Ministry of Railways says, Shri Karnail Singh, Member, Engineering, Railway Board, has been appointed Chairman, Railway Board and *ex-officio* Principal Secretary to the Ministry of Railways. He succeeds Shri K.B. Mathur.

Shri Karnail Singh took charge of his new office on April 18.

RAILWAY BOARD MEMBER

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways on April 28 says, Shri E.W. Isaacs, at present Additional Member (Mechanical), Railway Board, has been appointed Member, Engineering, Railway Board. He took charge of his new office the same day.

ID-UL-ZUHA HOLIDAY

A New Delhi announcement of April 22 says that the offices of the Government of India in Delhi and Simla will remain closed on Id-ul-Zuha, which falls on June 5 this year.

In partial modification of previous Government notification, this holiday is to be observed in place of Milad-un-Nabi (September 4, 1960) which has now been included in the list of restricted holidays.

The Central Government employees in Delhi and Simla are allowed 16 closed holidays in a year. In addition, each employee is permitted to avail himself of any two holidays to be chosen by him out of the 10 restricted holidays indicated by the Government.

PURCHASES BY INDIA STORES DEPT.

Replying to a question on April 26 the Union Minister for Works, Housing and Supply, Shri K.C. Reddy, informed the Rajya Sabha that the total purchases made by the India Stores

Department, London, during 1959-60 amounted to Rs. 25.5 crores. The total value of purchases, which was Rs. 30 crores in the previous year, had come down, and was due to the fact that the purchase of imported stores was resorted to only when absolutely unavoidable.

Planning & Finance

ANNUAL REPORT OF MINISTRY OF FINANCE

The annual report on the activities of the Ministry of Finance during 1959-60 states that during the year 1958-59, 11,31,533 income tax assessments were completed as against 10,03,134 during 1957-58. From April to September 1959, 4,52,335 assessments were completed and 10,62,103 were pending.

Total disposals of appeals by Appellate Assistant Commissioners 1958-59 were 1,19,514 as against 1,30,476 during the year 1957-58. The number of appeals disposed of from April to September 1959 was 53,087, and 80,273 were pending.

Out of a total of over 500 cases in which the settlements arrived at under the Taxation of Income (Investigation Commission) Act 1947 had been affected by the Supreme Court's judgment of November 1958, it was decided, as an initial step, to reopen only the cases of those persons on whom liability had been fixed by these settlements. The Directorate of Inspection (Special Investigation), which has been entrusted with the work connected with these new cases, had, including the cases affected by the earlier judgments of the Supreme Court delivered in 1954 and 1955, a total of 1127 cases to be investigated. Up to the end of October 1959, it disposed of 808 cases, involving concealment of Rs. 32.04 crores and tax revenue of Rs. 15 crores.

As regards the Wealth Tax, the total number of cases for disposal during the year, including the cases brought forward from the preceding year, was 45,250, out of which 9,490 cases had been disposed of upto October. The Wealth Tax revenue budgeted for the year 1959-60 was Rs. 13 crores, including Rs. 2.5 crores estimated for the increase in the rates applicable to individuals and Hindu undivided families.

As for Estate Duty, 7,664 assessments were disposed of, resulting in a demand of Rs. 4.58 crores, during 1958-59. The actual collections came to Rs. 2.70 crores as compared with the budget estimate of Rs. 2.50 crores. The number of assessments completed upto the end of October 1959 was 4,892, the collections amounting to Rs. 1.13 crores. It was expected that the collections would reach Rs. 2.85 crores by the end of the year.

The Gift Tax was suitably amended through the Finance Act 1959. During 1958-59, 4,778 assessments were made and the net collection came to Rs. 1 crore. Up to October 1959, 1,963 assessments had been completed, collections amounting to Rs. 23.80 lakhs.

With a view to improving the efficiency of the administration as also in the larger public interest it was decided in August to integrate the Indian Customs

Service, Class I, and the Central Excise Service, Class I, into a single service viz., the Indian Customs and Central Excise Service, Class I.

EXCISE DUTIES

The rates of duties in the Central Excise Tariff were increased during the year in respect of vegetable products, rayon or artificial silk fabrics, refined diesel oils and vaporizing oil, diesel oil not otherwise specified, furnace oil, rayon and synthetic fibres and yarn, tyres for motor vehicles and cigarettes. New Excise Duty was levied on bitumen and asphalt from July.

Certain adjustments of rates and concessions in the existing duties of excise were announced by executive notifications for tea, vegetable non-essential oils and art silk fabrics and additional duties of excise on nominal oils were re-adjusted.

The tariff description of unmanufactured tobacco was amended and the Central Government empowered to assess at the higher rates such varieties of tobacco as may be specially notified.

With effect from March 1, 1959, Khandsari sugar was again subjected to a basic excise duty of Rs. 5.60 per cwt. and to additional excise duty of Rs. 0.70 per cwt. Later, some relief in the effective rates of duty was allowed.

Consequent on the increase of price of sugar-cane, the ex-factory price of sugar was also increased by Rs. 2.52 per cwt. and a special excise duty of Rs. 2.52 per cwt. was imposed on the stocks held by the factories in October by promulgation of an Ordinance.

Exemptions were given in respect of kerosene used in the manufacture of nicotine sulphate and vegetable non-essential oils produced with the aid of water-power.

The Customs Reorganisation Committee, which was constituted in 1957 to enquire into customs procedures and organisation, had made, in its report, a number of recommendations of which a very large number have

been accepted and instructions for implementation in respect of them have been issued. A Customs and Central Excise Advisory Council consisting of official and non-official members has been constituted at the Centre as an experimental measure.

For giving a fillip to the export trade, several new schemes of drawback have been introduced. In addition, there are schemes in force which facilitate utilisation of imported materials without payment of duty in the manufacture, in bond, of goods for export.

Exports of raw opium to foreign countries have increased from about 450 tons valued at Rs. 3 crores in 1958-59 to 600 tons valued at over Rs. 4 crores in 1959-60.

ECONOMY MEASURES

The Pay Commission submitted its Report in August and the Government announced their decisions on most of the major recommendations in November.

As a measure of economy in administrative expenditure, instructions regarding the non-filling up of short-term vacancies of less than two months duration and prescribing a procedure for filling up of non-technical posts lying vacant for long periods (of six months or more) were issued during the year.

The Special Reorganisation Unit completed study of 10 more organisations including the Indian High Commission in London. Since its reorganisation at the end of 1956, the Unit has completed work studies in 25 organisations besides a number of *ad hoc* studies. The direct economies envisaged in its recommendations so far exceed Rs. 50 lakhs per annum of which Rs. 35 lakhs are in respect of studies completed during the year.

LOANS

In July, two market loans were floated by Government. The total subscription to these loans amounted to Rs. 184 crores, of which Rs. 95 crores were in cash and the balance of Rs. 89 crores by conversion of 3 per cent Second Victory Loan,

1959-61, and 2½ per cent Hyderabad Loan 1954-59, both of which fell due for discharge this year and were accepted for subscription to the new loans. With a view to meeting the continued demands of institutional investors and market generally, it was decided to create on October 9, 1959, a further issue of 3½ per cent bonds, 1969, for Rs. 25 crores and of 3½ per cent Loan, 1974, for Rs. 20 crores. The total amount of market loans floated during the year thus amounted to Rs. 229 crores against the Budget Estimates of Rs. 225 crores.

All the State Governments, with the exception of Jammu and Kashmir, floated market loans during 1959-60 and raised, in all, a total sum of Rs. 69.46 crores.

In pursuance of the policy of gradually funding the *ad hoc* treasury bills held by the Reserve Bank of India in their Issue Department into regular loans of which a beginning was made in 1958 by converting Rs. 300 crores worth of *ad hoc*s into a further issue of 4 per cent Loan, 1973, a further block of *ad hoc*s of the value of Rs. 150 crores was converted into regular loans on December 22, 1959.

The Government of India have issued Five Year Interest-Free Prize Bonds, 1965, from April 1, 1960. These are in the form of bearer bonds in two denominations of Rs. 100 and Rs. 5. Prizes will be awarded every quarter.

The National Savings Central Advisory Committee and the Central Advisory Board of the Women's Savings Campaign were amalgamated in September to constitute a single National Savings Central Advisory Board with adequate representation for women.

Likewise, the State Advisory Committee and State Advisory Boards of the Women's Savings Campaign were reorganised and reconstituted as a single Advisory Board in each State.

To facilitate payment to claimants in the event of the death of the depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank and holders of

Savings Certificates without the production of letters of Administration, succession certificates, etc., necessary legislation was passed in the August-September session of Parliament.

It was decided in July to allow investment of Provident Fund moneys in Treasury Savings Deposit Certificates without limit, as in the case of National Plan Savings Certificates.

A new denomination of Annuity Certificate of Rs. 1330, securing to the investor a monthly return of Rs. 10 for 15 years, was introduced from January 2, 1960.

DISBURSEMENT OF LOANS

The Finance Ministers of India and Pakistan met in Delhi in July-August and discussed the various monetary and financial issues outstanding between the two countries. These discussions were followed by a series of talks between the officials of the two Governments at Karachi and Delhi at which the figures relating to most of the items relevant to the drawing up of the debt settlement were settled. Further discussions between the two Ministers took place at Rawalpindi in the last week of March 1960 but no final decision on the outstanding financial issues between the two countries could be arrived at.

The State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, the State Bank of India (Amendment) Act and Banking Companies (Amendment) Act were enacted during the year. The first mentioned Act provides for the reconstitution of eight major state-associated banks as subsidiaries of the State Bank of India. Six of these banks have already been taken over and reconstituted as provided for in the Act and the seventh bank, namely, the State Bank of Patiala will be reconstituted as a subsidiary on April 1, 1960.

A notification was issued by the Reserve Bank on March 11, 1960, calling upon all scheduled banks to deposit with the Bank an amount equal to 25% of the increase in their deposit liabilities

after that date. Certain directives to restrict bank advances against shares and clean loans have also been issued by the Reserve Bank.

Imports into India of rupee notes, which are legal tender in India, were prohibited from June and the amount of Indian rupee notes which travellers from abroad could bring into India was restricted to Rs. 75 in all per person at any one time from December.

During the year, 286 applications made under the Capital Issues (Control) Act, 1947, for a total amount of Rs. 206.49 crores were disposed of. Consent was given to 264 applications for a total of Rs. 203.46 crores.

With effect from August 29, the exemption limit for the issue of capital in a period of 12 months without Government's permission was increased from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs.

Upto November, the Industrial Finance Corporation of India disbursed loans amounting to Rs. 44.09 crores. An issue of 12-year bonds by the Corporation in October brought in a sum of Rs. 5.49 crores.

Loans and advances granted by the State Financial Corporations and the Madras Industrial Investment Corporation Ltd., outstanding as on November 27, amounted to Rs. 13.05 crores. The total amount of bonds issued by the Financial Corporations and outstanding as on that date aggregated Rs. 6.67 crores.

Upto the end of September, the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited had disbursed rupee assistance in one form or other to industries aggregating Rs. 6.37 crores. The Corporation also advanced foreign currency loans for an amount equivalent to Rs. 1.95 crores. Further, an amount of Rs. 38 lakhs was guaranteed under letter of credit. In view of the increased demands for assistance from industries the Corporation has obtained a further line of credit of \$10 million from the World Bank.

Upto the end of October, the Rehabilitation Finance Administration disbursed loans (net) to the extent of Rs. 11.02 crores to displaced persons. The total realisation made by the Administration by way of repayment of principal and interest was Rs. 6 crores.

Section 13 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, was applied to the municipal limits of Calcutta and Howrah from December 15. The Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Act, 1959 was passed by Parliament. The Government have decided to establish a Directorate of Stock Exchange for the administration of the Act.

Sales tax law applicable in the Union territory of Delhi was amended (a) to raise the general sales tax rate from 3.1/8% to 4% and (b) to give effect to the decision taken at the State Finance Ministers' Conference to levy uniform tax of 7% throughout India on 15 special goods normally used by the affluent section of the society. Certain other amendments were also carried out by the above amendment Act.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

An agreement was signed in Washington on December 7, under which American investors investing in enterprises specifically approved for that purpose, could receive insurance for reimbursement in dollar by the U.S. Government of any losses which may be incurred by them on account of nationalisation.

India's quota in the International Monetary Fund and subscription to the capital stock of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development have been raised to \$600 million and \$800 million, respectively. The increase in the quota in the Fund was paid in the form of gold of the value of \$50 million which was deposited by the Government of India in the Reserve Bank of India, Nagpur, which is one of the approved depositories of the Fund, and the balance of \$150 million in non-

negotiable non-interest bearing rupee securities. The International Monetary Fund and Bank Ordinance, 1945, was replaced by an Act.

The International Bank granted three loans totalling \$85 million for Koyna Hydro-electric Project, Indian Railways and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India.

With the United Kingdom two loan agreements were signed, one in June for £3m and another in November for £19m.

Canada has authorised grants totalling \$25 million for the import of wheat, raw materials, fertilizers and scientific equipment.

With the U.S.S.R. three loan agreements were signed—one in May for 80 million roubles (Rs. 9.5 crores) for the establishment of certain drug projects, another in September for 1500 million roubles (Rs. 180 crores) towards collaboration in the Third Plan followed by an Additional Agreement signed in February incorporating the list of enterprises and details of technical assistance, and the third in September amounting to 100 million roubles (Rs. 12 crores) for the establishment of a petroleum refinery at Barauni.

With Czechoslovakia a loan agreement was signed in November for Rs. 23.1 crores towards establishment of certain industrial plants and another Credit Agreement signed in January 1960 for the import of capital goods upto a ceiling amount equivalent to \$40 million (Rs. 19.06 crores).

The U.S. Development Loan Fund authorised an additional amount of \$20 million in July for import of steel in the private sector. This authorisation brings the total loans so far granted from the Fund to \$195 million.

An Agreement was signed in November with the U.S. Government under the P.L. 480 Programme for the import into India of additional quantities of foodgrains, cotton and tobacco, valued at about \$257.3 million. The aggregate value of the four P.L. 480 Agreements signed upto

the end of November is of the order of Rs. 443 crores, out of which the U.S. Government will advance to India Rs. 235 crores as loan and Rs. 93 crores as grant for expenditure on mutually agreed economic development projects. Further Project Agreements for Rs. 120 crores for utilising the rupee loans and grants have been signed. A sum of Rs. 10 crores was received as loan during the year upto November.

In addition to \$4 million worth of foreign currencies offered last year, the U.S. Government have this year authorised \$2 million worth of French Francs for the purchase of fertilisers from France.

The U.S. Government has also authorised a grant of \$12.6 million out of Technical Assistance Funds of F.Y. 1960 for Malaria Eradication Programme.

Under the U.S. Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, India received the services of 387 experts and obtained thereunder facilities for 756 Indian nationals in various fields of economic activity. The United Nations and Agencies like World Health Organisation also recruited 588 experts from India for assignment abroad and arranged training facilities for 608 foreign nationals in India.

India sponsored 5 projects costing Rs. 10.05 crores for inclusion in the 1959 programme of the U.N. Special Projects Fund.

Under the Indo-American Technical Co-operation Programme, technical assistance worth \$7.4 million out of U.S. fiscal year 1959 was provided. For U.S. fiscal year 1960 \$8.5 million are expected to be made available. Under this Programme, the services of 486 U.S. experts and training facilities in U.S.A. for 1106 nationals have so far been arranged.

During the first half of 1959, India obtained under the Colombo Plan the services of 15 experts and received training facilities for 231 Indians.

Under the Indo-French Technical Co-operation Programme,

12 foreign experts were brought to India and 27 Indian trainees went to France for training in various fields.

India continued to give technical aid to the member countries of the Colombo Plan in the shape of training facilities and services of experts and also supplied 230 heads of cattle to Viet Nam. India's economic and technical assistance to Nepal under the Colombo Plan for the various projects is expected to be of the order of Rs. 1.33 crores during the year.

LIFE INSURANCE

A small Tax Research Unit was set up during the year as part of the Economic Division to assemble and compile systematically the data on taxation both at the Centre and in the States and to study problems in the field of taxation.

Cash bonus for the year 1957 at the rate of 1½ months' basic salary has been paid to the employees on the Supervisory, Clerical and Subordinate grades of the Life Insurance Corporation, the total amount involved being Rs. 40.76 lakhs. So far payment of about Rs. 441.40 lakhs as compensation (both interim and acquisition) has been made to the previous insurers.

The Corporation has completed Rs. 375.41 crores of new business during the year. The figures of the Janata Insurance business completed during January to November is Rs. 1.24 crores. Foreign business produced during 1959 is Rs. 8.11 crores. Rural Insurance in an intensified form has been taken in certain Community Development Blocks.

The Corporation's total investments at the end of December 1958 were Rs. 420.94 crores.

Concessions In Excise Duty

In a Gazette of India Extraordinary issued on April 20, the Ministry of Finance announced certain duty concessions, with immediate effect, in respect of

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the following commodities liable to Central Excise duties.

