Indian Information

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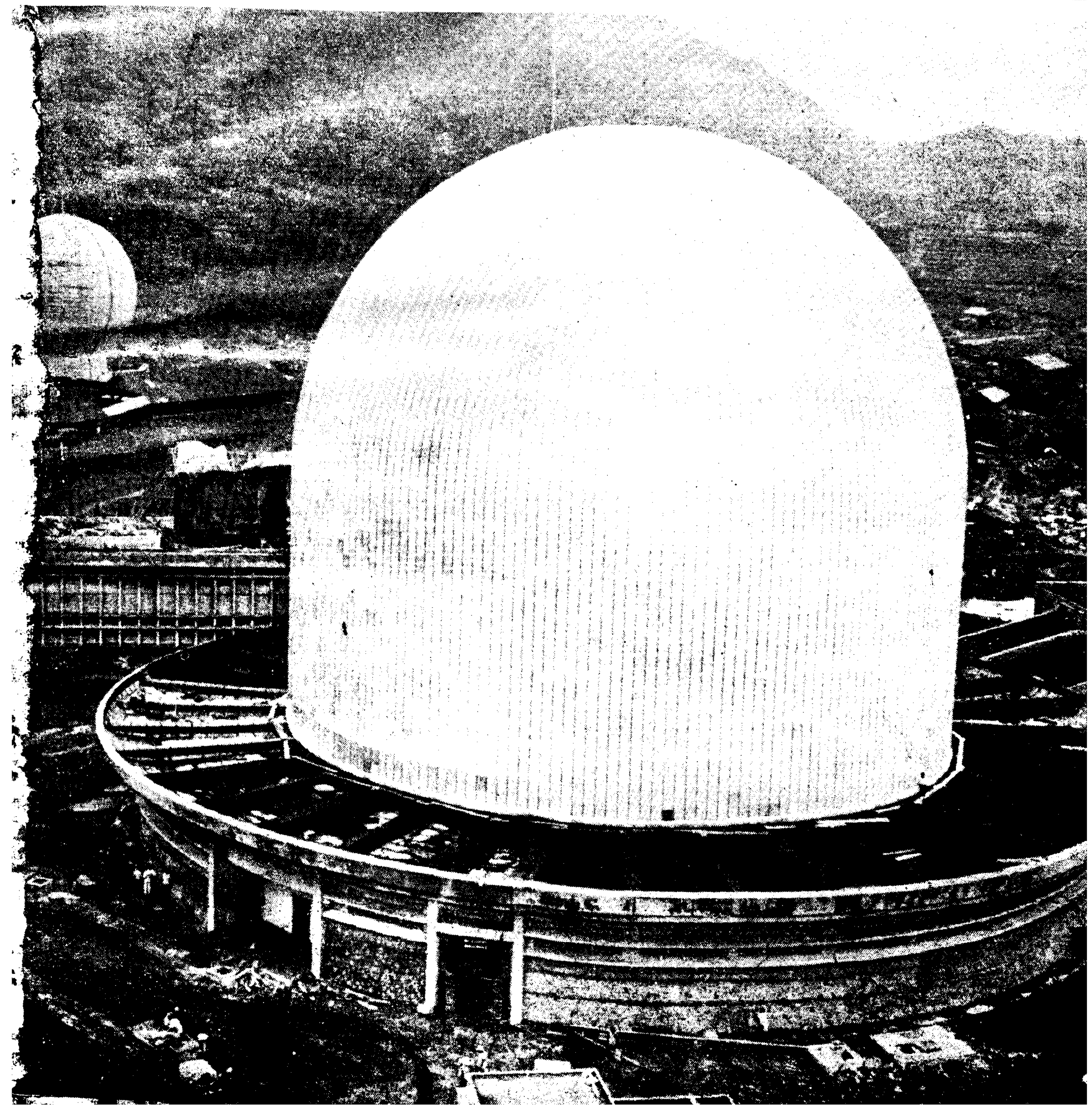

