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INDIAN INFORMATION

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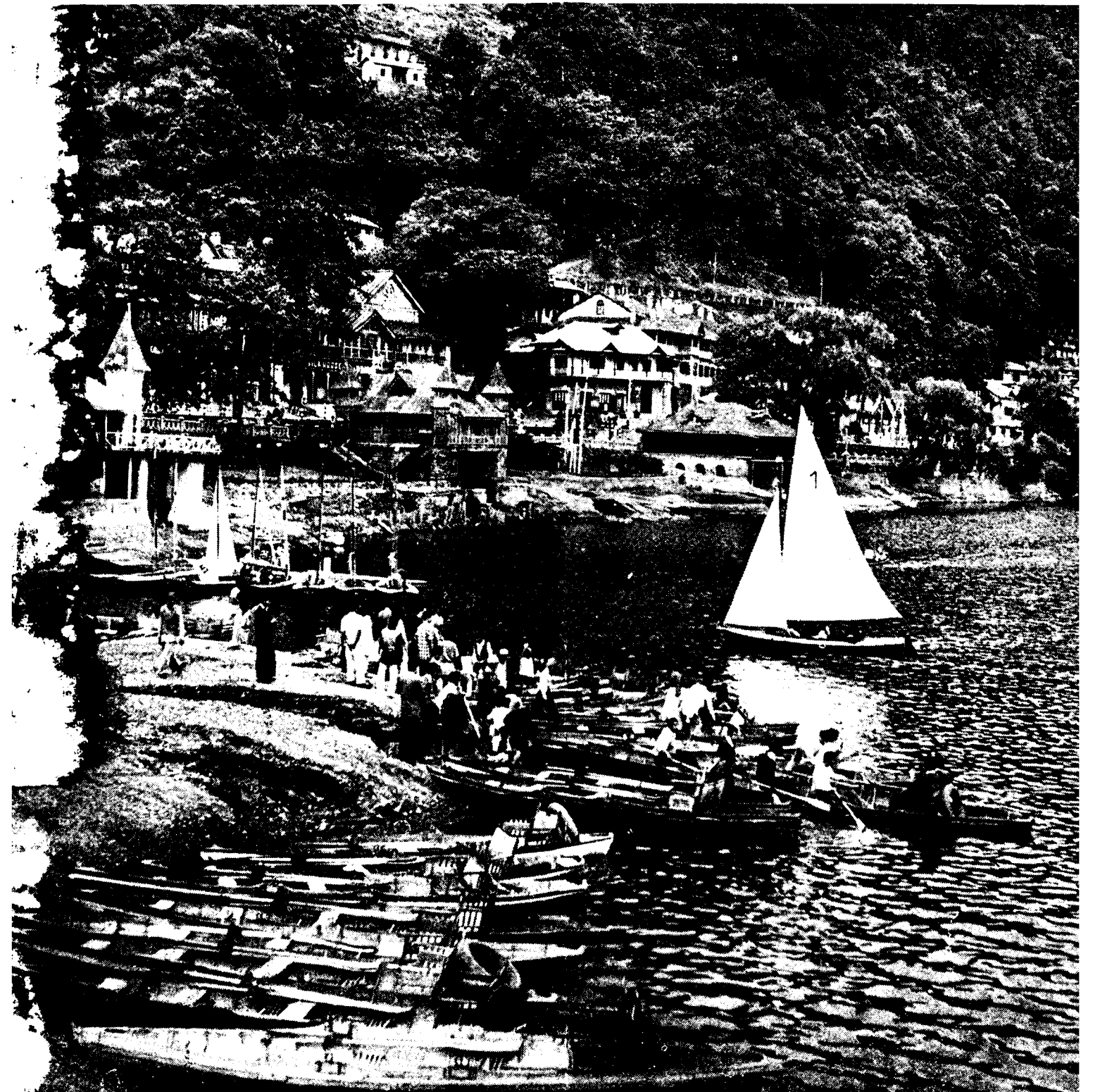
Indian Information

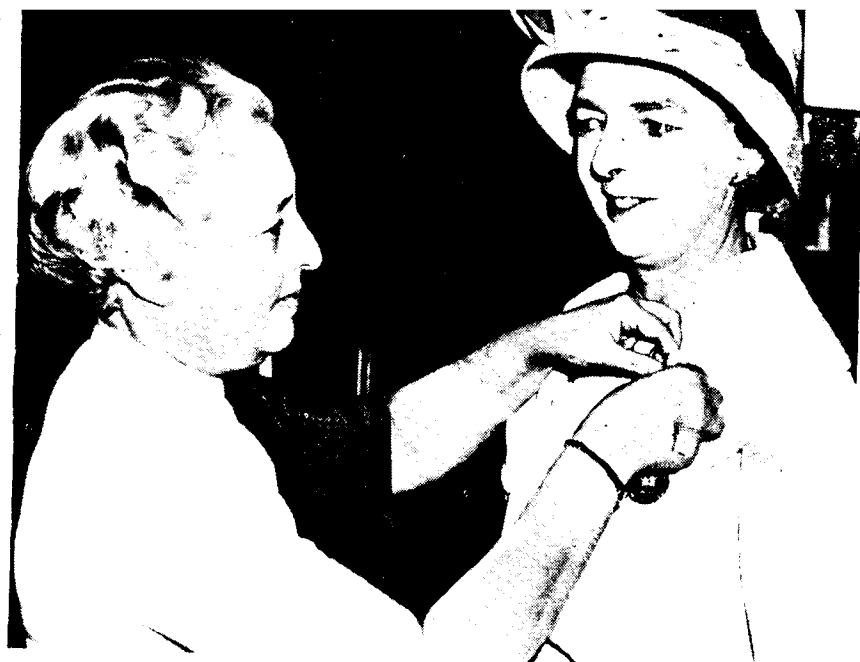


Vol. 3

July 1, 1960 (Asadha 10, 1882)

No. 11





India's High Commissioner in U.K., Shrimati Vijay Lakshmi Pandit, presenting at a ceremony held at India House, London, on May 30, the Indian Independence Medal to Lady Maureen Bucher in recognition of her services to India in 1947



The Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, delivering the inaugural address at the National Community Development Conference in Srinagar on June 6



Shrimati Hansa Mehta (fourth from left) presiding over the tenth meeting of the Executive Board of the Indian National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO held in New Delhi on June 6

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COVER: A view of the Nainital Lake with the hill in the background. The chief attraction of Nainital is boating and yachting.

(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

TABULATION CONFERENCE ON 1961 CENSUS DATA

At the two-day Tabulation Conference, which concluded in New Delhi on June 15, representatives of the Central Ministries and the Planning Commission have finalised the tables that will sort out the 1961 Census data under heads like "economic", "social", and "population".

The Conference has considered how best the various Government departments can make

use of the information that the census enumerators will collect from February 10 to March 3, the period of count. For instance, the Planning Commission's representatives has explained how a particular type of tabulation form could help them cull the necessary information for their purpose. Similarly, the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health and the Office of the Commissioner

for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have discussed their requirements.

STRESS ON WORK

The emphasis in the next census is to be on the economic data in view of the development programmes that the Government will plan. In earlier censuses, income or economic independence was made a criterion for measuring the country's economy. Now, the stress will be laid on

work so that all people, including family workers, who are not receiving any income, or working children, who cannot earn enough for their maintenance, were included as workers.

It is also proposed to categorise separately those people, who are not working, as (i) students, (ii) housewives and persons engaged in unpaid home duties, (iii) infant and other dependents including permanently disabled or old persons, (iv) retired persons, rentiers and others who are in receipt of income without doing any work, (v) beggars, vagrants, and others of unspecified source of existence, (vi) convicts in jails or inmates of penal, mental or charitable institutions, (vii) persons not employed before seeking employment for the first time, and (viii) persons employed before but now out of employment and seeking employment.

SOCIAL QUESTIONS

The social questions will follow the usual census pattern. There will be one question on Nationality, Religion, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, another on Literacy and Education and a third on mother-tongue and any other language. Another essential feature of the coming census is that the data collected on the basis of individuals will be supplemented by information on the economic activities of the household as an entity.

UNIFORM HOUSELIST

In the earlier censuses, there was no uniform form for the houselists. For the next census, a uniform houselist has been adopted throughout the country. Information will be collected on housing, such as material of wall and roof, number of rooms as well as essential data relating to establishment, workshops and factories, like name of the establishment or proprietor, name of products produced, number of persons working and the kind of fuel and power if machinery is used.

Indian Information

The third session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians of the ECAFE Region, held in April last, recognised the gap in the industrial statistics due to the lack of data on the character and level of activities of smaller establishment. The Conference appreciated the action India proposed to take to provide data in the 1961 Census on industrial establishments in the houselist. It was felt that these lists would provide the basis for selecting samples of industrial establishments for collection of further data as well as elementary information on the structure of industrial segments.

QUEEN ELIZABETH TO VISIT INDIA

In a Press Note dated June 3, the Ministry of External Affairs has announced that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh have accepted an invitation extended to them by the President to visit India early in 1961.

Indian Official Team For Peking

In pursuance of the decision taken at the meeting between the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China and the Prime Minister of India, at the conclusion of their talks held in Delhi in April last, a team of Indian officials left New Delhi for Peking on June 6 to meet Chinese officials to examine and study documents relating to the Sino-Indian boundary question. The Indian official team for the first meeting consisted of the following officers of the Ministry of External Affairs: Shri J.S. Mehta, Director, China Division; Dr. S. Gopal, Director, Historical Division; Shri V.V. Paranjpe, Adviser; Shri T.S. Murty, Adviser; and Shri G. Narayana Rao, Adviser. If required, additional officers would be sent to Peking later on.

The officials are to meet alternately in Peking and New Delhi and they are to submit their report to the two Premiers by September this year.

ARREARS OF CASES IN HIGH COURTS

A New Delhi announcement dated June 11 says that, according to the figures collected till the end of 1959, High Courts in India have reduced the arrears of cases filed in or before 1956 by about 80 per cent. The decline in pending cases, both criminal and civil, was to the extent of 1,32,066 from 1,70,000 to 37,934. In 1959 alone, the cases went down by about 22,000 from 59,780 to 37,934.

Statewise, the reduction effected was: Uttar Pradesh—from 38,168 to 15,342; Andhra Pradesh—from 23,766 to 2,420; Assam—from 895 to 67; erst-while State of Bombay—from 13,883 to 1,572; West Bengal—from 26,639 to 9,098; Kerala—from 6,428 to 1,012; Madhya Pradesh—from 6,442 to 287; Madras—from 15,090 to 903; Mysore—from 6,163 to 1,737; Orissa—from 2,719 to 274; Bihar—from 12,488 to 1,238; Punjab—from 11,493 to 2,519; and Rajasthan—from 5,081 to 1,465.

One of the recommendations of the State Law Ministers who met in Delhi in September 1957 was that no civil suit should remain pending for more than two years and no criminal case for more than six months.

MEASURES TAKEN

Among the steps taken to clear arrears are the increase in the strength of High Court Judges and the reduction in the number of holidays. Till April 1960, 38 Additional Judges had been appointed to the various High Courts. The number of working days in a year had been increased to 210 by almost all the High Courts.

The question of clearing arrears was first taken up in 1949. A Committee, called the High Court Arrears Committee, was set up under the chairmanship of Justice Shri S.R. Das, former Chief Justice of India.

The matter was then taken up by the Home Minister at the two conferences of Chief Ministers of States held in June and September, 1957.

It was also discussed at the Law Ministers' Conference in September 1957 and the Chief Justices' Conference in October 1957.

In its fourteenth report, 'Reform of Judicial Administration', the Law Commission has made certain recommendations which are to be considered. The reconstituted Law Commission is considering the question of simplifying the procedure in courts.

CENTRAL LEGAL AGENCY SECTION

In the last five years, says an announcement of June 13, the Central Agency Section of the Union Law Ministry conducted 2,266 cases—914 on behalf of the Union of India and 1,352 on behalf of the States—in the Supreme Court.

The total expense of about Rs. 5 lakhs on this account was shared roughly in the ratio of 2:3 by the Government of India and the States participating in the scheme.

Set up in 1950, the Section deals with civil and criminal cases before the Supreme Court on behalf of the Central Government and the State Governments. All the States, except West Bengal, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and partly Madhya Pradesh, are participating in the scheme.

The scheme has led to greater co-ordination between the Central Government and the State Governments on various matters coming up before the Supreme Court and has also led to effect economy and efficiency.

The Central Agency Section now consists of a Government Advocate, a Deputy Government Advocate and two Assistant Government Advocates assisted by a small staff. The Advocates appear without extra payment as juniors to the senior advocates, briefed by the State Governments concerned, and they also conduct comparatively small matters themselves.

MISUSE OF STATE EMBLEM

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on June 3 says that the State Emblem of the Indian Union, which consists of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Asoka showing the

three lions standing on an abacus which has a Dharma Chakra in the centre, a bull on the right and a horse on the left, can only be used by officials of the Union authorised to do so by the Government of India.

In this connection, the attention of the public is drawn to the provision of section 69 of the Trade Marks Act, 1940, which prohibits the use of the State Emblem in any trade, business, calling or profession. Section 3 of the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950, also contains a similar prohibition.

Persons using the State Emblem without being duly authorised to do so by the Government of India, render themselves liable to be proceeded against under the Trade Marks Act, 1940 and the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950.

Corruption Among Govt. Employees In 1959

It was announced on June 10 that complaints of alleged corruption or malpractices received in 1959 related to less than one per cent of Government employees, who now number approximately 18 lakhs.

The complaints numbered 10,649 and they included those which were pending from the previous year. Of these, 2,316 (22%) related to gazetted officers and 8,333 (78%) were against non-gazetted employees.

Fiftyfive per cent of the complaints, 1,283, had to be dropped without enquiry or after enquiry as the allegations were either vague or were found baseless. Only five per cent, 123, could be taken up for further action.

In the case of employees in non-gazetted ranks, 17% of the complaints, 1,425, were taken up for further action. Out of 8,333 complaints relating to this category of employees, 3,396 (40%) had to be dropped because the complaints did not

contain verifiable allegations or because the allegations were proved baseless.

Such complaints are either received by the Administrative Vigilance Division or the Special Police Establishment, the two bodies set up by the Government of India to combat corruption, bribery, malpractices, etc., in Government offices. While the Administrative Vigilance Division directs and controls the efforts of individual Ministries and departments against corruption, the S.P.E. scrutinises the complaints and initiates action or prosecution wherever necessary.

POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES MEDALS

A New Delhi announcement of June 15 says that during 1959, 32 President's Police and Fire Services Medals, a Bar to the President's Police and Fire Services Medal, nine Prime Minister's Police Medals for Life Saving and 111 Police Medals were awarded. The number of policemen who were given rewards for rendering meritorious service was 1,661 during 1959-60.

The President's Police and Fire Services Medal is awarded to Policemen for exemplary and conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty of a high order, while the Prime Minister's Police Medal for saving life.

The award of Police Medal is made for gallantry and carries with it a special allowance admissible to officers up to the rank of Inspector of Police.

DELEGATION FROM SURINAM TO INDIA

A nine-member delegation of the Government of Surinam (Dutch Guiana) arrived in Delhi on June 1 on a week's visit to India.

The Delegation is led Dr. F.E. Essed, Development Minister of Surinam. Other members are, Dr. J. Sedney, Minister of Finance, six members of Surinam Parliament and the Deputy Director of Development.

During its stay in Delhi, the Delegation will meet the Planning Commission and confer with various Ministries of the Government of India.

LOAN TO BHUTAN

According to a New Delhi announcement of June 2 the Government of India have given a loan of Rs. 8.5 lakhs to the Bhutan Government to finance some development schemes and to enable it to buy surplus foodgrains from the Bhutanese farmers. A large quantity of foodgrains has accumulated with Bhutanese cultivators since the stoppage of Bhutan's exports to Tibet last year.

U.P.S.C. Examinations Centre

A Press Note dated June 2 says, the Union Public Service Commission have decided that Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh will also be one of the centres for their examinations with effect from the next I.A.S. etc. Examination which is to be held in September/October 1960.

Repayment Of Four p.c. Loan, 1960-70

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on June 10 says that the Government of India have issued a notification on the same date intimating that the whole of 4% Loan 1960-70, issued in terms of their notification No. F-70-F/26 dated 25th May, 1926, will be repaid at par on 15th September, 1960 with all interest due upto date. Interest will not accrue on the loan from and after 15th September, 1960.

TARIFF VALUES FOR ELECTRIC MOTORS

The Government of India have prescribed tariff values for Electric motors, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on June 10.

By the Finance Act 1960, a duty of central excise had been levied on electric motors, all sorts and parts thereof, on an *ad valorem* basis. The Government have now prescribed tariff values in order to eliminate day-to-day disputes that might arise in the matter of determination of value, while making assessment of Central Excise duty on such electric motors, as well as a measure of administrative convenience.

These values range from Rs. 110 to Rs. 400 for motors (of the single or split phase type) chargeable with duty under sub-item (i) of item 31 of the First Schedule to the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944; and Rs. 300 to Rs. 2000 for three phase squirrel cage electric motors chargeable with duty under sub-item (ii) of item 31 of the First Schedule to the said Act, depending upon the horse power and the synchronous speed of such electric motors. All slip ring motors, special motors and three phase squirrel cage motors exceeding 20 H.P. rating will continue to be assessed on the basis of value determination by the Central Excise Officer in accordance with Section 4 of the Central Excises and Salt Act. However, their number will be rela-

tively small as 95% of the total number of electric motors produced in India will be covered by the tariff values fixed by the Government of India.

The tariff values determined by the Government for the various types of electric motors have been notified in the Gazette of India Extraordinary of the 10th June, 1960, and will have immediate effect.

Drawback On Exports Of Tinplate Products

The Government of India, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on June 2, propose to raise the rate of drawback on exports of tinplate products from Rs. 60 per ton to Rs. 244 per ton. This follows the imposition of a Central Excise duty on tinplate and a

corresponding increase in the rate of import duty on tinplate, with effect from March 1, 1960.

In this respect, Government have issued a draft notification inviting objections or suggestions by June 7, 1960.

Agreement On Avoidance Of Double Taxation

It was announced in New Delhi on June 13 that the Instruments of Ratification of Agreement between India and Japan for Avoidance of Double Taxation of Income were exchanged on the same date at the Japanese Foreign Office in Tokyo by Mr. Aichihiro Fujiyama, Japanese Foreign Minister, and Dr. P.K. Banerjee, Indian Charge d' Affaires. The agreement was signed in New Delhi on January 5, 1960.

with the foreign experts employed by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. A training and research wing of the Commission is also proposed to be set up besides instituting an apprenticeship course where the graduates of the Indian universities would be given a course for six months.

Oil Delegation To U.S.S.R.

Shri K.D. Malaviya, Union Minister for Mines and Oil, accompanied by Shri A.M.N. Ghosh, Member (Technical) and Shri B.S. Negi, Director of Geophysics, Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Government of India, left for the U.S.S.R. on June 7.

During their two-week tour abroad, the party will discuss with the Soviet officials and other experts the progress made in the oil projects being implemented with Soviet collaboration in India, the problem of expeditious supply of equipment already purchased in the Soviet Union, and the programme of training of Indian personnel in the U.S.S.R. The possibility of obtaining additional Soviet specialists needed for future operations, particularly in the context of the recent oil find in Ankleshwar, will also be explored.

PRODUCTION OF STEEL PIPES

According to a New Delhi announcement of June 2, a pipe plant is being set up for the production of steel pipes by the electric resistance welded process at Rourkela to meet the immediate requirements of oil pipelines of the country and cater to future demands for pipes. This plant will produce 8,600 to 31,000 tons of pipes per month depending upon the size and specifications of pipes — 8½" to 20".

Rourkela was selected for the location of the plant as strips required for pipe manufacture could be rolled into at the strip

Planning & Finance

STUDY OF SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT IN INDIA

According to a study of savings in the Indian economy, recently published by the Reserve Bank of India, the volume of savings (at constant prices) increased from Rs. 459 crores in 1951-52 to Rs. 950 crores in 1956-57, i.e., from 5.1 per cent of national income to 8.6 per cent. There was, however, a decline in 1957-58. The rate of domestic savings would not be much higher than about 8 per cent over the first four years of the Second Plan.

Personal savings play an important role in the pattern of savings in Indian economy. Of the total savings, the household sector accounted for about 83 per cent, while shares of the Government and the corporate sector about 11 per cent and 6 per cent respectively. Nearly two-thirds of the personal savings came from urban and the rest from the rural sectors.

During the Second Plan period the rate of investment went up from about 7 per cent to about 11 per cent of national income but domestic savings did not increase correspondingly. This gap resulted in considerable strain on the economy which was eased mainly through larger inflow of external resources.

Of the total investment of Rs. 6,200 crores over the Second Plan period, it appears that about two-thirds was financed from domestic resources, i.e., savings by the corporate sector, by rural and urban households and by the Government sector; and the remaining one-third was financed by a draft on foreign exchange reserves and utilisation of external assistance.

If during the Third Plan the net investment is to be increased from Rs. 6,200 crores or so to about Rs. 10,000 crores, it would mean a stepping up of the rate of investment from about 11 per cent at present to about 14 per cent by the end of the Third Plan. Correspondingly, there will have to be an increase in domestic savings because there is a limit beyond which it is neither feasible nor desirable to rely on external resources.

The total demand in the economy consists not only of consumption but is made up of consumption, investment and exports. In a situation where exports have to increase and investment stepped up there has to be some restraint on consumption, in the sense that consumption must not be allowed to rise to the full extent of the increase in money incomes.

Commerce & Industry

SURVEY OF SEDIMENTARY BASINS

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission proposes to cover 2,859 sq. miles during 1960-61 field season, says an announcement of June 1. The areas to be covered lie in the regions of the Punjab, Assam, Cambay and Cutch. The parties to operate in the area will be geological, gravity and seismic.

The primary object of such surveys is to make a systematic and thorough investigation of the country's sedimentary basins which from a geological point of view deserve exploration for petroleum. At present the sedimentary basins of India are estimated to cover 400,000 sq. miles.

Starting from a one-man Directorate in early 1956, the present strength of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission consists of over 2,000 employees of various categories in its technical and non-technical sec-

tions. It initially consisted of a nucleus of technical officers from the Geological Survey of India.

Besides organising the recruitment of technical personnel within the country, the Commission sends its personnel for intensive training to foreign countries. During 1959, 17 such officers were deputed under various aid programmes and fellowships for specialised training to different countries, e.g., the U.K., France, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the U.S.S.R., Iran, Italy, Canada and the U.S.A. Thirty-four officers have already been trained in foreign countries. The Commission also proposes to obtain the services of foreign experts to train the Indian personnel locally.

The Commission has established training schools at Jwalamukhi and Cambay to train up the drilling personnel. Adequate number of Indian under-studies have also been posted

mill of the steel plant. The plant, which is estimated to cost Rs. 4 crores, is expected to be in commission by September 1960.

An agreement was signed recently between the Hindustan Steel Ltd. and the Burmah Oil Co. (Pipelines) Ltd. for the supply of about 51,000 tons of high test line pipe of 14" outer diameter valued at Rs. 6 crores for the construction of the second phase of the Assam Oil Pipeline Project—from Gauhati to Baruni in Bihar.

Tonnage Oxygen Plant At Rourkela

An announcement dated June 6 says that the second air separation unit of the tonnage oxygen plant at Rourkela Steel Project was commissioned on June 6.

The tonnage oxygen plant is a key unit of the integrated steel works at Rourkela and is to supply low cost pure oxygen for the manufacture by the oxygen blowing L.D. process of three-fourths of the million-ton ingot steel annually. It will also provide pure nitrogen to the fertiliser plant which is under erection.

The tonnage oxygen plant, which is the biggest of its kind in India, consists of three units each designed to produce 100 tons of oxygen of 99.5% purity and about 160 tons of pure nitrogen of 99.99% purity per day. Provision is there to produce liquid oxygen to be utilised in ore mines for blasting purposes.

The first unit of the oxygen plant, which was commissioned on December 20, 1959, has so far produced about 14,000 tons of oxygen of average purity of 99.5%. With the commissioning of the second air separation unit the production of oxygen at the Project will be 200 tons per day. The oxygen is supplied to L.D. steel plant open hearth furnaces, blast furnaces, etc. through pipelines.

Attached to the oxygen plant is an oxygen cylinder filling station which has filled and sup-

plied more than 5,000 cylinders to the various units of the main plant since March 1960.

PRODUCTION OF STEEL IN 1959

According to an announcement dated June 11, the imports of iron and steel during 1959 declined to 750,000 tons. In 1958 India had imported 1.17 million tons. The improvement is ascribed to the commissioning of the steel plants in the public sector in the beginning of 1959.

The production of steel during the year was 1.77 million tons against 1.3 million tons in the preceding year. The increase came mainly from the Tatas and the Indian Iron. Likewise, the production of saleable pig iron recorded a sharp increase from 441,000 tons in 1958 to 752,403 tons in 1959—largely as a result of the contribution from Bhilai and Rourkela.

It is expected that in 1960-61 there will be more pig iron for sale as compared to 1959. The supply position of many items of steel like structurals, bars, rods and plates is likely to improve as a result of the commissioning of further units at the new plants.

The shortage is, however, expected to continue in respect of items like sheets, tinplates, wire, tool and alloy steels. Of these, tool and alloy steels and wire are being licensed both to the actual users and the trade.

In regard to the other scarce items, imports are being arranged in exchange for the export of scrap, pig iron and semis from the new steel works.

Copper Ore Production In January-April, 1960

According to the Indian Bureau of Mines, the production of copper ore during January-April 1960 was 144,434 tons. This represents an increase of about 8% as compared to the output of 133,648 tons in the corresponding period of the preceding year. The entire production was reported from Singhbhum district of Bihar State.

The production of copper metal during January-April, 1960 was 2,921 tons as compared to 2,469 tons in the corresponding period of 1959.

MANUFACTURE OF ELECTRIC FANS

The present installed capacity of the electric fan industry has already exceeded the Second Plan target of 6 lakh fans annually. The installed capacity was 7.65 lakhs in 1959 as against a little over 3 lakhs in 1955. Indian fans are expected to have a good market in foreign countries as their quality can now stand competition with brand of other countries.

Production Of Chromite In 1959

The production of chromite in India increased to 85,000 tons in 1959 from 64,000 tons in 1958, representing an increase of 32%.

Orissa, which accounted for about 95% of the total output during the year, showed an appreciable increase of 24,000 tons; bulk of the production from the State being of high grade.

The output of chromite has fluctuated from year to year depending upon the overseas demand. There was a larger demand for high grade chromite in Japan and Norway—exports to Japan increasing from 5,500 tons in 1958 to 29,300 tons in 1959. In the case of Norway the exports totalled 18,900 tons as against 1,300 tons in 1958.

The average pit's mouth value per ton was Rs. 58.27 in 1959 compared to Rs. 49.81 in 1958. The higher value during the year was due to the increase in the output of high grade ore.

Bauxite Deposits In Orissa

A New Delhi announcement of June 14 says that the Geological survey of India have recorded occurrences of bauxite in the following localities in Koraput district of Orissa State: Giriliguma hills, south east of

the village of the same name; area north of Manduru; some portion on the flat-topped hill of Nagasari Estate forest, about 5 miles north north-west of Padwa and on the northern portion of the Panchapat Mali and on the hill.

The reserves of bauxite in the northern portion of the Panchapat Mali have been estimated at 14,000 tons.

Bauxite is generally used in the manufacture of aluminium.

The production of bauxite in 1959 was 126,000 tons as against 139,000 tons in the preceding year recording a fall of about 9 per cent. The fall in the output was mainly due to the non-working of one important mine in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh. Bihar, which is the chief producing State, maintained its output at the previous year's level.

The mining of bauxite in Halar and Colaba districts of Bombay State began in the latter half of 1959 and new mines are still being opened. The production in Mysore State was high while there was a slight fall in the case of Madras.

In 1959, 67,000 tons of bauxite were used in producing alumina as against 55,000 tons in the preceding year.

There was also a larger overseas demand for bauxite. The exports during 1959 were 24,000 tons—an increase of nearly 3,000 tons over the previous year.

FAIR SELLING PRICES FOR BLEACHING POWDER

In a Press Note issued on June 1, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry says that the Government of India have fixed fair ex-works selling prices for different bulk packings of stable bleaching powder entering the wholesale trade.