FILMS: The rate of excise duty per metre on exposed cinematograph feature films of a width of 30 mm. or higher will be 10 nP on the first 5 prints, 15 nP on the next 5 prints, 20 nP on the next 15 prints, 25 nP on the next 25 prints and 30 nP on the balance of prints of each picture. Reprints of old releases, that is, prints cleared after twelve months immediately following the month of certification by the Central Board of Film Censors will be assessable at 15 nP per metre if they are of a width of 30 mm. or higher. Proportionate reductions in respect of feature films below 30 mm. in width and news reels and shorts have also been made. Educational films, children's films and films not exceeding 9.5 mm. in width will be totally exempt from the excise duty.

CARS AND TRACTORS: Agricultural tractors have been exempted from the excise duty. Motor cars of more than 16 H.P. but not more than 20 H.P., which were formerly assessable at Rs. 3,000 per car, will, in future, be assessed at Rs. 1,000 per car.

FABRICS: The compounded rates of duty on staple fibre fabrics have been substantially reduced. For factories employing not more than 9 powerlooms, the rates have been reduced from Rs. 24 to Rs. 16 for the first shift, from Rs. 18 to Rs. 16 for the second shift and from Rs. 9 to Rs. 8 for the third shift. For factories employing more than 9 but not more than 24 powerlooms, the rates have been reduced from Rs. 40 to Rs. 25 for the first shift, from Rs. 28 to Rs. 25 for the second shift and from Rs. 16 to Rs. 15 for the third shift. For factories employing more than 24 powerlooms, suitable adjustments in the lower slabs have also been made. The reduced rates will not be applicable to those who manufacture both staple fibre fabrics and art silk fabrics, other than staple fibre fabrics.

FENTS: In respect of cotton fents, the limit has been enhanced from 2 yards to 2½ yards.

CYCLE PARTS: Producers whose output does not exceed 1500 cycle freewheels and/or 1000 cycle rims in any one of the immediately preceding twelve months have been exempted from 50% of the existing excise duty.

COMBUSTION ENGINES: Producers of stationary type of internal combustion engines and electric motors whose output for each of these two commodities does not exceed 300 H.P. in any one of the immediately preceding twelve months will get a duty discount of 20% of the existing excise duty on the first 100 H.P. and 10% of the existing excise duty on the next 100 H.P. cleared in any calendar month.

ALUMINIUM SHEETS: Aluminium sheets and circles, etc. manufactured by re-melting old aluminium scrap or scrap obtained from virgin metal, etc., on which appropriate excise duty has been once paid, have been exempted from excise duty in excess of Rs. 200 per metric tonne. Also aluminium ingots, etc. manufactured from such scrap have been exempted from the whole of the excise duty.

PULP BOARDS: The ceiling limit for concessional slabs in respect of pulp boards, not otherwise specified, including grey board and mill board has been raised from 3000 tons to 5000 tons and a further slab from 1500 to 3000 tons at 7 nP per lb. has been prescribed.

Liberalisation Of Profits Tax

Moving the Finance Bill for 1960-61 for consideration of the Lok Sabha on April 20, Shri Morarji Desai, Minister of Finance, announced his decision to liberalise the tax on the business profits of certain types of co-operative societies. The tax-free limit has been raised and only business profits in excess of Rs. 15,000 would be liable to income tax. For an industrial undertaking run by a co-operative society, the period of tax-holiday would be extended to 7 years. These concessions are ex-

pected to reduce the original estimate of revenue by Rs. 49 lakhs by way of additional excise duty.

Loans Under PL 480 Of U.S.A.

Replying to a question on April 19, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, informed the Lok Sabha that a sum of Rs. 29.16 crores had so far been received as loan out of the rupee funds generated under PL 480 of the U.S.A. The total shipments to India under PL 480 upto December 31, 1959 had been as follows: wheat 7,870,700 metric tons, rice 196,860 metric tons, sorghums (milo) 97,300 metric tons, corn (maize), 175,000 metric tons, milk powder 20,744 metric tons, cotton 298,496 bales of 400 lbs. each, and tobacco 6,000,000 lbs.

As regards the total freight paid to U.S. shippers and Indian shippers and the average freight per ton paid to each of them, the Minister placed a statement on the Table of the House: According to the statement the total freight paid to U.S. flag vessels in the case of wheat amounted to Rs. 14,86,30,100 and the average per long ton amounted to Rs. 49.87. In respect of the same commodity, the total freight paid to Indian flag vessels amounted to Rs. 45,05,100 and the average to Rs. 67.54. A certain quantity of wheat was received during 1956-57 and 1957-58 under C. and F. contracts which were inclusive of freight.

In the case of rice, the total amount and the average (U.S. vessels) were Rs. 1,26,72,700 and Rs. 150.51 respectively. For other commodities, the amounts in the case of U.S. vessels were: sorghum (milo) Rs. 15,52,600 (total) and Rs. 43.70 (average), corn (maize) Rs. 37,22,000 (total) and Rs. 40.54 (average), and milk powder Rs. 7,62,200 (total) and Rs. 74.70 (average).

Explaining about the freight rates, the Minister said that where the U.S. charter rates were higher than the ocean transportation charges at world charter rates, the excess cost, in

respect of 50% of the aid cargo required to be shipped on U.S. flag vessels, was met by the U.S. Government, and the Government of India did not make rupee payment for these excess costs. The figures of freight payments given above were consequently, exclusive of this freight differential.

P.O. Savings Bank to Join Clearing Houses

An announcement of April 16 says that a major step towards bringing the Post Office Savings Bank on par with scheduled banks, so as to facilitate cheque transactions, has been taken with the decision to make the Post Office Savings Bank a sub-member of bankers' clearing houses wherever the clearing house facility exists. This will enable cheques drawn on the Post Office Savings Bank to be realised through other scheduled banks. The facility will be available for cheques drawn not only on head post office accounts but also on sub-post office accounts.

Special arrangements have also been made for speedy clearance of cheques drawn on the Post Office Savings Bank at places where there are no clearing houses. At these places cheques drawn on the Post Office Savings Bank may be realised not only at the post office counter but also through the Reserve Bank or the State Bank.

It is expected that this new facility will lead to increasing popularity of the Post Office Savings Bank which is one of the major instruments of the Small Savings movement in the country.

Pilot Scheme For Savings Movement

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on April 20, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, gave the following five main features of the new pilot scheme to be started in one district in each State for intensifying development of savings

movement: (1) creation of thrift consciousness and promotion of saving at the family level, (2) recruitment and development of individual agents and agent organisations for the sale of Savings Certificates, (3) formation of regular savings groups, (4) stimulation of administrative collecting agencies to render satisfactory service to the people and (5) co-ordination of the National Savings Organisation with the activities of the other savings agencies like co-operative societies, Life Insurance Corporation, etc.

Review Of Price Policy By N.D.C.

The fifteenth meeting of the National Development Council was held in New Delhi on April 17 when a preliminary review of the problems of price policy in relation to the Third Five Year Plan was undertaken.

As the Food and Agriculture Minister, Shri S.K. Patil, was due to leave for U.S.A., at the suggestion of the Prime Minister, the Council decided to set up a Committee to examine the subject more fully and to make recommendations for future policy.

Following the meeting of the National Development Council, the Committee held a brief meeting at which the Prime Minister was present, and agreed on the scope of its work. Broadly, the Committee will take a comprehensive view of the problems of price policy in the context of the Third Plan and will give special attention to the prices of foodgrains, agricultural raw materials and selected industrial commodities which are important for agricultural production, or constitute significant items in the consumption of large numbers of persons in rural and urban areas. The Committee is expected to meet again on May 9.

GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS DURING 1958

The Indian Insurance Year Book-1959, published by the Controller of Insurance, Government of India, on April 18, states that the net premium income in India in all classes of general insurance business of Indian insurers increased to Rs. 12.96 crores in 1958 from Rs. 10.96 crores in 1957. In 1958, Rs. 4.36 crores were earned from Fire insurance, Rs. 2.59 crores from Marine insurance and Rs. 6.01 crores from Miscellaneous insurance. In the case of non-Indian insurers, also, the net premium income in India was higher in 1958 than in 1957 in Fire and Miscellaneous insurance business but it was lower in Marine insurance, their total premium income in 1958 being Rs. 7.19 crores, of which Rs. 3.22 crores related to Fire, Rs. 1.72 crores to Marine and Rs. 2.25 crores to Miscellaneous insurance.

The net premium income outside India of Indian insurers,

which was also higher in 1958 than in 1957, except in the case of Fire insurance, amounted to Rs. 12.02 crores, of which Rs. 6.65 crores were earned from Fire insurance, Rs. 2.36 crores from Marine insurance and Rs. 3.01 crores from Miscellaneous insurance.

The index number of general insurance business in India recorded a rise of 6.1 for 1958 as against a rise of 0.5 in 1957.

NUMBER OF INSURERS

The Year Book shows that on December 31, 1959, there were 177 insurers registered under the Insurance Act, 1938, for transacting one or more classes of general insurance business. Of these, 90 were Indian and 87 non-Indian and 38 of the non-Indian insurers were registered for all the three classes; 11 Indian and 18 non-Indian insurers for two classes and the rest — 29 Indian and 31 non-Indian — for only one class. This excludes the

Life Insurance Corporation of India which was registered for Life and Miscellaneous insurance business.

Of the Indian insurers, 47 registered in Bombay State accounted for about 62% of the total net premium income. About 71% of the net premium income in India of the non-Indian insurers went to 64 of such insurers constituted in the United Kingdom.

The net premium income in India of the 6 non-tariff Indian insurers transacting Miscellaneous insurance business was about 7% of the premium income in India of all Indian insurers. The proportion for the one non-tariff non-Indian insurer was about 0.1% in Fire and 5% in Miscellaneous business of all non-Indian insurers.

INCOME AND OUTGO

The gross premiums written direct in India in the classes of Fire, Marine and Miscellaneous business were Rs. 7.94 crores, Rs. 4.37 crores and Rs. 7.72 crores respectively, amounting in all to 20.03 crores, for Indian insurers, and Rs. 4.68 crores, Rs. 2.32 crores and Rs. 2.63 crores respectively, amounting in all to Rs. 9.63 crores, for non-Indian insurers. The gross premiums written direct outside India by Indian insurers were estimated at Rs. 2.19 crores, Rs. 1.72 crores and Rs. 2.74 crores in the classes of Fire, Marine and Miscellaneous insurance business respectively, amounting in all to Rs. 6.65 crores.

The gross premium written direct in India and outside India by Indian insurers during 1958 was higher than that during 1957 in Fire and Miscellaneous insurance business but less in Marine insurance business; while in the case of Indian insurers, it was larger in Miscellaneous business but less in Fire and Marine business.

The total income of all Indian insurers amounted to Rs. 25.56 crores. This was made up of net premium income in India of Rs. 12.96 crores; net premium income outside India of Rs. 12.02 crores; interest, dividends and rents of Rs. 0.37 crores and the balance of Rs. 0.21 crores from miscellaneous sources. Their

total outgo was Rs. 22.90 crores of which Rs. 12.56 crores related to claims, Rs. 3.33 crores to commission, Rs. 6.77 crores to expenses and Rs. 0.24 crores to miscellaneous outgo. Of the balance of Rs. 2.66 crores, Rs. 1.57 crores were absorbed by the increase in reserves for unexpired risks and additional reserves while Rs. 1.09 crores were transferred to the Profit and Loss Accounts.

ASSETS

The total assets of the Indian insurers as on December 31, 1958 amounted to Rs. 51.79 crores as compared to Rs. 49.08 crores and Rs. 43.00 crores at the end of the years 1957 and 1956 respectively. As on December 31, 1958, 15% of the total assets had been invested in securities of Government and Public authorities, 2.9% in foreign government securities, 27.5% in shares and debentures of Indian Companies, 1.7% in land and house property, 21.6% in deposits, cash and stamps, 1.8% in loans, and 5.8% in miscellaneous assets. The balance comprised 0.4% accrued and outstanding interest and 22.2% agents' balances etc.

The assets in India of the non-Indian insurers as on 31.12.1958 amounted to Rs. 11.21 crores of which 23.5% were invested in securities of Government and Public authorities, 24.4% in shares and debentures of Indian Companies, 2.7% in land and house property, 29.3% in deposits, cash and stamps, 2.2% in loans, and 9.1% in miscellaneous assets. The balance comprised 0.3% accrued and outstanding interest and 8.5% agents' balances.

EXPENDITURE

In respect of Fire insurance

business, Indian insurers spent 33% of their total gross premium income in India on expenses, taxes and miscellaneous outgo, 14% on commission and 36% was absorbed by Claims payable, leaving a balance of 17%. The corresponding figures for the Non-Indian insurers in respect of their Indian business were 34%, 14% and 23% leaving a balance of over 28%.

In respect of Marine insurance business, Indian insurers spent 19% of their total gross premium income in India on expenses, taxes and miscellaneous outgo, 7% on commission and 57% was absorbed by claims payable, leaving a balance of 17%. The corresponding figures for the Non-Indian insurers in respect of their Indian business were 27%, 9% and 49%, leaving a balance of 15%.

In respect of Miscellaneous insurance business, Indian insurers spent 26% of their total gross premium income in India on expenses, taxes and miscellaneous outgo, 12% on commission and 52% was absorbed by claims payable, leaving a balance of 10%. The corresponding figures for the Non-Indian insurers in respect of their Indian business were 33%, 13% and 41%, leaving a balance of 13%.

The Life Insurance Funds of the two Composite insurers which continued to be managed by Administrator, viz. The Bharat Insurance Co. Ltd. and the Jupiter General Insurance Co. Ltd., as on 31.12.1958 were Rs. 8.73 crores and Rs. 2.85 crores respectively and their gross business in force as on that date was Rs. 20.76 crores and Rs. 4.93 crores respectively.

Commerce & Industry

REPORT OF GOVERNMENT TRADE DELEGATION TO EUROPE

The report of the Indian Government trade delegation, which visited Italy, Switzerland, France, Belgium and Western

Germany during September-October 1959, was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on April 25.

The Government of India had sponsored the delegation to study the factors underlying the relative inelasticity of India's exports to the European countries.

As a result of the discussions the delegation had with Governmental authorities, trade arrangements were entered into with Italy, France and Switzerland.

INDIA AS SOURCE OF SUPPLY

The report underlines that there are numerous commodities which enter in Western Europe's import trade and which India is in a position to supply. While the rising requirements for the West European economy provide expanding possibilities for Indian products, concrete developments can follow intensification of commercial links between the business communities of India on the one hand and West Europe on the other.

It is being increasingly recognised in Western Europe that this co-operation can grow in volume and intensity only on a basis of reciprocity. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the influence of industrial and trading circles will be exercised in favour of liberal commercial policies and sooner, rather than later, facilities will be available to Indian exporters for increasing exports to Western Europe, not only of Indian industrial raw materials, but also of processed and finished products.

To this end, the report emphasises, it will be necessary for the industry and trade in Western Europe to study the requirements and possibilities of the Indian economy in consultation with Indian entrepreneurs and exporters.

Similarly, Indian exporters must pay greater attention to the requirements of their prospective customers in Western Europe and explore possibilities of meeting them. It will also be necessary for Indian industry and trade to organise itself effectively, to meet the demands of international competition in a

comparatively unfamiliar market. The extent to which India's export efforts will succeed will depend a great deal on the capacity of Indian suppliers to produce the kind of products which Western Europe needs and to deliver them steadily in accordance with the requirements of West European customers, at competitive prices. In this connection, the institution of proper quality control, the elimination of complaints regarding defective packing and the provision of facilities for the satisfactory settlement of commercial disputes are matters of the greatest importance.

European Free Trade Association

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 28 the Minister of Commerce, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, said that India had consented, subject to certain safeguards and reservations, to the elimination in stages of Tariff preference provided under the Indo-U.K. Trade Agreement, 1939, for Indian goods in the United Kingdom market *vis-à-vis* imports into the U.K. of products of the member countries of the European Free Trade Association. This was not likely to have an adverse effect on Indian exports to the U.K. The exact position was, however, proposed to be kept under close review.

Tea Exports To U.K.

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Satish Chandra, stated in the Lok Sabha during question hour on April 25 that exports of Indian tea to the United Kingdom during the first three months of 1960 had amounted to 49.3 million lbs. as against 30.4 million lbs. during the corresponding period last year. The average price obtained for North Indian teas at the London auctions during the period had been 52.34 d as against 50.82 d during the corresponding period last year. During the same period, South Indian teas obtained an average price of

49.35 d, compared with 41.65 d during the corresponding period of 1959.

Polish Credit Offer

An announcement dated April 27 says that a seven-member trade and financial delegation from Poland began discussions with the Government of India in New Delhi on April 27 on the Polish offer of Rs. 14.3 crores as credit to India.

After a preliminary exchange of views between Dr. Julius Katz-Suchy, the Polish Ambassador to India who accompanied the delegation from his country, and Shri A.K. Roy, Finance Secretary and leader of the Indian delegation, two working groups were set up. These groups will go into the details of the Polish offer. One group, which is technical, will consider the equipment and machinery which Poland can offer and which India could accept. The other group, which is financial, will consider the terms and conditions of the Polish credit.