Mr. G.R. Powles, High Commissioner-designate of New Zealand in India, presenting his credentials to the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, at Rashtrapati Bhavan on July 8

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, with Gen. K.S. Thimayya, Chief of the Army Staff, and Shri Kushak Bakula, State Minister for Ladakh Affairs, on his arrival in Leh on July 4, during his five-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir

Maha Thiri Thudhamma Daw Khin Kyi (Madam Aung San), Ambassador-designate of Burma in India, on arrival at Palam airport on July 2

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Main Contents

COVER: The Canada-India reactor at Trombay, which became critical on July 10. The second in India, it is one of the largest isotope-producers in the world. The ball-shaped structure in the background is a 850,000-gallon prestressed concrete tank for supplying emergency cooling water to the reactor.

(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

ESSENTIAL SERVICES MAINTENANCE ORDINANCE, 1960

The President promulgated an Ordinance on July 8 to provide for the maintenance of certain essential services and the normal life of the community. The Ordinance came into force at once and is applicable to the whole of India. It does not, however, apply to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, except to the extent to which its provisions relate to Union employees.

The Ordinance which is called the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance, 1960, was published in a Gazette of India Extraordinary on July 8.

Under the Ordinance, the following services have been declared essential: (1) All postal, telegraph or telephone service; (2) any railway service or any other transport service for the carriage of passengers or goods by land, water or air; (3) any service connected with the operation or maintenance of airfields or aircraft; (4) any service connected with the loading, unloading, movement or storage of goods in any port; (5) any service connected with the clearance of goods or passengers through the Customs or with the prevention of smuggling; (6) any service in any mint or security press; (7) service in any Defence establishment of the Union Government; (8) and any service which the Central Government may by notification declare to be an essential service for the purpose of the Ordinance.

It is explained in the Ordinance that if the Central Government is satisfied that in the public interest it is necessary or expedient, it may, by Order, prohibit strike in any essential service. Such an Order shall be in force for six months but can be extended for another six months. When an Order banning strikes is issued, no person employed in any essential service, to which the Order relates, shall go or remain on strike. Also, any strike declared or started, before or after the Order is issued, shall be illegal.

In exercise of the powers conferred by the Ordinance the Union Home Ministry issued on July 9 Orders prohibiting strikes in services connected with the keeping, storage, movement, issue or distribution of foodstuffs and with the maintenance of electrical sub-stations or installations in any premises owned or held on lease by the Central Government. The Orders also apply to the supply and distribution of water or of sewage system and the disposal of sew-

Persons taking part in an illegal strike or instigating or financing it can be imprisoned and fined.

The Ordinance empowers any police officer to arrest without warrant any person who is reasonably suspected of having committed any offence under its provisions.

The Government of India, by an Order, prohibited strikes in the essential services enumerated in the Ordinance. Arrangements were also made for the maintenance of essential services such as posts and telegraphs. The State Governments were instructed about recruitment of personnel to essential services in the event of a strike.

PRIME MINISTER'S APPEAL TO STRIKERS

Certain Central Government employees launched a strike at midnight on July 11.

Earlier, in a broadcast to the Nation on July 7, the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, had appealed to the employees to desist from the proposed strike. The Prime Minister said in the broadcast:

"I returned today from Kashmir. I did not go there for a holiday or for reasons of health. That would have been improper when difficult and vital problems face the country. I went there chiefly to visit various areas in Ladakh and to see for myself how our people there, and especially our Defence Forces, were faring in these distant and difficult parts of our country. I have come back with two vivid pictures in my mind.

"One of these pictures is of the mighty Himalayas and their snow-covered and rugged peaks which have stood as sentinels on our borders for long ages past. I saw many a well-remembered and friendly peak and glaciers and snow-fields, as well as mighty mountains bare of almost everything except their dignity and strength and beauty. Part of this territory was across the great Himalayan range which effectively stopped the rain clouds from going across. And so we reach an area dry and almost rainless and above the altitude where trees grow. At the most, where there is a river, there is some grass or shrubs; otherwise it is bare land, stern and forbidding in its aspect, but friendly to those who look upon it with a friend's eyes.