The prices for the various sizes of packing will be: 100 Kgs.—Rs. 51.80; 55 Kgs.—Rs. 29.65; 25 Kgs.—Rs. 14.75; 12.5 Kgs.—Rs. 8.60; 3 Kgs.—Rs. 2.85; 1.5 Kgs.—Rs. 1.60; 0.5 Kg.—Rs. 0.85 and 0.25 Kg.—Rs. 0.75.

These prices, which are ceilings for ex-factory purchases, directly or through agents or distributors of the manufactur-

ers, will come into effect from June 1, 1960.

The Government have urged that the industry should keep a careful watch and control over its distributors and dealers and give preference to bonafide consumers.

In regard to the unstable variety of bleaching powder, Government have agreed with the Tariff Commission's observations that there is no need for them to fix such prices. The attention of the industry has been drawn to the Commission's observation that the fair price differential in favour of the unstable bleaching powder should be maintained.

The suggestions originally made by the Tariff Commission for removal of import duty on bleaching powder or the State Trading Corporation taking over the imported and indigenous bleaching powder have no validity in the circumstances now prevailing and the Commission has agreed that these need not now be considered.

Inquiry Into Working Of Spinning Mills

The Government of India have set up two committees to inquire into the affairs of Messrs Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Company Ltd., Sholapur, and Messrs Pratap Spinning, Weaving and Manufacturing Company Ltd., Amalner (East Khandesh District), Maharashtra State, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on June 8.

TRAINING IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

A training course in business management, says an announcement dated June 8, meant for small scale industrialists and their supervisory personnel has been organised by the Small Industries Institute, New Delhi.

The course, which will last for five months, will deal with subjects such as finance for industries, fundamentals of accounts and costing, principles and prac-

tice of management, quality control, industrial and labour legislation, salesmanship and publicity, industrial co-operatives, etc.

The course will be free and will commence from July 4, 1960. Classes will be held at 97, Sunder Nagar, New Delhi, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the evening.

Extraction Of Eucalyptus Oil

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has published a leaflet, second in the series on the Survey of Essential Oils, giving an account of the method of cultivation of *Eucalyptus citriodora* and information about its oil content, method of distillation, composition and properties, yield, production and uses.

The oil can be used in the manufacture of scented soaps, sprays, toilet preparations and the like. It has been estimated that the demand would be about 50,000 lbs. if the oil could be put to these uses in India. The present production in the country is estimated at 150 lbs.

Oil of *Eucalyptus citriodora* is also a source of aromatic chemicals such as citronellal, hydroxycitronellal and menthol. Menthol quantities of the citronellal, hydroxycitronellal and menthol are imported into India every year. In 1958 the imports were valued at about Rs. 42 lakhs.

The Essential Oils Research Committee of the Council has sanctioned a scheme for the systematic cultivation of *Eucalyptus citriodora* to be undertaken by the Government Cinchona Department, Ootacamund.

NEW PROCESSES DEVELOPED

A New Delhi announcement of June 3 says that the National Chemical Laboratory, Poona, has developed a new process for obtaining from sisal waste a suitable substitute for carnauba wax, an essential constituent of polishes for shoes and automobiles and of carbon paper.

India's requirements of this wax are met from imports only. During 1957 and 1958 the imports were valued at over Rs. 17 lakhs.

In the new process the wax is extracted from sisal waste obtained during the separation of sisal fibre from the leaves. Sisal plantations are spread over various States in India. The separation of sisal fibre from leaves is a well-known industry, both on a factory and cottage industry scales. The process of extraction of wax has been worked out on a pilot plant scale. The operations involved are simple and no difficulties are anticipated in projecting them on a large scale.

LONG-RANGE TRANSMISSION OF TEMPERATURE DATA

An article, published in the June 1960 issue of the Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research, gives details of the new method of long-range transmission and recording of data on temperature by wireless, correct up to one degree centigrade, which has been developed by the Department of Physics, M.L.B. College, Gwalior. The data so transmitted can also be read directly on a meter at the receiving station.

The principle employed is based on the observation that changes in temperature, which are transmitted, bring about corresponding changes in thermistors — temperature sensitive resistances — which was developed at the National Chemical Laboratory.

MEASUREMENT OF STRENGTH OF RADIOACTIVITY

Another article in the same issue describes a new instrument developed at the Laboratories of the Atomic Energy Establishment, Bombay, for the rapid measurement of the strength of radioactive source materials. This development is likely to benefit a large number of research institutes in the country which are making increasing use of radio-isotopes in agricultural, medical, physical, chemical, hydrological and various other types of research.

FOREIGN TRADE IN APRIL

A Press Note issued by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, on June 3 says that the provisional figures of India's foreign trade in merchandise by all routes (i.e. sea, air and land) on private and Government accounts during April, 1960, according to information available in the said Department, are: Exports Rs. 48.12 lakhs. Re-exports Rs. 46 lakhs; and Imports Rs. 82.00 lakhs.

These figures exclude overland trade with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. 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.

Balance of trade: Subject to the limitation in imports figures mentioned above, the total value of exports (including re-exports) of merchandise fell short of imports by Rs. 33.42 lakhs.

EXPORT OF SCRAP

During 1959, 290,125 tons of scrap were exported. The amount comprised sheet cuttings of different varieties—102,197 tons, borings and turnings—48,460 tons, steel, skull scrap, condemned machinery parts and miscellaneous heavy scrap—132,008 tons and tool steel scrap and other special steel scrap—7,460 tons. The tonnage of scrap exported from the port of Calcutta was 169,478 tons, Bombay 78,993 tons, Madras 16,848 tons and Kandla 2,087 tons.

The total quantity of scrap consumed by electric furnaces in India during 1959 was 84,386 tons.

The statutory prices of steel melting scrap in India are Rs. 100 per ton for melting scrap and Rs. 90 per ton for light sheets scrap.

The international prices of scrap are £16 per ton approximately (Rs. 213.3) for heavy

melting scrap and sheet cuttings No. 1 and £13 (Rs. 173.3) per ton approximately for other varieties of sheet cuttings.

The total availability of scrap during 1960 is expected to be 531,000 tons. Of these, heavy medium scrap and borings and turnings are expected to account for 240,000 tons; skulls, rolls etc. 25,000 tons; pressed bale sheets No.1—21,000 tons; detinned pressed bales—15,000 tons, and pressed bales Nos. 2, 2A and 3—230,000 tons.

PIG IRON FOR LONDON MARKET

The first consignment of 2,000 tons of Bhilai pig iron has left Visakhapatnam on its way to London market. It is for the first time that the Hindustan pig iron from Bhilai will be in the market of the United Kingdom.

Orders for export of 8,500 tons of pig iron to London have been received by the Bhilai Steel Project authorities.

More than 40,000 tons of Bhilai pig iron have already been exported to Pakistan and Japan.

EXPORT OF BOOKS

The Government of India are taking steps to boost exports of books. The Government will convene in near future in Calcutta a meeting of leading publishers and exporters of books and other printed material. India exported books and printed material worth about one crore of rupees in 1959. A recent study has shown that there is scope for developing sales of Indian books in countries like Japan, Hong Kong, Philippines, Thailand, Burma, Malaya and Pakistan.

Textile Exhibition In Bangkok

An announcement made in Bangkok on June 4 says that H.E. Kasem Sripayak, Minister for Economic Affairs of Thailand, inaugurated a textile exhibition, arranged by the Commerce Section of the Indian Embassy, at the India Government's Commercial Showroom in Bangkok.

Communications

REPORT OF CHIEF GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR OF RAILWAYS FOR 1958-59

According to the annual report of the Chief Government Inspector of Railways (in the Department of Communications and Civil Aviation), released on June 10, Government Inspectors held statutory enquiries into 17 passenger train accidents on Indian Railways in 1958-59, as against 18 in the preceding year.

Formal enquiries are held into every passenger train accident involving loss of human life or serious injury to any person in a train or an estimated damage to railway property of Rs. 20,000 or more. A Government Inspector may, however, hold an enquiry into an accident, if in his opinion, the contingent circumstances are such as to render such an enquiry desirable.

The total number of accidents of various types, including minor accidents, on the Indian Railways was 14,792 in 1958-59 as against 15,397 in the previous year.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES

Out of a total number of 4,160 train accidents under the main categories, an analysis was made of the causes of 3,811 accidents about which information had been furnished by the Railway Administrations by December 15, 1959. This showed that 1,870 accidents were due to failure of the human element, 1,293 to technical defects and the remaining 648 to various miscellaneous causes.

Of the 17 accidents formally investigated by Government Inspectors, there were ten cases of derailments, six of collisions and the remaining one was a case of a motor lorry colliding with a passenger train at a level crossing. Out of the ten cases of

derailment, three were attributed to failure on the part of the railway staff, three to train wrecking, one to defective condition of rolling stock, one to failure of permanent way, one to high speed of the train while running on a sharp curve and one to an obstruction placed on the track.

Out of the six cases of collisions, four are ascribed to failure of train crew, while the remaining two were due to failure on the part of the station staff.

INSPECTION OF NEW LINES

During the year under review the Government Inspectors of Railways authorised the opening of 192.1 miles of new railway lines; 108 miles of lines laid to double the track; 6.6 miles of diversions of existing lines and 65 miles of electrified lines. It is part of the duty of the Government Inspectors to inspect railway lines prior to their opening for public carriage of goods. They are also responsible for the annual routine inspection of all Company-managed railways. So far as the Government Railways are concerned, the General Managers are responsible for such inspections, but it is open to the Inspectors to inspect or visit any Railways or Section of a Railway to keep themselves acquainted with railway working. During the year they inspected all the Company Railways and accompanied the General Managers during their annual inspections of Government Railways to the extent of 14,213 route miles.

On the recommendations of the Government Inspectors, the Railway Board sanctioned the running of five new classes of locomotives and seven new types of rolling stock.

EXPANSION OF LINE CAPACITY

During 1958-59 they accorded sanctions to the opening of a number of new crossing stations, conversion of flag stations to crossing stations, remodelling of station yards and such other works connected with increasing of the line capacity to cope with the expanding railway traffic. Similarly, a large number of works connected with the installation of new bridges, signals, interlocking installations etc. and for improving the existing strength and standards of track and bridges were also sanctioned by them. The total number of sanctions given was 3,313.

The Railways, the report adds, had to carry an increasing number of new types of machinery and oversize consignments during the year from ports to inland stations, especially in connection with Plan Projects, and many of these infringed the prescribed maximum dimensions for carriage by railway wagons. Detailed instructions for the safe carriage of such consignments were scrutinised or issued and their carriage by railways sanctioned, the total number of such sanctions being 420.

Inquiry Into Accident On Delhi-Rewari Section

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Transport and Communications on June 13 says that the Government Inspector of Railways, Lucknow, who held a statutory enquiry into the collision between No. 213 Up Delhi-Ajmer passenger train and No. 93 Up Delhi-Jodhpur mail train at the outer signal of Garhi Harsaru station on the Delhi-Rewari metre gauge section of the Northern Railway on May 8, 1960, at about 21.30 hours, has submitted his preliminary report. His provisional finding is that the accident was caused due to the failure of railway staff.

As a result of the accident, nine passengers died and 11 passengers were injured, of whom four had received grievous injuries.

Third Class Sleeping Coaches

The Integral Coach Factory at Perambur will build 150 third-class sleeping coaches of the three-tier type. Orders for fifty more have been placed on other factories. Railway workshops are building 200 similar coaches for the meter gauge. The first of these would be attached to the Grand Trunk Express between Madras and Delhi.

IMPROVEMENT OF INLAND NAVIGATION

A New Delhi announcement of June 16 says that for ascertaining the extent of navigability on Indian rivers, hydrographic surveys on specified reaches of the Ganga, Yamuna, Narmada, Tapi, Krishna, Godavari and Mahanadi are proposed to be undertaken by the Central Water and Power Commission shortly. A proposal for the setting up of a central technical organisation for inland navigation is also under consideration.

It is estimated that at present only about 2,600 miles of canals are navigable. These include the irrigation and navigation canal of the D.V.C. and the Tungabhadra left bank canal. Schemes have also been drawn up to improve the existing irrigation and navigation canals of the Mahanadi delta. In the Rajasthan canal scheme provision for navigational facilities on the main canal is under consideration.

The possibility of interlinking some of these rivers is also being studied. Draft reports on the creation of the Narmada-Sone-Ganga, Narmada-Wainganga-Godavari, Narmada-Yamuna-Ganga coast-to-coast waterways, have been prepared.

It is expected that unified, multi-purpose development of some of the east and west flowing rivers in India will make

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long reaches of them gradually navigable. This would not only revive the water transport system, as it flourished in the country several centuries ago, but also improve facilities for movement of goods from the sea to inland centres.

Food & Agriculture

MEETING OF CROPS AND SOILS WING OF AGRICULTURAL BOARD

The Crops and Soils Wing of the Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India held a four-day session which concluded on June 11 at Ranchi in Bihar. Dr. M.S. Randhawa, Vice-President of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, presided.

The body, made recommendations of a far-reaching character aimed at raising the productivity of soil. These recommendations related to soil surveys in the areas under irrigation projects, cropping patterns, production of chemical fertilisers, manufacture of compost, use of bacterial inoculants and weed control.

The conference suggested that immediate measures should be initiated to bridge the gap between scientific research and its application in the field. It advocated suitable legislative measures for improving the economic condition of farmers and ensuring a proper development of agriculture in the country. The conference also felt that most of the existing legislative enactments were not adequately enforced. It opined that a more effective enforcement of the various legislative measures could be ensured if powers for the purpose were vested in the State Directors of Agriculture. Nearly ten legislative measures, which were already in vogue in certain States, were recommend-

TOURISM IN 1959

According to an announcement of June 2, tourism earned for India foreign exchange worth about Rs. 19 crores during 1959. The number of tourists who visited this country last year was over one lakh.

ed to be adopted by other States as well.

SOIL SURVEY

The body recognised that a detailed soil survey was essential to obtain the best utilisation of water. For this purpose, both pre-irrigation and post-irrigation soil surveys were recommended. The problems of water logging, it was thought, could be solved if the volumetric system of water distribution was introduced and construction of field channels made obligatory on farmers. For new irrigation project areas, it was suggested that an All-India Colonisation Board should be set up to ensure colonisation of these areas on sound lines.

The conference emphasised that agriculture required to be commercialised. One of the factors responsible for non-utilisation of research results in agriculture was that the latter had not been accorded the same status as industry. It urged that progressive policies and inducements which were assisting industry should be made applicable to agriculture also. It was, therefore, necessary to provide for stability of prices at an economic level and fixity of tenures and make available adequate and timely credit for promoting the adoption of scientific agriculture. The body recommended that industries relating to manufacture of fertilisers, pesticides,

weedicides, implements and agricultural machines required to be quickly developed so that the needs of the farming community are met. It was also essential to test the results of research in farmers' fields quickly so that the time lag between the announcement of the result of research and its application was reduced through field and pilot tests. The need for not only strengthening the extension services but also increasing its effectiveness was recognised. It was suggested that a powerful farmers' organisation should be encouraged specially on the lines of the "Sixty-Bushel-Club" of the U.S.A.

PRODUCTION OF FERTILISERS

The conference examined problem of the production of fertilisers in India. As the gap between the supply and demand of nitrogenous fertilisers was progressively widening and the target of the Second Five Year Plan could not be achieved by the public sector, the conference felt it necessary to allow the private sector to undertake the manufacture of fertilisers on a liberal scale. In view of the high priority attached to food production, the establishment of fertiliser factories should also receive a corresponding high priority. It was estimated that the minimum quantities of fertilisers, which would be required by the end of the Third Five Year Plan period, would be 1.25 million tons of nitrogen. With a view to bringing fertilisers within economic reach of the farmer, it was recommended that attention should be paid to the production of high analysis nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilisers, as well as compound ones.

The body recommended that in all towns and panchayats with a population of 4,000 and above, preparation of compost should be made compulsory. In smaller villages, panchayats should be encouraged to take up preparation of compost on commercial lines. The installation of bio-gas plants in villages was proposed. It was felt that the planting of fuel trees in waste lands would help in conserving cattle dung. Strengthening of

fundamental and applied research on weed control for developing methods suited to Indian conditions was also recommended.

The conference laid stress on the need for rapid introduction of new cropping patterns with a view to deriving maximum benefit from the resources of irrigation, fertilisers and other factors. It recommended economic incentives and suitable legislation, if necessary, for re-orientating cropping patterns.

The question of reliability of soil tests as an index to crop production was examined. It was recommended that the work should be intensified to cover larger areas with special reference to the package programme of districts. It was suggested that adequate provision should be made for this work in the Third Five Year Plan.

MEETING OF CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Central Warehousing Corporation held in New Delhi on June 6, the Board considered opening of Central Warehouses in the following places during the current financial year: Adoni, Gulbarga, Qulon, Shimoga, Amritsar, Nandyal, Rajkot, Broach or Surat, Cuttack, Sirsi, Gauhati, Theog and Ratlam or Bhatinda. These would be in addition to 27 Warehouses already in existence.

INSURANCE OF STOCKS

The Board gave its approval to a new arrangement for insurance of stocks in Central Warehouses. Under this arrangement while hazardous goods like cotton and jute would continue to be insured with insurance companies, all other risks, including that of fire, would be covered by indemnification by the Corporation. Losses, if any, would be met from the general revenues of the Corporation, till such time as an appropriate amount of re-

Earlier, Dr. Randhawa, addressing the conference, observed that agriculture could ultimately improve by the farmer's own efforts. He said that legislation intended for agricultural development should not be hastily introduced.

The Governor of Bihar, Dr. Zakir Husain, who spoke at the concluding session, observed that the task of scientific enquiry ought to be accompanied by the work of educating the peasant. "Progress in Agriculture, as in every other aspect of life, is not possible without sound education", he remarked.

The meeting was attended by nearly hundred delegates comprising officials of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Planning Commission, State Governments, Community Projects, University Professors, Research Scholars and farmers.

serve was built out of profits. The Board commended the new system to the State Warehousing Corporations. The new scheme would come into operation from July 1, 1960.

The Board also gave its approval to the reconstitution of the Boards of Directors of the State Warehousing Corporations of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The vacancies in these Boards were caused by the expiry of the term of non-official Directors.

COLD STORAGE FOR DELHI

The Board was informed that detailed estimates were being scrutinised to set up a cold storage in Delhi. The Corporation carried out investigations for providing cold storage facilities for perishable commodities like apples and potatoes, both at the producing centre (Theog, in Himachal Pradesh) and the consuming centre, Delhi. The cold storage would thus eventually set up a link between co-

operatives of producers and those of consumers. It was also proposed to set up similarly cold storages in other large receiving centres like Bangalore, Hyderabad, Gauhati and Nagpur and to link them up with producing areas wherever possible.

While reviewing the progress of custom at various warehouses, the Board noted with satisfaction the steady and marked increase in the number of producers attracted by the scheme.

WEATHER MESSAGES FOR FARMERS

A New Delhi announcement of June 6 says that farmers in nearly 500 community development and national extension service blocks, spread over the entire country, now get special warning messages about weather conditions from the Meteorological Department to help them in planning agricultural operations.

Under the scheme, telegrams are sent by the regional Forecasting Offices of the Department to the community centres and N.E.S. blocks on important occasions like the first burst of monsoon rains, heavy rainfall, strong winds and cyclonic storms. Warnings are also given when a break in the monsoon rains is forecast. Special messages are sent to officials in selected project areas whenever the weather is anticipated to turn adverse to crops.

Weather bulletins for farmers containing forecast for the next 36 hours, issued by the Meteorological Department, are broadcast daily from 28 stations of All India Radio covering all the States. The bulletins, which are broadcast in 20 regional languages, are also supplied telegraphically to individual subscribers.

The Department maintains 50 crop-weather stations and 88 agricultural meteorological observatories in different States. Phenological data (i.e. data re-

lating to recurring natural phenomena in relation to climatic conditions) is being collected for various trees from 350 different places. Experiments on evaporation and exhalation of watery vapour from the surface of leaves and plants are being carried out in co-operation with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Crop-weather data on paddy, wheat, jowar, cotton and sugarcane is being collected. An all-India crop outlook based on meteorological charts is prepared by the Meteorological Department every month for the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

During 1959, about 10,000 special messages providing advance information about weather conditions were issued by the Meteorological Stations to the various community centres and N.E.S. blocks.

PRODUCTION OF MAIZE

According to the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the All-India Final Estimate of maize for 1959-60 puts the area and production at 10,457,000 acres and 3,615,000 tons respectively as against the Partially Revised Estimate of 10,457,000 acres and 3,381,000 tons for 1958-59 indicating a substantial increase of 234,000 tons or 6.9% in production of maize during 1959-60 over the previous year, though the area remains at the same level, says a Press Note issued by the above Directorate on June 10. Production of maize during 1959-60 is the highest on record.

The average yield per acre of maize during 1959-60 works out to 774 lbs. which is 6.9% higher than 724 lbs. for 1958-59 and 11.1% higher than the average of 698 lbs. for the five years ending 1958-59. The per acre output during 1959-60 is the highest on record.

Increase in area during the current year has occurred mainly

in Punjab, Rajasthan and Bombay States and is attributed generally to favourable weather conditions. This increase has, however, been offset by the decrease in area reported mainly in respect of Jammu and Kashmir and Bihar.

The increase in production during the current year is accounted for mainly by Uttar Pradesh and Punjab and to a lesser extent by Bihar and is ascribed generally to favourable climatic conditions during the period of growth. The large increase in the case of Uttar Pradesh is also reported to be due partly to intensive kharif campaign. The increase in the above States has been offset considerably by decrease in production mainly in Madhya Pradesh, Bombay and Andhra Pradesh due largely to adverse seasonal conditions during the period of growth. The crop sustained heavy damage due to continuous and heavy rains in Bombay and Madhya Pradesh from August to October.

FINAL ESTIMATE OF DRY CHILLIES

According to a Press Note issued by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture on June 11, all-India Final Estimate of dry chillies, 1959-60, puts the current year's area and production at 1,499,000 acres and 339,000 tons respectively. As compared with the Partially Revised Estimates of 1,471,000 acres and 326,000 tons for 1958-59, the estimates for 1959-60 show an increase of 28,000 acres or 1.9% in area and 13,000 tons or 4.0% in production.

The increase in area during the current year has been shared mainly by Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Madras and is attributed generally to favourable, weather conditions at the time of sowing of the crop. The increase has, however, been offset to some extent by the de-

crease in area reported by Punjab.

The increase in production during the current year is accounted for by Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Rajasthan and Mysore and is due partly to the increase in acreage under the crop and partly to favourable weather conditions during the period of growth of the crop.

RELEASE OF SUGAR RAISED

A Press Note issued on June 2 by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture says that the Government of India have decided to release two lakh tons of sugar. There will be no release for free sale from the factories in Uttar Pradesh, 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 maund and for factories in Punjab and South Bihar Rs. 38.35 per maund for ISS D-29 grade with the prescribed price differentials for other grades. The fixed f.o.r. destination prices in respect of allotments made to Kanpur and Calcutta will be Rs. 38.80 and Rs. 39.85 per maund respectively for sugar of ISS D-29 grade.

The release of sugar was raised by 10,000 tons—from 1.75 lakh tons per month to 1.85 lakh tons in April 1960. This month it has been further raised by 15,000 tons bringing the monthly release to 2 lakh tons.

The production of sugar during the current season is estimated to be 23.50 lakh tons on May 7, 1960; at this time last year the production was 18.88 lakh tons.

CONTROL OF LOCUST MENACE

Following large-scale locust breeding and swarm movements in many desert parts of Africa and the Middle East, danger of

fresh locust invasions of India this summer is apprehended. To control it effectively, stocks of insecticides, vehicles and spraying machines have been kept ready and men alerted at all the anti-locust stations of the Locust Warning Organisation of the Government of India.

The Organisation, established in 1939, operates in the desert areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra States. It covers a total area of about 82,000 square miles, with a network of locust outposts, controlled from three main bases at Jodhpur, Palanpur and Bikaner. The Organisation maintains a fleet of motor vehicles, thousands of spraying and dusting machines and other control at about 30 different places in the desert areas. Three aeroplanes are also available for aerial spraying and dusting against the locusts. During periods of locust plagues, the Organisation is expanded and strengthened.

Refresher Course For Veterinary Teachers

A six-week refresher course in animal nutrition, organised by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, has been started from June 1 at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izzatnagar. The object of the course is to provide the teaching staff of veterinary colleges with latest knowledge on various veterinary subjects, especially animal nutrition.

The Joint Indo-American team on agricultural research and education had observed in their report (1955) that certain members of the teaching staff did not possess sufficient academic attainments or proficiency to provide instruction at a level necessary for the B.V.Sc. degree. To remove this deficiency it recommended that special training should be provided to veterinary teachers during the period when colleges are closed.

Accordingly, the I.C.A.R. made arrangements for conducting refresher courses in animal anatomy and surgery at the Veterinary College, Calcutta, and in bacteriology

at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Mukteswar, during 1957. In 1958, a course in pharmacology was organised at the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow. These courses were attended by teachers from almost all the veterinary colleges in India.

GAMMA GARDEN

A Cobalt-60 Gamma Field Radiation Unit—known as Gamma Garden—has been set up at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, says an announcement of June 5.

The two-lakh project will enable scientists to use more systematically atomic energy for agricultural research. It will help in creating new variability in crop plants for obtaining improvement through breeding of more suitable varieties, and in carrying out experiments for the control of insect pests through sterilisation and for the preservation of food material through the use of radiation.

Summer crops such as maize, sorghum, sugarcane, cucur bits, cotton and horticultural plants, especially for the purpose, are now being subjected to radiation from the Cobalt-60 Source. The object is to obtain in crops certain desirable qualities such as colour change, disease resistance etc. The suitable varieties could later be developed for further multiplication.

After mutations have been induced, seeds collected from the plants of this generation will be grown in field conditions. It will require another two years of research work before conclusive results can be obtained.

The Gamma-Garden, spread over an area of 3 acres, has already begun providing practical training in radiation genetics to post-graduate students of the I.A.R.I. Research facilities will be available to universities, agricultural colleges and State Departments of agriculture.

River Projects & Power

RESEARCH SESSION OF CENTRAL BOARD OF IRRIGATION & POWER

The Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri Pattom Thanu Pillai, inaugurated the research session of the Central Board of Irrigation and Power at Trivandrum on June 1. Dr. K.L. Rao, President of the Board, and, Member of the Central Water and Power Commission, presided. The session concluded on June 4.

Discussions took place on a number of subjects, including technique of model experiments, flood protection and training works, sedimentation and its control in reservoirs and rivers, designs of dams and weirs, soil mechanics, materials and their tests, rural electrification and foundation engineering.

A series of recommendations, aimed at stepping up research in power engineering and extending its scope in other fields of irrigation and power, were adopted at the session.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board recommended that research units should be established by State electricity boards and the results of research collated for mutual benefit of all the States. The units would supplement research which would be conducted at power research organisations set up by the Government of India at Bhopal and Bangalore. In addition, a special committee was being constituted by the Board to co-ordinate research in this field.

It was also suggested that practical experiments should be conducted for adoption, specially in hilly areas, on a single-wire distribution system of electricity as was prevalent in U.S.A., so as to accelerate rural electrification programme in the country. Under this system, earth was used

as return circuit, and it resulted in considerable economy.

Another recommendation was that a symposium should be held on integrated operation of hydro, electric and thermal stations, which, in effect, would lead to economical pooling of power generation in the country.

A number of recommendations dealt with research in specific hydraulic problems.

A programme of research and tests required for the projects would also be drawn up in advance by chief engineers each year. The directors of research institutions and other State engineering organisations would then furnish the requirements of field data for supply by the chief engineers. This would facilitate advance planning and completion of required tests well in time for application and evolution of economic and safe structures.

Yet another suggestion called for establishment of separate structural laboratories for testing big size models, so that economy could be achieved in development of new features of structures subject to special dynamic forces like earthquakes.

The Board suggested enlargement of its executive committee and the research Committee, so as to enlist the participation of eminent research workers.

A committee was also likely to be set up for studying methods of securing increased pace of development of research and training of personnel by specialists in the shortest possible time.

Among those who attended the session were officers concerned with

irrigation and power in the Central and State Governments, chief engineers, research workers and experts in the field of engineering in the country. International organisations, such as the UNESCO, ECAFE, T.C.M. of the USA, and the International Commission for Irrigation and Drainage, were also invited to send their representatives to this session.

The Central Board of Irrigation and Power was set up in 1931 in accordance with the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India in 1928.