An agreement will be signed between the Government of India and Poland when the Polish Minister for Foreign Trade, H.E. Mr. Trampozynski, visits New Delhi in a few days.

Freight Payments To Foreign Shipping Cos.

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on April 20, the Deputy Minister for Finance, Shri B.R. Bhagat, said in a statement placed on the Table of the House that the freight charges on imports paid to foreign shipping companies during 1958 amounted to 77.50 lakhs.

The freight payments in the previous four years were Rs. 94.94 lakhs (1957), Rs. 66.57 lakhs (1956), Rs. 43.06 lakhs (1955) and Rs. 34.47 lakhs (1954).

The statement shows that the companies to which freight payments were made during 1954-58 belonged, among others, to the U.K., the U.S.A., Norway, Den-

mark, Sweden, Netherlands, Japan, Poland, Germany and Italy.

The statement also shows that there was a substantial increase in the case of the U.S.A. in 1957 and 1958 on account of imports of foodgrain, etc.

Review Of Working Of Import Control

A review announced on April 18 of the working of the Import Trade Control Organisation shows that during the half-yearly licensing period October 1959—March, 1960, the Organisation received a record number of 2,12,296 applications for import licences. The disposal of applications kept pace with the intake and the number of pending applications, barring Pondicherry, was 1,835.

In addition, the Organisation dealt with a growing volume of correspondence on questions relating to policy, interpretation of rules and regulations, appeals, etc. The number of such letters reached a record figure of over 8 lakhs.

For contravention of the Import and Export Control Regulations, 44 firms were black-listed.

A number of measures were introduced during this period to enable the industry and Established Importers to plan their imports on a long-term basis, and to facilitate expeditious disposal of applications. Import licences for items, where there was no change in the quota, were granted on 'repeat' basis on production of preceding licences.

STEEL PRODUCED IN DURGAPUR

The Durgapur Steel Plant entered a significant phase on April 25 when molten steel flowed out of the open hearth furnace for the first time in a gigantic 200-ton ladle.

The heating of this first open hearth furnace, out of the eight being set up in the plant, started about 10 days ago. The pro-

duction capacity of the furnace is 200 tons per charge.

RETENTION PRICE OF MYSORE STEEL

According to an announcement of April 27, the Government of India have decided to increase the average retention price of steel payable to the Mysore Iron and Steel Works by Rs. 2 per ton for the period from 1-4-55 to 31-3-59. It is also decided to increase the retention price for all grades of pig iron produced by the Mysore Iron and Steel Works by Re. 1 per ton for the same period. This has been done in pursuance of the recommendation of the Tariff Commission and subsequent representation made by the works.

The present average retention price of the steel produced by the Mysore Iron and Steel Works is Rs. 425 per ton.

FOUNDRY FORGE PLANT

Shri Manubhai Shah also informed the Rajya Sabha that the detailed Project Report of the Foundry Forge Plant had been accepted on April 12, 1960. Messrs Technoexport, Prague, had sent proposals for training 149 engineers, metallurgists and senior operatives in Czechoslovakia for managing the various production shops of the plant. This proposal was under consideration.

PANEL FOR WIRE AND WIRE PRODUCTS

An announcement of April 22 says that the Government of India have set up a six-member Panel for Wire and Wire Products under the chairmanship of Dr. A.K. Bose.

The Panel will assess the likely demand for steel wires by industries engaged in the manufacture of wire products for the period 1961-65. It will also assess the existing wire drawing capacity in the ACSR, wire ropes, electrodes, wood screws, wire netting, bicycles and other industries.

The Panel will submit its report to the Government by June 30.

Working Of National Instruments Factory

The second annual report of the National Instruments Limited for the year 1958-59, together with a review by the Government, was placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha on April 25.

The report shows that production in the Factory in 1958-59 was of the value of Rs. 44.12 lakhs, as against Rs. 30.01 lakhs in 1957-58 and Rs. 23.07 lakhs in 1956-57. The sales during 1958-59 amounted to Rs. 45.30 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 30.50 lakhs and Rs. 24.16 lakhs in 1957-58 and 1956-57 respectively.

Out of 200 different types of instruments manufactured in the country, about 30 items were selected for mass scale production. In the case of simpler items like squares, drawing boards, etc. the manufacture has been assigned to the small-scale sector. A superior type of microscope developed by the Company would soon be in production. The prices of 13 items were reduced in 1958-59.

An industrial engineering unit has been established to improve utilisation of existing machinery and increase productivity. Arrangements have also been finalised for manufacturing clinical thermometers and micro-optic theodolites, in collaboration with foreign manufacturers. Another line of activity contemplated is the manufacture of quality cameras and photographic equipment.

The Company earned a profit of Rs. 2.48 lakhs in 1958-59, after setting apart a sum of Rs. 3.93 lakhs towards depreciation, as against a loss of Rs. 6.74 lakhs in 1957-58.

Expansion Programme Of Praga Tools

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 28, the Minister of Industry, Shri Manu-

bhai Shah, said that an expansion programme for the Praga Tools Corporation, a Union Government Undertaking, to raise its annual production value to Rs. 1.05 crores by 1961-62 had been approved. The present production was of the order of Rs. 60 lakhs per annum. The expansion scheme would cost Rs. 35 lakhs.

The Minister also disclosed that a further expansion and diversification programme, estimated to cost Rs. 1.8 crores, was under active consideration. It was contemplated that the Company would undertake during the Third Plan period the manufacture of lathe chucks, drill chucks, tool and cutter grinder, geared head lathe and milling machines. When this programme was implemented fully, the factory would produce over Rs. 2 crores worth of machines per annum.

HINDUSTAN CABLES

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 25, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister of Industry, said that about 80% of the raw materials for the Hindustan Cables Factory at Rупnarainpur, a public sector undertaking, were being drawn from indigenous sources. The factory had an installed capacity for producing 470 miles of dry core telephone cables and 300 miles of coaxial cables per annum. A series of expansion proposals were under consideration.

MANUFACTURE OF TYPEWRITERS

Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister of Industry, said in the Rajya Sabha while replying to a question on April 21 that production of typewriters in India rose from 13,420 in 1956 to 21,437 in the last year.

Shri Shah stated that three units, all of which were in production with a total capacity of 33,000, had been licensed for the manufacture of standard typewriters. For portable typewriters, one unit, with a capacity

of 12,000, had been licensed and it was expected to go into production shortly.

Shri Shah further said typewriters in seven languages—English, Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, Assamese and Tamil—were being manufactured.

As regards the import policy, since October, 1958, no import of complete typewriters was allowed. For typewriter parts, a quota of 40 per cent or 5 per cent on the basis of import of complete typewriters had been allowed.

SYNTHETIC DRUG PLANT

The synthetic drug plant, proposed to be established in collaboration with U.S.S.R., would be located at Sanatnagar in Andhra Pradesh, the Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, disclosed in the Lok Sabha during question hour on April 28. Shri Shah added that the plant would produce synthetic drugs and also certain intermediates required for their production. The total cost of the plant, which would have a capacity of 850 tons per annum, was estimated to be about Rs. 8.5 crores.

Paper Production

Replying to another question, Shri Manubhai Shah told the Rajya Sabha that the country was expected to become self-sufficient in paper during the Third Plan period, though in some special varieties small quantities might have to be imported.

A large number of new units for paper production had been licensed during the current year, as a result of which the installed capacity would rise to 8.46 lakh tons per annum. During 1959, licences were issued to three new paper mills. One unit had started trial production recently.

The Minister added that, besides these units, a scheme for establishing another large-scale unit with a capacity of 20,000 tons per year, to be located in the Madras State, had been approved last year. Schemes for

PAPER INDUSTRY

The per capita consumption of paper in India is as low as 2 lbs compared with 418 lbs in the United States and 100 to 200 lbs in several European countries and in Japan.

The production of paper reached 2,92,000 tons in 1959 which is three times the production ten years ago.

The value of paper and all paper products stood at Rs. 20 crores. In spite of this, paper has been a scarcity material and the demand is ever on the increase.

The Second Plan targets for capacity and production were 4,50,000 tons and 3,50,000 tons respectively. The present capacity is computed at 3.24 lakh tons and licences have already been issued for expansion of existing units and establishment of new units to the extent of another 3.64 lakh tons.

The target for the Third Plan is envisaged at 9 lakh tons while the estimated production to be achieved is placed at 7 lakh tons. There are four proposals of newspaper mills of 100 tons per day capacity each.

The primary raw material for paper in the country has been bamboo. Most of the bamboo areas in the country have been covered up and possibly Assam still holds out promise for some more units. The country has, therefore, to look for alternative raw materials, chiefly agricultural residues. Bagasse occupies a special position in this regard.

One unit entirely based on bagasse is already under implementation and two more units have been licensed. The entire bagasse from the organised sugar factories, if made available, can produce 1.7 million tons of paper per year.

establishing 31 small units with a total annual capacity of 74,824 tons had also been approved.

May 15, 1960

Bio-Gas Plants

An agreement was signed in New Delhi on April 23 between the Government of India and Chemolimpex, the Foreign Trade Company for Chemical Products of Hungary, for the setting up of bio-gas and bio-fertiliser producing plants.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Chemolimpex will furnish the Government of India with technical data and designs and also provide adequate technical staff for the installation of these plants. To begin with, two pilot plants will be established, one at the National Sugar Institute, Kanpur, and another at the Agricultural Research Institute, Delhi. The former will utilise bagasse and the latter cowdung and other agricultural wastes.

Within six months after the successful completion of the pilot plants' trial, the Government of India will furnish to Chemolimpex an estimate of the number of units which are likely to be installed by Governmental agencies. The Chemolimpex will also be permitted to help private parties in setting up bio-gas plants.

The Chemolimpex will arrange for training of Indian personnel in Hungary in the operation of bio-gas plants.

Production Of Giant Tyres

Replying to a question on April 16 the Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, stated in the Lok Sabha that the production of giant tyres required for the automobile industry had risen from 6.4 lakhs in 1956 to 8.1 lakhs in 1959. Due to the rapid rise of transport requirements, however, the country was still short of about 75,000 to 100,000 giant tyres annually.

The Minister further stated that licences had been granted for increasing production in the existing units and for four new schemes. These would raise the manufacturing capacity to 25 lakh tyres every year. This additional capacity was expected to materialise in the next two

or three years when the country would become self-sufficient and even have some balance for export. The present shortage was, however, being met by imports through the State Trading Corporation. Government were also considering the question of allowing some additional imports through established importers and large transport undertakings. Some import as original equipment, along with other components of vehicles, was also being arranged against allocation made for road transport industry by the Development Loan Fund of the U.S.A.

Art Silk Yarn

The Minister of Commerce, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, stated in the Lok Sabha during question hour on April 25 that the Government had approved schemes for installing additional capacity for the annual production of 78 million lbs. of different varieties of art silk yarn. This additional capacity, which includes 16 million lbs. of staple fibre yarn, 10 million lbs. of synthetic fibre yarn and 9 million lbs. of rayon tyre cord, is expected to materialise fully during the Third Plan period.

At a recent meeting, the Development Council for Art Silk Industry had recommended that, to meet the domestic demand adequately, the production target should be 345 million lbs. by the end of the Third Plan period. These recommendations were under consideration.

Shri Kanungo also stated that some schemes for manufacturing rayon grade wood pulp were under implementation and other schemes were being considered. If all these schemes materialised, the country could expect to be self-sufficient by the end of the Third Plan period.

Production of different varieties of art silk yarn amounted to 80 million lbs. in 1959, as against the annual installed capacity of 92 million lbs.

Number Of Industrial Estates

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Satish

Chandra, said, in reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on April 18, that 34 industrial estates were functioning in the country as on January 1, 1960. The number of factories working in these estates totalled 432.

A State-wise break-up of these 34 estates shows that Madras had six; Kerala and Bombay five each; Bihar 4; West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh two each; Assam, Mysore, Orissa, Rajasthan, Punjab and Delhi Administration one each. Two of the estates were in C.D. areas while four were functioning in Pilot Project areas.

Manufacture Of Tape Recorders

The Minister of Industry Shri Manubhai Shah, informed the Rajya Sabha during question hour on April 26 that two schemes for the manufacture of tape recorders in the country in the large-scale sector had been licensed. Three other proposals for manufacturing tape recorders in the small-scale sector were under active consideration.

COIROLITE

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 28, the Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, said that the Coir Board had developed a process for making a substance known as 'Coirolite' which may be used for the manufacture of articles like ashtrays, inkstands, shallow trays, switches, lamp-holders and other articles of day-to-day use. The material was being produced at laboratory level and further research was continued.

IMPROVED TYPE OF PUMP

According to an announcement of April 13, the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, has developed a new type of centrifugal pump which can draw about 570 gallons per minute without a corresponding increase in the consumption of electricity. The new pump has

an improved type of impeller which creates greater velocity in the suction pipe and increases the water discharge.

STRONG HARDBOARDS

According to an announcement of April 13, studies at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, have indicated that a mild softening treatment to the coconut fibre improves the felting quality of the pulp produced and gives a stronger hardboard than that obtained with pulp from untreated fibre. Hardboards of satisfactory strength have been prepared from unretted coconut husk and coir shearing waste.

SYNTHETIC RUBBER

Optimum conditions for the production of butadiene, the chief starting material for synthetic rubbers, have also been developed as a result of extensive studies at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. It has been found that butadiene can be prepared by a one-step process by passing etharol vapour over suitable catalysts at a high temperature. This process has greater production possibilities due to easier plant operations as compared to the two-step process of conversion of alcohol to acetaldehyde and synthesis of butadiene from a mixture of alcohol and acetaldehyde.

PIG IRON FROM LOW GRADE IRON ORE

An announcement of April 4 says, studies conducted at the Central Fuel Research Institute, Jealgora, have established the possibility of producing pig iron in Madras State utilising low grade iron ore available in the Salem district and the lignite in the South Arcot district.

Both these raw materials are unsuitable for use in the conventional blast furnace.

New Manufacturing Processes Evolved

An announcement of April 8 says that the National Chemical Laboratory, Poona, has developed a simple process for the pre-

paration of water dispersible DDT for insect control purposes.

This type of DDT has been prepared in the form of an oil-bound paste which facilitates the transfer of the insecticide into the body of the insect coming into contact with it.

The manufacturing process has been tried on semi-pilot plant scale producing 250-300 pounds per day.

HEXYLRESORCINOL

According to an announcement of April 3 the Laboratory has evolved simple processes for the manufacture of Hexylresorcinol and Diethyl-Stilbestrol. Hexylresorcinol or caprokol, as it is also known, is used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and as a veterinary anthelmintic. Diethyl-Stilbestrol is used extensively in hormone therapy and in the treatment of prostatic cancer.

Hexylresorcinol is a key intermediate in the manufacture of Hexylresorcinol and its manufacture normally involves drastic reaction conditions and costly equipment.

4-HYDROXYCOUMARIN

The Laboratory has also developed a process for the manufacture, with simple laboratory equipment, of 4-Hydroxycoumarin, a key intermediary in the production of some of the important anticoagulant drugs.

Anticoagulant drugs are used in the treatment of diseases such as coronary thrombosis, embolism and Buerger's disease. In cases of heart attack, the judicious use of these drugs has not only saved innumerable lives but has also drastically reduced the occurrence of later attacks and helped affected persons to lead a normal life.

4-Hydroxycoumarin is also the starting material for other chemicals used for the extermination of rats.

Supply Of Pipes For Assam Oil Project

An agreement was signed at Calcutta on April 23 between the

Hindustan Steel Limited and the Burmah Oil Co. (Pipe Lines) Limited for the supply of about 51,000 tons of high test line pipe of 14" outer diameter (O.D.) valued at Rs. 6 crores, for the construction of the second phase of the Assam Oil Pipe Line project.

The distance to be covered by the pipes is about 470 miles from a point near Gauhati, in Assam, to Barauni, in Bihar, where a second oil refinery is to be erected.

The pipe line will be manufactured at the modern, electric resistance weld pipe plant which is being erected at Rourkela at a cost of about Rs. 4 crores. This plant is being supplied by Mannesmann of Germany, leading manufacturers of pipe making plants as well as pipes.

The pipe plant will go into operation in September this year and will have a capacity of 150,000 tons per year of pipes ranging from 8" to 20" O.D. The plant is expected to meet not only the requirements of the country but would also leave a substantial margin for export to neighbouring countries.

Mechanisation Of Nandini Mines

A New Delhi announcement dated April 22 says that the mechanisation of the Nandini Mines, which will supply about 7,50,000 tons of limestone to Bhilai Steel Works, has made considerable progress. Four boring machines have now been installed in the quarries and a 5-mile long rail line is being constructed from the quarries up to the crushing plant.