"In these mountain ranges and passes, there stand the men of our Army and our Police Forces ever on guard, defending India's borders. The normal journey to them by land may take weeks or even months. Every kind of food or other supplies have to be sent to them by air, and our intrepid airmen carry these daily, braving every hazard of these high mountain regions where it is not possible to land except in a very few selected places. It gave me a thrill to go with these airmen, flying some times at 19,000 feet over snow-covered mountain peaks and keeping company with this magnificent scenery for hours.

"I came down in some places and met the men of our Army and Air Force, and Militia and Police. They were camped at various altitudes upto nearly fifteen thousand feet. Often, their outposts were within sight of unfriendly outposts on the other side. I talked to many of our people there, and the more I saw of them, the more I admired them, for they were as fine a body of young men as you would find anywhere in the wide world. Not a word of complaint came from them, and I saw them doing their work with efficiency and good humour. I came back proud of those countrymen of mine, who had been drawn from every part of India, even the far South, and I felt convinced that they were worthy of the great tasks allotted to them, the defence of India. If eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, as it is, here was vigilance, efficiency, determination and calm courage.

Threat Of Strike

"That was one picture. The other was of a very different kind. It was a threat of a general strike by some of the employees of the Central Government in various activities. I could not reconcile these two pictures for they contradicted each other. There was high courage even unto death on the one side, and there was on the other side an attempt, deliberate or unwitting, which could only lead to weakening our defences and our economy and in darkening the future for which we were labouring.

"How could it be, I wondered, that this should be so at a moment of trial and danger to our motherland. Have we forgotten the basic issues of our time, the dangers that threaten our country, the mighty effort that our people are making to get out of the rut of poverty and build a new India, the struggle for survival that is before us all? I could not believe that many of our people

could be careless of these basic issues. It must be through thoughtlessness that they have drifted into wrong courses. But, surely, their leaders and advisers ought to realise the consequences of what they were saying. We know that there are some amongst us who, perhaps, feel little the passion that is called patriotism or nationalism, and who would even welcome the weakening of our country. But others surely do not feel that way. There can never be any question of bargaining when the country's future or even existence are at stake.

"Much has been said about the proposed general strike. I do not wish to repeat it here because, in my opinion, where the interests and the safety and the future of India are concerned, no argument can outweigh them. And therefore, I believe that even if our Government was wrong in any decisions that it may have made, even so, nothing that has happened, or can happen, can justify such a general strike which may well deal a dangerous blow to our country.

Blow At The Nation

"Think of it. There our soldiers stand in the high mountains, braving the elements and human dangers. Are we to stop sending food and supplies to them? That would be the result of a successful strike. Are we to stop movements of foodgrains across our country to places where they are needed? Would that be a service to our people? Are we to stop or delay the movement of coal and many other articles which are necessary for the functioning of our industry, or even our agriculture? How can any argument justify this attack on our people and our country as a whole?

"Only the other day, the draft of the Third Five Year Plan was issued for public comment. Here is a Plan aiming high and demanding the utmost effort of all our people so that we may emerge from the valley of the shadow of poverty to the bright sunlight of welfare. Is the response to this to be to sabotage this whole effort and to delay indefinitely the realisation of our dream?

"That is what I would earnestly beg of you all to consider. For this is no small matter and it has nothing to do with the normal industrial disputes and strikes. A general strike of this kind or any kind is a blow at the nation and at the community as a whole and can never be justified. Even if, as I have said, Government has committed mistakes or errors, let us be clear about it. The proposed general strike is not a normal industrial dispute but something different in quality and different in intent. The success of it would bring no betterment for anybody but only chaotic conditions. Only those, therefore, who want to bring about these conditions in the country and thus to delay any progress in the foreseeable future can welcome it. I am sure if all these facts are kept in mind, all of us will realise the danger and the infinite harm to such a step.