Originally intended to be an advisory body on technical questions connected with water utilization and flood control works, the Board later assumed additional responsibilities, which included dissemination and co-ordination of results of research on irrigation and allied subjects and maintenance of contacts with institutions dealing with similar problems in other countries.

The Board sets up technical sub-committees for study of specific problems. Among these is a permanent research committee, which meets annually.

The finances for the Board are derived from contributions from the Central and State Governments in the form of annual subscriptions.

CENTRAL INDIA RIVERS COMMISSION

The seventh meeting of the Central India Rivers Commission was held at Trivandrum on June 1. It was decided that a systematic inspection of rain gauges in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Kerala would be introduced shortly. The Commission also considered a proposal for setting up of additional rain gauges in the States.

It further received the progress of survey investigations and collection of data for flood control schemes by the State and Central agencies.

There are at present four Rivers Commissions — the North-Western, Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Central India Rivers Commissions — which deal with flood problems in their respective regions.

Community Development

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The National Conference on Community Development was held in Srinagar from June 6 to 11. Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, inaugurated the conference.

In his inaugural address he emphasised that community development scheme should organise for peasants practical demonstration of improved methods of farming and conduct the development programme with missionary spirit. The peasant, he observed, should be spoken in his own language and a human approach should be adopted to solve his problems.

Addressing the conference on June 7, Shri S.K. Dey, Union Minister for Community Development and Co-operation, observed that mobilisation of the people for increased agricultural production had to be accepted as the highest priority for community development programme. Supplies, services and credit should be handled by people's institutions like co-operatives, leaving the agricultural department free to devote its entire attention to the provision of technical advice. He advocated drawing up of agricultural production programmes for each Block, one which could be implemented by the farmers independent of the Government agency and the other which could be executed by them with State's assistance. Referring to the problems of village industries, the Minister added that it was intended to concentrate small industries in selected Blocks or specially favourable rural areas. This, he felt, would have a salutary effect in checking migration of village population to congested cities.

ROLE OF VOLUNTARY INSTITUTIONS

The joint co-operative farming which the Government proposed to promote and develop was, according to Shri Dey, an important measure in helping the under-developed stratum of the community. Landless and marginal landholders in the villages, he said, could be organised into joint co-operative farming societies giving them the strength which they lacked individually. That would enable them to take to intensive methods of cultivation and to village industries production programmes.

In his concluding address on June 11, the Minister observed that community development programme was going to be judged ultimately by the extent to which it had been able, through democratic processes, to concentrate on the production programmes and thereby increased the wealth of the country.

PROGRESS OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

Referring to the progress of panchayati raj and the discussion of problems of transition to panchayati raj, Shri Dey said that this conference had made a substantial contribution in the direction of infusing confidence in those who did not have the experience of panchayati raj. Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan had shown how the decision to delegate the powers of planning and implementation of the development programmes to the people's elected bodies at village block and district levels had been justified. It had given the people of these States a confidence in their capacity to do things and in their willingness to shoulder the responsibilities. The rest of India could benefit

considerably from their experiences. No Government, Centre or State, could achieve positive results unless it delegated routine work to people at different levels.

Laying stress on the common cause which the programme had made, not only with other departments but also with the people at the village level, he said, this progress would give strength to the programme by harnessing the energies of various agencies as well as the people in constructive channels.

Neither panchayati raj nor the production programme, according to the Minister, could, however, succeed unless the under-privileged sections of the community were given their due. It was with this object that new schemes in regard to village and small scale industries had been drawn up and budgetary priorities indicated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The conference recommended that Agriculture Department and the Extension staff should, as a general policy, be relieved to the maximum extent possible of work which basically involves purchase, storage and sale of material required by the farmers.

INTENSIVE SCHEME OF FOOD PRODUCTION IN C. D. AREAS

The distribution of fertilisers and improved seeds, it was recommended, should be entrusted to co-operatives. For the distribution of fertilisers, it was emphasised that care should be taken for adequate supervision by the technical staff, for the location of a sufficient number of distribution points and for facilities to those who were not members of co-operative societies. For the supply of improved seeds, it was stressed that, wherever possible, the foundation seed, when it left the block seed farm, might be supplied to the village co-operative. The co-operative, on its part, should undertake the task of multiplication of seeds through progressive farmers of the collection of the resultant improved seeds, and also distribution to farmers

after proper quality control. Until a co-operative society was organised to undertake multiplication, this work, it was felt, might be done through registered growers.

In this connection, it was also recommended that the Agriculture Department should take special steps to impart training in seed multiplication techniques and quality control to the staff of the society and progressive farmers.

The conference also noted that lack of adequate plant protection measures was responsible for considerable loss in agricultural production. It emphasised the need to give regular preventive treatment to crops, the Agriculture Department giving detailed instructions about the kind of treatment and the period when it was to be given.

In regard to the mobilisation of surplus man-power for land development schemes, the conference emphasised the need for people's organisations, e.g., panchayats and co-operatives, to stimulate natural leadership of the cultivating community, so as to make them give their best in the field of agricultural development.

DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL INDUSTRIES

Comprehensive recommendations for the development of rural industries, organization of a youth movement and the co-ordination of welfare schemes for scheduled castes and other backward classes, were made by the conference. It suggested that village and small scale industries' programme should be intensified in such areas of the country which come under the 'package' programme of greater agricultural development. It was being done to meet the greater demand for goods in these areas with the expected rise in the income of farmers. It also approved the proposal for the establishment of one industrial centre for five to ten community development blocks.

These centres, which were expected to be set up during this year would have a workshop for servicing new equipment in the villages including radio sets, tractors and irrigation pumps. Other recommendations included suggestions for the co-ordination of efforts with the Khadi Commission for rural industrialisation and for the continuance of pilot industrial projects set up earlier.

The conference recommended the setting up of an institute in every district in the country to impart training in community development, Panchayats and co-operation. The scheme envisaged a phased programme for setting up 320 such institutes in the Third Five Year Plan. It was not intended to run these institutions on departmental lines but to select in each district a suitable institution run by a reputable non-official organisation and to assist it in setting up a training wing for the purpose. The people to be trained at these institutes would include Panches, employees of Panchayat or Block Development Committees, youth leaders and women workers.

The conference further recommended that there should be one youth organisation in every 10 villages in a block. It took note of the progress already achieved in U.P. where about 6,000 Youth Clubs were now functioning. It made suggestions about co-ordination of the welfare schemes of the various Ministries at the block level with a view to providing special assistance to the backward classes.

The conference recognised that the community development programme would be judged in the country as well as abroad mainly by its success in organising the people for stepping up agricultural production.

LARGER BUDGET PROVISION

The conference recommended that the release of funds from the Block Budget every year should

be on the basis of its performance in agricultural production. It suggested that finance for amenities programme, should not be available to Blocks which fail to make adequate progress in the production programme.

In order to focus the attention on agriculture the conference agreed to provide larger funds in the Blocks for the production programme during the Third Plan. It had been proposed to raise the present allocation of Rs. 3.90 lakhs in the Budget of Stage I Blocks under agriculture, including minor irrigation, and land improvement to Rs. 4.50 lakhs in the Third Plan period.

The conference also made several concrete suggestions in regard to the planning and co-ordination of village agricultural plans, supply and services, minor irrigation, development of local manurial resources and introduction of improved implements.

During agricultural seasons, the Gram Sevak would be relieved of all other duties to enable him to devote his entire attention to the agriculture programme. Incentives by way of expanded scope of promotion to extension staff had been proposed to improve the quality of extension work. In regard to the 'package programme' of intensive agricultural development undertaken in selected areas, the Community Development Organisation will take its full share of the burden in its execution. The additional personnel appointed for this programme would be integrated with the existing block staff for whom special orientation training would be arranged.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING

Another significant feature of the conference was its attempts to secure the benefit of the community development programme to the weaker sections of the community. It was recognised that such sections of the villagers could stand on their own legs by organising co-operative farm-

ing. In granting long term loans from the Block Budget, it was decided to give preference to joint co-operative farming societies over individuals provided 75 percent of the members of such societies were either marginal and sub marginal land holders or landless labourers. The need for an annual assessment of the impact of the community development programme in promoting a spirit of self reliance and self help in the Block was emphasised.

It was agreed that the conversion of a Block from Pre-extension to successive stages should be dependent on the enthusiasm and self reliance shown by the people. It was recognised that the criteria for such tests must vary from State to State and even from area to area within a State. The conference approved

a list of norms amongst which showings in agricultural production again received the highest weightage.

The progress of a Block would be judged by the extent of self help displayed and efforts made in the utilisation of existing irrigation facilities maintenance of irrigation works, contour bunding, soil conservation etc.

The Development Commissioners also discussed administrative measures needed to make the Block an effective unit of planning and development and the steps to be taken for drawing up village production programme.

Action would soon be taken by the Development Commissioners to draw up Block and district plans which would form part of States Third Five Year Plan.

REPORT OF CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT COMMITTEE

The report of the Committee on Co-operative Credit appointed by the Government of India in 1959, was released on June 6.

In its report the Committee has observed that no cultivator should be denied loan from co-operatives merely on the ground that he does not own land or cannot produce owners of land as sureties. It is necessary, it adds, that co-operatives provide funds according to the requirements of agricultural production even to cultivating tenant members on the basis of their repaying capacity and on adequate sureties who need not necessarily be owners of land.

Pointing out the need for a systematic programme of rectification, consolidation and revitalisation of the large number of dormant primary co-operative societies, the Committee lays stress on the promotion of viable units of co-operative service and business. Too large a membership and too extensive an area are undesirable. The majority of the members of the Committee are of the view that population covered should not exceed

3,000 (i.e. 800 families). The limited liability type is preferred.

FLEXIBILITY IN PATTERN

It advocates flexibility in the approach to the pattern of organisation within a broad framework of policy. State Governments and people associated with the movement should be left free to choose the type most suited to their areas.

Whilst the credit should be adequate for production requirements, it should not be so facile or inadequately supervised as to render possible its use for consumption rather than increase in production. The scope for misuse can be minimised by supplying as large a part of the loans as possible in kind, e.g. seeds, fertilisers, implements, etc., the report adds.

LOANS

Members should be required to contribute to the society's share capital in certain proportion to their borrowings. Bor-

rowings of an individual may not exceed eight to ten times of his paid-up capital.

For the benefit of weaker sections of cultivators, whose loans requirements do not exceed Rs. 200 may be allowed to pay for their shares instead in lump sum.

The Committee is not in favour of insisting on mortgage security in case of medium term loans of less than Rs. 500. It does not consider it necessary to enhance, as a rule, the present credit limits of primary societies. State and Central banks also generally have adequate borrowing powers on the basis of existing standards.

There may, however, be special cases where on the existing standards societies cannot get all the loans they require. The Committee has, therefore, recommended that the Registrar, after considering all the relevant aspects of the case, may increase these limits to 10 to 12 times in the case of primary societies, 12 to 15 times in the case of Central Banks and 15 to 20 times for State Co-operative Banks.

For the purpose of determining its borrowing power, "Owned Funds" of a bank should be deemed to comprise not only the paid up capital and statutory reserve fund but also other funds of a permanent nature created out of profits.

The Committee recommends issue of long-term loans for land improvement on the basis of the anticipated instead of existing value of land. The risk involved should be covered by a State Guarantee to cover the difference.

AUGMENTING INTERNAL RESOURCES

For the purpose of augmenting internal resources, the Report asks primary societies to make systematic efforts to increase the share-capital even beyond the level of 10 per cent of the borrowings. The share holding of primary societies in the Central Bank should be one-twentieth of the former's borrowings.

A sufficiently attractive rate of interest is suggested as an incentive to villagers to deposit their savings with primary societies. Similar tapping of deposits from urban areas by Central and State Bank is necessary.

The Committee recommends State's participation, preferably through apex and Central banks, in the share capital of viable primary credit societies. State contribution should range from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 10,000 provided it does not exceed the contributions of the members. The minimum contribution should be available only when the society undertakes to collect additional share capital of Rs. 3,000 from its members over a period of three to five years. Government contribution should be returned after a certain period. A subsidy of Rs. 1200 over a period not exceeding five years has also been recommended.

The Committee pleads for the removal by the Reserve Bank of the present distinction between 'normal' and 'exceptional' limits for short-term credit so that 'A' and 'B' class Central banks become eligible to loans up to four and three times of their own funds respectively. In addition, 'A' class banks might be sanctioned a limit not exceeding twice their own funds and 'B' class banks equal to their own funds on certain conditions. 'C' class banks may be sanctioned a limit upto three times of its own funds against guarantee of Government. This in special cases may be raised to four.

Any liberalisation of the present standards for sanctioning medium term loans by the Reserve Bank, according to the Committee, will be possible only if the 'Long term Operations Fund' is appreciably augmented. The Reserve Bank of India should be authorised by the Government of India to credit Rs. 15 crores to the fund annually as against Rs. 5 crores at present, the report adds.

AGENCY FOR CREDIT

Taccavi, both short and medium terms, and appropriate

funds available in C.D. block budgets should be channelled through the co-operatives which should be the sole institutional agency at the village level for supply of credit.

The Committee has suggested that the Life Insurance Corporation should make substantial contribution to the debentures floated by land mortgage banks. Investment of Trust and Provident Funds in these debentures should be permitted, where necessary, by legislation.

Amendment of the law to provide for the creation of a charge in favour of a society on the land as well as crops of a member has also been recommended. The question of strengthening the machinery for supervision and provision of additional staff in co-operative departments and institutions should be reviewed. Development of local leadership has been considered necessary for the promotion of the movement.

The Committee desires the strengthening of the link between credit and marketing and recommends that construction of godowns by primary credit societies should be proceeded with as a part of the Third Plan programme.

For tiding over financial difficulties arising out of wide-spread adverse seasonal conditions, the constitution and strengthening of the Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Fund at various levels of the co-operative credit structure is considered essential. The need for the State Governments to set up Relief and Guarantee Funds, the report maintains, will be greater when the co-operatives undertake to finance agriculturists on a much bigger scale than before. The State Governments should make suitable provisions for these in the Third Plan.

The Committee appreciates that the extension of credit facilities to a class of persons who were so far completely or partially denied involves certain risks. By way of incentives to co-operatives, it has suggested an outright Government grant

to each society at the rate of three per cent of the additional loans given by it over and above the amount advanced in the preceding year. Government may similarly make an outright contribution at one per cent to Central Banks in respect of the additional finance provided by them.

SPECIAL RESERVE FUND

The contributions received by societies and Central Banks should be credited by them to a 'Special Bad Debt Reserve', distinct from the 'Bad Debt Reserve', created from their profits. While withdrawals by a primary society from the reserve may be made to cover the entire amount of loss, the withdrawal by a Central Bank may be only to the extent of two-third of the loss, the balance being borne by the bank.

In respect of grants to Central Banks and primary societies the cost is to be shared equally between the Central and State Governments. The existing pattern should continue in the case of other assistance, says the report.

The Committee has emphasised that provision of various aids from Government should not be used for compelling societies to adopt a particular pattern of organisation nor the role of the State should extend to the internal management of co-operative institutions. Adherence to a particular policy, once it is accepted after full consideration for a fairly long period, is desirable. So is periodical evaluation of results, the report observes.

Set up by the Government of India (Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation) in pursuance of a recommendation of the Conference of State Ministers for Co-operation, held at Mysore in 1959, the Committee was headed by Shri Vaikunth L. Mehta. It consisted of representatives of the Planning Commission; the Departments of Co-operation, Agriculture and Community Development at the Centre; State Governments; Reserve Bank of India; State Bank of India and a few non-officials associated with the co-operative movement. It

was asked to examine in all its bearings the question of providing adequate credit for farmers through co-operatives.

The Report will be discussed at the ensuing Conference of State Ministers of Co-operation at Srinagar from June 14th to 16th. In the light of these discussions, the Government of India will examine the Report and take suitable action on the recommendations.

NEW TITLE FOR 'GRAM SEVAK'

According to an announcement dated May 31, the monthly journal 'Gram Sevak' (in Eng-

lish and Hindi) has been re-titled as 'Panchayati Raj' from May 1960.

Regional language versions of the journal are to be brought out by all the State Governments, the Central Government subsidising, to the extent of 50%, the cost of production of the regional language issues.

The Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation has already asked the Development Commissioners of all State Governments to initiate action for the publication of the regional language version of the 'Panchayati Raj'.

Education & Culture

INDIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CO-OPERATION WITH UNESCO

The tenth meeting of the Executive Board of the Indian National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO was held in New Delhi on June 6 with Shrimati Hansa Mehta in the Chair.

The Board adopted the revised constitution of the Indian National Commission, prepared by the Committee headed by Dr. Tara Chand, M.P., with changes in membership of the four sub-commissions. The membership will be 42, fifty per cent being representatives of non-governmental organisations. They will be appointed by the President of the Commission.

An important feature of the revised constitution is to associate the non-official bodies more closely with the work of the National Commission. The Commission will have a majority of non-official members in its various sub-commissions. The Union Minister of Education will be the President of the National Commission, which will have four sub-commissions, viz., Education, Natur-

al Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities, and Cultural Activities and Mass Communication.

The Board considered ways and means of associating the India International Centre and other similar organisations with the implementation of the East-West Major Project and steps to implement activities under the Major Project for which UNESCO has offered financial assistance.

It also reviewed the progress made so far in respect of the Indo-U.S. Project which aims at furthering the objectives of the UNESCO Major Project on Mutual Appreciation of Eastern and Western Cultural Values.

The Board suggested that the Indian Delegation to the eleventh General Conference of UNESCO, to be held in November-December, 1960, should press for the strengthening of science education in schools, particularly at the Secondary stage.

The other suggestions included setting up of the regional cen-

tres for East-West Major Project in Asia, study of trends of UNESCO's programmes, strengthening of the activities of the pilot projects of UNESCO, utilisation of the members of the National Commissions for promotional activities, wider dissemination of UNESCO publications, effective implementation of book production programmes specially with reference to the clearance of copyright.

It was also emphasised that the UNESCO should be urged to strengthen the National Commissions by way of grant of subventions and other financial assistance for the effective implementation of UNESCO's programmes and activities in each Member State.

Among those who attended the meeting were: Dr. K.S. Krishnan, Dr. V. Raghavan, Prof. M.S. Thacker and Shri P.N. Kirpal and Dr. J.P. Correa of UNESCO South Asia Science Co-operation Office.

NEW BROADCASTING HOUSE IN SRINAGAR

The foundation-stone of a double-storey building for the Broadcasting station in Srinagar was laid at a special ceremony by Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed, Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, on June 6. Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, presided over the function.

In his speech Dr. Keskar said that the Srinagar station was one of the half a dozen most powerful stations of All India Radio. He added that Government proposed to set up in Srinagar a powerful medium wave transmitter during the Third Plan. This would be in addition to the two transmitters that were already in commission.

Covering an area of 24,000 square feet, the new building, which is estimated to cost a little over Rs. 13 lakhs, will have a set of six studios, planned to meet the varied demand of a modern broadcasting house. The studios have been specially

designed for various programmes like music, community programmes, talks, dramas, effects, use of gramophone discs and tape-recordings. Provision has also been made for rehearsal rooms, listeners' and announcers' booths, a recording room, a record library and stores for musical instruments. The programmes will be routed and controlled from a centralised control room which will form the nerve centre of the set-up.

Radio Kashmir started functioning in 1948 with small medium-wave and short-wave transmitters. To provide satisfactory listening, a more powerful short-wave system was installed in 1957. In the initial stages, Srinagar station provided objective and accurate news and information to the people apart from cultural programmes. It offered opportunities to local musicians, poets, writers and others for self expression and, thus, helped in the development of Kashmiri literature.

Radio Kashmir — Jammu and Srinagar — broadcasts programmes in Hindi, Dogri, Punjabi and Urdu. There are about 70 Community listening sets installed in the remotest corners of the State. A special half an hour programme in Ladhakhi is also broadcast every day from the station.

'Lidice 1960' For A.I.R. Newsreel Producer

A New Delhi announcement of June 15 says that Mr. Melville de Mellow, Producer of Radio Newsreel, All India Radio, has won the International Radio Competition known as Lidice 1960, organised by the Czechoslovak Radio and Czechoslovak Peace Committee.

Mr. De Mellow was adjudged the best documentary producer—script, production and broadcast—from out of a number of radio-men from all over the world who entered the contest. He was the first Indian to have ever won this award and it was for the first time that he entered this contest.

His award-winning entry was the documentary feature entitled "Garden of Peace" broadcast by All India Radio on the 'Human Rights Day' this year. The feature dramatised the tragedy of Lidice in which, but for one character—the young lady Maria—all his character speak to the "conscience of the world" from grave. The script portrays a passion for peace and its broadcast had brought in hundreds of letters from the listeners.

The competition is an annual fixture to commemorate the Lidice massacre by the German Army during the Second World War which has become a symbol of mankind's struggle against brutality and evil.

Mr. De Mellow has produced a number of documentary features and undertaken spot commentaries on numerous occasions. Some of his documentary features have been accepted by the BBC Transcription Service and the American Broadcasting Foundation. He holds the world record in the longest continuous one-man running commentary which lasted for 7 hours from the Triveni Sangham during the immersion ceremony of the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi.

Leave Concession For Sportsmen

Special casual leave of 30 days in a year will be admissible to those Central Government employees who are invited to participate in national or international sports, says an announcement of June 9. The period of absence in excess of 30 days is to be treated as regular leave. As a special case, the Government servants will be permitted to combine special casual leave with regular leave.

This facility will be made available for such national events as are held on an inter-State, inter-zonal or inter-circle basis. In respect of international sporting events, the Government servant should have been selected by a national sports

federation or association recognised by the All India Council of Sports and approved by the Ministry of Education or the National Rifle Association.

The concession will not, however, be available if a Government employee participates in a sports event in his personal capacity.

For some time, the Government of India had been considering a way whereby its employees who have acquired proficiency in sports and are invited to participate in events of national and international importance do not face any disadvantage.

STUDY OF RAINFALL FOR 1931-40

According to a study of the monthly frequencies of rainfall in India, covering the period 1931 to 1940, issued by the India Meteorological Department on June 5, Delhi is one of the four cities which have the largest number of rainless days in India. On the average, the capital has rain only on 52 days in the year. It had 'no rain' on 3,132 days during the ten years (rainfall less than one-hundredth of an inch is considered 'no rain').

Bikaner had the largest number of rainless days—3,394, while Jodhpur with 3,300 and Rajkot with 3,182 days were the other two cities with a higher number of rainless days than Delhi.

The study covers about 60 representative observatories in different parts of India.

Sibsagar (in Assam) with an average rainfall of 99 inches per year had the minimum number of rainless days—1,770 during the 10-year period. Next in the order were Shillong with 1,909 days, Kodaikanal 1,943 days and Silchar 1,959 days.

Of the major cities, Calcutta, with an average rainfall of 63.2 inches, had on the average 242 rainless days per year, and Bombay, whose average rainfall is

75.1 inches, had 257 rainless days. The number of average rainless days in Madras was 270 while the average rainfall was 44 inches.

HEAVY RAINFALL

For stations other than those in South India, July is easily the rainiest month, although in some places June or August is rainier than July. For places like Madras and Kodaikanal, November is the wettest month, while Bangalore, Coimbatore and Vizagapatam receive the highest rainfall in October. For Poona and Sholapur, September is the rainiest month.

The study shows that Delhi received a large part of its average rainfall of 28 inches in precipitations varying from below one-quarter inch to 3 inches per day. In the entire 10-year period, Delhi received heavy rainfall above 3 inches on 13 days, and only on one occasion it was 9 inches in a day.

In Bombay, 15 per cent of rainfall is accounted for by precipitations of between 2 and 3 inches per day and 14 per cent by rainfall between one and one and a half inches. In Calcutta, the largest percentage, 21, is received in precipitations of one to one and a half inches per day. In Madras, 16 per cent of the rainfall is received in precipitations of one to one and a half inches and another 16 per cent in 2 to 3 inches.

The study, covering about 60 representative observatories in different parts of the country, is published in the Memoirs of the India Meteorological Department (Volume XXX, Part VI).

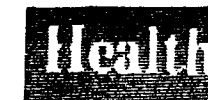
RECOGNITION OF RUBBER TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMA

According to an announcement of June 6, the Government of India, on the recommendation of the Board of Assessment for Technical and Professional Qualifications, have recognised the Associateship Diploma of the National College of Rubber Technology, London, for the purpose of recruitment to sup-

erior posts under the Central Government.

Summer School For Botanists

The first summer school in Botany was opened at Darjeeling in West Bengal on June 2 by Dr. B.C. Roy, the Chief Minister of West Bengal. The school, which is sponsored by the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, aims at bringing together botanists and enabling them to exchange views on important matters of research. Forty botanists from all over India are participating in discussions and lectures which will last a fortnight.



NATIONAL NUTRITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

According to an announcement dated June 9, the Government of India have appointed a National Nutrition Advisory Committee with the Union Minister of Health, Shri D.P. Kar-markar, as Chairman and the Union Minister of Agriculture, Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, as Pro-Chairman. The Committee consists of representatives of the Union Ministries of Health, Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Food and Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, Community Development and Co-operation, Education, and Defence and of various important organisations in the country dealing with matters connected with food, agriculture and nutrition.

The Committee has been appointed in pursuance of the recommendation in this regard of the Rome Conference of the F.A.O. in November 1957 that member Governments should take due account of the nutritional needs of their population in formulating and implementing policies and plans relating to food

production and consumption, including international trade in food. The Organisation added that for this purpose they should establish, where these are needed, national nutrition organisations, providing them with adequate authority and means to influence policies and plans, or make other appropriate arrangements to achieve the objective.

The F.A.O. had also requested the member State Governments to send periodic reports on the steps taken to raise the level of nutrition and the progress achieved.

DENTAL CLINICS

According to an announcement of June 3 the Union Ministry of Health has sanctioned the opening of 42 dental clinics in various district hospitals in the country during 1960-61. Eleven clinics will be established in Andhra Pradesh, six in Bihar, two in Madras, one in Madhya Pradesh, five in Mysore, nine in Rajasthan, six in West Bengal and two in Uttar Pradesh. Th-

State Governments have been requested to take early action so that the clinics start functioning before the close of the financial year.

So far during this Plan 149 dental clinics have been sanctioned, and of these 58 have been set up.

HEALTH CONDITIONS IN APRIL 1960

India remained free from plague during April, 1960, while smallpox and cholera continued to be reported from some districts, says a New Delhi announcement of June 1.

CHOLERA:—Mild incidence was reported throughout April from Midnapur district, Calcutta city, Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh (only during the second week) and from the districts of Bilaspur and Durg in Madhya Pradesh (only during the third week of the month).

SMALLPOX:—Mild incidence was reported throughout April from the districts of Guntur, Nellore and Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh; Purnea district in Bihar; Poona district and Greater Bombay in Bombay State; the districts of Belgaum, Kolar and Bijapur in Mysore State; Kalahandi, Koraput and Sambalpur districts in Orissa; Nagsur district in Rajasthan; Burdwan district in West Bengal; the Union Territories of Delhi and Pondicherry.

During the second week of the month mild incidence was reported from Srikakulam and Warrangal districts in Andhra Pradesh; Kamrup and Cachar districts in Assam; Ranchi district in Bihar State; Ahmedabad and East Khandesh in Bombay State; Mundi district in Himachal Pradesh; Chitaldurg, Hassan and Dharwar districts in Mysore State; Mayurbhanj district in Orissa State; Allahabad, Bahraich, Bijnor, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Muzaffarnagar, Fatehpur, Barabanki, Faizabad, Gonda, Khor, Meerut, Rampur and Shahjahanpur districts in Uttar Pradesh.

GASTRO-ENTERITIS:—During the week ended April 16, 149 cases and 15 deaths were reported from Uttar Pradesh as against 166 cases and 23 deaths reported during week ended April 9, and 117 cases and 14 deaths during the week ended April 2.

KYASNUR FOREST DISEASE:—A total of 20 cases were reported from Shimoga district of Mysore State during the week ended April 16, as against 7 cases and 5 deaths reported during the previous week and 15 cases reported during the week ended April 2.

INFLUENZA:—Stray cases were reported from Assam, Bombay and West Bengal during the month under review.

MANUFACTURE OF E.C.T. MACHINE

According to a New Delhi announcement of June 7, India is now in a position to manufacture on a commercial scale the Electro-convulsive Therapy (E.C.T.) machine used in treatment of mental cases. The first model of the machine has been assembled by the Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., Bangalore, which can now supply any

quantity required. All the components of the machine are manufactured in India, and its cost is only a fraction of the imported ones.