The Nandini mines will be the first fully mechanised limestone mines in India for meeting the requirements of a steel plant. Situated about 14 miles away from the Steel Works, the mines have already been linked with the Bhilai Steel Works with a broad gauge railway line. A modern industrial town with the facilities of water, electricity, hospital, schools, etc. is also being simultaneously raised at Nandini.

NATIONAL INCOME

A Press Note issued on April 26 by the Union Cabinet Secretariat says, the national income of India at 1948-49 prices was Rs. 11,690 crores in 1958-59 and Rs. 10,890 crores in 1957-58 compared to Rs. 10,480 crores in 1955-56. The *per capita* incomes at 1948-49 prices have been placed at Rs. 293.6, Rs. 277.1 and Rs. 273.6 in 1958-59, 1957-58 and 1955-56 respectively.

The rise during 1958-59 over the preceding year works out at 7.3 per cent, or Rs. 800 crores in which the share of 'agriculture' amounts to Rs. 570 crores.

The figures of the past 11 years show a rise in national income of 11.5 per cent during the first three years of the Second Plan period as against 18.4 per cent rise over the First Plan period. The corresponding rise in *per capita* income during the two periods was 7.3 and 11.1 per cent respectively.

Expressed at current prices, the national income stood at Rs. 12,470 crores in 1958-59 and Rs. 11,400 crores in 1957-58 as against Rs. 9,980 crores in 1955-56, the *per capita* income at current prices being Rs. 313.2, Rs. 290.1 and Rs. 260.6 respectively for the three years.

Ceiling Prices For Hard Coke

In a Press Note issued on April 26, the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel says that the Government of India have introduced ceiling prices for hard coke and also relaxed the control over the distribution of this variety of coke from the same day.

This has been done in pursuance of the recommendations made by the Coal Price Revision Committee in its supplementary report in December, 1959.

Government have carefully considered the Committee's recommendation and decided that it would be advisable to resort to progressive relaxation of controls rather than to effect total

decontrol forthwith. They have accordingly introduced a system of 'ceiling' prices for hard coke. In the case of Bengal-Bihar, the existing 'fixed' prices have been converted into 'ceiling' prices. In the case of cokeries situated in Madhya Pradesh and Bombay (i.e., those at the steel plants at Bhilai and Rourkela for the present) for which no price had been prescribed so far, 'ceiling' prices have been introduced which will be equivalent to the 'ceiling' prices in the case of Bengal-Bihar plus the railway freight on one ton of hard coke from Bengal-Bihar to Bhilai and Rourkela respectively. The 'ceiling' prices in the case of these two States will thus be respectively Rs. 16.56 and Rs. 11.75 higher than those for Bengal-Bihar.

Simultaneously with the introduction of the system of 'ceiling' prices, there will be a progressive relaxation in the existing control over distribution of hard coke, and as a first step in this direction, consumers will be given freedom to select cokeries of their choice and to enter into contractual arrangements for supplies, such arrangements being accepted and formally approved by the Coal Controller so long as they do not conflict with the requirements of rationalised transport.

Commodity Prices In March 1960

According to a Press Note issued on April 27 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 down by 0.6 per cent to 118.8 during the month of March as compared with 119.5 for February. The index was, however, higher by 5.7 per cent compared with 112.4 for March 1959.

During the month under review, the index for 'Food Articles' declined by 1.5 per cent to 117.0 and 'Tobacco' and 'Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants' by 0.1 per cent each to 94.1 and 117.3 respectively, while 'Industrial

Raw Materials' moved up by 0.2 per cent to 131.9 and 'Manufactures' by 0.3 per cent to 116.6

FOOD ARTICLES

A decline in the prices of wheat, jowar, bajra, barley and maize brought down the index for 'Cereals' by 1.1 per cent to 103.2, although there was a rise in the prices of rice and ragi. The index for cereals was, however, higher by 1.5 per cent when compared with that of the previous year. The sub-group index for 'Pulses' recorded a fall of 5.5 per cent to 89.9 as a result of a decline in the prices of all the pulses. Higher prices of potatoes, oranges, bananas and cashewnuts raised the index for 'Fruits and Vegetables' by 11.4 per cent to 126.0; the price of onions, however, exhibited a fall.

A decrease of 0.7 per cent to 110.7 in the index for 'Milk and Ghee' was caused by a decline in the prices of milk. Lower prices of mustard oil and coconut oil brought down the sub-group index for 'Edible oils' by 0.9 per cent to 136.6 despite an increase in the prices of groundnut oil and gingelly oil. An advance in the prices of fish, eggs and meat pushed up the index for 'Fish, Eggs and Meat' by 3.6 per cent to 114.5. The sub-group index for 'sugar and gur' witnessed a fall of 3.1 per cent to 140.7 owing to a decline in the prices of gur. The index for 'Other Food Articles' receded by 5.8 per cent to 158.8 due to a fall in the prices of tea, coffee, black pepper, chillies, cloves, turmeric, cummin and cardamoms, although the prices of betelnuts and salt showed advances.

Lower prices of raw tobacco brought down the index for 'Tobacco' by 0.1 per cent to 94.1 during the month under review.

A fall of 0.1 per cent to 117.3 in the index for 'Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants' was caused by lower prices of castor oil.

INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS

Higher prices of raw jute raised the index for 'Fibres' by 1.5 per cent to 124.9, although prices of raw cotton showed a fall. Lower prices of linseed,

castorseed, cottonseed and copra brought down the index for 'Oilseeds' by 0.2 per cent to 140.5 despite an advance in the prices of groundnuts, gingellyseed and rapeseed. The sub-group index for 'Minerals' went up by 1.4 per cent to 96.5 due to an increase in the prices of mica. A fall in the prices of raw skins, lac and bamboos caused a decline of 1.2 per cent to 131.6 in the index for 'Other Industrial Raw Materials', although the prices of raw hides and tanning materials showed advances.

Higher prices of cotton yarn, rayon yarn, coir yarn, aluminium, brass and copper pushed up the index for 'Intermediate Products' by 0.7 per cent to 121.3, notwithstanding a decline in the prices of linseed oil, zinc, tin and lead.

FINISHED PRODUCTS

A rise in the prices of jute manufactures (+1.1 per cent to 97.5) was neutralised by a fall in the prices of mill cloth (-0.5

per cent to 128.7) and silk and rayon manufactures (-0.6 per cent to 102.8) and the index for 'Textiles' remained unchanged at its earlier month's level of 115.1. Among cotton manufactures, handloom cloth, however, remained unchanged. The sub-group index for 'Metal Products' moved up by 1.7 per cent to 147.7 owing to an increase in the prices of tinplates and aluminium utensils. Lower prices of chemicals brought down the sub-group index for 'Chemicals' by 0.8 per cent to 105.0. 'Oilcakes' came down by 2.7 per cent to 140.7. An advance in the prices of machinery, cycles and vehicles and rubber tyres and tubes raised the index for 'Machinery' and 'Transport Equipment' by 2.4 per cent to 108.6. Higher prices of shoes (leather) and glass raised the index for 'Other Finished Products' by 1.2 per cent to 114.0. On the whole, the index for 'Finished Products' advanced by 0.3 per cent to 115.9.

Communications

MEETING OF RAILWAY USERS' CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

A meeting of the National Railway Users' Consultative Council was held in New Delhi on April 19 and 20 under the chairmanship of the Railway Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram.

Addressing the meeting, Shri Jagjivan Ram announced that by the middle of next year all trains in India running over 500 miles would have at least one third class three-tier sleeper coach of the new design for passengers travelling more than 500 miles without any additional charge. Such coaches were already running on 8 pairs of trains including two on the metre gauge and six on the broad gauge.

For those seeking a greater degree of comfort, the Minister

said, the intention was also to have on these trains two-tier third class seating-cum-sleeping coaches. A surcharge of Rs. 3 per passenger per night would be levied for the use of sleeper berths in the two-tier coaches, which could be availed of both by passengers travelling over 500 miles and by those travelling less than 500 miles.

The Railway Minister disclosed that orders had been issued to prepare lists of all towns in India with a population of more than 10,000 and situated at a distance of over five miles away from the nearest railway station. The question of opening railway out-stations in these towns would be examined with a view to providing an integrated rail-cum-road service to travellers.

The Minister also announced that restaurant cars on the Bombay-Delhi Punjab Mails and the Bombay-Calcutta Mails via Nagpur were expected to be taken over for departmental working shortly. Departmental catering already existed on 195 stations and in 19 trains and it would be gradually extended to all important stations.

OPERATING PERFORMANCE

Referring to the operating performance of the railways, the Minister said that this had generally been satisfactory. From November 1959 to February 1960, loadings had shown an increase of 7.04 per cent on the broad gauge and 8.23 per cent on the metre gauge as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. Coal loading had also gone up though not quite as much as the general loading. There was an increase of 3.23 per cent in the loading in all the coalfields and 2.02 per cent in the loading in the coalfields in West Bengal and Bihar. The daily average allotment of coal wagons via Moghalsarai was nearly 1,600 as compared to 1,575 during the corresponding period of the previous year. The wagon miles per wagon day increased by 1.2 miles and 1.6 miles over the broad gauge and the metre gauge respectively.

The outstanding demands for wagons were nearly 46,000 over the broad gauge and 33,000 over the metre gauge at the end of February 1960, as compared with about only 25,000 wagons on the broad gauge and 30,000 on the metre gauge at the end of February 1959.

Coal stocks on the railways had been causing anxiety since December 1959. The overall stocks declined from 16.2 days on October 1, 1959 to 6.4 days on March 1, 1960. Stocks on some railways, viz. North Eastern, Northern and Central, had been as low as 2 to 4 days' consumption during March 1960. However, the position was gradually improving.

On most of the busy sections the goods trains were running according to scheduled time

RAIL CONCESSIONS TO PRIMARY TEACHERS

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 26, the Deputy Minister for Railways, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, said in a written answer that the teachers of primary schools were allowed the concession of first class travel on payment of second class mail fares, second class travel on payment of third class mail fares and third class travel on payment of half third class mail fares when travelling on educational tours to visit places of historical, geographical and cultural importance, in parties of not less than four. From June 1, 1959, this concession was granted even when they travelled singly, on production of the requisite certificate.

tables. Introduction of 'crack trains', of guaranteed quick transit services and of express goods services are some of the steps taken by the railways to speed up goods traffic.

MORE TRAINS

The punctuality performance of the mail, express and passenger trains had been generally better than during the corresponding period of last year. In fact, the performance of some of the railways had reached the target of 85 per cent for the mail and express trains and 90 per cent for passenger trains.

To reduce overcrowding in the third class, additional passenger coaches had been distributed judiciously between railways. The passenger coaches were put to more extensive usage and overaged ones were retained after proper repairs. These measures were expected to increase the seat-miles capacity, both on the broad and metre gauges by about 24 per cent by the end of the second Plan period.

From April 1 this year, three more trains had been introduced, namely, a direct express train between Hyderabad and

Madras, a train between Bilaspur and Bina via Katni, and a weekly Janata Express between Hardwar and Varanasi to serve the large number of pilgrims.

Referring to the safety of passengers in running trains, Shri Jagjivan Ram announced that, as an experimental measure, a push button switch had been designed to be provided in all ladies compartments of all classes which would operate an electric alarm bell and switch on a red light in guard's compartment and another light outside on both sides of the ladies' compartment. This experiment would be carried out on one mail and one express train on each railway, except the Southern and the N.-E.F. Railways. In fact, the device was already in use on certain trains, he said.

The Deputy Minister for Railways, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, announced at the meeting on April 20 that it had been decided to introduce a new express train between Surat or Bulsar and Ahmedabad from May 1, 1960, the date on which the new Gujarat State would come into existence.

Measures To Improve Rail Efficiency

A three-day meeting of Railway General Managers with the Railway Board concluded in New Delhi on April 30.

During a general discussion on the tasks ahead of the railways, the need for bold and original thinking along new line to tackle the railways' problems was repeatedly emphasised. Stress was also laid on the need for technical officers devoting more time in the field than at their desks. The General Managers were requested to explore all avenues for maximum economy in expenditure and staff and at the same time to carefully watch the development of railway revenues.

Better maintenance of amenities for rail-users, improvement of conditions in goods and parcel sheds, greater attention to train

punctuality and prompt attention to public complaints specially those relating to discourteous behaviour on the part of railway staff were some of the other matters discussed at the meeting.

The meeting discussed at some length technical problems pertaining to better use of engines, greater workshop production, a more intelligent use of manpower through better direction from above etc.

Awards For Railwaymen

The Railway Minister, Shri Jagjiwan Ram, awarded on April 16 in New Delhi silver medals and cash certificates valued at Rs. 500 each to 12 railwaymen selected from different parts of the country for their outstanding work.

Among the recipients of the awards are a Chief Workshop Instructor, a Mechanical Loco Foreman, a Passenger Guard, a Rakshak in Railway Protection Force, an Inspector of Works, a Driver, two Foremen, two Fitters, a Station Superintendent, a Welfare Inspector.

TRACK RENEWAL

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on April 26, the Deputy Minister for Railways, Shri S.V. Ramaswamy said that about 1,800 miles of complete track renewals and 750 miles of through rail renewals were proposed to be carried out during 1960-61.

Railway Accidents

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 29, the Deputy Minister for Railways, Shri S.V. Ramaswamy said that the total number of train accidents during 1959-60 was slightly less than the 1958-59 figure, the respective figures being 2001 and 2015. The number of derailments had gone up from 1390 to 1458. Also there were 109 collisions, 129 cases of trains running into road traffic on level crossings and 305 fires in trains. In the accidents eight persons were killed and 272 injured.

1,000TH LOCOMOTIVE

A New Delhi announcement of April 16 says that the 1,000th broad gauge steam locomotive manufactured by the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works was handed over to the Central Railway on April 16, marking a milestone in the locomotive building industry in India.

The Chittaranjan Locomotive Works went into production on January 26, 1950, the day India became a Republic, and the first locomotive steamed off the assembly lines on November 1 the same year. Production has risen from only seven locomotives in 1950-51 to 129 in 1955-56 and 173 last year.

In less than a decade from the start of production, the Chittaranjan has progressed from the mere assembly of imported components to the manufacture of almost all the components, with over 90 per cent indigenous content. The imported content has come down from Rs. 2.5 lakhs per locomotive in 1954-55 to a little over Rs. 70,000 at present.

The cost per locomotive has also come down from Rs. 7.5 lakhs in the case of the first locomotive to a little over Rs. 4 lakhs at present.

India has already achieved self-sufficiency both in regard to the designing and manufacture of steam locomotives, and a stage has now been reached when export is possible.

During the third Plan period, in addition to steam locomotives, Chittaranjan will undertake the manufacture of a large number of electric locomotives, the first of which is expected to be turned out during 1960-61.

Indo-Pakistan Rail Talks Adjourned

A Joint Press Communique issued in New Delhi on April 18 says that the Pakistani and Indian delegations discussed in a

spirit of cordiality problems concerning the grant of transit facilities for the movement of civilian traffic from one part of their country to the other part through the other country. The importance of this question was appreciated by both sides. Dis-

cussions were adjourned to enable each side to collect further information for consideration at a subsequent meeting to be held next month.

(The talks had opened in New Delhi on April 14).

HALF-YEARLY REVIEW OF CIVIL AVIATION IN 1959

A review of the progress of Civil Aviation in India during the second half of 1959, released on April 17, shows that the Air India International on its scheduled services flew 6,093,529 kilometers, carrying 47,163 passengers, 1,458,599 kgs. of cargo and 435,809 kgs. of mail, as against 6,061,607 kilometers flown and 44,333 passengers, 1,169,062 kgs. of cargo and 473,008 kgs. of mail carried during the preceding six months. The capacity ton kilometers operated was 49,686,983 as against 49,412,127 in the first half of 1959.

The figures of revenue ton kilometers pertaining to passengers, freight and mail during the half year were 19,824,135; 7,573,582 and 2,492,965 respectively as against 18,349,367; 6,398,892 and 2,552,585 during the first half. The overall load factor was 60.2% as against 55.3% in the preceding half year.

The Indian Airlines Corporation on its scheduled services flew 13,635,115 kilometers carrying 316,979 passengers, 14,991,761 kgs. of cargo and 2,986,704 kgs. of mail as against 14,026,749 kilometers flown and 327,685 passengers, 15,884,674 kgs. of cargo and 2,929,526 kgs. of mail carried during the first half of 1959. The capacity ton kilometers operated was 49,194,058 as against 49,460,856 during the preceding six months.

The figures of revenue ton kilometers pertaining to passengers, freight and mail during the period were 22,708,122; 8,316,269 and 3,010,873, respectively as against 22,720,564; 8,334,823 and

2,994,888 during the first half. The overall revenue load factor was 69.2 per cent as against 68.8% during the preceding six months.

NEW SERVICES

From December 1, 1959, the Indian Airlines Corporation has revised the pattern of their air services in the country. Important features include the introduction of a service on the route Delhi-Gwalior-Bhopal-Indore-Bombay, on a frequency of three times a week; introduction of additional Viscount services between Calcutta and Bombay and between Bombay and Delhi on the frequency of three times a week and four times a week respectively; increase in the frequency of the service operated on the route Patna-Kathmandu from daily to ten times a week and subsequently, from December 14, to twelve times a week; and the introduction of Skymaster aircraft in place of Dakota on the non-stop Bombay-Bangalore service.

A new service was introduced on the route Delhi-Chandigarh-Kulu on a frequency of two flights per week from October 3 and was suspended from November 3.

During the half year, the night airmail services carried approximately 21,408 passengers, 755,225 kgs. of cargo and 927,212 kgs. of mail as against 22,643 passengers, 704,822 kgs. of cargo and 976,232 kgs. of mail in the first half of 1959. The daily average was 116 passengers 4,108 kgs. of cargo and 5039 kgs. of mail as

against 125 passengers, 3,894 kgs. of cargo and 5,394 kgs. of mail in the preceding six month.

At the end of December, in addition to Air India International, the Indian Airlines Corporation and 14 subsidised flying clubs and seven air transport companies held permits for non-scheduled services. One air transport company also held permit for giving joy-rides.

On non-scheduled services, Indian air carriers are estimated to have flown 4,447,000 kilometers, carrying 51,000 passengers and 18,981,000 kgs. of cargo in the second half of 1959 as against 4,156,735 kilometers flown and 40,559 passengers and 16,848,942 kgs. of cargo carried during the preceding six months.

At the end of the year, there were eighty-five aerodromes controlled and maintained by the Civil Aviation Department. During the half year, the non-instrument runway at Calcutta (Dum Dum) airport was extended and opened to traffic. The civil aerodrome at Coimbatore (Peelamedu) was opened to air traffic from November 1.

TRAINING

At the Civil Aviation Training Centre, Allahabad, 25 trainees completed the flying training course, 14 Aerodrome Operators, 14 Assistant Aerodrome Officers and 34 Fire Service Personnel underwent refresher courses. 18 trainees completed the radio operators' long range course, 15 teleprinter maintenance course and 15 radio operators' refresher course. Besides one Nepalese, one Thai and one candidate from Singapore completed their training.

At the end of December, there were 105 trainees at the Centre, including one Nepalese and three candidates from Singapore.

At the end of the year, there were 16 subsidised flying clubs in India. The Kerala Flying Club was started at Trivandrum in September, and the Gujarat Flying Club at Baroda in October. During the half year, these clubs trained in all 101 'A' pilots and five 'B' pilots and logged a total flying time of 13,357 hours.

The Birla Gliding Club at Pilani in Rajasthan was included in the subsidy scheme of the Government. During the period, the three Government Gliding Centres and the Delhi Gliding Club trained 28 pilots and logged a total of 681 hours. A total of 6105 launches were carried out. The fourth All-India Air Rally was held at Jaipur from September 30 to October 2.

The number of aircraft holding current certificates of registration at the end of the year was 520 of which 179 held current certificates of airworthiness. Ten aircraft were registered in the name of Air India International and 95 in the name of Indian Airlines Corporation.

During the period, the number of persons holding current Pilot's 'A' licences increased from 1130 and that of 'B' licences from 579 to 597. The number of Aircraft Maintenance Engineers holding Indian Licences increased from 1075 to 1094.

TELE-COMMUNICATIONS

At the end of December, there were 80 aeronautical communication stations in operation, providing 135 radio aids to navigation and 548 aeronautical communication channels. During the half year under review, an aeronautical tele-communication station was brought into operation at Pataudi.

VHF Omni-Ranges (VOR) were installed and placed on operation at Coimbatore, Ahmedabad and Nagpur on an experimental basis pending flight checks. A similar facility was also installed at Madras. In replacement of Manual VHF DFs, Visual Automatic VHF DFs (Direction Finders AD-200) were put into operation at Allahabad and Vishakhapatnam. At Calcutta, the Glide Path and localiser components of ILS (SCS51) were installed and flight checked.

Landline Teleprinter circuits commenced operating between Delhi (Safdarjung) and Amritsar and between Delhi (Safdarjung) and Bombay replacing the existing Manual AFTN circuit. Inter-R/T channel was provided

at Kanpur. Seven channel speech recorders were installed and brought into use at Mohanbari and Bagdogra. A similar additional speech recorder was put into commission at Delhi (Safdarjung).

During the half year, there were 14 major accidents in India involving 13 Indian registered aircraft and one foreign registered aircraft. Eleven Airmiss incidents involving civil aircraft were also reported.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The third prototype of the Ashvini Glider with modified aileron system was successfully testflown on November 23. The Glider has been accepted as a standard equipment for training of the N.C.C. Pilots. The work of designing a high performance two-seater sailplane was taken up. The Type Certificate for the propeller for Pushpak MK1 aircraft designed and constructed by the Hindustan Aircraft Limited was designed and constructed by the Hindustan Aircraft Limited was issued.

A bilateral Air Services Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Italy was signed at Rome on July 16.

State Transport Undertakings

The eighth annual conference of the representatives of State Transport Undertakings which was held at Bangalore on April 22 and 23, has approved a scheme for setting up a Central Training and Research Institute for road transport officers. Funds for this Institute would be provided by the Central Government and the State Transport Undertakings.

The conference felt that the present quota for import of spare parts was inadequate and recommended that the quota should be enhanced to enable proper maintenance and repairs of the fleets of the S.T.U.s.

Another important recommendation related to the production of films for educational

and training purposes. The conference also recommended that the Undertakings should make greater use of reclaimed or refined lubricating oil since it would result in saving of foreign exchange. The proposal of the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment regarding the enactment of a comprehensive legislation on apprenticeship training in industry was approved.

Introduction of parcel traffic scheme consisting of small parcels weighing upto one maund to be carried in buses was another important recommendation made by the conference.

It was recommended that funds be created by crediting a certain percentage of net profits for improving passenger amenities and for providing staff welfare amenities. It suggested that adequate amenities to the travelling public should be provided by way of proper bus stations, shelters, waiting rooms and drinking water facilities.

Productivity Team On Road Transport

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on April 21 Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister of Industry, stated that the Road Transport Productivity Team sent abroad by the National Productivity Council had recommended the reorientation of policies to eliminate all practices and regulations inhibiting expansion of road transport. The other main recommendations of the team were: accordance of priority to road construction in the Third and subsequent Plans; research into various aspects of road transport operations; creation of training facilities including training of administrators in the operation and guidance of nationalised and private road transport systems; combination of small operators on ownership or co-operative basis; creation of maintenance facilities and allocation of larger foreign exchange for manufacture of import of vehicles and parts.

The final report of the team was expected to be submitted to

the Council before the end of April and the recommendations will be considered in detail by the NPC and the Government.

NEW PROCESS FOR ROAD PAINTS

A New Delhi announcement of April 29 says that investigations at the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Calcutta, have shown that a substantial quantity of costly pigments; used in the manufacture of road marking paints, could be replaced by mica powder without affecting the quality of the paints. Paint compositions containing mica powder have better abrasion resistance and durability than the paints at present in use.

The Institute has also produced paints capable of withstanding temperatures up to 600 degrees Centigrade using mica powder as one of the ingredients.

Controlling Interests In Mogul Line

During question hour in the Lok Sabha on April 26, Shri Raj Bahadur, Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications, laid a statement on the Table of the House giving important features of the deal for acquiring controlling interests in the Mogul Line Limited by the Western Shipping Corporation.

The Mogul Line Limited is a shipping company with rupee capital registered in India. The majority shares in the equity capital of this Company had hitherto been held by foreigners. The Western Shipping Corporation had now purchased 80,180

shares, out of a total of 1,01,190 shares, and had thus acquired controlling interest in the Company. These shares were acquired by the Corporation from the British Indian Steam Navigation Company Limited and the Asiatic Steam Navigation Company Limited, both of London, at the rate of Rs. 360/ per share of Rs. 100 fully paid. The entire price was paid in pounds sterling at London on March 14, 1960.

SURVEY SHIP 'DARSHAK'

Shri Raj Bahadur, Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications stated in the Lok Sabha during question hour on April 18 that a Survey Ship "DARSHAK" had been designed for the marine survey of the coastline, harbour and the sea, and the type of survey work includes oceanographic, thermographic and hydrographic surveys.

PARADIP PORT

Shri Raj Bahadur, Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications disclosed in the Lok Sabha during question hour on April 22 that the Central Government had given loans of Rs. 28,01,000 to the Orissa Government during the last seven years for the development of Paradip Port.

INSURED AIR LETTER SERVICE EXTENDED

According to a New Delhi announcement of April 16, insured air mail letter service to the Democratic Republic of Germany and Thailand has been introduced by the P. and T. Department.



ASSISTANCE TO TEA INDUSTRY

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 8, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Minister of Commerce and Industry, stated

that the Government of India had approved a scheme of the Tea Board, involving an expenditure of Rs. 2 crores, to assist

tea estates and factories in acquiring machinery and equipment on hire-purchase basis. The Tea Board will acquire certain types of machinery and equipment on full payment for supplying to the garden or factory which have applied for assistance.

The broad details of the scheme are: (1) The maximum total value of machinery and equipment to be supplied by the Board in any one single case shall not exceed Rs. 2 lakhs. (2) Once the application for assistance is accepted by the Board, earnest money to the extent of 10 per cent of the cost of machinery and equipment should be deposited by the applicant with the Board. The applicant will also be required to pay a further 10 per cent of the cost on delivery and installation of the machinery. (3) The balance hire-purchase value of the machinery will be paid in seven annual instalments. (4) The rate of interest will be 6 per cent per annum; in the case of co-operative societies, however, it will be 4½ per cent.

PROFITS OF TEA COMPANIES

In reply to a question on April 14 a statement on profits and dividends (accrued and remitted) on tea companies in India was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha by the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai. According to the statement, the profits and dividends were Rs. 5.2 crores (provisional) in 1958-59 and Rs. 5.8 crores in 1957-58. Profits of branches of foreign companies accounted for Rs. 4.8 crores in 1958-59 and Rs. 5.3 crores in 1957-58. The balance accounted for dividends of Joint Stock Companies registered in India.

Remittance of profits and dividends from India (including remittances of accumulated earnings) amounted to Rs. 6.7 crores (provisional) in 1958-59 and Rs. 7.3 crores in 1957-58. Of these the profits of branches of foreign companies accounted for Rs. 6.3 crores (provisional) in 1958-59 and Rs. 6.8 crores in 1957-58.

Body On Manufacture Of Agricultural Equipment

In reply to a question on April 21, the Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, announced in the Rajya Sabha that a committee to examine the manufacture of agricultural equipment in the country was being appointed very shortly. The terms of reference of the proposed committee would be: (1) to assess the demand for the various types of equipment required to implement the agricultural development programmes scheduled for the Third Plan; (2) to review the progress of the indigenous development of such equipments as it would be at the end of the Second Plan; (3) to recommend measures to make the country self-sufficient; and (4) to assess the total investment and the foreign exchange requirements for the development under the Third Plan.

Increasing Export Of Food Products

According to an announcement dated April 17 the State Trading Corporation of India is organising, in collaboration with established manufacturers, a drive for promoting the exports of Indian-made food products, biscuits and confectionery in markets of West Asia and Europe.

A large variety of fruit squashes, jams, pickles and preserves are manufactured in India for home consumption as well as for export. Over 30,000 tons of fruit and vegetable products are now manufactured by nearly 850 licensed manufacturers in Calcutta, Bombay, Allahabad, Lucknow, Madras, Delhi, Mathura and other places.

In 1959, India exported Rs. 1.28 crores worth preserved vegetables and vegetable preparations, preserved fruits and fruit preparations and dried fruits. Fish and fish preparations fetched another Rs. 25 lakhs. Export of canned meat and meat preparations was of the order of Rs. 57 lakhs. These products, were exported to a number of coun-

tries including those in West Asia, South-East Asia, U.S.A., U.K., West Germany and Australia.

A number of steps have been taken by the Government to promote export of processed food products. These include a scheme for the supply of tinplates used in the manufacture of cans and rebate of excise duty on sugar used in exported fruit products.

Export Of Flower Plants

Dr. M.M. Das, Union Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs told the Lok Sabha in a written reply to a question on April 11 that during the three years 1957-59, the foreign exchange earned by India through export of flowering plants totalled Rs. 172,000.

The principal countries which imported these plants were the U.S.A. the U.K., West Germany Netherlands, Finland and Kuwait.

The Deputy Minister added that the orchidarium which the Government of India were planning to set up in Shillong for growing orchids and for hybridisation of new varieties of orchids was likely to be completed during 1962-63.

Refrigerated Rail Vans For Fish Transport

A New Delhi announcement of April 13 says that six refrigerated vans for the transport of fish are being introduced as an experimental measure during the current hot weather.

The first of the vans, which are being constructed at Central Railway's Carriage and Wagon Workshop at Matunga, near Bombay, is expected to be delivered by the end of April. The bogies for the vans are being supplied by the Integral Coach Factory at Perambur, while the underframes are being supplied by a private firm. The refrigeration equipment is being imported.

Seven New Warehouses

According to a New Delhi announcement of April 28, seven more warehouses, two each in Madras and Kerala and one each in U.P., Bihar and Orissa, have been set up by the Central Warehousing Corporation. These warehouses, having a capacity of 5,000 tons each, are located at Madras, Coimbatore, Cochin, Alleppey, Saharanpur, Dalsingh Sarai and Berhampur.

The Central Warehousing Corporation already has 19 warehouses functioning in various States. Besides, the State Warehousing Corporations have another 145 warehouses scattered all over the country. Taken together, all these warehouses have a total capacity of 2 lakh tons of improved storage.

The Central and State Warehousing Corporations have chalked out an ambitious programme to build many more warehouses in the near future. During the current financial year they expect to set up 179 more warehouses so as to reach the revised target of 350 warehouses in the Second Plan. During the third Plan period another 435 warehouses will be set up.

The Central Warehousing Corporation was set up in July 1957, with an authorised capital of Rs. 20 crores under the Agricultural Produce (Development and Warehousing) Corporations Act, 1956, to arrange for the formation of the State Warehousing Corporations in each State, except Jammu and Kashmir, and to set up warehouses at important market places all over the country.

Warehouses In Punjab

A New Delhi announcement of April 20 says that to meet the demand for efficient storage of agricultural produce two more warehouses, one each at Fazlika and Nabha with a total capacity of about 3,500 tons, have been opened in the Punjab by the State Warehousing Corporation. The State already has a State warehouse at Jagraon.

The Government of the Punjab have decided to deposit their stocks in these warehouses and has offered hired accommodation available with them to the State Warehousing Corporation at Jagraon, Fazlika, Nabha, Jalalabad, Sunam and Dhuri. The suitability of godowns at the last three centres is being examined and arrangements will be made to set up warehouses at these places shortly.

The State Warehousing Corporation has selected sites to construct its own buildings for warehouses at Patiala and Kailash. At present the warehouses are in hired buildings.

The Punjab State Warehousing Corporation was established in 1958 with an authorised capital of Rs. 50 lakhs and a paid-up capital of Rs. 14.1 lakhs. Half of the shares were subscribed by the Central Warehousing Corporation and the other half by the State Government.

Apart from providing scientific storage, the warehouses set up by the Central and State Warehousing Corporations play an important role in making credit facilities available to producers and traders. To meet their immediate needs, they can obtain cheap and easy credit from scheduled and co-operative banks against receipts issued by the warehouses.

All-India Final Estimates SANNHEMP

According to a Press Note issued on April 7 by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the all-India Final Estimate of Sannhemp 1959-60, puts the current year's area and production at 813,000 acres and 80,000 tons respectively. As compared with the Partially Revised Estimates of 807,000 acres and 31,000 tons for 1958-59, the Estimates for 1959-60 show an increase of 6,000 acres, or 0.7%, in area and a decrease of 1,000 tons or 1.2%, in production.

The increase in acreage has been shared mainly by Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, and is attributed partly to favourable climatic conditions at the time of

JUTE PRODUCTION

The production of jute goods by member mills of the Indian Jute Mills Association during the period January to September, 1959 was 7,82,000 tons (hessian 346,200 tons, sacking 364,100 tons and other goods 71,700 tons).

During the same period, exports of jute goods were approximately 675,366 tons (hessian 365,280 tons, sacking 253,698 tons and other goods 56,388 tons) which earned foreign exchange worth Rs. 84.67 crores, as against 614,337 tons (hessian 314,339 tons, sacking 263,913 tons and other goods 36,085 tons) worth Rs. 80 crores during the corresponding period in 1958.

India attained quantitative self-sufficiency in raw jute for the first time during the jute year July 1958 to June 1959. Production of raw jute (including mesta) during this period was 67.59 lakh bales against the industry's annual requirements of about 65 lakh bales.

Import of raw jute from Pakistan during the jute year 1958-59 came to 3,30,200 bales only, as against 6,75,600 bales imported during 1957-58. At present imports of jute from Pakistan comprise mostly of jute cuttings for the manufacture of cotton bagging cloth—a loose fabric used for packing raw cotton in the U.S.A.—and high quality long jute.