The E.C.T. machine is a popular and useful tool in the hands of psychiatrists. Several models of the machine have been prepared since its original introduction by Cerletti and Bini in 1938.

Work on the machine was first taken up by the All India Institute of Mental Health, Bangalore, which produced an experimental model. The manufacture of the machine was later taken up by the Institute in co-operation with the Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.

With the rapid expansion of mental health service in India, there is an increasing demand for E.C.T. machines which was hitherto being met by imports from abroad. The indigenous manufacture will meet the country's requirements and stop the drain on the foreign exchange.

The All-India Institute of Mental Health is taking up the manufacture of Electro Encephelograph machines. A working prototype of the heart-lung machine has been constructed at the Topiwala National Medical College, Bombay. Its manufacture on a commercial scale is yet to be undertaken.

Social Welfare

MACHINERY FOR RECLAMATION IN DANDAKARANYA

A New Delhi announcement of June 12 says that more machinery for reclamation and jungle clearance in Dandakaranya is being imported by the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation.

Five fully mechanised units consisting of 75 'Komatsu' type of tractors will be purchased through the Director General, Ordnance Factories, from Japan at a cost of about Rs. 1 crore 30 lakhs including Rs. 72 lakhs in foreign exchange.

The Ministry is also importing three mechanised units com-

prising 45 tractors complete with attachments and accessories from the U.S.A.

At present 28 'Komatsu' type of tractors and 45 tractors acquired from the Central Tractor Organisation are in operation in Dandakaranya.

During the last seven months, 6,000 acres of forest land in Umartkot area have already been completely reclaimed and over 7,000 acres have been cleared of jungle in Parlkot zone. The Project Authorities plan to re-

claim about 70,000 acres of land by the end of the next working season if all the machinery is available in time.

SUBSIDISED INDUSTRIAL HOUSING SCHEME

A New Delhi announcement of June 15 says that 15 projects providing for the construction of 1,036 houses under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme were sanctioned by the Govern-

ments of Maharashtra, Madras, Mysore, Orissa and West Bengal during May, 1960. The total cost of these projects is Rs. 47.14 lakhs of which Rs. 23.16 lakhs will be given by the Central Government as subsidy and an equal amount as loan.

Also during the month, three projects for the construction of 334 houses by private employers at a cost of Rs. 10 lakhs, under the Scheme, were sanctioned by

the Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

The Delhi Administration forwarded to the Central Government two projects for the construction of 936 small two-roomed houses at a cost of Rs. 32.41 lakhs for approval. An expenditure of Rs. 5.81 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Centre for the purchase of 20 acres of land for the construction of 800 small two-roomed houses under the Scheme.

The States

RURAL CREAMERY IN BIHAR

A New Delhi announcement of June 6 says that a Rs. 7.60 lakh rural creamery for manufacturing cream, butter and ghee will be set up shortly at Sograha village, near Barauni (Monghyr district), in Bihar.

Besides producing 4,000 lbs. of cream daily and 8 lakh lbs. of butter and ghee annually, the creamery will supply milk to public in Barauni and Begusarai. In due course manufacture of milk powder will also be taken up.

The project is designed to raise the economic standard of milk producers of the area through assured off-take of surplus milk at remunerative prices and to make available pure milk to the consumers in the two townships. For the improvement of cattle and milk production assistance will be given to producers in regard to purchase of milch animals, supply of concentrates and artificial insemination service.

The Central Agriculture Ministry has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 7.40 lakhs — Rs. 3.20 lakh as loan and Rs. 4.20 lakhs as grant — to the Government of Bihar for setting up the creamery. The U.S. Technical Co-operation Mission is supplying equipment worth Rs. 1.80 lakhs. The creamery is expected to go into production in 1961-62.

Milk for the creamery will be collected from over 100 villages through 12 assembling and cream separating centres and the finished products will be marketed throughout the country, particularly in the eastern region comprising the States of West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh.

ASSENT FOR U. P. BILL

An announcement dated June 2 says that the President has given assent to the Uttar Pradesh Nurses, Midwives, Assistant Midwives and Health Visitors Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1960.

The amending measure seeks to make provision, which does

not exist in the parent Act, for the training and registration of health personnel, called Auxiliary Nurse-Midwives.

A new scheme for the training of such a personnel has been introduced in Uttar Pradesh at the instance of the Government of India.

ASSENT FOR ASSAM BILL

The President, says an announcement of June 9, has given assent to the Assam Acquisition of Land for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion (Validation) Bill, 1959.

The Bill seeks to validate any proceedings taken for the purposes of flood control or prevention of erosion before the Assam Acquisition of Land for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion Act, 1955, came into force. Under the provisions of the Bill, such land will be considered validly acquired from the date the State Government took its possession.

Defence

INDIA — INDONESIA ARMY AGREEMENT

An Army Agreement between the Government of India and the Republic of Indonesia was signed at Djakarta on June 3, providing for co-operation between the Armies of the two countries for their mutual benefit, says a New Delhi announcement of the same date.

Under the present agreement, the two Governments have agreed to co-operate with each other and render mutual assistance for the purpose of developing and improving their respective Armies. The Agreement provides for the attachment of officers and training of selected Army personnel of one country with the Army of the other country. The Agreement will be in force for five years in the first instance.

Ever since India and Indonesia attained independence, there has developed a close relationship of mutual goodwill and co-operation in various fields between the two countries. An agreement was concluded in February 1956 for co-operation and mutual assistance between the Indonesian Air Force and the Indian Air Force for the purpose of developing and improving both the Air Forces. The field of co-operation and mutual assistance was extended further with the signing of the Naval Agreement by the two countries in December 1958.

The scope of assistance and co-operation in all the three agreements excludes activities in the operational field.

Conference On Military Psychology

A three-day Conference on Military Psychology, first of its kind to be held in India, began at the Defence Laboratory, Landour (Mussoorie) on June 6 under the auspices of the Psychological Research Wing of the Defence Research and Development Organisation. Dr. D.S. Kothari, Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister, inaugurated the Conference.

Its main purpose was to provide an opportunity to Armed Forces Officers, Service psychologists and University professors to meet and discuss problems of mutual interest and concern. The Conference discussed defence training, personnel research, military application of fociometry and psychodrama and other subjects relevant to military psychology. The Conference concluded on June 8.

The specific aim of military psychology is to apply current scientific knowledge regarding the human being to many practical problems which confront those responsible for the defence of the country. The beginnings of military psychology in India may be traced to the period of World War II, when teams of psychologists and psychiatrists, with a background of experience in officer

selection for the British Armed Forces, came to India and were engaged not only in the problem of personnel selection but also in psychological research relating to the techniques of officer selection. During that period, the main responsibility for officer selection was vested with the Personnel Selection Directorate set up by the General Headquarters (India).

After 1947, the Government of India appointed an expert committee to examine the question of officer selection for the Defence Services, and, on its recommendation, decided to establish the Psychological Research Wing which would furnish technical advice to Services Selection Boards engaged in the selection of officers for the Army, Navy and Air Force. The great bulk of research on military psychology today is thus initiated and progressed by the Psychological Research Wing. Although originally this Wing was primarily concerned with the techniques of officer selection, it is now also engaged in a variety of investigations extending far beyond its initial scope.

DEFENCE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

A Press Note issued on June 2 by the Ministry of Defence says that about 50 fellowships are offered by the Ministry of Defence to holders of Doctorate or Master's degree in Science and/or Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Metallurgy, and Instrument Technology.

The fellowships will be given for advanced training or research in physics, chemistry, mathematics, statistics, mechanical engineering, aeronautical engineering, electrical engineering, electronics, metallurgy, physiology, psychology, biology and instrument technology.

While the value of each of the fellowships will be Rs. 250 per month, a small number of senior fellows carry a value of Rs. 400 each (Rs. 500 in specialised subjects) depending on the needs, subjects and scientists possess-

ing outstanding merit. The period of the fellowships will be one year in the first instance, extending up to two years, depending upon the subjects and requirements.

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

PASSING-OUT PARADE AT I.M.A.

Over 500 gentlemen cadets of the Indian Military Academy took part in an impressive parade held at Dehra Dun on June 11 to mark the completion of the 25th regular, 10th N.C.C. and 12th technical graduates' courses, says an announcement of the same date. General K.S. Thimayya, Chief of the Army Staff, inspected the parade.

The parade was commanded by Academy Senior Under Officer Sukhinder Singh, who was the recipient of the coveted Sword of Honour for the "best all-round gentleman cadet" as also the gold medal for "standing first in order of merit". He was the first gentleman cadet after 1953 to win this double honour, which is considered a unique distinction.

After the parade, there was an exhibition organised by the arts and crafts and other clubs of the Academy.

AT KHADAKVASLA

The Union Defence Minister, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, took the salute at the passing-out parade of the 18th batch of cadets of the National Military Academy in Khadakvasla on June 4, says an announcement of the same date.

Captain Shyam Sunder Anand received the President's Gold Medal as the best all-round

cadet, and the Bronze Medal for standing second in order of merit in the subjects of study. The Silver Medal was awarded to Battalion Cadet, Captain Harish Rao, for standing first in order of merit.

COMPETITION FOR TABLEUX DESIGNS

The Ministry of Defence have invited designs for tableaux to be presented in the 1961 Republic Day Cultural Pageant in the Capital and have announced first and second prizes of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 250 respectively. Some additional prizes of Rs. 50 each will be awarded to those whose designs are approved by the Ministry.

There is no restriction on the theme but it should portray some aspect of Indian life and culture. The design of the tableaux should preferably be such as would lend scope for some movement.

The entry should include a sketch, drawing or a painting, all in colour, not less than 24" X 15" in size, with a note in English or Hindi explaining the theme behind the design. It should preferably show in perspective what the tableau (a three-dimensional model roughly 25 feet long, 10 feet wide and 12 feet from the base, mounted on a trailer) would look like when constructed. The salient features to be noted for construction of the tableau should also accompany each entry.

The entries will be judged by a committee appointed by the Ministry of Defence. It will be open to the Committee not to award any prize if, in its opinion, the entries received do not come up to a minimum standard.

Armymen On Deputation To Assam Rifles

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on June 9, the tenure of service of Regular Army officers/JCOs/ORs on deputation to the Assam Rifles will be three years. In the case of non-regular commissioned officers, the tenure may last up to five years. Officers will not be allowed to continue in service in the Assam Rifles beyond the date on which officers of their age, service and category are due to be retired/released from Army service.

The period of deputation with the Assam Rifles will reckon for all purposes, i.e. seniority, promotion, increments of pay, pension/gratuity and leave in the Regular Army.

R.O.A.C. MEDAL FOR ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

According to the results of the annual Commonwealth Ordnance Services Small Bore Match, announced on June 15, the Indian Army Ordnance Corps have been declared, for the second year in succession, the winners of this competition.

The Canadian team was the runner-up with U.K., Australia

and Pakistan occupying the third, fourth and fifth positions.

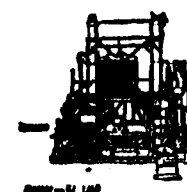
Three members of the eight-man Indian team, Captain R.S. Yadava, Havildar Manphool Singh and Nk. Mangal Singh, distinguished themselves by scoring 400 out of 400 marks, a distinction which had not been equalled by the other participating teams from the Commonwealth countries. Each member of the team was awarded the Royal Army Ordnance Corps winners medal.

TRACKS FOR RIHAND DAM GATES

It was announced on June 15 that one of the Ordnance Factories in Calcutta recently made six sets of tracks which were required by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the six Rihand Dam gates.

Each track was 122 feet long, comprising ten equal-size pieces, and was made of specially hard steel. The tracks costing about Rs. 3 lakhs were completed in the record time of six weeks and were delivered to the U.P. Government towards the end of the last month. The job met the exact specifications that demanded a skill of the highest order and saved a considerable amount of foreign exchange.

The same Ordnance Factory is at present engaged in making one gate for the Hirakud Dam. This gate, 88 feet in length, with four pieces of 22 feet each will also be made of special-quality steel.



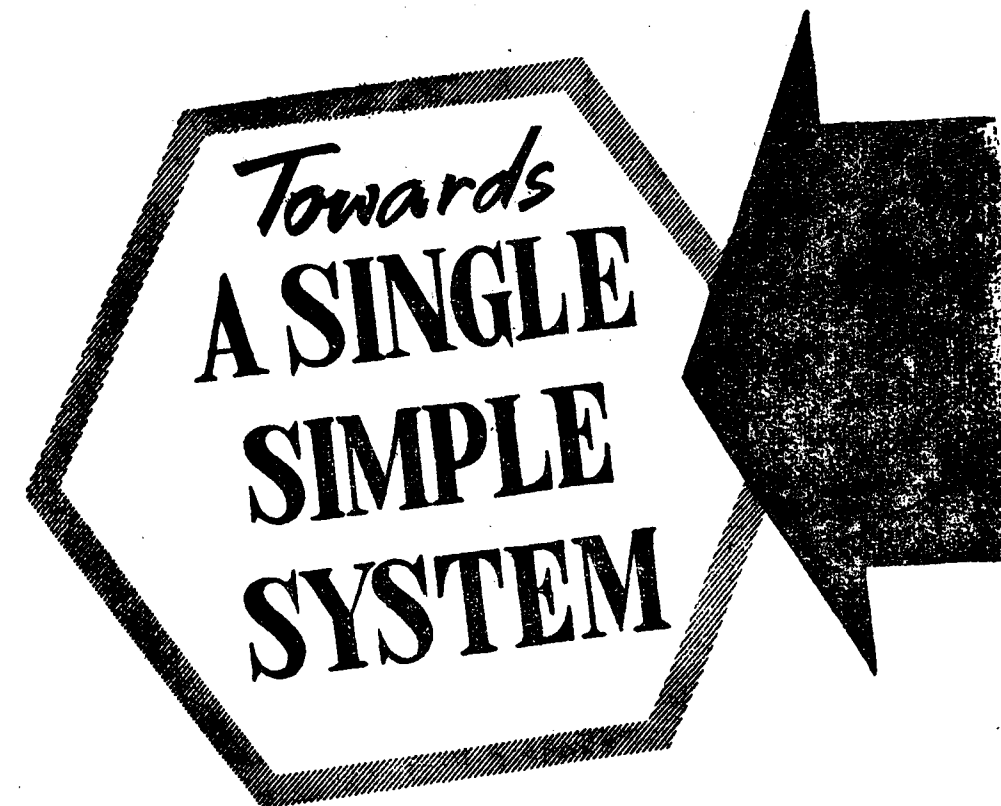
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TELEGRAMS: "DANDEKAR" BHIWADI

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

JUNE 1 To 15

- June 1 — A nine-member delegation of the Government of Surinam (Dutch Guiana) arrives in New Delhi on a week's visit to India
- The four hundredth branch of the State Bank is opened at Kairana in Uttar Pradesh
- 2 — The Government of India give a loan of Rs. 8.5 lakhs to finance certain development schemes of the Bhutan government
- 3 — An Army Agreement is signed at Djakarta between the Governments of India and Indonesia providing for co-operation between the Armies of the two countries for mutual benefit
- 6 — A team of Indian officials leaves New Delhi for Peking to study with the Chinese officials documents relating to the Sino-Indian boundary question
- The national conference on Community Development begins at Srinagar
- The foundation-stone of Radio Kashmir's new building is laid in Srinagar
- 7 — Shri K.D. Malaviya, Union Minister of Mines and Oil, accompanied by a party of experts, leaves New Delhi for Moscow to discuss with Soviet officials the progress made in the oil projects undertaken in India in collaboration with the U.S.S.R.
- 8 — A nine-member delegation from Hungary arrives in New Delhi to negotiate a new trade agreement with India
- 9 — The Government of India appoint a National Nutrition Advisory Committee in pursuance of the recommendation of the Conference of the FAO held in Rome in November 1957
- 13 — The Instruments of Ratification of Agreement between India and Japan for Avoidance of Double Taxation of Income are exchanged at Tokyo
- 14 — A three-day conference of State Ministers of Co-operation begins in Srinagar
- 15 — The all-India Conference of Vice-Chancellors of Universities opens in Poona
- The Indian Army Ordnance Corps are declared winners of the annual Commonwealth Services Small Bore Match, for the second time in succession

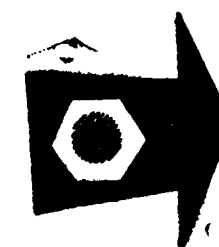


Another major step has been taken towards the goal of establishing a single, simple system of weights and measures in the country.

On October 1, 1958, Metric Weights were permitted in selected areas of the States and Union Territories. In these areas, only Metric Weights will be legal from October this year.

From April 1960, Metric Weights are allowed also in the rest of the country excepting Jammu and Kashmir.

Metric Weights will become compulsory throughout the country by April 1962.



METRIC SYSTEM

FOR SIMPLICITY AND UNIFORMITY

Issued by Government of India

DA 66/66



when tomorrow comes...

For him a spade is not yet a spade.

The telegraph wires hum a strange tune, the
distant drone of a plane means faraway places, mystery.
And imitating father is a new kind of play.

When tomorrow comes, play will turn to work.
Life will take on a different purpose. A spade
will be a spade, and care will be part of living.

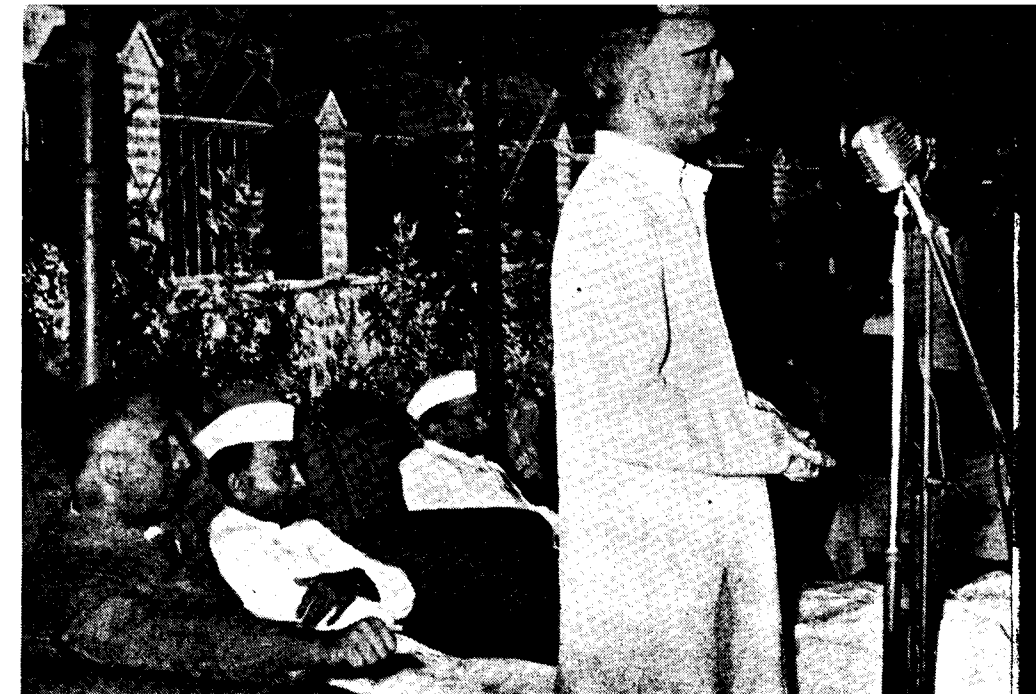
Today's striving and effort is for the world
he will grow into, a world that offers a little more—
a little less of the care, a little more of the joy.

**Today, as in the past, our products help to make homes
cleaner, healthier, happier. But today we are also working for ...
Tomorrow, when the evergrowing urge for better living
will demand still greater efforts. And we shall be
ready with wider service, new ideas, new products ...**

Today and Tomorrow... Hindustan Lever serves the home.

PR.3-X52

The Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Dr. B. V. Keskar, addressing a gathering at the foundation-stone laying ceremony of the A.I.R. Broadcasting Station at Srinagar on June 6

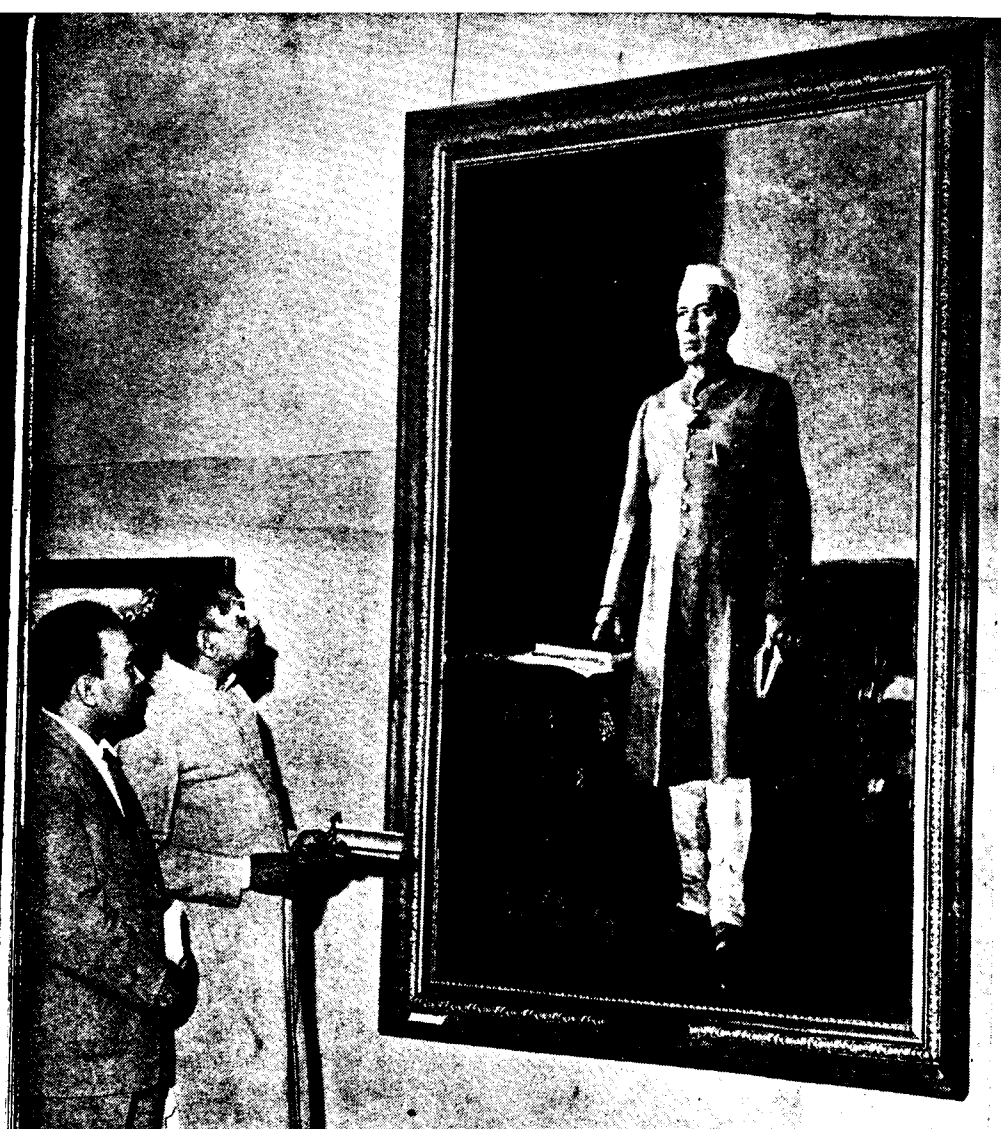


A nine-member [delegation from Surinam on arrival in New Delhi on June 1



A nine-member Hungarian Trade delegation, led by Mr. J. Baczoni, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, Hungary (sixth from left in front row), on arrival in New Delhi on June 8 to negotiate a new trade agreement between India and Hungary





Regd. No.
D-940

The Union Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure, Shri B. Gopala Reddi, inaugurated in New Delhi on June 14 an exhibition of paintings on Indian themes and subjects by Soviet painters. Picture on the left shows an oil painting of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, by the Soviet painter Alexandra Gerasimov. Picture below shows an oil painting, 'On the Road to Jaipur', by Dmitri Arkadievich.



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No. 12





The Vice-President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, taking the oath of office to discharge the functions of the President of India, in the absence abroad of the President, at Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 20

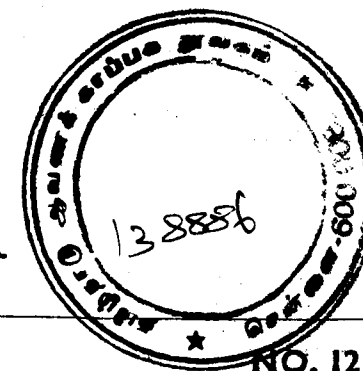


Dr. Djuanda Kartawidjaja, First Minister of Indonesia, and his wife with the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, who received them at Palam Airport on June 27



The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, with Brig. Gyan Singh, leader of the Everest Expedition, and Shrimati Gyan Singh at a reception held by the Prime Minister on June 24

Indian Information



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July 15, 1960
Asadha 24, 1882

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COVER: Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of India, being greeted by Mr. Nikita Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., in the Kremlin on June 29, during the former's 15-day visit to the U.S.S.R.

(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

PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO SOVIET UNION

The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, left New Delhi by a special plane on June 20 for a fifteen-day State visit to the Soviet Union. While passing through Tashkent, he was welcomed on the Soviet soil by the Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Mr. Arushoniam. A guard of honour was presented to him at Tashkent.

On his arrival at Moscow airport the same evening, Dr.

Rajendra Prasad was welcomed by the President of the Soviet Union, H.E. Mr. Brezhnev, and members of the diplomatic corps. A guard of honour was presented to him and national anthems of India and the Soviet Union were played.

In his welcome speech, Mr. Brezhnev said that Dr. Rajendra Prasad's visit would strengthen the friendship between the two countries which had been advanced by the exchange of visits.

of India and the Soviet Union. He said that the Soviet people always respected India's ancient culture and sympathised with her struggle for national liberation.

In his reply the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, referred to the visits of the Soviet leaders to India and said:

I have looked forward to visiting your country which, geographically speaking, is almost a neighbour of India. I am very happy that I have

now been able to undertake this journey which, I am sure, will be a voyage of discovery for me personally.....'

On June 22, the countries which participated in the Bandung Conference of 1955 held a dinner in the honour of Dr. Rajendra Prasad. On this occasion, he said:

'In a sense, Bandung represents end of one epoch in the history of Asia and Africa and the beginning of another. Much has happened in these two huge continents since then. Some of these developments might not be to the liking of all of us, but there can be no gainsaying the fact that the march to complete liberation of Asia and Africa from colonial rule continues unimpeded. If another similar conference were to be called today, at least 39 countries would join the conference and not 29 as in April 1955. The destinies of most people in Asia and Africa were controlled for centuries not by the people themselves but by alien rulers. Bandung gave notice to the world that Asia and Africa were determined to decide and pursue their own independent policies and not bow to decisions taken for them by others.....'

'The countries assembled at Bandung five years ago set before themselves a number of objectives. On one point the participants were most emphatic; that is the condemnation of racialism as a means of cultural suppression. The hopes of the Bandung countries in this respect remain yet to be fulfilled. In recent months in one part of Africa racialism has reared its head in a particularly ugly form. I have no doubt, however, that human dignity and human freedom cannot be suppressed for all time to come and that those who are seeking to enforce a policy of racialism are running against the tide of history'.

CONSOLIDATION OF FREEDOM

'I take this opportunity to express our joy at the achievement of freedom by a number of countries in Africa since the meeting at Bandung. A sleeping giant has awakened from its slumber and one by one the African countries are shaking off their centuries-old

shackles of foreign domination. In their struggle for independence they have had the moral support and sympathy of their Asian brethren. Independence is no longer an issue either in Africa or in Asia. The question is one of consolidating freedom by giving it a broad economic base. In this there is considerable room for mutual co-operation and assistance amongst the Asian-African countries themselves. Indeed one of the main objects of the Bandung Conference was to discuss ways and means by which the Asian and African peoples could achieve fuller economic, cultural and political co-operation. We shall welcome assistance from the more highly developed countries of the world, but we have to depend primarily on our own efforts. Many countries have been unstinted in their assistance. Standing before our Soviet guests this evening, I must express in particular our appreciation of the generous assistance that we in Asia and Africa have received from the Soviet Union. We are grateful for this to the Soviet Government and the Soviet leaders.

'Let us hope that the friendship and goodwill generated at Bandung will grow stronger and stronger, that in our day-to-day working and actual dealings with one another and with other nations, particularly with Bandung countries, all of us shall act in a manner calculated to foster and strengthen that spirit.'