As there was a bumper jute crop during 1958-59, it was found possible to allow export of a limited quantity of raw jute through the State Trading Corporation during 1959-60 after a lapse of about 10 years.

For the modernisation of jute mills, the National Industrial Development Corporation has so far approved of loans amounting to Rs. 4.55 crores for 22 mill companies.

sowing and partly to high prices of Sann fibre. Bombay State has recorded some decrease in area.

BLACK PEPPER

According to a Press Note issued on April 22 by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the All-India Final Estimate of black pepper, 1959-60, puts the current year's area and production at 232,000 acres and 25,400 tons as against the Partially Revised Estimates of 230,100 acres and 25,500 tons respectively for 1958-59.

The increase in acreage and the nominal decrease in production during the current year are accounted for by Kerala State.

There has been a slight decrease in acreage in Mysore State.

DRY GINGER

The All-India Final Estimate of dry ginger, 1959-60, puts the current year's area and production at 37,000 acres and 13,400 tons respectively. As compared with the Partially Revised Estimates of 35,700 acres and 12,300 tons for 1958-59, the Estimates for 1959-60 show an increase of 1,300 acres or 3.6% in area and 1,100 tons or 8.9% in production.

The increase in area is accounted for mainly by Kerala and Bombay while the increase in production is shared mainly by Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.

Considerations for the conversion of Blocks are the same as those for selection of pre-extension Blocks.

Co-operative Movement In Third Plan

A draft outline of the Third Five Year Plan for co-operative development of credit, marketing, processing and storage was considered by the National Co-operative Development and Warehousing Board which met at Poona on April 21. The Board resolved to forward the draft to the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation for consideration.

The draft plan had been prepared by a sub-committee appointed by the Board in June 1959.

The sub-committee has recommended physical targets for scheme involving an outlay of Rs. 61.50 crores, exclusive of schemes aided directly by the Union Government.

The physical targets proposed are 45,500 new agricultural credit societies, 62,475 agricultural credit societies to be revitalised, and 14 credit unions to be set up. This would take the total societies to about four crores by the end of the Third Plan.

The sub-committee has also proposed the grant of short and medium term loans totalling about Rs. 500 crores and long term loans totalling over Rs. 65 crores. It has suggested the setting up of over 600 new marketing societies and the re-vitalisation of 639 existing ones; opening of 20 co-operative sugar mills and 600 processing units as well as the establishment of over 9000 godowns comprising over 7,200 rural godowns, 500 godowns of large sized societies and 1,200 godowns of marketing societies.

Education & Culture

MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The All-India Council for Technical Education at its thirteenth meeting held in New Delhi on April 30 endorsed the general approach and recommendations of the Working Group on Technical Education and Vocational Training in the Third and subsequent Plans.

The Report of the Working Group emphasises the need to maintain the tempo of expansion of technical education and to set up new standards to ensure efficiency and economy. It envisages an expenditure of about Rs. 201 crores during the Third Plan made up of Rs. 110 crores for completion of Second Plan projects and Rs. 91 crores for new schemes.

The Council has recommended that the problem of shortage of teachers should be tackled vigorously with a sense of urgency. According to the Working Group, the estimated requirements of teachers during the Third Plan are 4654 teachers for Degree courses and 4802 for Diploma courses.

TRAINING SCHEMES

Revised proposals, prepared in consultation with the Planning Commission, for technical education in the Third Plan envisage an expenditure of Rs. 176.89 crores. The schemes provide, among other things, for the establishment of 50 Junior Technical Schools as adjuncts to Polytechnics, setting up of four colleges for training teachers of Polytechnics, increasing admissions into Degree courses by 5,000 students and into Diploma courses by 10,000 and construction of quarters for about 20% of the staff of technical institutions.

The Council has recommended the setting up of a number of

new institutions including a Regional Engineering College at Rourkella. With the establishment of the new College, 9 out of 15 States, including the new State of Gujarat, will have a Regional College each. The question of establishing Regional Colleges for the rest of the States may be considered on merits.

The establishment of two Centrally-sponsored Polytechnics at Kotah and Alwar and a Polytechnic at Bikaner has also been recommended.

The scheme for the establishment of a Foundry and Forging Training Institute at Ranchi, prepared by an Expert Committee, was accepted by the Council subject to certain conditions.

It has also been suggested that State Governments and other authorities should take advantage of the facilities available at Roorkee University for training in water resources development.

FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS

The Council recommended that upto about 25% of the seats may be reserved in technical institutions for students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Backward Classes and in special areas a further marginal adjustment upto 10% may also be permitted. As regards the standard of admission requirements to be prescribed for these students, a concession upto 10% of marks as compared to the last candidate admitted against the general seats may be granted. These concessions, however, should be gradually withdrawn over a period of 10 to 15 years.

The restrictions relating to admission at the regional level should be discouraged.

The Council welcomed the scheme of Merit-cum-Means Scholarships instituted by the

Central Government during 1959-60 to extend State aid to meritorious but poor students. It was proposed to enlarge the scheme in the Third Plan period and cover 20-25% of students.

ENGINEERING COURSES

The Council was of the view that separate Degree courses be organised either on a full-time or on a part-time basis in engineering. It also recommended to the State Boards of Technical Education to consider the question of instituting advanced Diploma courses in engineering.

The Council endorsed the recommendation of the Board of Studies in Engineering that two years practical training should be prescribed for the award of National Certificate and the experience gained by a candidate during his employment may count towards the requirement of practical training.

The Council also endorsed another recommendation of the Engineering Board that State Boards of Technical Education should prescribe similar conditions in respect of practical training for the award of State Diplomas in Engineering.

Members of the Council were informed that the Government of India had accepted in principle the establishment of a Directorate of Practical Training for students in mining and steps were being taken to set up the institution.

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTES' COMMON ADMISSION TEST

Dr. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, stated, in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 27, that details of a common test to be held for admission to the Higher Technological Institutes have been formulated in consultation with the authorities of the Institutes.

As a first step, a common Entrance Examination would be held for the Kharagpur and Bombay Institutes on May 2 and 3, at 61 different centres.

Community Development

ALLOTMENT OF PRE-EXTENSION BLOCKS TO STATE GOVERNMENTS

A New Delhi announcement of April 17 says that the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation has allotted 222 pre-extension Blocks, under the April 1960 series, to 11 State Governments and three Union Territories.

Following is the State-wise break-up, Andhra Pradesh 22; Bihar 29; Bombay 33; Madhya Pradesh 18; Madras 16; Punjab 9; Orissa 16; Uttar Pradesh 46; Mysore 12; Rajasthan 10; Kerala 7; Manipur and Tripura one each and NEFA 2.

The selection of the Blocks by the State Governments is to be determined by certain tests of self-reliance and self-help shown by the people, such as fair evidence of cleanliness and sanitation in the villages and the extent of coverage by panchayats and co-operatives. As regards the location of the new Blocks, the highest priority has to be given to wheat and paddy areas with secure irrigation facilities or adequate rainfall. While preference is to be given to areas

comprising Gramdan villages and also those areas where there is a preponderance of backward classes, each district in the State should have adequate coverage and the new Blocks should be contiguous to existing ones, so as to form a compact unit. Stress is also to be laid on the location of Blocks round the agricultural or veterinary colleges, or extension training centres.

200 STAGE I BLOCKS

Another announcement dated April 21 says that the Ministry has also authorised State Governments to convert 200 pre-extension Blocks into Stage I Blocks, under the same series.

The State-wise break-up of the Blocks to be converted is as follows: Andhra Pradesh 18; Bihar 23; Bombay 24; Madhya Pradesh 15; Madras 13; Orissa 12; Punjab 7; Uttar Pradesh 43; West Bengal 15; Mysore 10; Rajasthan 8; Kerala 5; Manipur, Tripura and Himachal Pradesh 1 each and NEFA 4.

Scientists' Pool

According to an announcement of April 20, more than 100 scientists and technologists have accepted appointment for temporary placement in the Scientists Pool which is administered by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

An analysis of the results of the first selection made in 1959 shows that out of 191 candidates to whom offers were sent, 102 have already accepted while the replies are awaited from 33 others. Only 10 have declined the offer while 46 candidates have informed that they have secured suitable employment on their return from abroad. Fifteen candidates have already joined. Most of those selected are still abroad and have been allowed time to return to India to join the Pool. In the meantime, prospective employers are being contacted for their placements.

The Scientists Pool is intended primarily for temporary placement of well-qualified Indian scientists and technologists returning from abroad until they are absorbed in suitable posts on a more or less permanent basis. Scientists with high Indian qualifications are also eligible for selection to the Pool.

Selection to the Pool covers persons qualified in all fields of medicine, engineering, technology and agriculture besides the various general scientific disciplines.

Selected scientists may be attached or seconded to Governments, industrial undertakings, National Laboratories, universities, scientific or technical institutions or such other organisations as the Council may decide.

MERIT PROMOTIONS

Replying to a question on April 28 Dr. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, told the Rajya Sabha that the Merit Promotions and Advance Increments Scheme of the Ministry had been in force since November 1958. The Scheme was at pre-

sent applicable to the National Laboratories and Institutes under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. It has also recently been decided to extend the Scheme to the scientific personnel of the Botanical Survey, the Zoological Survey and the Department of Anthropology, the Minister added.

Technical Terminology In Hindi

A Press Note issued on April 27 by the Ministry of Education says that as an important step in the discharge of responsibility cast on the Union Government by Article 351 of the Constitution of India and for furtherance of the effective use of scientific and technical terminology evolved by the Government to help smooth change-over from English to Hindi, it has been decided to initiate a project of translation and preparation of standard source and text books on sciences, technology and humanities through academic agencies.

This work will be financed wholly by the Government of India and will be entrusted to the academic bodies of the State Governments and to Universities interested in the work and prepared to consider the books for curricular purposes after preparation. The selection of books and supervision of their translation or preparation with a view to ensuring proper standard would be done by a committee of experts belonging to appropriate scientific and technical fields. The terms approved by the Government of India will be compulsorily used in these works.

The special feature of the scheme is that sale-proceeds of the published works would be ploughed back for continued production and publication of more such books. Two hundred titles have already been selected for translation into Hindi to mark the initial phase.

A sub-committee of experts has been appointed to ensure systematic execution of the project.

Hindi Teachers' Training Colleges

In a written reply to a question, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Minister of Education, informed the Rajya Sabha on April 25 that, among the non-Hindi speaking States, Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Kerala, Assam, Mysore, Madras, Tripura and Andaman and Nicobar Islands had agreed either to open new Hindi Teachers' Training Colleges or to the strengthening of the existing facilities for the training of Hindi teachers.

The Governments of Punjab, Orissa, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur Administration and Laccadive, Minicoy and Amin-dive Islands had stated that the existing facilities were adequate to meet the demands for the training of Hindi teachers for the present. No reply has been received from the Government of West Bengal.

The Minister added that the Government of India had decided to set up a Kendriya Hindi Shikshaka Mahavidyalaya at Agra to fill in any gaps that might exist in this respect.

Specific requests for financial assistance for starting Teachers' Training Colleges had been received from certain organisations in Mysore, Andhra Pradesh and Assam.

RECOGNITION TO HINDI EXAMINATIONS

In a Press Note issued on April 23, the Ministry of Education says that on the recommendation of the Hindi Shiksha Samiti, the Government of India have recognised, for purposes of employment under them, the Hindi examinations conducted by certain organisations. The standard of Hindi, so recognised, has been indicated against each examination.

The Government of India desire to clarify that recognition of these examinations has been accorded only in regard to the standard of Hindi prescribed in the equivalent examinations and is not to be treated as equivalent to the full-fledged Certificates

and Degrees the examinations to which they have been equated.

MAHABHARATA IN REGIONAL LANGUAGES

The Government of India have given grants for the publication of an Oriya version of the Mahabharata as well as a Malayalam commentary on it, stated Dr. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, in reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on April 25.

The Minister added that Government had also sanctioned Rs. 10,000 for the translation of the Mahabharata into Assamese.

PRIZES FOR READERS IN SANSKRIT

According to a Press Note issued on April 22 by the Ministry of Education, the Government of India have instituted a prize scheme for the production of three standard/modern graded Readers in Sanskrit mainly intended for pupils of the middle or lower secondary stage of the age-group 10 to 13. Three prizes of the value of Rs. 2,400; Rs. 2,100 and Rs. 1,800 respectively, will be awarded to the authors.

The last date for the submission of drafts of the Readers is July 31, 1960. Further details can be had from the Special Officer (Sanskrit), Ministry of Education, New Delhi-2.

Home Science Conference

A Home Science Conference was held in New Delhi from April 18 to 20 under the joint auspices of the Union Education Ministry and the United States Technical Co-operation Mission to India. The object of the Conference was to evaluate the work done since 1955 under the T.C.M. Home Science Project and to formulate programmes to meet

the future needs of development in this field in India.

Inaugurating the Conference, Shri K.G. Saiyidain, Union Education Secretary, said that during the last five years the Project had worked most satisfactorily. As a result of the pooling of the knowledge of American and Indian teachers in the field, the teaching of Home Science had been vitalised to a great extent.

Referring to conditions prevailing in India, Shri Saiyidain said that a great deal of responsibility rested on the Indian Home Scientists for working out solutions which were both imaginative and realistic in character. Home Science teaching must also be co-ordinated with the broad objectives of Indian education. The experience gained in other departments of arts and science should be brought to bear on specific problems in this field.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are the main recommendations of the three-day Conference: (1) Special measures should be taken to make available trained teachers in Home Science in multi-purpose and higher secondary schools and the educational extension projects; (2) The Union Ministry of Education should make available to every college offering the B.Sc. Degree in Home Science a certain number of fellowships so that promising students can be trained in this field; (3) The existing B.Sc. curriculum was the basic foundation upon which the development of Home Science in India depended. Assistance of the Ministry, University Grants Commission and the T.C.M. should be sought to develop and strengthen this course in the existing colleges; (4) The programme and curriculum at the post-graduate level should be strengthened at a few selected colleges; (5) To meet the demand for Home Science teachers for multi-purpose schools, a specific number of scholarships be made available

for candidates on a region-wise basis.

RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The Conference also suggested that special attention be paid to the research aspect at the post-graduate level. Such research could provide a broader base for Home Science teaching and contribute to better family living conditions throughout India.

A Committee should be appointed by the Ministry in collaboration with the Home Science Association of India to review the existing research material on Home Science and related fields and make them available in the Home Science Colleges.

A Home Scientist should be appointed in the Ministry to interpret and co-ordinate the Home Science Programme in India.

The Conference was attended by delegates from leading Home Science institutions in India, American Consultants in Home Science, representatives of the T.C.M. and officers of the University Grants Commission and the Union Ministry.

Meeting Of Advisory Board On Basic Education

The ninth meeting of the Standing Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education on Basic Education was held in New Delhi on April 18.

The Committee reviewed the progress made in spreading basic education during the Second Plan period. It also discussed the programme for expansion of basic education in the Third Plan.

The constitution of a high-powered National Council with a permanent chairman and secretary to direct the basic education programme, particularly the conversion programme, has been recommended by the Committee. The National Council would help in the maintenance of liaison with workers in the country.

Since the financial allocation for basic education schemes in the Third Plan were not likely to be sufficient to meet the requirements of the schemes, the Committee suggested that a small group be constituted to explore the possibilities of co-ordinating the basic education programme with the allied fields of agriculture, village industries, etc., where more funds were likely to be available.

IMPROVEMENT IN TRAINING

The Committee was of the view that in a developing programme such as that of basic education, assessment of progress throughout the country should be undertaken once every five years. It recommended that steps should, therefore, be taken to have the second assessment done during 1960-61.

The Committee suggested that all new schools to be opened in connection with the compulsory primary education programme should, as far as possible, be on basic education lines.

It was pointed out that some of the undergraduate basic teacher training institutions were unable to make their full contribution. An extension department should, therefore, be attached to each of the training institutions in order to enable them to give continuous guidance to the schools around them. The dichotomy existing at the post-graduate teacher training level should also be progressively reduced so that all the post-graduate teacher training institutions, such as those for B.T. and B.Ed., were also run more or less on the same lines as the post-graduate basic training colleges. A beginning should be made in this direction by introducing a full paper in the B.T., B.Ed. and similar degree examinations of the Universities.

NEW UNIVERSITY IN WEST BENGAL

According to an announcement of April 16 the President has given assent to the Burdwan University Bill, 1959.

The legislation seeks to set up a new university in West Bengal with jurisdiction over the entire Burdwan division, excluding the district of Howrah.

The new University is being set up because the Calcutta University is not in a position to cope with the increasing demand for higher education in the State, particularly in respect of post-graduate courses.

Besides teaching usual subjects in humanities and science, the proposed University is expected to provide special facilities for teaching technological subjects like engineering, mining and metallurgy.

FRENCH SCHOLARSHIP

A Press Note issued on April 19 by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs says that a candidate of Poona has been selected for the award of a scholarship for Specialized Training offered by the Government of France during 1959-60. The subject is Administration.