AT RECEPTION TO SOVIET LEADERS

Speaking at a reception given by him in honour of their Excellencies Mr. L.I. Brezhnev, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., and Mr. N.S. Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, U.S.S.R., in the Kremlin Palace in Moscow on June 29, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said:

'I am now half way on my voyage of discovery of the Soviet Union. What I have seen during the last few days has left a powerful impression on me.... We are overwhelmed by this evidence of sympathy and goodwill which the Soviet Union has for India. I feel sure that the bonds of friendship between our two countries, which were so greatly reinforced by the recent visits of the Soviet Prime Minister and the

other Soviet leaders to India, will grow firmer and stronger as the years pass.

'There is much to learn from the history of this great country. A visitor cannot but be greatly impressed by the phenomenal progress which the Soviet Union has made in all fields of human endeavour. That a people, 80 per cent of whom were illiterate in 1917, should attain the present heights of progress and prosperity in less than half a century, has a message of hope for all the under-developed countries of the world. The greatest need for all of us, irrespective of our social and political systems, is the proper planning and harnessing of the human and material resources under inspiring leadership.'

PROBLEM OF PEACE

'Of what use, however, would material prosperity be without peace? Humanity has been familiar with war and violence since the dawn of history. With the development of nuclear science, however, the instruments of death and destruction have been perfected to such an extent that the choice before mankind is no longer one between victory and defeat, but between life and utter annihilation. People all over the world realise the gravity of the situation. To those of us in Asia and Africa, who have only recently become free after long periods of subjection, this terrible prospect appears at a time when we are looking forward to the future with much expectation and hope. We are therefore watching with special concern the efforts which the Soviet Government, under the leadership of His Excellency Mr. Khrushchev, are making to secure peace in the world. I would like to express our sincere hope that the efforts of the Soviet Union and the other great countries in the world to find a solution to the problem of peace and war may bear fruit so that science and technology may be harnessed for the happiness of man and not for his destruction..'

AT SOVIET BANQUET

Speaking at a Soviet banquet held in his honour in Moscow on June 30, Dr. Rajendra Prasad dwelt upon the Indo-Soviet co-operation in various fields

including the international affairs, and said:

'In the endeavour for disarmament and world peace which your country is making you have our best wishes. Addressing our Parliament a few months ago in New Delhi, your Prime Minister said that 'Like unbound Prometheus, the peoples of Asia and Africa are straightening their mighty shoulders starting to build a new life for themselves'. The one pre-condition for the success of these mighty efforts — which are now convulsing a significant part of the world — is the continuance of peace and tranquillity in the world. This is a task in which all of us must co-operate because the price of failure would be disastrous.....'

During his stay in the Soviet Union up to June 30, Dr. Rajendra Prasad visited places of interest in Moscow, Leningrad, Ukraine and Sochi. On July 1, he will leave Moscow en route to India, visiting Tadjik and Uzbek on his way. He will arrive in New Delhi on July 5.

VICE-PRESIDENT TO ACT AS PRESIDENT

At a brief and simple ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on June 20, Dr. Radhakrishnan took the oath of office to discharge the functions of the President during Dr. Rajendra Prasad's absence. The oath was administered by Mr. Justice Jivan Lal Kapur of the Supreme Court. Shri Nehru accompanied by Central Ministers and senior officials was among those present at the function.

The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, is expected to return to New Delhi from his 15-day visit to the Soviet Union of July 5.

Conference Of State Law Ministers

The Conference of State Law Ministers was held at Srinagar from June 28 to 30. Shri A.K. Sen, Union Minister of Law, presided. It discussed the ways to clear the accumulated arrears

in the High Courts, reaffirmed the Law Ministers' earlier recommendations that the High Courts 'should endeavour to ensure that no civil case would be pending for more than two years and no criminal case for more than six months'. It was noted that in nine High Courts the number of cases pending for more than two years had increased during 1959 as compared with the cases a year before.

The Conference commended the decision of most of the High Courts to increase the working days to 210 per year. It expressed the hope that the High Courts of Calcutta, Patna and Orissa, which had now gone back to 200 days, would also follow suit.

The Law Ministers did not agree to the recommendations made by the Chief Justices in their Conference held in April last that the High Courts should not be compelled by any Government notification to work for 210 days and that Section 23-A of the High Courts Judges (Conditions of Services) Act, 1954, be repealed.

ADDITIONAL JUDGES

The Conference also passed a resolution to draw the attention of the High Courts to the increase in arrears which, they said, were agitating the minds of the people and bringing bad name to the administration. It was, however, added that since the last Conference of the Law Ministers held in September 1957, the High Courts were making a concerted effort to clear the arrears.

Other recommendations to wipe out the arrears included appointment of Additional Judges wherever necessary; doing away with the printing of papers and translation of documents; passing on to a single judge the first appeals below Rs. 500, second appeal, civil revision and writ petition, criminal matters in which sentence was less than 10 years; allowing no second appeal under

suits for recovery of immovable property below Rs. 1,000 except by special leave, and making provision for District Judges to hear the first appeal in original suits upto Rs. 10,000.

The Law Ministers also suggested that the Chief Justice of a High Court should review every six months the work of other judges. Similarly, steps should be taken to eliminate substantial work at an early stage without injustice being done to anyone.

PANEL FOR APPOINTMENTS

With respect to the maintenance of all-India panel for appointments to the High Courts, the Conference noted the resolution of the Chief Justices that such a panel containing names of advocates was not feasible. It was recommended that the Union Home Minister be requested to initiate a discussion on the subject with the Chief Justice of India, the Chief Ministers and the Chief Justices of the State High Courts.

The Law Ministers generally agreed that the maintenance of such a Panel was desirable for appointments to be made from outside the State. But, they added, that so far the outside appointment had posed 'some practical difficulties'. The Chief Ministers' decision to appoint the High Court Judges from within the zone was commended and it was noted that so far 11 appointments had been made from outside the States.

Initiating the discussion on the reduction of the litigation expenses, the Union Law Minister said that the Government litigation was the biggest in the country. The Conference recommended that 'each State should appoint committees to review all pending Government cases, including writ applications, with a view to finding out whether they can be settled or terminated otherwise.' Also a panel of two senior and two junior counsels should be formed in each State to handle the Government arbitration cases on fixed scales of fees.

CHECK ON CORRUPTION

On steps to check corruption in the administrative machinery of courts, the Law Ministers recommended that the High Courts should set up vigilance committees in every district with the judge as the presiding officer and two members each from the bar, the public and the Ministerial staff. Similar vigilance committees should also be set up in the High Courts with the administrative judge as the presiding officer.

Discussing the enforcement of the Company Act in the States, the Conference felt that the Centre should not set up its separate machinery in the States. However, the Law Ministers recommended that the Centre should share the cost depending on the quantum of such cases. It was pointed out to the States that legally they would not be justified in claiming any contribution as the enforcement of the Central laws was obligatory for the States.

The Conference commended the States' efforts to separate the executive from the judiciary. The Law Ministers reaffirmed the Government's policy of 'completely separating the judiciary from the executive'. However, it was left to the States to implement the policy as soon as feasible.

The scheme of training the legal draftsmen from the States by the Centre in New Delhi was acclaimed. Since its inception two years ago, it was felt that drafting legislation in the States had considerably improved.

SEMINAR ON CENSUS DATA

A three-week Seminar on the Evaluation and Utilisation of Population Census Data opened in Bombay on June 20.

The seminar is sponsored jointly by the United Nations and the Government of India. An agreement providing for technical assistance for the seminar by the U.N. and for local administrative and other services by the Government of

India was signed in Delhi in early April this year. The seminar is conducted by the Demographic Training and Research Centre, established in Bombay in 1956, to conduct scientific research on population problems that are of special importance in the region of Asia and the Far-East.

The purpose of the seminar is to help the Governments in the region of Asia and the Far East, utilise the data from censuses conducted in and around 1960 for economic and social planning and policy-making.

The participant countries include: Afghanistan, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaya, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Observers from U.K., U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. are also attending.

RECRUITMENT TO U.D.C. POSTS

A New Delhi announcement dated June 29 says that there will be no direct recruitment to the posts of Upper Division Clerks in the Central Government offices, except the Audit and Accounts Department. These posts will be filled exclusively by promotion of the Lower Division Clerks.

This decision has been taken by Government of India in accordance with the recommendation of the Central Pay Commission on the subject.

The minimum qualification for entry into the Clerical Services (Lower Division) remains Matriculation or equivalent, until replaced by Higher Secondary. The age limit prescribed is 18 to 21 years.

Exchange of India-East Pakistan River Data

A meeting of experts from India and Pakistan was held in New Delhi from June 28 to July 3 to discuss procedural details and arrangements for exchange of data on river projects in East Pakistan and India.

The experts will make recommendations to their respective Governments.

POOL OF SCIENTISTS

In a Press Note issued on June 19, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has announced the names of 136 scientists selected, in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission, for appointment in the Pool of Scientists, Technologists, Engineers and Medical Personnel.

Arrangements are being made to attach or second these selected persons to Government Departments, State Undertakings, National Laboratories, universities and scientific and technical institutions, including other establishments in the private sector.

HINDI LETTERS TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

More than 50,000 letters in Hindi are received every month in the Central Government offices, says an announcement of June 18.

Most of these letters are addressed to the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting, and Transport and Communications.

As far as possible, letters received in Hindi are replied in Hindi. Some Ministries have a special staff for this job, while others deploy the Hindi-knowing staff for this purpose.

Training In Hindi Typewriting

The first training course in Hindi typewriting for Central Government employees concluded at the Secretariat Training School, New Delhi on June 26.

The training, which began in January last under the Hindi Teaching Scheme of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, lasted six months.

For the next course that starts in July, the number of trainees is to be doubled. A course for Hindi stenographers will also start in July.

Planning & Finance

INDO-WEST GERMAN FINANCIAL TALKS

A communique issued in Bonn on June 24 at the end of talks between the Union Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, and the Federal German Government says that German assistance in the Second and Third Five Year Plans of India figured prominently in these talks. Both sides agreed that German-Indian economic co-operation should not only be maintained but intensified. With this object in mind, the following was envisaged:

1. The Federal Government confirmed its readiness to make a further \$ 30 million available in addition to the credit of credit of \$ 70 million already provided in accordance with decisions taken in August 1958, on a multilateral basis in order to help meet the exchange gap under the Second Five Year Plan.

2. The Federal Government has furthermore agreed to a deferment of two-thirds of liabilities under the Rourkela Project maturing up to March 31, 1961. This deferment should be for a period of four years for the time being.

3. The Federal Government confirmed its readiness for the expansion of the Rourkela Steel Works under the Third Five Year Plan. It would endeavour to secure for such orders longer than normal commercial terms of payment.

MULTILATERAL MEASURES

The visit of the Indian Minister offered another opportunity for the German side to understand the problems of India's economic development and to examine appropriate directions of German co-operation. It also afforded the Indian

guests an opportunity to appreciate the sympathy and readiness of the principle to contribute to the execution of the Third Five Year Plan by participating in multilateral measures yet to be decided upon in detail.

It agreed, in particular, to endeavour to assist the Indian Government in the expansion of the Rourkela Steel Works. It would also use its good offices to obtain for India the appropriate credit facilities in the Federal Republic.

It further agreed to endeavour to enable the Indian Government to place order for various German groups concerned to work with India for the solution of India's problems and the achievement of her great tasks.

Study Of Projects For Polish Credit

A six-member technical team of officials left New Delhi on June 18 for Poland to study the projects for which the Polish credit of Rs. 14.3 crores could be utilised.

An agreement was signed in New Delhi early in June regarding the credit offered by Poland to India. The credit is to be used for purchase of machinery and equipment from Poland for the construction of mutually agreed industrial plants.

Tariff Values For Motor Vehicles

According to a notification in the Gazette of India Extraordinary of June 30 the Government of India have prescribed, with immediate effect, tariff values

for certain types of commercial vehicles in order to eliminate day-to-day disputes that might arise in the determination of value, while making assessment of Central Excise duty on such vehicles, as well as for administrative convenience. The tariff values range from Rs. 24,350 to Rs. 53,850.

It has also been decided to give some relief of duty to small two-wheeled or three-wheeled vehicles, and to certain other motor vehicles of light and medium size, which on the basis of their Horse Power alone, are assessable at higher rates. Further relief in duty has also been given to trailers.

By the Finance Act, 1960, a duty of excise was imposed on all types of motor vehicles. But, subsequently, the Government of India received a number of representations pointing to the need of relief in duty in some cases and to need for simplification of procedure for assessment in others.

REBATE ON EXCISE DUTY FOR VEGETABLE PRODUCTS

A Press Note issued on June 24 by the Ministry of Finance says that the Government of India have decided to allow some rebate in the Central Excise duty to the manufacturers of vegetable product in order to provide incentive to them to make increased use of cottonseed oil in the manufacture of that product.

The manufacturers will be entitled to a rebate of duty to the extent of 3% if the percentage of cottonseed oil used in the manufacture of vegetable product is in excess of 5% but not more than 10%, and to the extent of 5% if the percentage of cottonseed oil similarly used is in excess of 10%.

The above incentive scheme is optional and will come into force from July 1, 1960. Details of the scheme are available from the Collector of Central Excise concerned.

INDIAN INVESTMENT CENTRE

The Governments of India and the United States signed an agreement in New Delhi on June 20 for establishing the Indian Investment Centre, which will play an important role in the economic development of India.

Assistance valued at about Rs. 59,10,000 will be made available to the Centre through the U.S. Technical Co-operation Mission (TCM) as a result of the agreement. Of the total, \$713,000 (Rs. 34 lakhs) comes from TCM to cover foreign exchange costs while local costs of Rs. 25 lakhs will be covered by rupees derived from sale proceeds of U.S. agricultural commodities supplied to India.

The agreement marks the initial effort by TCM to aid such an institution. The decision by the two Governments to enter into the agreement was prompted by the success of similar investment centres in other countries, notably in the Netherlands.

The Centre will answer a pressing demand to help create an interest in India by foreign investors and provide a medium through which Indian and foreign businessmen can co-operate in joint efforts. It will be of particular advantage to small and medium businesses which are unable to devote extensive time and funds to the investigation of prospects for foreign co-operation.

FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTRE

The purpose of the Centre is to promote the flow of foreign private investment capital into India in a manner most helpful to the Indian economy and the objectives of the Plan. It will provide the technical facilities required for capital sources, preparing prospectuses and assisting negotiations.

The Investment Centre will provide: (1) data on production, trade, markets, labour, resources, etc; (2) information on the economic, financial and indus-

trial policies of the Government; (3) source material on Indian industrial and banking institutions, laws and regulations bearing on foreign investment; (4) surveys of foreign investment possibilities; (5) advice to Indian businessmen on attracting foreign capital; (6) assistance to potential foreign investors interested in investment in India.

The Investment Centre will be a non-profit, registered society with its headquarters in New Delhi. It will have a Board of Directors with a Chairman.

The TCM aid will cover salaries for the services of five foreign technicians and short-term experts, costs for the purchase outside India of various equipment and the establishment of a Reference Library.

DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RESERVE BANK

In a Press Note issued on June 17, the Ministry of Finance has announced that, on the expiry of his present term of appointment as a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Shri B. Venkatappiah will be re-appointed to the same post for a further period of five years with effect from July 1, 1960.

TRANSFER OF SHARES UNDER ESTATE DUTY ACT

A Press Note issued on June 20 by the Ministry of Finance says that the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the insistence by many Indian Companies on the production of Estate Duty Clearance Certificates under the provisions of Section 84(2) of the Estate Duty Act, 1953, before allowing mutation of shares held by deceased members in the names of their heirs or successors. This, it is stated, is causing great inconvenience to such heirs and successors.

Government, therefore, wish to clarify that in their view the 'transfer of shares' referred to in Section 84(2) of the Estate Duty Act, 1953, does not include transmission of shares by operation of law, such as occurs when the shares devolve on the legal heirs of a deceased member or on the survivor or survivors of two or more joint share-holders. Therefore, the provisions of Section 84(2) are not considered to be applicable to cases where the heirs or the survivor or survivors of two or more joint share-holders apply for registration in their names of the shares held by the deceased.

Commerce & Industry

NEW TRADE AGREEMENT WITH HUNGARY

A new Trade and Payments Agreement between Hungary and India was signed in New Delhi on June 25. The agreement, which will come into force from July 1, 1960, will remain valid for three and half years. The current Trade Agreement, which was signed in June 1954 and later amended by a Protocol in 1959, expires on June 30, 1960.

Under the terms of the new agreement, all transactions between India and Hungary of commercial and non-commercial nature will be financed in non-convertible Indian rupees and trade between the two countries will thus be on a balanced basis. The new arrangement is expected to increase and diversify considerably Indian trade with Hungary to mutual advantage.

The important items of Indian exports to Hungary will be tea, coffee, tobacco, vegetable oils, mica, shellac, oil seeds, jute and coir products, iron ore and steel billets, de-oiled meals, semi-tanned and processed skins, leather, cotton, woollen and silk fabrics, handloom and handicraft products, sports goods, shoes, light engineering goods, railway equipment, textile machinery and veneers.

Imports from Hungary will mainly consist of various types of capital goods and machinery for small-scale industries, heavy electric generating sets, photographic sensitised material, tools such as pneumatic tools, precision tools etc., components of electric supply metres, pharmaceuticals and drugs in bulk, material testing instruments, garage tools, machine tools, refractory bricks, radio transmitting and receiving tubes and radio parts.

INDO-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON OIL PRODUCTION

An Indo-Russian agreement for technical collaboration in exploration, development and production of oil and gas was signed in New Delhi on June 16.

The agreement covers the utilisation of 277 million roubles (Rs. 33 crores) allocated to oil exploration, out of the 1500 million roubles (Rs. 180 crores) Soviet credit to India for the Third Five-Year Plan.

The credit was extended to India under an agreement signed between the two Governments on September 12, 1959.

An additional agreement was signed on February 12, 1960, determining the list of enterprises as well as the nature and volume of technical assistance required for the enterprises to be financed by the credit.

The latest agreement is for the purpose of implementing the additional agreement.

The Government of India have nominated the Oil and Natural Gas Commission as the Indian party for implementation

of the agreement. The agency nominated by the U.S.S.R. Government is the Technoexport, Moscow.

SOVIET ASSISTANCE

Shri K.D. Malaviya, Union Minister for Mines and Oil, returned to New Delhi on June 30 after three-week visit to the U.S.S.R. and Switzerland.

In the U.S.S.R. Shri Malaviya visited the Oil and Geology Institute at Leningrad, oil and gas fields at Krasnodar and held discussions with Soviet experts and Government leaders in Moscow with a view to finalising arrangements for early production of crude oil from the already discovered oilfields of Cambay and Ankleshwar.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport, the Minister said that the Soviet Government had agreed to supply equipment both for exploration and production of oil. It would train a large number of Indian personnel in various fields of oil technology. The Soviet Union would also help in setting up a number of work-shops in India for the manufacture of spare parts required for oil machinery already supplied.

Nearly 100 oil technicians from the U.S.S.R. are likely to visit India shortly and as many may be sent for training to the U.S.S.R.

An Indian team, under the leadership of Shri J. Dayal, Member (Finance), Oil and Natural Gas Commission, has stayed behind in the USSR for 2 to 3 weeks to finalise detailed contracts for the fulfilment of the various agreements and the supply of equipment.

PRODUCTION OF D.D.T.

A New Delhi announcement of June 23 says that the production in the Government-owned D.D.T. factories at Delhi and Alwaye reached a record level in May last.

At the Alwaye factory in Kerala, the production of formulated D.D.T. reached a new

level of 255.5 tonnes, against the rated capacity of 223.52 tonnes per month. The Alwaye factory, which went into production in October 1957, has steadily stepped up its production.

The production of formulated D.D.T. during 1959-60 amounted to 2252.50 tonnes, against 693.66 tonnes in the previous year. The manufacture of technical D.D.T. also showed a marked increase to 1109 tonnes, as against 825.87 tonnes in 1958-59.

At the Delhi factory also, a peak production level of 204.23 tonnes of formulated D.D.T. was reached in May. The production for the year ending March 1960 was 1638.86 tonnes, about 45 per cent higher than in the previous year. The output of technical D.D.T. also registered an increase of about 14 per cent.

Progress Of Heavy Engineering Works

The first annual meeting of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, set up by the Government to develop heavy engineering projects in the Public Sector, was held in New Delhi on June 28.

The meeting reviewed the progress made so far in setting up the foundry forge and heavy machine building plants at Hatia, near Ranchi and the coal mining machinery plant at Durgapur. It was disclosed that all preliminary arrangements for setting up these factories were well under way.

The three projects are designed to manufacture items of heavy machinery for the iron and steel industry, mineral oil industry, general engineering items like heavy cranes, excavators, grinding equipment and press, forging equipment and coal mining machinery. They will also undertake to meet some of the requirements of heavy castings and forgings for others. A total investment of about Rs. 150 crores (excluding the cost of townships and working capital) would be required for the three projects.

TONNAGE OXYGEN PLANTS AT ROURKELA

The third unit of the tonnage oxygen plant at the Rourkela Steel Project was switched on June 24, marking the completion of the plant in record time.

The tonnage oxygen plant is a key unit of the steel plant and is to supply low cost pure oxygen for the manufacture of 7,50,000 tons of ingot steel by the L.D. process. It will also provide pure nitrogen to the fertiliser plant under erection.

All the units of the plant consisting of air filters, air turbo compressors, air separation units, oxygen turbo and reciprocating compressors, oxygen gas holder, liquid oxygen tank storage vessel and cylinder filling station, have been completed.

With the starting of the third unit of the tonnage oxygen plant, the production of oxygen can be stepped up to 300 tons per day and of nitrogen to 540 tons per day. Although the present requirements of the steel works can be met from two such units, the third unit has been started with the purpose of carrying out the guarantee tests for the entire plant.

The two units already in operation have so far produced 15,780 tons of oxygen. The cylinder filling station which was started in March has filled up to now 6,000 cylinders. Filling of oxygen for medical use has just been started. The plant will also supply liquid oxygen to be utilised in ore mines for blasting purposes.

The main principle of manufacture is to separate oxygen from air by compressing cooling liquification and fractionation based on the different boiling points of oxygen (-184°C) and nitrogen (-195°C).

The plant, which is the first of its kind in India, has been completed in about record time. The civil engineering work was

started in December 1958, the main erection work in June 1959, the first unit was commissioned on December 20, 1959 and the second unit on June 6, 1960. The entire plant has been completed right from the start in about one and half years.

Second Open Hearth Furnace At Durgapur

The second 200-ton basic open hearth furnace of the Durgapur Steel Works went into production on June 30.

The production of steel started at Durgapur on April 25, 1960, when the first open hearth furnace was commissioned.

So far, the furnace has produced about 11,000 tons of ingot steel. The first consignment of finished steel in the form of billets left the Steel Works on June 27.

The Durgapur Steel Works, which will produce one million tons of ingot steel annually, will have seven 200-ton and one 100-ton open hearth furnaces. The latter will turn out special steel for the wheel and axle plant of the Steel Works.

BILLETS FROM DURGAPUR

The first consignment of billets was despatched by rail from the Durgapur Steel Works on June 27. The billets were sent to re-rolling mills in East Punjab and West Bengal.

Production of billets started on a trial basis at Durgapur on June 17 last. It was expected that further consignments will leave the Steel Works in course of the next few days to the re-rolling mills in Bombay, Delhi and other areas.

MECHANISATION OF NANDINI MINES

The part mechanisation of limestone mines of Bhilai Steel Project at Nandini has been completed. The mechanised mines went into operation on June 23 in the presence of senior officers of the Bhilai project.

Big boulders were lifted up by power shovels, loaded into wagons and transported to crushing plant where the boulders were crushed to different sizes in two crushers and conveyed to huge storage yard by rubber conveyor belts.

Nandini is situated 14 miles north of the steel works and is already connected by rail. Mechanised mines will supply 7,50,000 tons of limestone annually to the steel works.

SALE OF WASTE NEWSPRINT

According to a Public Notice issued by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, New Delhi, on June 18, newspapers and periodicals will be permitted to dispose of normal quantities of waste newsprint, including reel ends of newsprint, without obtaining specific permission of the licensing authority.

They should, however, furnish a monthly statement to the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, New Delhi, showing the quantities of newsprint imported against particular licences, the quantities of waste newsprint, including reel ends sold in the normal way, and the names of the parties to whom the goods have been sold.

For the time being, the C.C.I. and E. does not propose to stipulate what the normal quantities will be, but may fix ceiling later.

Under the current import policy, Actual Users' licences are granted to the publishers and printers of newspapers and periodicals for the import of newsprint, subject to the condition that the imported newsprint will be utilised only for their own consumption and that no portion will be sold to or permitted to be utilised by any other party. It was represented that the newspapers could not dispose of waste newsprint, including reel ends of newsprint, to the wastepaper contractors in the normal way, since such sales would be construed as a violation of this condition.

Packing Charges For Cement

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on June 24, the Government of India have fixed the packing charges for cement for the next quarter commencing from July 1, 1960, at Rs. 13.77 nP per ton (20 bags) in New D.W. Heavy Cees quality gunny bags. All the State Governments have been informed accordingly.

The packing charges for cement are fixed every quarter on the basis of the average of the maximum and minimum market price for packing material during each week of the immediately preceding nine months plus Rs. 1.25 nP per ton to cover incidental charges. The charges for the current quarter were fixed at Rs. 12.80 nP per ton for New D.W. Heavy Cees quality gunny bags.

Stamping Of New Weights And Measures

Legislation has now been enacted in all States and Union Territories for enforcing the metric system of weights and measures in trade and industry, says a New Delhi announcement of June 29.

Identical in all essential aspects, these laws prescribe the methods of enforcement, specifications and permissible limits of errors for weights, measures and instruments. All weights, measures and weighing or measuring instruments, for use in trade, must be verified and stamped at periodical intervals. Inspectors of Weights and Measures in the States will have the power to check these, seize and detain unstamped weights, measures etc., if found to be used in trade or in the possession of traders for such use.

These laws and rules do not, however, apply to weights, measures and instruments used for non-commercial purposes. Weights, measures and weighing

and measuring instruments used for non-commercial purposes need not be verified and stamped. It would help the Inspectors if such weights etc. are marked 'Not for trade'.

Drawback Of Duty On Iron Castings

In a Press Note issued on June 18 the Ministry of Finance says that as a measure of export promotion the Government of India propose to grant drawback of duty on iron castings at the rate of Rs. 10 per ton, consequent on the imposition of Central Excise duty and a corresponding increase in the rate of import duty with effect from March 1, 1960.

In this respect, Government have issued a draft notification inviting objections by June 23, 1960.

IMPORT OF RAW WOOL

A Public Notice issued on June 27 says that the Government of India have decided to grant additional licences for import of raw wool and wool tops and shoddy yarn and rags to manufacturers of woollen hosiery yarn and shoddy yarn on an *ad hoc* basis. This decision has been taken to relieve the general scarcity of woollen hosiery yarn and shoddy yarn in the country.

Licences will be issued in consultation with the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, and will be subject to the following conditions:—

(i) Raw wool and wool tops and shoddy wool and rags imported against the licence will be exclusively used for the manufacture of hosiery yarn or shoddy yarn.

(ii) Sale of hosiery yarn or shoddy yarn manufactured out of raw wool and wool tops imported against the licences can be effected only on the directions of the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, and at prices not exceeding those to be specified by him.

(iii) In case of short delivery of hosiery yarn or shoddy yarn manufactured from the raw wool and wool tops imported against the licence, double the quantity of raw wool and wool tops or shoddy wool will be deducted from the allocation which might be made to the licensee in the next half year. This will be without prejudice to any other action which may be taken for contravention of the condition imposed on the licensee under the I.T.C. regulations.

INDIAN SHOW ROOMS ABROAD

With the opening of a show room in Rangoon recently, a chain of Indian trade centres is now functioning effectively to assist the export trade, says a New Delhi announcement of June 26.

So far, the Government of India have set up trade centres and show-rooms at Frankfurt, New York, Cairo, Colombo, Baghdad, Jedda, Bangkok, Jakarta, Teheran and Rangoon.

Arrangements have been made for rotating the exhibits in these centres from time to time, depending upon the market demand in the countries concerned. The trade is normally approached for providing exhibits on consignment basis which are collected and despatched from the port of embarkation at government expense. After a period of display at the centres, they are either sold out or returned to the contributors. This mode of publicity has, in a number of cases, resulted in the booking of substantial orders.