CZECHOSLOVAK SCHOLARSHIPS

A Press Note issued on April 28 by the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs says that 9 candidates have been selected for the award of scholarships offered by the Government of Czechoslovakia for practical training in that country during 1958-59 in technological subjects.

These scholarships are administered by the Ministry.

Physical Education Board Meeting

The tenth meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Physical Education and Recreation was held in New Delhi on April 16.

The Board recommended that a committee constituted by the Ministry of Education in consultation with the Ministry of Health should evaluate the therapeutic value of yogic asanas and suggest ways and means for the scientific develop-

ment of the yogic institutions after visiting them.

The Board also reviewed the results of the National Physical Efficiency Drive conducted on an all-India basis in February and March this year for improving the standards of physical fitness in the country. It was emphasised that the Drive should be implemented on a more extensive scale and with greater intensity during the coming year.

Another recommendation of the Board was that the colleges of physical education should evaluate the efficacy of the tests under the Drive on the basis of the data available to them.

India's representatives should be deputed to important international conferences of physical education and recreation.

The members of the Board recommended a grant of Rs. 34,000 to the K.S.M.Y.M. Samiti, Lonavala, for construction of a hostel building, and another sum of Rs. 40,000 for purchase of equipment.

The Board suggested that two pilot projects, one urban and one rural, may be undertaken to work on an experimental basis and to decide which recreational activities were of maximum value.

After examining the application of the National Association of Physical Education and Recreation for financial assistance, the Board recommended that a non-recurring grant of Rs. 40,000 may be paid to the Association for acquisition of land and for construction of its headquarters, which are proposed to be located at Nagpur. A recurring grant was also recommended to enable the Association to meet the salaries of two paid secretaries, one of whom would look after the recreation side and the other the indigenous games.

Mountaineering Institute

The annual general meeting of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, held in New Delhi on April 28, decided that mountain-

eeing centres should be set up all over India.

Such centres are already in existence in Bombay, Jabalpur and Saugor, where rock-climbing courses have been conducted with the help of instructors from the Institute.

Since the Mountaineering Institute was started in November 1954, some 500 persons drawn from all parts of the country have received training in mountaineering. This has created considerable interest in mountaineering and a large number of expeditions have been organised during the past three or four years. The latest among them is the first all-Indian Everest Expedition which has already set up Camp No. IV near Lhotse. Almost all the Indian participants in these expeditions are ex-students of the Mountaineering Institute.

It was explained at the meeting that advance courses at the Institute were being re-organised to ensure that a larger number could take advantage of the highly specialised training. A Physiological Research Section had also been set up at the Institute.

Programme Advisory Committee Of A.I.R.

The Central Programme Advisory Committee of All India Radio at its two-day meeting, which concluded in New Delhi on April 22 under the Chairmanship of Dr. B.V. Keskar, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, decided to extend the Vividh Bharati transmission by one hour daily. The new transmission will be on the air between 11 A.M. and 12 Noon. The new programme will consist of light and popular songs interspersed by anecdotes, skits, quotations and other items of interest and value to listeners.

The Committee was apprised of the preparations being made by All India Radio in connection with the Tagore Centenary celebrations next year. It was

pointed out that a radio biography of Tagore in six parts of 30 minutes each would be broadcast during the celebrations.

The members suggested that translations and texts of religious scriptures should be broadcast depending on the literary content of the scriptures. Ancient scriptures should not be ignored simply because they were religious.

The meeting decided that a special programme should be started for the youth. It should feature such items as group singing, humorous songs, quiz programmes and problems of the youth. To encourage youth participation in these programmes, it was felt that youth clubs should be started in the country. Competitions could be arranged between the youth clubs and successful participants awarded prizes.

NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF LITERATURE

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Keskar disclosed that from April 28, All India Radio would launch upon a new monthly programme called the National Programme of Contemporary Literature. It would be presented in the form of a magazine programme comprising poems, short stories and essays in various regional languages along with their translations.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF MUSIC ADVISORY BOARD

The Central Advisory Board for Music, at its meeting held in New Delhi on April 21 under the chairmanship of Dr. B.V. Keskar, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, has recommended to the A.I.R. that not only periodical competitions and festivals of folk music be held but also groups of young artists might be given an opportunity to learn folk songs under the guidance of trained musicians.

The Board desired that special efforts should be made to improve the presentation of light music by insisting on pre-record-

ing of programmes and selection of proper lyrics. At present, there was an indiscriminate tendency for artists without training to present light songs. Special youth music club programmes should be organised to encourage interest among young people in both classical and popular music.

It was suggested that North Indian artists might play South Indian tunes on North Indian instruments and vice versa; this would encourage a better understanding of each other's art.

The kinds of instruments that should be used in the Vadya Vrinda were also discussed and a special reference was made to the need of arranging recitals of Sanskrit pieces in traditional styles.

RADIO STATION IN SIKKIM

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 20, Dr. B.V. Keskar, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, said that preliminary investigations for setting up a radio station in Sikkim had been completed. However, it was not possible to indicate any precise date for its completion. The non-recurring expenditure for the station was estimated at Rs. 1.84 lakhs and the recurring expenditure at Rs. 2.15 lakhs.

EXPENDITURE ON T. V.

Dr. B.V. Keskar, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, stated in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 26 that the average monthly expenditure on television programmes during 1959-60 was about Rs. 32,500.

May 15, 1960

Health

MEETING OF LEPROSY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Leprosy Advisory Committee, which concluded its two day session in New Delhi on April 21 under the chairmanship of Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Union Minister of Health, has recommended the establishment of more leprosy control units as well as integration of leprosy work with existing health services during the Third Five Year Plan period.

The Committee noted with concern that the tentative allocation of Rs. 7 crores for the leprosy control scheme in the Third Plan was inadequate. However, it laid down the outlines for its utilisation. It suggested that leprosy control work should be considered a part and parcel of the general routine work of existing medical and health services. Voluntary organisations should be encouraged to undertake control work.

High priority should be given during the Third Plan for training of medical and para-medical personnel. The programme of rehabilitation of leprosy patients should be undertaken with emphasis on health education at all levels.

The Committee recommended that suitable stipends might be

given to medical officers undergoing training. The Committee also reviewed the progress of the leprosy control scheme and noted that 101 centres were functioning up to the end of December 1959. These centres had so far surveyed a population of about 77 lakhs out of which about 86,000 cases were registered for treatment.

Shortage Of Lady Doctors And Nurses

An announcement of April 25 says that, tentative estimates of the requirements of women workers of various categories during the Third Plan period have been worked out by the planning Commission in a recently completed study. Representatives of the Directorate of Manpower of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment of the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the Ministry of Education were associated with the study. The study has tried to assess the current shortages, the existing rate of supply and the future demand.

The anticipated shortage of lady doctors during 1960-61 and 1965-66 will be 3,220 and 4,360 respectively. This shortage cannot be met by male doctors, since there will be an over-all shortage of 7,000 and 5,000 doctors in 1960-61 and 1965-66, respectively. It is interesting to note that the proportion of shortage of lady doctors to male doctors is reverse for the two years.

As for nurses, the anticipated shortage by the end of the Second Plan will be about 3,300. This is likely to diminish in 1965-66 to 1,400. In the categories of midwives and auxiliary nurse-

SMOKING AND LUNG CANCER

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 21 Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that the report of the study group of the WHO laid stress on the finding that cigarette smoking was a major causative factor in the higher incidence of cancer of the lung. The relationship of tobacco smoking with cancer was already the subject of study at the Indian Cancer Research Centre, Bombay.

It was revealed in a recent study of 1460 unselected patients admitted to the Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay, that the habit of bidi smoking was associated with the cancer of the pharynx and the upper part of oesophagus.

There were also indications to believe that the habit of chewing and smoking tobacco resulted in a large number of cases of cancer in the region of the mouth.

Research on the subject was progressing.

midwives, the shortage will be much greater.

The shortage of trained women teachers from primary to secondary stages is estimated at 18,520.

Medical College in Aligarh

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on April 27, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that negotiations between the Aligarh University authorities and the U.P. Government regarding the opening of a medical college at Aligarh by the University were going on. The question of offering Central financial assistance would be considered after an agreement was arrived at between the State Government and the authorities of the Aligarh University in the matter.

Social Welfare

SETTLEMENT OF DISPLACED PERSONS LIVING IN CAMPS

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs, Shri Mehr Chand Khanna, replied in the affirmative in the Rajya Sabha on April 21 to a short-notice question whether any agreement was reached between him and Shri P.C. Sen, Rehabilitation Minister of the Government of West Bengal, in regard to: (i) the issue of notices to the displaced persons living in camps; (ii) the Bayanama Scheme; and (iii) the removal of displaced persons from camps to Dandakaranya or other places outside West Bengal.

The Minister laid a statement on the Table of the House giving details of the agreements reached between the two Ministers at their meetings:

POLICY DECISION

According to the statement, a policy decision was taken at the Ministers' meeting held at Calcutta on July 4, 1958, between the Central Government, represented by the Finance Minister, the Law Minister and the Rehabilitation Minister and the Government of West Bengal represented by the Chief Minister and the Rehabilitation Minister. It was decided that:—

(a) of the 45,000 families, then in camps, the State Government would rehabilitate 10,000 families within the State and the Government of India would make arrangements for the rehabilitation of the remaining 35,000 families in States outside West Bengal, including the Dandakaranya Project.

(b) When the families were moved, they would be provided with shelter and work during the initial period until they were rehabilitated.

(c) Each family would be allowed time upto two months to accept or to decline the offer of rehabilitation. Any family which declined the offer would be paid a sum equivalent to six months' cash doles. After such payment, the refugee family would cease to be the responsibility of Government.

There were 1.58 lakh displaced persons in camps on August 1, 1959, comprising 35,000 families of whom about 30,000 were agriculturists and 5,000 non-agriculturists.

In the context of the July-1958 decision, the State Government had rehabilitated about fifty per cent of the 10,000 families to be settled within the State and the balance had still to be rehabilitated.

The Dandakaranya Authority had indicated that they would be ready to receive families for work/rehabilitation in the Project area after the monsoon, i.e., from October 1959, at an average rate of about 1,000 families each month.

IMPLEMENTATION

(1) In August 1959, the two Ministers decided that non-agriculturist camp families should be notified to make arrangements for their rehabilitation within a period of 90 days, either under Government rehabilitation schemes or under the Bainanama Scheme. If the notified families failed to exercise the option or rehabilitation within the specified period, their names, along with those of their family members would be removed from the rolls of the camps.

(2) In September the Minister decided that the agriculturist families may also be notified and asked to exercise their option of either moving to Dandakaranya

when called upon to do so or to make arrangements for themselves under the Bainanama Scheme within a period of 90 days, failing which their names would be removed from the rolls of the camps.

(3) On December 25, the two Ministers reviewed the position as follows:—

(a) The State Rehabilitation Minister was of the opinion that in view of the paucity of suitable agricultural lands and the very limited prospects of economic rehabilitation of non-agriculturist families within the State, the Bainanama Scheme could be implemented only to a very small extent in selected areas. Schemes for the development of sub-marginal lands were at best long-term development projects requiring years for fruition. The camps could not be kept open till then and the State Government were definitely of the view that the Government of India should make early arrangements for the removal of 35,000 families from camps in West Bengal in accordance with the policy decision of July 1958. The State Minister further suggested that notice should be given to these families calling upon them to move to Dandakaranya within a period of two months; failing that they should be paid six months' doles and their names removed from the camp registers.

(b) The State Minister stated that the State Government had already rehabilitated about 6,000 families, within West Bengal and in respect of the remaining 4,000 families, details would be worked out by the State Government taking into account the availability of tenements, plots etc. and notices served in accordance with them. Specific families would be asked to move to specific plots and tenements; failing that they would also be paid six months' doles and their names removed from the camp registers.

(4) On December 29, the two Ministers approved the decisions taken on the previous day at a meeting between the Secretaries of the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation and the State Rehabili-

NEW ANTI-T.B. DRUG

Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said in the Lok Sabha during question hour on April 21 that a new anti-biotic had been discovered by the Patel Chest Institute, which, it was claimed, had anti-tubercular properties. It was not an Ayurvedic herb, but was an anti-biotic prepared from soil fungus. It had not been tried on any patient so far, nor was any name given to it.

tation Department, with the following modifications:—

- (a) The distinction between pre-June 1954 and post-June, 1954, displaced persons would be discontinued.
- (b) The period of notice both for agriculturist as well as non-agriculturist families would be 60 days, and the State Government would have the discretion to extend it upto another 60 days in cases in which they considered this necessary.
- (c) The State Government would furnish to the Ministry of Rehabilitation a list of the families to whom notices had been issued by them. The Ministry would then inform the Accountant-General of these names.

(5) On January 4, 1960, the Ministers agreed to the issue of notices to 2,000 agriculturist families during January 1960, the families to be selected by the State Government.

(6) On January 28, it was decided by the Ministers that the State Government would notify another 2,000 camp families during February for movement to Dandakaranya.

(7) On March 17, it was decided by the Ministers that since notices had already been served on about 14,000 camp families, no further notices need be issued for about one month and the position should be reviewed in the middle of April 1960.

It was further agreed that in cases where the period of notice plus extension upto 60 days allowed by the State Rehabilitation Secretary had already expired, he may extend the time limit further up to the 15th April, 1960.

Housing Schemes For D.Ps. In West Bengal

An announcement of April 17 says that the Government of India have spent about Rs. 41.21 crores on housing schemes for displaced persons in West Bengal. With this assistance, 57% of the displaced families in

the State live in their own houses in addition to several thousand migrant families, who own their houses but do not live in them.

More than Rs. 28.14 crores have been advanced as house building loans to the D.Ps. in addition to the houses and tenements built by the Government at a cost of Rs. 1.71 crores.

During the peak period of influx in 1950, a large number of D.Ps. unlawfully occupied lands and houses in and around Calcutta. These squatters' colonies were regularised by acquiring the land and helping in its development. The Government spent over Rs. 21 lakhs for providing civic amenities in some of these colonies by which 8,800 families have benefited. The Government also advanced Rs. 40 lakhs to local bodies of smaller towns for extending amenities to D.P. colonies.

ROADS IN DANDAKARANYA

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna, Union Minister for Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs, said in the Lok Sabha in a written answer to a question on April 16 that an estimate of Rs. 17.53 lakhs had been approved for upgrading the road from Papdahandi to Umerkot in the Dandakaranya area. The work was being executed partly through contractors and partly through displaced persons from East Pakistan and tribals. It would be completed in about two years.

DANDAKARANYA DAM

The foundation stone of Dandakaranya's first irrigation dam was laid by Dr. B.C. Roy, Chief Minister of West Bengal, about eight miles from here on April 26.

The Dam, estimated to cost Rs. 1 crore, will be 5,200 feet long and irrigate a total area of over 16,000 acres. Eleven villages having 50 families of displaced persons each have been planned in the area. The Dandakaranya Authority has already started construction of houses for displaced persons and reclaimed 6,000 acres of forest land.

D.Ps. FROM EAST PAKISTAN

Up to March 31, 1960, 41.17 lakh displaced persons had come from East Pakistan.

The Union Government have spent Rs. 165.71 crores on their relief and rehabilitation in Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

About Rs. 1.44 crores have been spent on providing educational facilities to them. These include setting up of 309 primary schools, 23 secondary schools, 11 colleges and financial assistance to 442 non-official institutions. In addition, the D.P. students are given stipends, book grants and tuition fees. Special care is being taken to educate the handicapped, to train teachers and to provide educational facilities in camps.

Nearly 600 beds have been reserved for displaced T.B. patients at a cost of Rs. 70 lakhs; nearly Rs. 24 lakhs have been given as capital grants for the construction of T.B. hospitals, chest clinics and purchase of equipment; financial assistance amounting to Rs. 57 lakhs has been given to T.B. patients and Rs. 111 lakhs spent on medical facilities in camps.

In West Bengal alone, about 4,32,000 displaced families have been given rehabilitation assistance of Rs. 120 crores.

The Rehabilitation Industries Corporation has sanctioned ten industrial schemes, involving a loan of Rs. 27 crores, which would provide employment to 1,200 displaced persons.

Welfare Of Tribals In Dandakaranya

According to an announcement of April 18, the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation is taking specific measures for promoting the welfare of tribals in Dandakaranya.

The Ministry has decided that 25% of the total area reclaimed will be made available for allotment to tribals. A beginning in this direction has been made by

handing over 1790 acres of reclaimed land to the Orissa Government for distribution among the tribals.

Due care will be taken not to disturb their rights over land and forests near their villages while selecting sites for the new settlements for displaced persons. Efforts will be made not to displace tribals while providing improved communications or irrigation facilities in the area. Where displacement becomes unavoidable, tribals will be settled in new villages or areas acceptable to them.

Full consideration will be given to their requirements while planning new roads and irrigation facilities. Special attention will be paid to improve the tanks in tribal villages.

To implement these decisions the Government have appointed an Adviser for tribal welfare in Dandakaranya.