FRANKFURT FAIR

According to an announcement of June 23, the Government of India have decided to participate in the International Autumn Fair at Frankfurt (West Germany) scheduled to be held from August 28 to September 2 this year.

The object of the participation is to give sustained visual commercial publicity to our exportable merchandise and encourage

demand for Indian goods in this area. The Government have recently set up a trade centre at Frankfurt.

The Indian Pavilion at the Fair will be organised in six main sections and will display the textile fabrics, handicrafts, light engineering goods, raw materials and tourism. Information relating to India's five year plans would also be displayed at the Fair.

Inquiry Into I.E. Works Ltd.

An announcement of June 25 says that the Government of India have set up a four-man committee, under section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, to investigate into the affairs of M/s. India Electric Works Limited, Calcutta.

CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME FOR SMALL INDUSTRIES

An announcement dated June 23 says that the Credit Guarantee Scheme, formulated by the Government of India for guaranteeing loans granted to small-scale industries by banks and financial institutions, will come into force from July 1, 1960.

The object of the Credit Guarantee Scheme, which will operate on an experimental basis for a two-year period, is to enlarge the supply of institutional credit to small-scale industrial units by ensuring a degree of protection to the lending institutions against possible losses in respect of their advances. The scheme provides for the sharing of such losses between the lending institutions and the Government of India.

The maximum amount recoverable against the guarantee issued under the scheme in respect of any one advance will be Rs. 1 lakh.

The Reserve Bank of India has been entrusted with the administration of the scheme as agent of the Government of India and has been designated as the 'GUARANTEE ORGANISATION'. The entire work connected with the scheme will be attended to by the Guarantee Organisation Division of the Bank's Industrial Finance Department at Bombay.

FIELD OF OPERATION

To start with, the scheme will operate in 22 districts selected on the basis of the relative importance of outstanding loans to small-scale industrial units and the potentialities for further ex-

pansion of such loans. The selected districts are Agra and Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh; Ahmedabad and Surat in Gujarat State; Amritsar and Ludhiana in the Punjab; Bangalore in Mysore; Calcutta and Howrah in West Bengal; Coimbatore and Madras in Madras State; Cuttack in Orissa; Greater Bombay and Kolhapur in Maharashtra; Hyderabad and Krishna in Andhra Pradesh; Gird in Madhya Pradesh; Jaipur in Rajasthan; Kamrup in Assam; Ranchi in Bihar; Trivandrum in Kerala and the Union Territory of Delhi.

The question of expansion of the scheme to more districts will be considered after the scheme has been in operation for some time. The entire scheme will be reviewed at the end of the experimental period of two years.

For the present, the advances made to small-scale units by 95 selected credit institutions in the country will be eligible for the guarantee under the scheme. These include 49 Scheduled Banks, 22 State Co-operative Banks, 14 State Financial Corporations and another institution, viz., Madras Industrial Investment Corporation, besides the State Bank of India and its subsidiaries numbering nine.

Other banks and credit institutions may also avail themselves of the guarantee facility in respect of advances granted by them, provided a selected credit institution participates in such advances to the extent of

FINANCE FOR SMALL INDUSTRIES

State aid loans for small industries are normally given by the Directors of Industries in States. In some case loans are routed through the State Financial Corporations or Urban Co-operative Banks.

Loans up to Rs. 1,000 can be had on personal bonds and up to Rs. 5,000 on the security of one or more personal sureties. In case it is not considered safe to give loans up to Rs. 1,000 on personal bond, the latter clause can be applied.

Other loans are advanced up to 75 per cent of the value of security offered which includes land, buildings, plant, machinery stocks and other assets created out of the loan. Where a party prefers to bring a security instead of surety, this clause can apply for Rs. 5,000 and below also.

The present rate of interest is 3 per cent on loans up to Rs. 25,000 to parties other than Industrial Co-operatives and 2½ per cent on loans up to Rs. 2 lakhs to Industrial Co-operatives.

Payments can be spread over a period of 10 years and be made in easy instalments.

In Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan, Financial Corporations have been appointed as agents of Government for routing State aid loans.

The State Bank Scheme for the provision of credit to small scale industries has made substantial progress. Limits totalling Rs. 462.19 lakhs were sanctioned by the Bank to 1,496 parties as on December 31, 1959. The total outstandings at the end of this period were Rs. 177.66 lakhs.

not less than 25 per cent of the amount.

PERIOD OF GUARANTEE

The guarantee will apply to advances sanctioned from July 1, 1960. In the case of advances sanctioned prior to July 1, 1960, the guarantee may be obtained for normal and bonafide renewal

or enhancement of the limit after that date, if the past record of the advance has been satisfactory.

The advances eligible for the guarantee are those for acquiring fixed assets or equipment or for providing working capital. It is an essential condition of the guarantee that the advance shall not be utilised for a purpose other than that for which it was granted.

Application for guarantee can be made before or after sanctioning an advance. The application should, in the first instance, be for one year and the total duration of a guarantee shall not, in any case, exceed seven years from the date on which the advance has been first availed of.

The charge for providing the guarantee cover will be at the rate of ¼% per annum on the maximum amount of advance sanctioned and is payable to the Guarantee Organisation in advance for the period for which the guarantee cover is sought. The charge has been kept low in the experimental phase of the scheme, in order to provide an added incentive to credit institutions for enlarging finance to small-scale industries.

LIQUID FUEL FROM COAL

According to an article published in the June 1960 issue of the 'Research and Industry', a journal of the C.S.I.R., the possibilities of producing liquid fuel from low-grade coals and blast furnace gases are now being investigated at the Indian Institute of Technology at Kharagpur.

A 100-gallon per day capacity pilot plant for the production of synthetic fuel from coal has been designed and fabricated in the Department of Chemical Engineering of the Institute. Its working will provide data for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of a commercial plant.

Indian Information

BLAST FURNACE GAS

The use of blast furnace gas for synthetic oil production is another possibility of considerable economic importance. The gas contains about 30 per cent carbon monoxide. Experts at the Institute of Technology have estimated that if only 20 per cent of the blast furnace gas produced in a one-million ton steel plant is used it would be possible to obtain about 40,000 tons of liquid fuel at one-third the cost incurred in the process using coal. With steel production reaching six million tons by 1960-61, this source can yield more than 240,000 tons of liquid fuel.

Since independence the consumption of petroleum products has trebled to six million tons in 1959. At present, different types of crude oil are imported into the country at an annual cost of Rs. 100 crores. By 1967, it is estimated that the country's oil requirements would reach 14 million tons.

Designs Of Objects Of Daily Use

A New Delhi announcement of June 22 says that more than 600 designs of objects of daily use have been prepared by the Central Industrial Design Cell of the

Small-Scale Industries Organisation at New Delhi. The designs are for goods like domestic utensils, cutlery, electrical appliances, ceramics, hardware and furniture. The Centre helps the small manufacturer who cannot afford professional designers, to keep step with the needs of modern consumers in a competitive market. The proto-types have been prepared after careful study of factors like availability of raw material, production costs, possible internal and external demand and the changing needs of the consumers.

NATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION

The All India Handicrafts Board announced on June 26 the award of prizes totalling Rs. 7,500 to nineteen craftsmen in connection with the second National Design Competition held by the Board last year.

The competition was held to encourage the craftsmen, designers and artists and draw out the best talent existing in the country. The crafts selected for the competition related to designs for carpets, metal work and wood work.

Four prizes have been awarded for the best designs in each group.

COMMODITY PRICES IN 1959-60

According to a Press Note issued on June 22 by the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, the official index of wholesale prices, which stood at 112.0 in April 1959, witnessed a continuous rise till October 1959 when it reached the level of 119.3. The next two months showed a decline and the index moved down to 117.9 in December.

Thereafter, the index again showed a rise and touched the level of 119.5 in February 1960. It closed at 118.8 in March 1960.

The average index for the fis-

cal year 1959-60 worked out to 117.1 depicting a rise of 3.7 per cent over the average of 112.9 for the earlier year.

This rise in the 'All Commodities' index was brought about by an increase in all the constituent groups. 'Food Articles' moved up by 3.3 per cent to 119.0, 'Tobacco' by 4.4 per cent to 97.9, 'Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants' by 1.0 per cent to 116.4, 'Industrial Raw Materials' by 7.0 per cent to 123.7, 'Intermediate Products' by 3.2 per cent to 113.8 and 'Finished Products' by 3.0 per cent to 111.3.

FOOD ARTICLES

The index for 'Food Articles' exhibited a rising tendency from the beginning of the year under review. It stood at 113.1 in April 1959 and reached the level of 121.7 in August. The index came down to 120.5 the next month but attained the peak level of 123.8 in October. Subsequently, the index showed a fall and stood at 117.0 in March 1960.

The annual average for 1959-60 worked out to 119.0 as against 115.2 for 1958-59, registering a rise of 3.3 per cent. This increase in the group was contributed by a rise in all the sub-groups except cereals and pulses. 'Fruits and Vegetables' moved up by 9.2 per cent to 127.8, 'Milk and Ghee' by 5.6 per cent to 113.3, 'Edible oils' by 4.9 per cent to 130.4, 'Fish, Eggs and Meat' by 3.3 per cent to 112.0, 'Sugar and Gur' by 15.6 per cent to 147.0 and 'Other Food Articles' by 11.0 per cent to 167.9. 'Cereals' declined by 2.5 per cent to 104.1 and 'Pulses' by 10.0 per cent to 93.5.

The monthly index for 'Cereals' rose from 99 in April, 1959 to 109 in August, 1959. It fluctuated within narrow limits during September and October, but declined thereafter to reach 101 in December and finished at 103 at the end of the year under review.

The index for rice went up from 95 in the beginning of the year to 113 in August. Afterwards the index showed almost a continuous fall and came down to 101 in December. It started rising again in the last quarter of the year and stood at 106 at the close of the year. The fiscal year average for rice worked out to 105.2 for 1959-60 as compared with 105.4 for the previous year.

The index for wheat, which was at 100 in April, fell to 92 in May, but again rose gradually to 100 in October. It moved irregularly afterwards and stood at 94 in March 1960. The annual average index for wheat for 1959-60 worked out to 96.2 as against 105.3 for 1958-59, showing a fall of 8.6 per cent.

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The average index for jowar showed a rise of 13.1 per cent to 118.3 over the earlier year's average of 104.6. Barley receded by 17 per cent to 102.9 as against 123.8 for the previous year. Maize also fell by 8 per cent to 114.7 while ragi advanced by 10 per cent to 112.8. Gram was lower by 22 per cent at 75.0 as compared with the average of the earlier year. Among 'Other Pulses', mung declined by 10 per cent to 104.8, masur by 6 per cent to 101.5 and urad by 1 per cent to 94.5, while dal arhar moved-up by 1 per cent to 114.6.

As regards 'Fruits and Vegetables', onions and oranges went up by 28 per cent each to 151.5 and 198.5 respectively, cashew-nuts moved up by 19 per cent to 81.0, potatoes by 6 per cent to 118.4 and bananas by 1 per cent to 116.1. Milk and Ghee advanced by 3 and 9 per cent to 115.9 and 110.1 respectively. In the case of 'Edible Oils', all the oils showed a rise. Groundnut oil rose by 10 per cent to 117.9, vanaspati (Dalda) by 5 per cent to 121.0, gingelly oil by 4 per cent to 118.1, coconut oil by 2 per cent to 152.2 and mustard oil by 1 per cent to 149.4. Among 'Fish, Eggs and Meat', fish and eggs moved up by 6 per cent each to 114.2 and 121.1 respectively, while meat did not record any significant change. Sugar was higher by 2 per cent at 123.5 and gur went up by 23 per cent to 160.7.

The annual average index of tea for 1959-60 stood at 185.5, as against 169.3 for the earlier year showing a rise of 10 per cent. Coffee also showed a rise of 4 per cent to 89.3. Among 'Other Food Articles' the commodities which showed significant variations during the year were: black pepper (+59%), turmeric (+45%), cloves (+38%), chillies (+37%), salt (+11%), cardamoms (+5%), and cummin (-10%).

TOBACCO, FUEL, ETC.

The annual average index of 'Tobacco' worked out to 97.9 as compared with 93.8 for 1958-59, registering a rise of 4.4 per cent. This rise was caused by an in-

crease of 5 per cent in raw tobacco and 1 per cent in tobacco manufactures.

The average index of 'Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants' group worked out to 116.4, which was higher by 1 per cent compared with 115.4 for 1958-59. Prices of Diesel oil moved up by 3 per cent to 111.4 while those of kerosene oil, petrol, aviation spirit and lubricating oil did not record any appreciable change.

INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS

The index for 'Industrial Raw Materials' showed a rising tendency during the first quarter of the year; it went up from 116.2 in April to 120.3 in June. The next two months witnessed a fall and the index stood at 119.4 in August. Thereafter it again continued its upward tendency and finished at 131.9 in March 1960. The yearly average for 1959-60 worked out to 123.7 as compared with 115.6 for 1958-59.

The index for raw cotton moved up by 11 per cent to 113 at the end of the year. The average index for raw cotton for 1959-60 stood at 105.8 showing a rise of 7 per cent over the earlier year's average of 99.2. The index for raw jute which stood at 113 in April rose gradually to 144 in January 1960. It, however, came down to 134 in the next month, but rose again to 141 in March, thus depicting an overall rise of 25 per cent during the year. The annual average index for raw jute for 1959-60 worked out to 123.7 as against 117.5 for the previous year, showing a rise of 5 per cent. The fiscal year averages of raw wool and raw silk also witnessed a rise of 6 per cent each to 119.4 and 165.8 respectively.

The fiscal year average for groundnuts at 130.9 was higher by 12 per cent than that of the preceding year. The index, after a rise from 122 in April to 135 in June, moved down to 120 in November. Thereafter, it started rising and reached the level of 141 at the close of the year. The fiscal year average for linseed

decreased by 3 per cent to 119.3 as compared with 122.4 for the previous year. Castorseed rose by 6 per cent to 116.6 as against 110.4 for the earlier year. The fiscal year average for gingellyseed drifted down slightly by 1 per cent to 110.0 when compared with that of the previous year. Rapeseed also declined by 3 per cent to 145.1 as compared with 150.0 for the earlier year. Cottonseed moved up by 17 per cent to 173.6 as against 148.0 for the preceding year. The average for copra fell by 1 per cent to 133.2 as compared with 134.2 for the earlier year.

Amongst other commodities which exhibited significant variations during the year were: raw skins (+43%), tanning materials (+34%), raw hides (+16%), lac (+15%), logs and timber (+10%), sugarcane (+6%), manganese ore (-27%) and bamboos (-18%). The prices of iron ore, mica and rubber, however, remained almost unchanged.

INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS

The index for the group of 'Intermediate Products', which stood at 108.4 in April, declined slightly to 108.1 in May. Thereafter it rose gradually to reach 121.6 in January 1960. The index fell to 120.5 in the next month and stood at 121.3 at the close of the year. The fiscal year average for 1959-60 worked out to 113.8 which was higher by 3.2 per cent as compared with 110.3 for 1958-59. This increase in the average index was caused by higher prices of zinc spelter (+51%), German silver (+14%), copper (+12%), cotton yarn (+10%), brass (+5%), leather (+4%), coir yarn (+3%) and lead (+2%). The prices of rayon yarn (-13%), linseed oil (-5%) and aluminium (-2%), however, moved down.

FINISHED PRODUCTS

The index for the 'Finished Products' group witnessed a rising trend. The index, which

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COMMODITY PRICES IN APRIL 1960

According to the Press Note issued on June 25 by the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, New Delhi, the wholesale prices as measured by the official index (with the year ended March 1953 as 100) advanced by 1.4 per cent to 120.5 during the month of April 1960 as compared with 118.8 for March last. The index was higher by 7.6 per cent when compared with 112.0 for April 1959.

During the month under review, all the group indices exhibited advance; the index for 'Food articles' advanced by 1.4 per cent to 101.2, 'Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants' by 1.4 per cent to 118.7, 'Industrial Raw Materials' by 1.7 per cent to 134.2 and 'Manufactures' by 0.9 per cent to 117.8.

FOOD ARTICLES

Higher prices of rice, jowar and barley raised the index for 'Cereals' by 0.6 per cent to 103.8, despite a fall in the prices of wheat, bajra, maize and ragi. The index for 'Cereals' was also higher by 4.8 per cent when compared with that of a year ago. Decline in the prices of arhar, mung and masur brought down the index for 'Pulses' by 0.6 per cent to 89.4, although the prices of gram and urad witnessed a rise. Notwithstanding a fall in the prices of potatoes, onions and bananas, the index for 'Fruits and Vegetables' rose by 8.5 per cent to 136.7, mainly due to a substantial rise in the price of oranges. An increase in the price of milk more than offset the decline in the price of ghee and the index for the subgroup 'Milk and Ghee' advanced by 3.6 per cent to 114.7. The subgroup index for 'Edible Oils' went up by 1.2 per cent to 138.2 due to higher prices of groundnut oil, gingelly oil and dalda (Vanaspati), although prices of mustard oil and coconut oil witnessed a fall. The index for 'Fish, Eggs and Meat' recorded an advance of 3.1 per cent to 118.0 owing to a rise in the prices of fish and meat, despite a fall in the price

of eggs. Lower prices of gur caused a fall of 0.7 per cent to 139.7 in the index for the subgroup 'Sugar and Gur'. The index for 'Other Food Articles' advanced by 0.7 per cent to 159.9 due to a rise in the prices of tea, black pepper, cardamoms and betelnuts, although the prices of chillies, cloves, turmeric and coffee exhibited declines.

TOBACCO, FUEL, POWER, LIGHT AND LUBRICANTS

Higher prices of raw tobacco pushed up the index for 'Tobacco' by 7.5 per cent to 101.2 during the month under review.

The index for the 'Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants' group advanced by 1.4 per cent to 118.7 due to a rise in the prices of coal, petrol and lubricating oil. The prices of aviation spirit and castor oil, however, witnessed a fall.

INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS

In the group of 'Industrial Raw Materials,' an increase of 4.1 per cent to 130.0 was brought about in the index for the subgroup 'Fibres' owing to advances in the prices of raw jute, raw cotton and raw wool; prices of raw silk however, moved down. The subgroup index for 'Oil seeds' went up by 0.6 per cent to 141.4 due to a rise in the prices of groundnuts, gingellyseed and cottonseed; the prices of linseed, castorseed, rapeseed and copra, however, drifted down. Higher prices of mica and manganese ore pushed up the index for the subgroup 'Minerals' by 1.8 per cent to 98.2. Lower prices of raw hides, raw skins, tanning materials and lac brought down the index for 'Other Industrial Raw Materials' by 0.7 per cent to 130.7; the prices of bamboos showed an advance.

INTERMEDIATE AND FINISHED PRODUCTS

Notwithstanding a decline in the prices of rayon yarn, brass, copper, tin and lead, the index for 'Intermediate Products' rose by 1.6 per cent to 123.2 due to advances in the prices of linseed

oil, cotton yarn, coir yarn, aluminium and zinc.

As for 'Finished Products' group, higher prices of jute manufactures raised the index for 'Textiles' by 1.0 per cent to 116.3. The subgroup index for 'Metal Products' recorded a rise of 0.4 per cent to 148.3 owing to advances in the prices of both finished steel and aluminium utensils. The index for chemicals moved down by 0.3% to 104.5. Oilcakes drifted down by

1.1 per cent to 139.1. The subgroup index for 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' remained unchanged at its earlier month's revised level of 110.6. A rise in the prices of bricks and tiles caused an advance of 0.6 per cent to 114.4 in the index for the subgroup 'Other Finished Products', the prices of glass, however, showed a fall. On the whole, the index for 'Finished Products' witnessed a rise of 0.7 per cent to 116.9.

Communications

INDO-POLISH SHIPPING AGREEMENT

A Shipping Agreement between the Governments of India and the Polish People's Republic was signed in New Delhi on June 27 at the conclusion of the negotiations between an official Polish delegation and representatives of the Government of India, says a Press Note issued on the same day by the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

It has been agreed that either Government will nominate a shipping organisation to conclude arrangements to operate a shipping service between India and Poland. On the Indian side, the Western Shipping Corporation has been nominated for the purpose and the Polish Ocean Lines on the Polish side.

Under the agreement, the two Governments have undertaken to give to the ships, crews and cargoes of either country the same treatment as is given to the ships, crews and cargoes of the most favoured countries.

A Committee consisting of representatives of the two sides will be set up to evaluate and review the working of the agreement.

Payments arising out of this agreement will be made in ac-

cordance with the Trade and Payments Agreement between India and Poland.

The two Shipping Organisations nominated by the two Governments under the agreement have already met and drawn up an agreement between themselves for operating a scheduled service between the two countries. It is proposed to have 12 sailings each per year. In other words, there will be one Indian ship and one Polish ship sailing from Indian and Polish ports every month each way. This service will maintain a regular schedule and will charge a common agreed tariff and will be operated otherwise in close co-operation so as to achieve equality in all aspects in regard to the operation and maintenance and results of the service.

The details of the arrangement relating to the service are subject to ratification of the shipping companies concerned on both sides.

The present agreement replaces the Shipping Agreement between the two Governments signed in 1956, which could not be implemented owing mainly to the Suez crisis.

TWO TUGS FOR VIZAG PORT

According to an announcement dated June 24, the Government of India have sanctioned the purchase of two shipping tugs for the major port of Vizagapatam at a cost of about Rs. 78 lakhs.

The tugs, which are required to provide facilities to ships coming into the port, are to be built in India. The foreign exchange expenditure on the import of essential components and materials will not exceed Rs. 16.19 lakhs.

Of the tugs to be acquired, one will replace an existing vessel and the second will be an additional vessel.

One of the six major ports of India, Vizagapatam is handling at present a cargo of 2.5 million tons per year, which will increase to 5 million tons after the Second Plan projects now under execution are completed. The port has played an important part in handling equipment for the Bhilai Steel Plant. In the next few years it will become a major outlet for India's increasing iron ore exports, eventually rising to 6 million tons a year.

M.O.T. EXAMINATION

According to an announcement of June 20, twenty officers have been declared successful in the Ministry of Transport examination for Certificates of Competency as Masters and Mates, held during April 1960 at Bombay and Calcutta.

Railway Delegation To Brussels Congress

A four-member team, led by Shri Karnail Singh, Chairman, Railway Board, left Bombay for Brussels on June 25 to represent Indian railways at the next meeting of the Permanent Commission of the International Railway Congress Association, opening in Brussels, Belgium, on June 27.

The delegation, among other things, is expected to discuss a problem which is of vital interest at the present stage to the Indian railways. This relates to the effect of A.C. electric traction on signalling and communication circuits, with particular reference to the means of overcoming interference to provide safety and good communications.

The Indian railways recently switched over from the D.C. system of electrification to A.C. traction, and projects costing about Rs. 145 crores are now under execution or in various stages of advance planning.

New Appointments On Railways

According to a Press Note issued on June 20 by the Ministry of Railways, Shri G.P. Shahani, at present General Manager, South Eastern Railway, has been appointed General Manager, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works. He will be succeeded by Shri S.N. Wadhwa, Chief Engineer, South Eastern Railway. The present General Manager, C.L.W., Shri K.C. Lall, has been transferred to New Delhi and appointed Additional Member (Mechanical), Railway Board.

Shri Y.P. Kulkarni, General Manager, Northeast Frontier Railway, has been appointed General Manager of a new construction organisation in charge of the following new line construction projects: Sambalpur-Titilagarh; Bailadilla-Kotavallasa, and Bimalgarh-Kiriburu. He will be succeeded as General Manager, Northeast Frontier Railway, by Shri Rattan Lall, Director, Transportation, Railway Board.

Shri Jagjit Singh, at present Chief Operating Superintendent, Western Railway, has been appointed Director, Transportation, Railway Board in place of Shri Rattan Lall, his place being taken by Shri K.K. Mukherjee, Divisional Superintendent, Northern Railway. On the Southern Railway, Shri P.H. Sharma, Chief Operating Super-

intendent, has been appointed General Manager as a short-term arrangement.

CONCESSIONAL RETURN TICKETS

An announcement dated June 29 says that the concessional return tickets issued in previous years from July 15 to September 15 for I, II and III classes on the Indian railways will not be issued this year.

The Railway Board has decided that in view of the prevailing overcrowding in trains these concessional return tickets should not be issued.

WELDED RAILS FOR COMFORT

India is now one of the world's leading countries in respect of total track mileage of welded rails.

By reducing jolts during the journey to the minimum, welded rails provide a smoother, jerk-free ride in passenger coaches. They are at the same time known to result in better and more economical track maintenances and less wear of rolling parts of vehicles.

Although experiments on welded rails in India started before the last war, it was only after the achievement of independence that real progress in this direction has been made, following extensive tests undertaken by the Indian Railways' Research, Designs and Standards Organisation. The country had just over 300 miles of welded rails in 1955, but the subsequent five-year period has seen this figure jump five times to 1,500 miles as at present.

The rails are welded both in the workshop and in the field, the lengths varying from 210 feet 420 feet. In the shop the rails are welded by the flash-butt welding process and in the field by the aluminothermic process. Welded rails of half-mile length are also under trial.

INDO-U.K. TELEX SERVICE

India was linked with the United Kingdom on June 16 by a new telecommunication service, the International Telex Service, which will enable subscribers at both ends to exchange teleprinter messages directly. This is India's first international telex link.

The service was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Transport and Communications, Dr. P. Subbarayan, with an exchange of messages of greetings with the Post Master General of the U.K., the Rt. Hon. J.R. Bevin, M.P.

The service is initially open to the telex and printergram subscribers in Bombay, and Ahmedabad. It is expected that the service will soon be extended to other countries in Europe and North America.

The telex service has proved very popular with the business com-

munities in the countries where it has been introduced. It enables teleprinter 'calls' to be exchanged directly between subscribers in different countries. The procedures are similar to telephone calls except that the messages are exchanged by the printed words via a teleprinter, rather than by the spoken words via a telephone.

An additional feature is the facility for 'unattended reception'. Messages may be printed on subscribers' teleprinters even when their offices are closed, so that they can be attended to when the office reopens.

Elaborate equipment has been installed in the central offices of the Overseas Communications Service to facilitate such international teleprinter or INTLX calls over long distance radio links. An electronic brain guards automatically against mutilations caused by radio fading, etc. On detecting a mutilation, it calls automatically for a repetition of the doubtful letter and allows it to be printed only when it is satisfied as to its correctness.

Regarding the large cattle population in India, Dr. Randhawa expressed himself in favour of encouraging mechanised cultivation as also in making available to the farmers implements of proved utility.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF RESEARCH BOARD

The Advisory Board considered over 200 research schemes and proposals of extending current schemes recommended by the Board of Research of the I.C.A.R. which had met earlier on June 24.

The important schemes recommended by the Board of Research included setting up of pilot projects to test results of research of proven value on a bigger scale, intensification of work on Indica-Japonica crosses in rice, and improvement of saline waters for irrigation purposes in Rajasthan.

Some other schemes recommended by the Board were maximisation of phosphate potential in soils of Andhra Pradesh, establishment of a National Registration Authority for cultivated and wild plants, scheme for popularising the rearing of day-old chicks, control of warble fly which is responsible for causing considerable losses to skins and hides especially in north western parts of the country, study of the bacteriological quality of milk, increasing fish seed potential through induced breeding by pituitrin injection, study of the loss of freshness in fish stored in ice, and the possibility of Trapa-cum-fish culture, selective breeding of Asil breed of poultry, and the scheme for the study of cattle nutrition.

SCHEME OF PRIZE AWARDS

The Board also recommended that study should be made by extension workers as to why the practice of green manuring was not rapidly spreading in different parts of the country. It further recommended that the requirements of the country in respect of different medicinal plants should be assessed and

schemes of research and development drawn up accordingly. These schemes should give due consideration to the marketing of the produce of medicinal plants.

A scheme for the award of prizes to outstanding benefactors in agriculture and animal husbandry was approved by the Board. It also sanctioned a number of schemes for the development of floriculture in the country, and a scheme for the rebuilding and rehabilitation of old and worn out agricultural tools and implements. For increasing rice production, the Board suggested that control of water hyacinth in West Bengal and other States should be taken up on a large scale. This would make about 3 to 4 lakh additional acres of land available for rice cultivation.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY SCHEMES

Another recommendation related to the field trials of the new vaccine developed at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute from the capsular antigen of the organism against haemorrhagic septicaemia, a highly fatal disease of cattle. The technique of sexing day-old chicks should be fully popularized and more intensive study should be made of camel and pig diseases which had hitherto received little attention.

The schemes, submitted by the State Governments and the institutions interested in agricultural and animal husbandry research were earlier considered by the regional and scientific committees. The Working Parties on agriculture and animal husbandry also reviewed their recommendations in regard to the schemes of research proposed to be undertaken and also fixed priorities in respect of the research projects to be financed by the Council.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LOCUSTS

On the completion of the campaign against desert locust in an area of over 50,000 square miles in the eastern province of Saudi Arabia, the Indian Anti-Locust Mission returned to Bombay by sea on June 15.

The Mission was deputed in January last by the Government of India, for the sixth year in succession, to combat desert locusts under the plan sponsored by the F.A.O. of the United Nations.

The Arabian peninsula forms the central area for locust breed-

ing. From here the swarms move westwards to Africa and eastwards to Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan and India. The destruction of the locust in that region is, therefore, of direct benefit to India and the adjoining countries.

FOODGRAINS TO GUJARAT FROM MAHARASHTRA

A Press Note issued on June 23 by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture says that the Government of India have been informed by the Government of Maharashtra that no statutory restrictions have been imposed

WAREHOUSING IN INDIA

The importance of warehousing in India was realised as early as 1928 when the Royal Commission on Agriculture referred to the urgent need to provide warehouses.

In 1949, the subject was thoroughly studied by the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee which recommended the setting up of a Warehousing Development Board financed jointly by the Central Government, the Reserve Bank and the Provincial Governments.

The Rural Credit Survey Committee set up by the Reserve Bank in 1951 recommended that a National Co-operative Development and Warehousing Board and an All India Warehousing Corporation should be established by statute, and that the same statute should provide for the formation of State Warehousing Companies. These recommendations were accepted by the Union Government and the Agriculture Produce (Development and Warehousing) Corporation Act 1956 was passed. The Board was established in September 1956.

The authorised capital of the Central Warehousing Corporation is Rs. 20 crores divided into

two lakh shares of the face value of Rs. 1,000 each.

The authorised capital of a State Warehousing Corporation does not exceed Rs. 2 crores divided into shares of the face value of Rs. 100 each. The Central Corporation and the State Government concerned subscribe equally to the share capital of the State Corporations.

The twenty-seven warehouses functioning under the Central Corporation stocked about 7,89,025 maunds till the end of May, 1960, and had a storage capacity of about 11,85,800 maunds. These were located in the following States: Andhra Pradesh 3, Bombay 5, Kerala 3, Madhya Pradesh 1, Madras 2, Mysore 3, Orissa 2, Punjab 1, Rajasthan 2, Uttar Pradesh 2, West Bengal 1, Delhi 1 and Bihar 1.

The State Corporations, which started their activities in eleven States in 1959, provided storage accommodation for about six lakh maunds in the first six months.

Warehousing facilities are now available for about 59 commodities. These include foodgrains, oilseeds, cattle fodder, raw cotton, cotton seed, raw jute, turmeric, gur, ginger and pepper.

Food & Agriculture

MEETING OF ADVISORY BOARD OF I.C.A.R.

A meeting of the Advisory Board of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research was held in New Delhi on June 29.

Addressing the Board, Dr. M.S. Randhawa, Vice-President of I.C.A.R., strongly advocated for adoption of family planning measures so that 'a balance between population and food supply is achieved'.

Referring to the close relationship between agricultural production and the solution of health problems, he said that the farmer was the most important factor for increasing food production and he must be assured that the land on which he invests his capital would remain his own. The land reform mea-

asures must be carried out with speed and 'at the same time assurance should be given against the introduction of further changes during the next ten years.'

He added that agriculture was like an industry and could work on a sound basis if reasonable profit was assured. A guaranteed minimum price, announced in advance of the planting season, was absolutely necessary to enable the cultivator to invest on fertilisers, pesticides and improved implements. The villages should be connected with the main roads and this should be given a prominent place in the Third Five Year Plan so as to facilitate the marketing of surplus agricultural products.

on the export of wheat, rice or jowar from that State to Gujarat State.

Import Of Foodgrains Into Rajasthan Banned

The import of rice and paddy, including their products, into Rajasthan has been prohibited, according to an extraordinary gazette notification issued by the Central Government on June 18.

The Rajasthan (Rice Import Restriction) Order, 1960, provides the State Government with legal powers to take action against anti-social elements who might try to import rice or paddy including their products from the adjoining States. Export of rice and paddy including their products from the States of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is already banned.

NATIONAL NUTRITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The National Nutrition Advisory Committee, constituted by the Government of India on June 9, concluded its inaugural session in New Delhi on June 18 under the chairmanship of Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, Minister of Agriculture. The Committee set up a sub-committee to draw up programmes to be included in the Third Plan.

The Committee has recommended that a scheme should be drawn up for supplying milk to the most vulnerable segments of the population, namely, infants, toddlers and pre-school children. For this purpose 300 centres should be started in rural areas and 500 in urban, and an allotment of Rs. 10 crores be made in the Third Plan. Each rural centre, the Committee thinks, should cater for the needs of 3,000 to 5,000 and the urban ones for 1,000 to 1,500.

Noting the efforts of the Ministry of Education as well as of the various State Governments for providing mid-day meals to school children, Committee has recommended that

a provision of Rs. 40 crores should be made for this in the Third Plan to enable expeditious execution of the scheme.

For training, education and extension service in the field of nutrition, the Committee has suggested an allotment of Rs. 2 crores.

NUTRITION POLICY

To ensure that milk produced in the country is made available to infants, children, expectant mothers and nursing women, the Committee urges legislation prohibiting the use of milk in tea and coffee in restaurants and preparation of sweets from milk for commercial purposes.

The Committee has also made the suggestion that Government should distribute seeds of green leafy vegetables to schools and other institutions, like orphanages, and rural and urban families through the Community Development and other agencies.

The Committee discussed at length various aspects of malnutrition in the country. There was general agreement that the problem was colossal and deserved priority and that public

opinion should be educated in the matter. A Working Committee has been appointed by the Committee to tackle this question.

The Committee expressed the view that the formulation of a national nutrition policy would require an approach from various angles. For this purpose, it was necessary that production targets of different kinds of foods are determined with reference to the provision of a balanced diet for as many people in the country as possible.

The Committee has also recommended that to implement the nutrition programme, trained personnel for work in the States and in Central organizations was essential.

The Committee appointed three Working Groups to undertake detailed studies and formulate specific proposals on (1) production and utilisation of food, (2) training, education and extension services in the field of nutrition, and (3) programmes designed to improve nutritional status of population groups and their implementation. These Groups are expected to meet soon.

River Projects & Power

SALE OF D.V.C. POWER

Over Rs. 605 lakhs were earned as revenue by the Damodar Valley Corporation from the sale of power, produced by its network of power houses, in the year 1959-60, says a New Delhi announcement of June 20.

The cumulative sale of power during this period was about 1312.5 million kW. In 1958-59 the quantity of power sold was 1080.8 million kW and the revenue earned was Rs. 476.7 lakhs.

This means that the yearly rise in D.V.C. revenue and power production in 1959-60 was roughly 27% and 21% respectively.

The D.V.C. power system at present consists of 4 power houses—1 thermal and 3 hydel stations. The Bokaro thermal power station has an installed capacity of 1,50,000 kW, increasing to 2,25,000 kW, when the fourth unit is commissioned this year. The hydel stations at Tilaiya, Maithon and Panchet have an installed capacity of 1,04,000 kW.

Among the industries which receive electric power from the D.V.C. system are Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, iron and steel concerns, railways, cable and cement factories and State-electricity boards in Bihar and West Bengal.

The total ultimate installed capacity of D.V.C. power houses, including the Chandrapura and Durgapur thermal power stations, at present under construction, will be 7,29,000 kW.

Power Development In 1959-60

According to an announcement of June 14 the total installed capacity in the last financial year reached the figure of 4.60 million kW.—about 2,81,500 kW. having been added in 1959-60. The major power units commissioned during the year were Korba (Madhya Pradesh) 60,000 kW; Periyar (Madras) 35,000 kW; Machkund (Andhra Pradesh) 42,500 kW; Panchet (DVC) 40,000 kW; Utran (Bombay) 30,000 kW; Poringalkuthu (Kerala) 8,000 kW; and Kundah (Madras) 20,000 kW.

By March 1960, 28,250 miles of transmission lines had been constructed and energised; and in 1959-60 about 3,000 miles of 66 kW. and above.

Further, measures have also been adopted to derive maximum benefit from various power projects in the Plan periods. A programme of power development, transcending State boundaries, and integration of the power systems into States and regional grids has been formulated. To achieve this, preliminary steps have been undertaken for establishment of a grid system for the southern region, comprising Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Mysore and Kerala. Ultimately, an all-India super-grid system will be evolved covering the entire country. This will facilitate interchange of power from one State to another, so as to obtain optimum benefit from the available generating capacity in the individual States.

STUDY OF SUPER-GRID SYSTEM

An announcement of June 18 says that India has deputed Shri K.P.S. Nair, Member (Hydro-Electric), Central Water and

Power Commission, to visit France with a view to studying problems relating to designs, construction, operation and maintenance of the French 400 kV super-grid system.

This will be useful in the context of the proposal for construction of a super-grid for the southern zone of India by inter-connecting major power stations in the area.

The Indian engineer will also visit a large gas turbine power station at Beznau in Switzerland. This will be helpful in implementing the scheme for construction of the Naharkatiya power station in Assam, which will have three gas turbine generating units, each with a capacity of 16,800 kW.

Shri Nair also represented India at the Sectional Meetings of the World Power Conference held at Madrid (Spain) from June 5 to June 9.

KHAPERKHEDA THERMAL STATION

An announcement dated June 29 says that the Government of India have sanctioned the Khaperkheda thermal station extension scheme, under which a third generating set, having a capacity of 30,000 kW. will be erected at Khaperkheda in the Vidarbha area of Maharashtra.

This will raise the total installed capacity of the thermal station to 90,000 kW, thereby meeting the power demands of the two ferro-manganese plants at Tumsar and Kanhan and the ordnance factory at Bhandara.

The new set is of the turbo-alternator type, equipped with two boilers, which are designed to use lower grade coal available in the vicinity. The coal will be transported over an 8-mile long aerial ropeway to the thermal station.

Economy Measures In River Projects

An announcement of June 22 says that as a result of various economy measures, which have

been introduced in the planning, design and construction of river valley projects since 1951 about Rs. 9.02 crores were saved. Among the projects where such economy was effected, is the Bhakra-Nangal Project in Punjab, where the cost was reduced to the extent of Rs. 4.12 crores. At the Nagarjunasagar Dam in Andhra Pradesh, the economy measures led to a saving of Rs. 3.52 crores. In the construction of the Hirakud Dam in Orissa, about Rs. 1.25 crores were saved. The revised designs for the Badua Dam in Bihar and for gate designs at the Rihand Dam in Uttar Pradesh also resulted in economy of Rs 10 lakhs and Rs. 3.3 lakhs respectively.

Technical Training In Earthmoving Operations

Speaking at the Fourth Certificate Awards ceremony of the Technical Training Centre at the Nagarjunasagar Project on June 28, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister for Irrigation and Power, said that the value of equipment India was using at river valley projects was Rs. 50 crores. Of this, 4000 machines, belonging to the category of earthmoving machinery, cost about Rs. 40 crores. This equipment and spare parts for it were being imported from abroad.

TECHNICAL CENTRES

Referring to the Technical Training Centres set up at Kotah and Nagarjunasagar Projects, with the help of the Technical Co-operation Mission of the U.S.A., Shri Hathi pointed out that over 250 trainees had passed out from these institutions in addition to the present batch. The technicians had spread themselves all over the country on various dams, embankments and other national projects, wherever earthworks were being excavated with expensive machinery.

At present, in India 5000 operators and mechanics were

engaged on earthmoving work. During the Third Plan period this number would rise to a much higher figure. For this reason, the Government of India had agreed to continue the Kotah and Nagarjunasagar centres for a further period of three years, beyond the present sanction of five years.

Community Development

TRAINING OF EXTENSION PERSONNEL

A New Delhi announcement of June 20 says that the programme of training extension personnel has been geared to meet the full requirement of 50,000 Gramsevakas and 10,000 Gramsevikas by October 1963. Training is given at 100 training centres and 39 Home Science Wings sponsored by the Extension Directorate of the Union Ministry of Agriculture.

Already 39,322 Gramsevakas and 1,876 Gramsevikas, trained by the end of March 1960, have been deputed to work in the various C.D. and N.E.S. blocks. Further, 6,200 Gramsevakas and 1,043 Gramsevikas are at present undergoing training at the various centres.

In the two-year integrated course for Gramsevakas, the subjects include agriculture including agricultural engineering, horticulture and plant protection, animal husbandry, co-operation, nanchayat, public health, social education, extension principles, programme planning, minor engineering works and rural industries.

The syllabus for the one-year course for Gramsevikas has subjects such as health and sanitation, mother and child care, food and nutrition, home management, clothing, crafts, co-operation, extension philosophy and techniques, agriculture and allied subjects.

During the period of training, Gramsevakas are given a stipend

varying from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 per month. Gramsevikas are given a stipend of Rs. 50 per month.

CO-OPERATION MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

The Conference of State Ministers of Co-operation, which concluded its three-day session in Srinagar on June 16, recommended that the entire co-operative movement should be directed towards increasing food production and that this work

should be given the highest priority. Other decisions of the Conference are that though Government should participate in co-operative activity, it should not exercise control over its working. All efforts should be made to extend the benefit to the poorer sections of the population by giving assistance for creditworthy purposes. Elaborate programmes for training and education should be prepared for officials and non-officials responsible for introducing joint co-operative farming.

Announcing these decisions at a Press Conference, Shri S.K. Dey, Union Minister for Community Development and Co-operation, said that the Union Government would take a decision in the next few months on setting up of 3,000 to 4,000 co-operative farms on an experimental basis. The actual work would begin soon after. These projects must make an impact on the people within a couple of years.

Shri Dey disclosed that the Draft Third Plan allocated Rs. 400 crores for Community Development and Co-operation.

Education & Culture

VICE-CHANCELLORS CONFERENCE AT POONA

The two-day conference of Vice-Chancellors of Indian Universities, which ended at Poona on June 16, recommended several measures of far-reaching importance to tackle some of the urgent problems facing the Universities to-day.

Dr. C.D. Deshmukh, Chairman of the University Grants Commission, presided over the conference.

The problem of student discipline was discussed thoroughly

ly in all its aspects by a committee of ten Vice-Chancellors headed by Prof. N.K. Siddhanta of Calcutta. The broad recommendations of the committee were accepted by the conference. So far as the students were concerned, the committee recommended that, to ensure that every student received proper attention, no institution should have more than a prescribed number of students. The teacher-pupil ratio should be improved to establish better and closer contacts between the teachers

and the pupils. The teacher should act as their friend, philosopher and guide.

A minimum age limit should be fixed for entry into the universities. No student should be allowed to be on the rolls of the university if he has failed twice in a particular examination. In any event, a student should not be on the rolls of a university for more than eight years, except for professional courses and research work.

Better conditions of work should be provided for students in the colleges and universities. Adequate provision should be made for students' day-homes, residential accommodation, better facilities for library, reading rooms, recreation and extra-curricular activities.

INTENSIVE TUTORIALS

For the Arts students, the conference strongly urged that suitable measures should be taken to give them more work through intensive tutorial classes and regular written assignments. At the same time, an attempt should be made to make this regular work count towards their final assessment.

Regarding unions and societies, the conference said that organisation of students for extra-curricular activities should be encouraged, but care would have to be taken to see that the organisation does not assume the character of a trade union providing nothing but a bargaining counter, as it were, for the students. The unions should not be allowed to become an instrument for voicing complaints and grievances; on the other hand, their object should be to encourage indoor games, dramatic performances, study tours, excursions and picnics, symposia, debates and arrangements of lectures with the previous approval of the head of the institution.

The committee strongly recommended that youth festivals should not be organised on the present elaborate scale.

As for the teachers, the committee recommended that their emoluments should be 'proper' both in absolute and relevant terms. They should get a wage which compares favourably with others performing the same type of work in society. For this, it recommended that a selection grade for professors should be created to provide an incentive to the really deserving teachers. In this connection, the committee felt that it would be desirable to create a suitable number of supernumerary or 'floating' posts. Proper conditions of work, adequate library facilities to carry on their serious scholastic work, provision of suitable residential accommodation near the college or in the university campus, were also recommended.

DISCIPLINE

For improving university administration, it recommended that there should be continuous insistence on orderly and civilised behaviour and any departure from the norm should be taken serious notice of; firm and immediate steps should be taken wherever there was serious breach of discipline; proctorial boards consisting of teachers and students might be set up on an experimental basis; grievances and complaints of teachers should be attended to by the authorities concerned promptly and speedily; opportunities for N.C.C. and similar other training be extended, and steps should be taken to develop the right kind of leadership amongst students.

One of the major recommendations of the conference on student indiscipline, as it affected the university administration, was that a convention of political parties be called to agree on a concord that they would desist from interference in the interest of the future generations.

It further suggested that it would be worthwhile for universities and college authorities to examine whether it would not be desirable to prohibit the

entry of outsiders into the campus without the permission of the head of the institution.

In regard to the role of parents versus students, the conference stressed the need for constant contact and association between the teachers on the one hand and the parents and guardians on the other. If personal contact was impracticable, periodical reports regarding the work and progress of the student should be sent to the parents, the main objective being greater rapport between authorities and the parents.

RELIGIOUS AND MORAL INSTRUCTION

The question of instruction in spiritual and moral values was also discussed by the conference in the context of student indiscipline. It felt that instruction in spiritual and moral values should be introduced at all stages of education. The practicability of such education should be carefully examined before embarking on the project. It was recommended that a beginning may be made in the manner prescribed below:—

(1) In the First Year of the Degree course, lives of the great religious and spiritual leaders like Gautama Buddha, Confucius, Zoroaster, Socrates, Jesus, Sankara, Ramanuja, Madhava, Mohammad, Kabir, Nanak and Gandhi be taught.

In this context, it was necessary to define the educational objectives of teaching different subjects in addition to the general objectives of a liberal education. These objectives should determine the teaching as well as the examinations in various subjects.

(2) There was need for a continual investigation of the operation of the existing system of examinations of Indian universities, particularly with regard to: (a) the reliability and validity of the present

examinations; (b) the techniques of evaluating, scaling and combining of marks; (c) the methods of selection of students for university courses and development of aptitude tests; (d) the questions set in different subjects in examinations; (e) the development of material for objective testing in various subject fields; and (f) the survey of the methods available for the internal assessment of students.

(3) The maintenance of Cumulative Records which involved a large number of teachers, and the communication of these records to the university would largely guard against abuses. In addition to this, it might be necessary for the university to examine the causes of wide discrepancies between the marks given by the colleges for team work and the marks obtained by the students in the university examinations. The maintenance of cumulative records could be undertaken in the first instance by Central and unitary universities but any request from teaching and affiliating universities for financial assistance for trying out this experiment should be treated on the same basis as for the Central and unitary universities.

(4) Each university should set up a special unit to study examination reform in the context of the university. The unit should include at least one expert with a knowledge of modern evaluation techniques and statistical methods. The unit would study the design of examinations, the tabulation and scaling of marks, and other features of the examination procedure, and make recommendations to the university authorities. Senior teachers and those with special competence, should be associated with the unit.

The University Grants Commission should take steps to plan and initiate reforms and to co-ordinate the work done in this field in the various universities. It would also be necessary to provide facilities for rapid sta-

tistical work and the production of text material. The information and conclusions of such work should be made available to the universities and a journal may be brought out for that purpose.

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

The report of the Committee on National Service was presented to the Conference by Dr. A.L. Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of Madras University.

After considering the various documents placed before it, the conference approved wholeheartedly the broad approach and general principles embodied in the Report of the Deshmukh Committee on National Service for students and expressed its agreement with the view that an additional year between the higher secondary pre-university stage and the university stage in the educational span was essential in order to develop the student's maturity and to impart discipline, practical training, co-operative spirit and national outlook.

While placing the greatest emphasis on the educational aspect of the scheme and on its implementation by educationists, it recommended to the Government of India that the details of the scheme should be worked out with the greatest care and appropriate steps taken to train the personnel required for implementing a scheme of such importance and magnitude.

The Conference further expressed the hope that steps would be taken to secure the agreement and enthusiasm of all concerned before launching the scheme on a national scale.

LIMITATION OF NUMBERS

The report of the Committee on Limitation of Numbers was presented by Dr. V. R. Khanolkar of Bombay University.

The Conference discussed the question of limiting admissions to universities in the context of

manpower required for industrial and economic development of the country and made the following recommendations:

(1) In regard to methods of selection it was recognised that in all professional institutions in the country these methods were already employed. The basis of selection generally was the higher percentage of marks obtained in the qualifying examination. It was recommended that institutions and universities should employ these and other techniques of selection bearing in mind the availability of teaching, library and laboratory facilities, accommodation for students, etc.

(2) Students who did not secure admission might have potentialities in them for benefiting by further education. It should, therefore, be the objective of a planned system of education to ensure that such opportunities were not denied to them. Among the measures suggested for this purpose, the Committee recommended introduction of external degrees, evening colleges, workers' institutions, etc. They further suggested that those who registered for external degrees should be guided, as in some advanced countries, by different methods of training, such as correspondence courses. Before introducing any such techniques it was essential that they should be carefully studied.

AUTONOMY OF UNIVERSITIES

The conference considered at some length the question of the implications of the autonomy of universities, with special regard to the observations of the Education Minister and the Chairman of the U.G.C. and reached the following conclusions:

(1) The Central and State Governments should have adequate consultation with the universities as well as the U.G.C. before taking executive action or promoting any legislation in regard to university edu-

cation, availing themselves of the provision in this behalf in the University Grants Commission Act.

(2) All authorities concerned with university education should exercise their legal powers whether in regard to administration or academic work in accordance with the spirit of the law, i.e., with self-restraint, flexibility, a readiness to accommodate without sacrifice of any vital principle and, above all, with due regard to the functional efficiency of the universities and the maintenance of their academic freedom, and to this end sound conventions should be evolved and healthy traditions established. External agencies should scrupulously refrain from interfering with or influencing the making of decisions which lie within the exclusive jurisdiction of universities.

(3) While the universities might properly lay stress on their academic purposes, they should be responsive to national needs; they should be free to implement, in any manner they consider fit, any development indicated to them as desirable by the Central or State Government or other authorised bodies, such as Advisory Boards of Councils, set up by Governments.

Vice-Chancellors from 32 Universities, representatives of the Planning Commission and officials of the Union Education Ministry participated in the conference which was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Education, Dr. K. L. Shrimali, on June 15.

Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh, Chairman of the Central Social Welfare Board, also attended the conference as a special invitee. Shrimati Deshmukh mainly participated in the discussions on the National Service Scheme with particular reference to the participation of girls in the scheme. She strongly pleaded against any exemptions or concessions being given to girls on grounds of sex, etc. However,

she added, the application of the scheme to girls should be considered in consultation with the women's organisations in the country and the All-India Council for Women's and Girls' Education.

National Fundamental Education Centre

The expansion of facilities for training social education officers to ensure the success of the mass uplift drive in the country was emphasised by Shri K.G. Saiyidain, Secretary in the Ministry of Education, while delivering the valedictory address to students of the fourth In-Service Training Course for District Officers in charge of Social Education, at the National Fundamental Education Centre in New Delhi on June 16. Shri Saiyidain also distributed certificates to the 12 participants in the Course who were deputed by the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Kerala, Mysore, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Punjab.

The National Fundamental Education Centre has been established by the Government of India to serve as a National Centre for Training, Research and Evaluation and to provide leadership in the field of social education. The Centre trains the key personnel of social education in carrying out, among other things, research and evaluation, and experiments in the production of prototype material and also acts as a clearing house of ideas and information pertaining to social education.

Educational Potential Of Crafts

The results of studies at the Basic Education Institute in New Delhi are outlined in a new publication brought out by the Institute in the series 'Research and Studies'. Agriculture and weaving head the list of crafts having educational potential as a medium of children's education. Other crafts in order of educational potential are:

kitchen gardening, wood-work, spinning, paper and cardboard work, pottery and leather work.

Ten factors of educational potentiality were identified as a result of the study of material received in response to a questionnaire. Some of these factors were the capacity of a craft to sustain the interest of pupils and satisfy curiosity about ways of making things; capacity to help the physical, mental and moral development of the child; promote creative work and help in the aesthetic development of the child.

Craft occupies a central place in the scheme of basic education both as the basis of correlation and as a medium of creative and productive work. Every basic school has to make provision for some crafts which can be utilised for these purposes.

The research project, which was undertaken to assess the educational potentiality of crafts, was divided into four stages: (a) determination of factors constituting educational potentiality; (b) determination of weightage for these factors; (c) development of rating scales for measuring the educational potentiality of some commonly-practised crafts, and (d) determination of the educational potentiality through the rating scales.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

An agreement was signed in New Delhi on June 28 between the Government of India and the U.S. Technical Co-operation Mission under which the T.C.M. would make available Rs. 48.6 lakhs (\$ 1,021,682) to the Indian Institute of Technology at Kanpur.

The amount would be utilised for purchasing from outside India educational and scientific equipment, apparatus and classroom equipment for demonstration and research purposes.

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, which is expected to be the Regional Institute

for Northern India, has already received four grants from the T.C.M. The present agreement brings the total U.S. dollar assistance to the Kanpur institute to slightly more than two million, while a total of Rs. 50.6 lakhs has been provided in the past for local currency costs. The combined U.S. dollar and rupee contribution comes to Rs. 1.5 crores.

The Institute at Kanpur along with three similar institutions in Kharagpur, Bombay and Madras will set the standards for engineering institutions throughout India and will meet to some extent the growing need for engineering education.

Examination Of Gurukul System

In a Press Note issued on June 30, the Ministry of Education has announced that the Central Sanskrit Board has decided to examine the present set-up and needs of institutions known as Gurukulas with a view to devising ways and means of suitably assisting them and effecting necessary improvements.

It is proposed to examine, among other things, (i) their financial conditions, (ii) the means that can be adopted for assisting them, for improving their work and for developing them along right lines, (iii) their courses of study and curricula and (iv) agencies which could be set up for standardising their courses, etc.

The Union Ministry of Education has drawn up a proforma for collecting information in this regard. The proforma can be had from the Special Officer (Sanskrit), Union Ministry of Education, New Delhi.

Agricultural Science Fellowships

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has offered 20 senior and 20 junior fellowships for post-graduate training in

certain branches of agricultural science, says an announcement dated June 17.

The value of the senior fellowship is Rs. 200 per month and of the junior fellowship Rs. 150 per month inclusive of all allowances and fees. The fellowships are tenable for two years.

The fellowships will be awarded for post-graduate training in subjects such as agronomy, horticulture, agricultural entomology, mycology and plant pathology, soil science, agricultural economics, agricultural botany, plant physiology, agricultural statistics and agricultural engineering.

Last date for the receipt of applications is August 16, 1960.

SPANISH AND BULGARIAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships have been offered by the Government of Spain and the Government of Bulgaria to Indian nationals for study of the Spanish and Bulgarian languages respectively during the academic year 1960-61, says a New Delhi announcement of June 23.

CZECHOSLOVAK SCHOLARSHIP

In a Press Note issued on June 30, the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs announced the name of a candidate who has been selected for the award of a Czech Government (1958-59) scholarship for training in the 'Maintenance and Reconstruction of Steam Boilers and Boiler Equipments'.

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE FORUM

A New Delhi announcement of June 26 says that as in previous years, the New York Herald Tribune Forum authorities have extended an invitation to India to depute a boy or a girl student to the U.S.A. for a three-month visit from January to March 1961 for participation in the Forum.

Free air passage both ways will be provided to the selected

candidate. While in U.S.A. he/she will live as a temporary member of the family in three different American homes where there are children of the same age, attend school with them and participate in the normal programme of school and community activities. There would be numerous opportunities for the Forum delegates, as a group, to share common experiences.

The Government of India have accepted the invitation. The selection of the delegate will be made on the basis of an original 1500-word extempore essay competition in English to be held at various centres in India on August 1, 1960.

The contest is open to students of High/Higher Secondary or equivalent classes between the age of 16 and 18 years.

RECOGNITION OF DIPLOMAS

An announcement of June 25 says that in partial modification of earlier orders, the Government of India have decided that the Final Grade Examination in Electrical Engineering Practice, Parts I and II, of the City and Guilds of London Institution held up to and including June 3 1950, should be recognised for purposes of recruitment and appointment to superior posts and services under the Central Government.