The Union Ministry has also issued a directive to the Dandakaranya Development Authority asking it to strengthen its tribal organisations by associating people, who know the local language and are familiar with local conditions.

The Authority has been asked to establish medical outposts in the tribal areas and arrange the visits of the medical units to the tribal villages on a regular basis.

The directive lays special stress on paying attention to the arrangement for water supply in tribal villages and giving due share to the tribal labour in the execution of development works.

Relief To Muslim Migrants In J. and K.

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 28, Shri P.S. Naskar, Deputy Rehabilitation Minister, said that the Union Rehabilitation Ministry had decided to place a sum of Rs. fifty lakhs at the disposal of the Government of Kashmir to render relief to the Muslim families who had returned or might return from the Pakistan occupied territory of the State. Of this, a sum of Rs. 12.50 lakhs would be given as a grant immediately and the balance if and when required.

Shri Naskar explained that lands, originally in possession of Muslims who migrated to Pakistan, had been allotted for settlement to about 21,000 families of Hindus and Sikhs who were obliged to migrate from the Pakistan occupied areas of Jammu and Kashmir. Some of the families who went to Pakistan had already returned and others might return later. It had been decided not to disturb the Hindu and Sikh families who had been cultivating these lands.

AGE CONCESSIONS TO D.Ps.

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on April 28, the Government of India have decided that the age and fee concessions admissible to the displaced persons from Pakistan and from the unliberated areas of Jammu and Kashmir State up to December 31, 1960 should be extended for a further period of one year, i.e. up to December 31, 1961.

The concessions relate to the relaxation of age limits for jobs under Government and exemption of fees for sending applications to U.P.S.C.

HOUSES FOR WEAVERS

In reply to a question on April 26 the Minister of Commerce, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, stated in the Rajya Sabha that the All-India Handloom Board

had approved schemes for a total of 4300 houses for weavers during the Second Plan period, up to March 31, 1960. The assistance admissible under these schemes would amount to Rs. 49,48,253 as grant and Rs. 1,17,59,701 as loan.

Shri Kanungo explained that Central assistance was admissible on the following pattern: (a) the cost of construction of each house, including the cost of land, should not exceed Rs. 3,600 per house; (b) two-thirds of the cost is met as a loan and the remaining one-third as a grant; (c) the loan is repayable in 25 equated annual instalments of principal and interest; (d) State Governments are to ensure that housing schemes are sponsored only on behalf of well-established weavers' co-operative societies, and (e) only the genuinely needy weavers are eligible for assistance.

PRODUCTION OF CONTRACEPTIVES

Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said during question hour in the Lok Sabha on April 18 that contraceptives such as foam tablets, jellies (orthogynol preceptin) and sheaths (production started recently) were being produced in India. These goods were also imported. The value of imports from 1957 to July 1959 amounted to Rs. 14.16 lakhs.

Labour & Employment

MEETING OF STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE

The Standing Labour Committee, which met in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda, Union Labour Minister, concluded its two-day session on April 27, after considering the draft proposals on labour policy and programme for inclusion in the Third Plan.

The Committee decided to set up a tripartite sub-committee to settle the terms of reference of the proposed Bonus Commission. In addition to bonus, the Com-

mission will examine other relevant issues.

The Committee also discussed the question of creating a special reserve fund for payment of provident fund to outgoing members or their nominees in the event of employers not paying in full their contribution. While it was agreed that in no case should workers be deprived of their legitimate dues, various suggestions were made for tapping resources for financing the

proposed reserve fund. Government should explore the possibility of securing higher yields from the investment of provident fund money and of utilising the increased revenue for financing the reserve fund for such time as might be considered necessary.

The Committee recommended that the scheme of workers' participation through Joint Councils of Management should be extended to more establishments, and, for this purpose, suitable machinery should be created at the State level. It was also agreed that the workers' education programme should be intensified. Workers' representatives urged that trade unions should be entrusted with the operation of the programme, wherever possible, and given assistance by Government.

Coal Award Extended

The tripartite Industrial Committee on Coal Mining met in New Delhi on April 28 under the chairmanship of the Union Labour Minister, Shri G.L. Nanda. The Committee agreed that the Coal Award, which is due to expire on May 26, 1960, should be extended pending examination of the workers' demand for a Wage Board for the Coal Industry. The Coal Award, which gave a wage increase to colliery workers, came into force in May 1956 and was extended from year to year.

On the question of a Wage Board for the Coal Industry, Shri Nanda pointed out that various tribunals had examined the case of the coal industry in regard to wages, etc., on an all-India basis, but Government would have no objection to examining the matter if workers could convince Government of their case for a wage revision.

The Committee heard the views of the workers' and employers' representatives on the proposals for amending the Mines Act with a view to improving safety in mines. It was agreed that Government would finalise the proposals in the light of the views expressed.

The Committee generally accepted the recommendations of

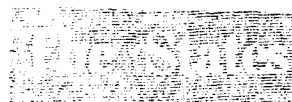
the Miners' Boots Committee, which among other things, has worked out the type and specifications of footwear to be supplied to workers in mines in order to bring down the incidence of leg injuries.

Wage Board For Plantation Industry

The tripartite Industrial Committee on Plantations, which met in New Delhi on April 21 and 28, has modified its earlier conclusion regarding a single wage board for plantation industry, and has now suggested that there should be separate wage boards for tea, coffee and rubber plantations. The three wage

boards, however, will have a common chairman and common independent members.

In revising its earlier conclusion, the Committee has recommended that so far as the wage board for tea industry is concerned, the number of employers' and workers' representatives on the board should be increased to three each in order to provide adequate representation to the two tea-growing regions—the south and the north and north-east. As regards wage boards for coffee and rubber, it was agreed that the existing practice of nominating two representatives each of employers and workers should be followed.



Prices Of Wheat Products In Delhi

The Central Government issued an Order on April 26 superseding the Delhi Roller Flour Mills (Wheat Products), Price Control Order 1959, raising the ex-mill prices of wheat products by 4 nP per maund. In retail, 'whole mill atta' and 'resultant atta' will now be sold at 4 chhatank less per rupee than previously. There will be no change in the retail prices of maida and suji.

The new Order has been issued to include in the prices the element of octroi duty of 4 nP per maund leviable on wheat received in Delhi from outside either by the Government or by

the mills direct from Government stocks. The ex-mills and retail prices of wheat products in Delhi as fixed under the previous Order did not take the octroi into account.

ASSENT FOR W. B. BILL

According to an announcement of April 23, the President has given assent to the Road Transport Corporations (West Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1959.

The legislation seeks to amend the Road Transport Corporations Act, 1950 to enable the West Bengal Government to transfer the management of State Transport Services in North Bengal and Calcutta area from direct departmental administration to the control of two autonomous bodies to be set up.



NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE

The National Defence College, organised on the pattern of the Imperial Defence College of the U.K., was formally opened in New Delhi on April 27 by the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.

The college has been set up to

provide joint training and instruction to senior Service and civilian officers in dealing with the wider problems relating to the defence of the country. Their study will relate to strategic, economic, scientific, political and industrial aspects of

national defence. It will also provide an opportunity to senior Service officers and highly-placed civilians of meeting and exchanging ideas for a better understanding of each other's problems in peace and in war.

The training course at the Defence College will be of about 11 months' duration and, to start with, it will admit nearly 25 officers belonging to the three Services and to civil departments of Government. Ordinarily, the officers selected for the course will be of the rank of Brigadier in the Army or an equivalent rank in the Navy, Air Force and the Civil service.

Ashoka Chakra

Awards

At an investiture ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhawan on April 27, the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad gave away 30 decorations including posthumous awards of Ashoka Chakra.

The four winners, represented at the ceremony by their next-of-kin, were Subedar Sohan Singh (51245-JC) of the Punjab Regiment, Rifleman Madho Singh Negi (4035616) of the 8th Battalion of the Garwal Rifles, Rifleman Jit Bahadur Thapa (513151) of the 4/8 Gorkha Rifles and Rifleman Rudra Bahadur Thapa (5833343) of the 2/9 Gorkha Rifles, all to be decorated for conspicuous gallantry and supreme sacrifice in actions against hostiles in the Naga Hills—Tuensang Area.

The other winners of Ashoka Chakra awards received the insignia in person.

Air Force Day

Awards

It was announced in New Delhi on April 23 that, on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the Air Force, 19 airmen were awarded the Meritorious Service and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals for their excellent record of service by the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal S. Mukerjee.

The award of the Meritorious Service Medal carries with it an annuity and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, a gratuity.

The awards were first instituted in 1955.

DHARATOL DAY

A parade of the Grenadiers (Ganga Jaisalmar) was held at Bikaner on April 22 to celebrate the Dharatol Day which is a battle honour of the famous regiment. Lieut.-General S. D. Verma, Colonel of the Grenadiers' Regiment, took the salute, when the Grenadiers, mounted on camels, marched past the saluting dais.

INS TALWAR

The anti-submarine frigate INS TALWAR was commissioned for service with Indian Navy on April 26 at Birkenhead (U.K.).

India & The World

INDIAN ART EXHIBITION IN PARIS

An art exhibition, called 'Art Treasures of India', depicting 5,000 years of Indian culture from Mohenjo-Daro to modern times, was opened in Paris on April 4. It will remain open till the end of June.

Organised by the Association Francaise Action Artistique, Paris, in collaboration with the French Ministry of Culture, the Indian exhibition will be the largest ever held in Europe.

Among the approximately thousand exhibits, there are archaeological finds dating back to the third millennium, about 350 sculptures, 175 miniatures and frescoes, and numerous textile designs, toys and other exhibits of popular art.

Relief Supplies For Mauritius

The second consignment of the relief articles meant for the cyclone victims reached Mauritius on April 11. The articles included 5,500 cotton blankets, 10,000 sarees, 20,400 yards grey cotton sheeting, 2,000 'karahis' and a ton of coir fibre.

INS TALWAR is the second frigate of her type to be acquired by the Navy, the other being INS TRISHUL now on her way to India to join the fleet. She was launched and named in July 1958. Being primarily designed for the location and detection of the most modern types of submarine, the TALWAR is fitted with the latest under-water detection equipment and anti-submarine weapons of post-war development. The living accommodation in this frigate has been so designed that the ship will be able to operate in tropical waters without undue discomfort to the ship's company.

The ship will now carry out extensive trials and after a period of work-up will join the Indian fleet.

These items form a part of a donation worth Rs. 2 lakhs made by the Government of India for the cyclone relief. In addition, the F.I.C.C.I. have also donated goods worth Rs. 50,000.

INDIAN BOOKS PRESENTED TO HANOI UNIVERSITY

A representative collection of 149 books was presented to the University of Hanoi on behalf of the Government of India on March 31 by the Consul-General of India in Hanoi, Shri A.G. Meneses.

HIGH COMMISSIONER IN MALAYA

A Press Note issued on April 27 by the Ministry of External Affairs says, Shri Yogendra Krishna Puri, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed High Commissioner for India in Malaya and concurrently as Commissioner for the Government of India in Singapore with extension of his jurisdiction to Sarawak, British North Borneo and Brunei. He will take up his new post in August, 1960.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

APRIL 16 To 30

- April 16 — The fifth meeting of the Southern Zonal Council under the chairmanship of the Union Home Minister, Shri G.B. Pant, is held in New Delhi
- The Central Advisory Board of Physical Education and Recreation meets in New Delhi
- 17 — The fifteenth meeting of the National Development Council is held in New Delhi
- 18 — The talks between the delegations of Pakistan and India for mutual transit facilities across the railways adjourn in New Delhi
- 19 — H.E. Mr. Chou En-lai, Prime Minister of China, arrives in New Delhi for talks on Sino-Indian border issues
- A two-day meeting of the National Railway Users' Consultative Council begins in New Delhi
- 20 — The Government of India announce certain excise duty concessions in respect of films, fabrics, combustion engines, cycle parts, etc.
- A two-day meeting of the Leprosy Advisory Committee opens in New Delhi
- 23 — An agreement is signed in New Delhi between the Government of India and the Chemolimpex of Hungary for the setting up of bio-gas and bio-fertiliser producing plants in India
- An agreement is signed in Calcutta between the Hindustan Steel Ltd., and the Burmah Oil Company (Pipe Lines) Ltd., for the supply of 51,000 tons of high test line pipes for the Assam Oil Pipe Line Project
- 24 — A party of 17 members of the directing staff and officer students of the Canadian National Defence College arrives in New Delhi on a study tour of India
- 25 — A joint communique on the talks between the Indian and Chinese Prime Ministers on the Sino-Indian border issues is released in New Delhi
- President Rajendra Prasad gives assent to the Bombay Reorganisation Bill, 1960, according to which the Bombay State will be bifurcated into two separate States — Maharashtra and Gujarat on May 1
- The first open hearth furnace at Durgapur begins production of steel
- 26 — An anti-submarine frigate, INS 'Talwar', is commissioned into service with the Indian Navy at Birkenhead (U.K.)
- President Rajendra Prasad presents the National Republic Day Awards at an investiture ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan
- H.E. Mr. Koca Popovic, Foreign Minister of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, arrives in New Delhi on a five-day visit
- 27 — H.E. Mr. Diosdado Macapagal, Vice-President of the Philippines, arrives in New Delhi on a ten-day visit to India
- The President presents 30 awards of Ashoka Chakra to armymen for acts of gallantry
- 28 — The Indo-Pakistan Information Consultative Committee concludes its two-day deliberations in New Delhi
- The All India Radio launches a new monthly programme called the National Programme of Contemporary Literature
- 29 — Both Houses of Parliament adjourns *sine die*
- 30 — The All India Council for Technical Education holds its thirteenth meeting in New Delhi

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Further particulars may be obtained from the nearest office of sale.

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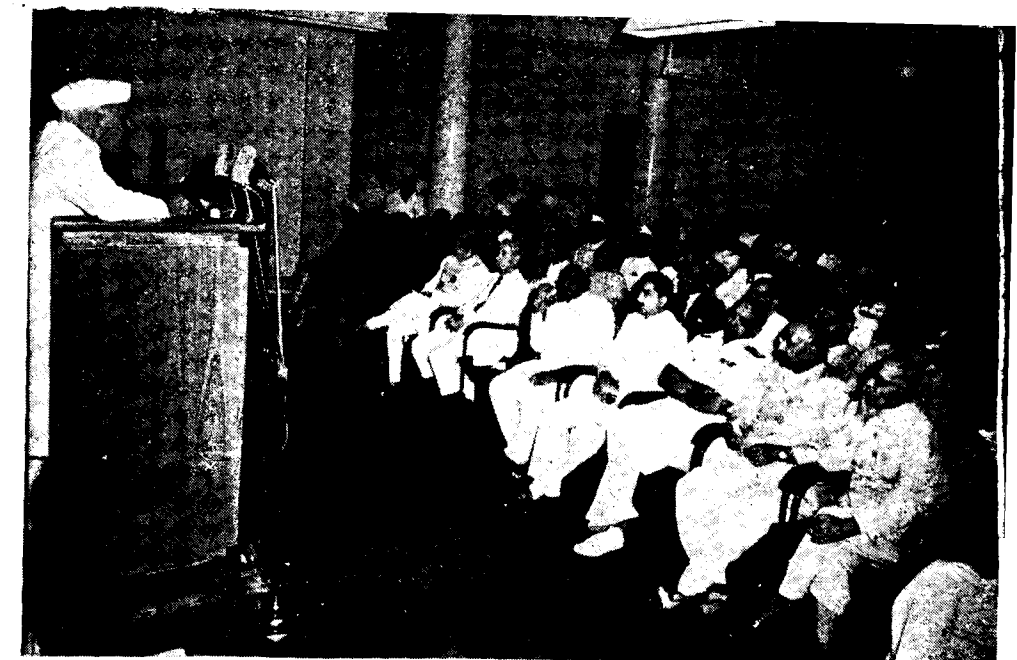
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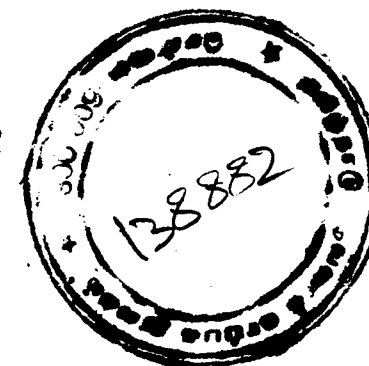
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The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, addressing the gathering on the occasion of the opening of the National Defence College in New Delhi on April 27



Shri G.B. Pant, Union Home Minister, presiding over a meeting of the Southern Zonal Council in New Delhi on April 16



The Railway Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, awarding at a function in New Delhi on April 16, a silver medal and cash certificates valued at Rs. 500 each to 12 railwaymen for their outstanding work





Regd. No.
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Panditraj Atambapu Sharma, eminent Sanskrit scholar, receiving from the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, a certificate of honour at an investiture ceremony in New Delhi on April 26

A scene from Shudraka's play 'Mirchhakatikam' staged in New Delhi on April 27 by a troupe of the Song and Drama Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as part of the Summer Drama Festival