The Government have also decided that the Examinations held after June 3, 1950, should be recognised for purposes of recruitment and employment to subordinate posts and services under the Central Government.

KANPUR DIPLOMA

On the recommendation of the Board of Assessment for Technical and Professional Qualifications, the Government of India have decided to recognise the Associateship Diploma of the Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Kanpur, says an announcement of June 16.

The recognition has been accorded for purposes of recruitment to superior posts and services under the Central Government, in the field of chemical technology.

DRAFTSMANSHIP CERTIFICATE OF ALIGARH UNIVERSITY

An announcement of June 27 says that, on the recommendations of the Board of Assessment for Technical and Professional Qualifications, the Government of India have decided to recognise provisionally the draftsmanship certificates in Civil and Mechanical Engineering, issued by the Muslim University Aligarh, for purposes of recruitment to subordinate posts as draftsmen and tracers under the Central Government.

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

A New Delhi announcement of June 24 says that the Master's Diploma in Public Administration awarded by the Indian School of Public Administration, New Delhi, has been recognised for purposes of appointment to services and posts under the Central Government. The Diploma will be treated as equivalent to Master's Degree in Public Administration of a recognised University.

Archaeological Excavations

A New Delhi announcement of June 29 says that, in view of the growing interest in archaeological exploration and excavation in the country, the Union Department of Archaeology has taken special measures to co-ordinate the programme of excavations by various agencies.

For this purpose, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, and the Rules framed thereunder in 1960 lay down that no person other than an archaeological officer of the Government of India or a person holding a licence from the Director-General of Archaeology in India is to excavate a protected

area. For excavations in unprotected areas, any State Government intending to undertake or to authorise any person to undertake any excavation or other like operation, should intimate its intention to the Central Government at least three months prior to the proposed date of the commencement of the excavation or operation. After considering the proposal, the Central Government may either approve it or advise the State Government to modify it or to abandon it altogether.

In order to ensure that a co-ordinated programme of excavations is followed throughout the country, all proposals for excavations are now placed before the Standing Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology. Any organisation intending to undertake excavations may, therefore, send its proposals to the Director-General of Archaeology in India, New Delhi, before July 1 every year.

INDIAN FILMS FOR BERLIN FESTIVAL

A New Delhi announcement of June 21 says that 'Puberun', the Assamese film which won the President's Silver Medal in the State Awards for Films for 1959, has been selected by the Government of India for entry in the International Film Festival to be held in Berlin from June 24 to July 5. In the short film category, 'Kathakali', produced by the Films Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and winner of the All India Certificate of Merit, has been selected. India has participated in earlier festivals in Berlin.

Shri Sohrab Modi, Producer and Director, and member of the Central Board of Film Censors, will be a member of the jury for feature films.

Shrimati Poornima A. Pakvasa, Member, Central Board of Film Censors, will attend the festival as a delegate.

AWARDS FOR INVENTIONS

A meeting of the Inventions Promotion Board was held in

New Delhi on June 22 under the presidentship of Prof. M. S. Thacker, Secretary, Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, and Director-General of Scientific and Industrial Research. The meeting decided to set apart a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs for giving awards and financial assistance during 1960-61 to artisans, technicians and others with inventive skill.

It was also decided to constitute a committee of specialists to consider applications for such awards and assistance. The Secretary of the Board would entertain further applications.

The Board would also assist the inventors to develop their ideas which had technical potentialities. The Inventions Promotion Board was set up by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry some time back to encourage inventions in the sphere of small industries.

Youth Leadership Training Camp

Teachers from ten Indian Universities participated in a Youth Leadership Training Camp conducted by the Union Ministry of Education at Lovedale near Ootacamund from June 20 to July 4. The camp was the tenth of its series. The Universities represented were Marathwada, Gujarat, Bombay, Jabalpur, Vikram, Calcutta, Gorakhpur, Andhra, Kerala and Madras. The teachers, numbering about 37, were given short-term training in techniques of organising youth welfare activities in educational institutions.

CONGRESS ON BRIDGES

A two-member delegation left New Delhi for Stockholm on June 25 to represent India at the Sixth Congress of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering to be held at Stockholm from June 27 to July 1.

The Congress will discuss important technical problems relating to bridge and structural engineering.

Health

HEALTH CONDITIONS IN MAY

An announcement of June 26 says that, according to information available, only one suspected case of plague was reported from Kolar district in Mysore State during May 1960. Smallpox and cholera continued to be reported from some districts of the country.

The following detailed information is based on preliminary reports for the week ended May 21, 1960:

Cholera:—Considerable incidence was reported from Calcutta city in West Bengal during third week of the month. Mild incidence was reported throughout the month from the districts of Durg and Raipur in Madhya Pradesh, and Burdwan, Midnapur and Howrah districts in West Bengal. Mild incidence was also reported from Darbhanga district in Bihar State and Bankura district in West Bengal during the third week.

Smallpox:—Epidemic conditions were reported from Nagpur district in Rajasthan during the third week. Mild incidence was reported throughout the month from the districts of Sriakulam, Guntur, Nellore and Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh; North Arcot district in Madras State and Madras city; Nagpur and South Satara districts in Maharashtra; the districts of Mandya, Mysore, Bijapur, Bellary, Belgaum and Dharwar in Mysore; the districts of Kanpur, Agra, Allahabad, Bulandshahr, Fatehpur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Manipur, Budaun, Bijnore, Muzaffarnagar and Rampur in Uttar Pradesh; Burdwan district in West Bengal and the Union Territories of Pondicherry and Delhi.

Mild incidence was also reported from the districts of East

Godavari, West Godavari and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh; Hazaribag district in Bihar; Chingleput and Madurai districts in Madras; Poona district in Maharashtra; Bangalore, Kolar and South-Kanara districts in Mysore; Kotah and Bundi districts in Rajasthan; Almora, Banda, Deoria, Faizabad, Kheri, Meerut, Mirzapur, Saharanpur and Varanasi districts in Uttar Pradesh and Bankura district in West Bengal and Calcutta city during the third week.

Gastro-enteritis:—During week ended May 21, 160 cases and 17 deaths were reported from Uttar Pradesh as against 177 cases and 29 deaths reported during the previous week and 169 cases and 27 deaths during week ended May 7.

Kyasanur Forest Disease:—Fifteen attacks and one death were reported from Shimoga district in Mysore State during the fortnight ended May 21, as

against 12 attacks and one death reported during the previous fortnight.

Influenza:—Stray cases were reported from Assam, Bombay and West Bengal during the month.

T.C.M. GRANT FOR MALARIA ERADICATION

An agreement was signed in New Delhi on June 30 between United States Technical Co-operation Mission for further aid to India's Malaria Eradication Programme.

As a result of this agreement, a sum of \$831,218 (about Rs. 40 lakhs) is made available, out of which \$719,935 (Rs. 34.3 lakhs) will be spent on acquiring from abroad stocks of DDT and the rest of the funds will be utilised for the import of anti-malarial drugs and laboratory equipment.

The latest grant brings the U.S. financial assistance to the Malaria Eradication Programme to a little over Rs. 38 crores. Part of this assistance has been made available in Indian rupees resulting from sales of agricultural commodities supplied to India under Public Law 480.

Social Welfare

DANDAKARANYA SCHEME

A Press Note issued by the Prime Minister's Secretariat on June 17 says that, at the invitation of the Prime Minister, Dr. B.C. Roy, Chief Minister of West Bengal, and Shri P.C. Sen, Rehabilitation Minister of West Bengal, came to Delhi to discuss problems of rehabilitation of displaced persons and, more particularly, of the Dandakaranya scheme. These subjects were discussed fully at a meeting at which Shri Asoke Sen, Union Law Minister, and Shri Meher Chand Khana, Union Re-

habilitation Minister, were also present.

There was general agreement as to the steps to be taken to expedite rehabilitation of displaced persons and the proper functioning of the Dandakaranya Authority.

It was agreed that the Dandakaranya Development Authority should be reconstituted as follows: (1) A whole-time Chairman; (2) the Chief Secretaries of Madhya Pradesh,

Orissa and West Bengal; (3) the Chief Administrator of the Authority; (4) a representative from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, to safeguard the interests of the tribal population; and (5) a representative from the Central Government (Ministry of Rehabilitation).

This Authority should be given a considerable measure of autonomy and should be asked to prepare a general five year plan and a more specific plan for the year. It will prepare its own budget which will then have to be approved by the Government of India. The Authority will be entitled to make minor adjustments in the budget within the major allocations.

FACILITIES FOR D.P.s

The Dandakaranya scheme will continue to develop in a big way for many years to come. To begin with, however, its chief function will be to rehabilitate D.P.s from East Pakistan. For this purpose the first priority will be given to the D.P.s at present in camps in West Bengal. Later, other D.P.s will also be considered for further rehabilitation. The attempt will be to build up integrated communities which means not only agriculturists but skilled workers and artisans. Displaced families sent to Dandakaranya will be provided with shelter, certain facilities and work pending full rehabilitation. During the initial period their work may be subsidised. All those who are sent to Dandakaranya will have the assurance of being rehabilitated there.

It is hoped that the major part of the work of the Ministry of Rehabilitation will be over within a period of twelve to fifteen months. Some part may still remain. This can be distributed to other Ministries of the Government of India or to the West Bengal Government so that the Ministry of Rehabilitation as such could be closed.

It was agreed that there should be the fullest consultation and co-operation between the Central Government and the West Bengal Government in all

matters concerning rehabilitation of D.P.s and the Dandakaranya scheme.

REHABILITATION FINANCE ADMINISTRATION

In a Press Note issued on June 21, the Ministry of Finance has announced that the Government of India have decided to wind up the Rehabilitation Finance Administration and, accordingly, to place the Administration in liquidation at the close of business on June 30, 1960. An order to this effect was issued on June 20, which was published in the Gazette of India on June 25.

In terms of this order, the Chief Administrator, R.F.A. will be vested with all powers and duties of the Administration, including, in particular, the power to recover loans granted by the Administration in the same manner as heretofore.

Although no fresh loans will be sanctioned after June 30, 1960, the Chief Administrator has been authorised to disburse loans already sanctioned but remaining undisbursed. It has also been provided that after the liabilities of the Administration have been met and the Chief Administrator has made a report to that effect, the Central Government will specify a date for the dissolution of the Administration. After the formal dissolution of the Administration, the power to recover loans will devolve on the Central Government.

The Rehabilitation Finance Administration, set up in 1948, under an Act of Parliament, has been for the last 12 years, giving loans to D.P.s from East and West Pakistan to enable them to settle in business or industry. The total amount advanced by the Administration to D.P.s aggregated to over Rs. 11 crores.

At present, however, the Administration is not entertaining any fresh applications for loans from D.P.s from West Pakistan. As for migrants from East Pakistan, they are entertained only in special cases. With the progress in the re-

habilitation of D.P.s the number of applications eligible for loans from the Administration had also been tapering off month by month, and the organisation has now practically been reduced to an agency for the recovery of loans already granted by it.

VILLAGE HOUSING SCHEME

An announcement of June 17 says that the Government of India have taken decisions on the recommendations of the Housing Ministers' Conference held at Hyderabad last November regarding the Village Housing Projects Scheme.

Government have decided to increase the quantum of loan assistance under the scheme from 50% to 66 2/3% of the cost of construction of a house, subject to a maximum loan of Rs. 2,000. Hitherto, the maximum loan available was Rs. 1,500.

Government have agreed with the recommendation that the State Governments should be allowed to utilise up to 15% of the loan available to them under the scheme to provide loans to villagers for improvement of their houses.

Government have also accepted the recommendation that in the case of States with large rural population, Central aid to the State rural housing cells should be raised to Rs. 50,000 per annum. Hitherto, the bigger States received aid up to Rs. 40,000 and the smaller ones up to Rs. 35,000. The State rural housing cells are the agency for implementing the village housing programme. They supply designs and layouts according to the requirements of villagers and afford them such technical assistance as is necessary.

RESEARCH-CUM-TRAINING

Government have decided that the research-cum-training cen-

tres already set up under the scheme should continue during the Third Plan period. These centres have been set up for the purpose of promoting research in improvement of local building materials and construction techniques for village housing, and for training of technical personnel required for implementing the projects.

The recommendation that the Government of India should bear 50% of the cost of roads and drains in selected villages as outright subsidy has not been accepted. Government, however, have suggested to the States that for the present funds available with C.D. Blocks should be utilised, to the extent possible, for construction of roads and drains.

RELIEF TO POLITICAL SUFFERERS

The Central Government have approved from the current academic year a scheme to provide educational concessions to children of political sufferers, says an announcement of June 16.

The concessions, which include special consideration for admission in schools and free seats in hostels, will be available to the children and grandchildren of these political sufferers whose income does not exceed Rs. 300 per month. A limited number of stipends and book grants will also be given.

The Central Government will bear the entire cost of this scheme in the Union Territories and 50 per cent in the States.

Relief has already been granted to political sufferers from an amount placed at the disposal of the Union Home Minister, known as the Discretionary Grant. Between 1955-56 and 1959-60, a sum of about Rs. 10 lakhs had been distributed.

CENTRAL SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD MEETING

The 29th meeting of the Central Social Welfare Board was held at Hyderabad on June 25 and 26. Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh, Chairman of the Board, presided.

The Board considered, among other matters, the pattern and basis of grants to voluntary organisations during the Third Plan for activities in the Welfare Extension Projects of the original pattern. The future of Welfare Extension Projects in the Com-

munity Development Blocks in the light of the Panchayat Acts passed in some of the States was also discussed.

Other items on the agenda included the question of distribution of grants by the Board for the Maintenance of hostels for girl students; sanction of building grants to the Bharat Sewak Samaj for the construction of night shelters, the tour reports on the progress of social welfare schemes in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, etc.

Labour & Employment

EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS ACT

The Government of India, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment on June 9, have decided to extend the benefit of compulsory contributory provident fund under the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, to workers in plywood industry with effect from June 30. Employees in each factory in the said industry employing 50 or more persons will be covered under the Act from that date.

AUTOMOBILE REPAIRING AND SERVICING INDUSTRY

Another announcement of June 15 says that the benefit of compulsory provident fund, under the said Act, is to be extended to workers in the automobile repairing and servicing industry from June 30. It is estimated that about 10,000 workers in this industry will be entitled to join the provident fund scheme.

The Act which was initially applied to six industries in 1952 has been extended gradually to additional industries. With the coverage of plywood and automobile repairing and servicing industries the total number of the industries covered will now be 43. Upto the end of

February, 1960, the total number of establishments and workers covered under the Act was 7,299 and 26.86 lakhs, respectively.

Employment In Collieries

During March 1960, 847 collieries were reported to be working in the country, with an average daily employment of 3,73,543 workers. In the previous month the number of collieries that were working was 843 and the number of workers 3,85,052.

According to the Chief Inspector of Mines, Ministry of Labour and Employment, the largest number of workers were employed in the collieries in Bihar (1,82,160), followed by West Bengal (1,17,007) and Madhya Pradesh (40,267). In all the three areas, there was a decrease in employment during March.

The output of coal per man-shift during March was 0.45 tons, the figure for the previous month being the same. The percentage of absenteeism was 13.35 as compared with 12.28 in February. The average cash earn-

ings of a worker per week during March was Rs. 22.19. In the Jharia and Raniganj coalfields, the average weekly earnings were Rs. 22.57 and Rs. 21.89 respectively.

BOMBAY FLOTILLA REW DISPUTE

According to an announcement of June 26, the Government of India have referred the dispute between the Bombay Port Trust and the flotilla crew, employed by them, to the Industrial Tribunal, Bombay, for adjudication.

The flotilla crew, who man the dock and harbour tugs, went on strike, without notice on June 23, demanding, among other things, that a stoker, who has been suspended, should be reinstated and that dock tugs should

not be used for movements to Butcher Island. The strike was called off on June 28.

MADRAS DOCK LABOUR DISPUTE

An announcement of June 21 says that the Government of India have referred the dispute between the Madras Port Trust and their employees to the Additional Industrial Tribunal, Bombay, for adjudication.

The Tribunal has been asked to give its decision on the question whether an interim relief of Rs. 5 should be granted to daily rated labour in Madras Port, and, if so, should it be given with retrospective effect from July 1, 1957.

The States

ASSENT FOR MADRAS BILL

The President has given assent to the Madras District Collectors' Powers (Delegation) Amendment Bill, 1960, says an announcement of June 8.

The legislation empowers the State Government to authorise any officer of the Revenue Department, not below the rank of Deputy Collector, to exercise powers now vested in the District Collector in regard to land revenue and general administration. This will enable the District Collectors to devote more time to the implementation of various development schemes in the State.

A provision, however, has been made in the Bill that the District Collector may exercise, in such cases as he deems fit, all or any of the powers which can be exercised by any officer by virtue of authorisation by the Government.

Agricultural University In West Bengal

An announcement of June 25 says that the President has given assent to the Kalyani University Bill, 1960, which seeks to set up a university in West Bengal to provide for the study of agricultural, veterinary and allied sciences.

The jurisdiction of the proposed university, which will work through constituent colleges only, is to be restricted to certain developed rural areas in the districts of Nadia and 24-Parganas. Each constituent college will provide for Honours and Post-Graduate courses as also for research work in particular subjects.

Provision has also been made to enable the university to undertake extension work in agriculture and veterinary and allied sciences, to take over experimental stations now managed by the Government and to establish experimental stations of its own.

Defence

MOUNTAINEERING EQUIPMENT

According to an announcement dated June 24, the leader of the Indian Everest expedition, Brigadier Gyan Singh, praised the equipment which was supplied to his team. He said that it had stood the test exceedingly well.

Most of this equipment was for the first time made within the country by the Defence Ordnance Factories in about three months. The equipment was as good as that available in foreign markets.

The manufacture of this equipment required a high degree of precision. The ordnance factories had never before produced such material. The specifications of the equipment were supplied by the leader of the expedition himself and these conformed to the international standards. Hitherto such equipment was imported from Switzerland and other countries in Europe. By indigenously manufacturing the equipment in the Ordnance factories a considerable saving in foreign exchange was effected.

The equipment included a variety of small and big items like types of tents, sleeping bags, bivouac sack, ice axes with leather covers, Piton hammers with picks, silk mittens, down camp shoes, wind proof gloves, ruck-sack oxygen type, Edier down jackets and trousers and wind proof jackets and trousers. Crampons, fixed and adjustable; karabiner screws and karabiners, dural and steel wire ropes and ladders; steel hooks for boots, tent poles and tent pegs were also made by the Ordnance Factories for the expedition.

Similar material worth about Rs. 5,000 was supplied recently by the Ordnance Factories to the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute.

India & The World

INDIA HOUSE IN PARIS

In the presence of distinguished guests and a large number of Indian students, the Union Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Dr. Humayun Kabir, laid the foundation-stone of India House at the Cite Universitaire, Paris, on June 17.

Before the ceremony, the act of donation was signed by the Indian Ambassador, Shri Raghavan, in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor of Paris University and other distinguished people in the Cite.

The India House will provide residential accommodation to Indian students in Paris and also offer welcome to students of other nationalities. The Government of India have contributed money for the building of the India House.

INDOLOGY DEPARTMENT IN YUGOSLAV UNIVERSITY

Union Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs inaugurated on June 24 the Department of Indology, opened recently by the Zagreb University in Yugoslavia. He thanked and congratulated the University authorities for their timely and

right decision and hoped that the department would emerge as the biggest centre of studies on India in Yugoslavia.

Prof. Kabir left Belgrade for Zurich on June 25 on his way back to India.

Indian Books For Madrid University

India's Charge d' Affaires in Spain, Shri Mohamad Yunus, presented to Segismundo Royo Villandva, Rector of the Madrid University, books on Indian history, art and culture on June 21 and described this gift as a small token of India's goodwill towards Spain.

The books will be used for a course on Indology started by the Madrid University last January.

INDIAN BOOKS FOR STOCKHOLM LIBRARY

It was announced in New Delhi on June 4 that India's Ambassador to Sweden, Shri Kewal Singh, presented on behalf of the Government of India a set of 160 books on India to the Royal Library of Stockholm on June 3. The books comprised works on Indian art, culture,

philosophy, literature, history, economics and politics.

U.S. GIFT FOR TIBETAN REFUGEES

A cheque for Rs. 474,000 (\$100,000) was presented by the United States Government in New Delhi on June 23 to the Government of India for use in projects for the rehabilitation of Tibetan refugees in India.

The cheque was handed by Acting Charge d' Affaires Edward P. Maffitt of the American Embassy to Mr. K.L. Mehta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

The American donation will be used for the construction of educational facilities and the purchase of equipment for schools to be built in Gangtok and Kalimpong. Approximately 1,000 Tibetan children of school age are expected to benefit from this project of the Government of India.

DEFENCE MINISTER LEAVES FOR GHANA

The Defence Minister, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, left New Delhi for Bombay, en route to London, on June 24.

After a three-day halt in London, the Minister would proceed to Accra to represent India at the Ghana Republic celebrations. Before returning to India about the end of the first week of July, Shri Krishna Menon would pay a goodwill visit to Nigeria.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

JUNE 16 To 30

June 16 — With a view to implementing the additional agreement signed on September 12, 1959, India and the U.S.S.R. sign a new agreement in New Delhi for technical collaboration in the exploration, development and production of oil and gas

— India is linked with the United Kingdom by the International Telex Service, first of its kind in India

17 — The foundation stone of India House is laid at the Cite Universitaire in Paris by the Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Dr. Humayun Kabir

20 — The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, reaches Moscow on a 15-day State visit to the U.S.S.R.

— The Vice-President, Dr. Radhakrishnan, takes the oath of office to discharge the functions of the President during the absence of Dr. Rajendra Prasad

— An agreement is signed in New Delhi between India and the U.S.A. for establishing the Indian Investment Centre in New Delhi

24 — The third unit of the tonnage oxygen plant is switched on at the Rourkela Steel Project

— Dr. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, inaugurates the Department of Indology in the Zagreb University in Yugoslavia

25 — India and Hungary sign a new Trade and Payments Agreement in New Delhi

27 — The Governments of India and Poland sign a shipping agreement in New Delhi under which mutual shipping services will be operated between the two countries once a month

— A six-member team from Pakistan arrives in New Delhi to discuss procedural details and arrangements for the exchange of data on river projects in East Pakistan and India

— The First Minister of Indonesia, Dr. Djuanda, makes a brief halt at New Delhi en route to Moscow

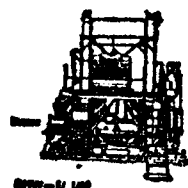
28 — An agreement is signed in New Delhi between India and the U.S. Technical Cooperation Mission, providing T.C.M. aid of Rs. 48.6 lakhs to the Indian Institute of Technology at Kanpur

— A three-day conference of State Law Ministers begins in Srinagar

— The six-day old strike of the crew of the Bombay Port Trust flotilla is called off

30 — The second open hearth furnace of the Durgapur Steel Works goes into production

— An agreement is signed in New Delhi under which the United States Technical Cooperation Mission will give a further aid of Rs. 40 lakhs to India for the eradication of Malaria, thus bringing the total T.C.M. aid to Rs. 38 crores for this purpose



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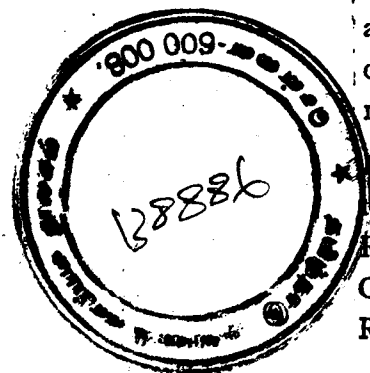
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Long, long ago, mathematicians in India hit upon the idea of using the zero. This led to the use of numerals—a revolution in the art of calculation. To live, man must count weigh and measure. Governments must draw up their budgets, business concerns must assess their performance and even individuals must keep a close watch on their earnings and expenditure. All this is done with the language of numbers based on the zero. For, without it, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to transact business on a national or a global scale, or work out the ambitious plans for economic regeneration.



Thanks to the use of numerals, it is possible to calculate that the consolidated after-tax profit from Standard-Vacuum's Marketing and Refining Operations during 1959 amounted to Rs. 120 lakhs, representing a 3.0 per cent return on the capital employed; or that Stanvac paid Rs. 2,687 lakhs as taxes and duties—an amount which was almost 22 times Stanvac's net income; or that Stanvac worked on a margin of profit of roughly 1.4 naye paise for every gallon of product sold.

Again, it is the language of numbers based on the zero that enables us to convey the fact that, during the year, Standard-Vacuum expended Rs. 89 lakhs in new additions to plants and equipment of its Marketing Operations, Rs. 102 lakhs on its Refining Operations and Rs. 106 lakhs for search of oil in West Bengal.



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Mr. Aichihiro Fujiyama, Foreign Minister of Japan, and Dr. P.K. Banerjee, Indian Charge d' Affairs in Tokyo, exchanging Instruments of Ratification of the Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation between Japan and India in Tokyo on June 13

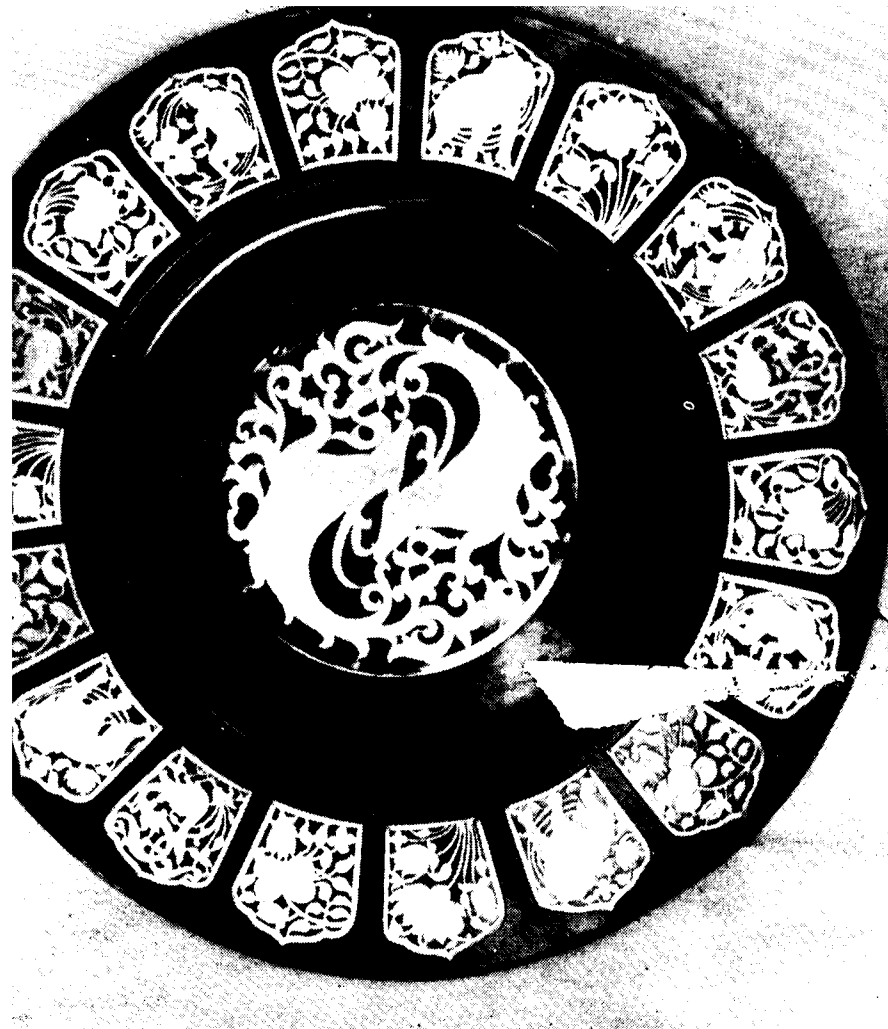


The shipping agreement between India and Poland being signed in New Delhi on June 27



The Union Law Minister, Shri A. K. Sen, addressing the State Law Ministers' Conference held in Srinagar on June 28





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The All India Handicrafts Board has awarded prizes totalling Rs. 7,500 to 19 craftsmen for the best entries in the second National Design Competition held by the Board last year. The dish in copper (oxidised) with motifs from Ajanta (left), designed by Shri D. N. Pitale of Bombay, has won the first prize for the best design in metal work. The wooden trays (below), designed by Shri Kanwal Krishna of New Delhi, earned the first prize in the wood work section.