Nature Of Demands

"But what are the reasons advanced for such a strike and what are the demands made? The principal demands are for a minimum wage which may go up to Rs. 125 and a linking of the dearness allowance with the price index. You know that a high-powered Pay Commission under the chairmanship of an eminent Judge of the Supreme Court was appointed, and they considered these matters at great length. It would in any event have been unbecoming for the Government or for anyone to discard the recommendations of this Pay Commission. We have accepted them, or their main recommendations which have a financial bearing. Within the limits of the Pay Commission's recommendations we are always prepared to consider other matters too. Even in regard to dearness allowance, the Pay Commission has laid down certain conditions for a review, and we accept their advice in this matter.

"According to the Pay Commission's advice, the minimum wage has been raised by Rs. 10 to Rs. 80, and many other benefits have also been conferred in regard to annual increments, etc. The acceptance of these recommendations of the Pay Commission is going to add Rs. 40 to 50 crores a year to the Central Government's expenditure. If we were to accept the demands being made upon us now, this would mean an additional 80 to possibly 100 crores of rupees per annum. Not only that, but it would have inevitable repercussions on the employees of State Governments whose salaries and emoluments compare unfavourably with those of Central Government employees. In effect, therefor, the additional expenditure might well be Rs. 150 crores per annum apart from what we have already agreed to. Thus, in the Five Year Plan, this would mean about Rs. 700 crores or more. Is this feasible? Is it even just from the point of view of the nation and the community? What would happen to all our planning and all our development if we agreed to this? Remember also that if we went beyond the recommendations of the Pay Commission in major matters, this might well involve us in the risk of starting an inflationary spiral which would take away any benefit which might come from a wage increase and would gravely impair the capacity of the country to implement the Third Plan.

Government Effort

"Manifestly no Government, whatever, its texture, could agree to such demands. We recognise fully that Government must be a good employer and that our employees must be given a fair deal and conditions of life which enable them to work effectively and happily. We have tried our best to ensure this and we shall go on doing so in the future. Ultimately, however, what we can afford depends on the expansion of our economy and the growth of our production and wealth. It depends on the hard work we put in. It is for this reason that we draw up our Five Year Plans which will bring increasing welfare to Government's employees as well as to the people at large.

"Government have a duty to their employees; they have also a duty to the community at large. So, indeed, have the employees of Government, for they are not merely salary and wage-earners. They have the privilege of being engaged in the high task of building a new India. They have to look upon their work in this light, and they have to consider their own welfare in terms of the welfare of the whole country. The moment they isolate themselves from the rest of the country and its growth, and think only narrowly of some immediate benefit even at the cost of the nation's growth, they have misconceived their work and they have ultimately done injury even to themselves.

"I do feel, therefore, that this proposal for a general strike is irresponsible and harmful. It may well let loose forces which will do great injury to our nation. More particularly, at this time when we have to face crucial problems, I cannot understand how any person can lightly think of a step of this kind, for it is a step not for construction or progress, but one which can only lead to destructive forces being at loose.

"I should like you to consider the benefits that come from the recommendations of the Pay Commission. We have already accepted the major ones, and we are prepared to accept a number of other recommendations which will be of considerable help to Government's employees — thus, in regard to gratuities, leave, travel concessions, house-rent and other matters. Indeed, we are prepared to give favourable consideration to any of the Pay Commission's recommendations involving financial consequences. We are also anxious that there should be a proper method for the implementation of the decisions made, and that arrangements should be made for joint consultation and negotiation between representatives of Government and employees in regard to implementation.

"Government is anxious to give a fair deal to its employees and to confer and consult them through appropriate machinery. Indeed, I think that this business of strikes in regard to services which are of essential importance to the public, is wholly out of date and improper. Government and its employees are the servants of the public, and none of us has a right to inconvenience or do harm to the great public whom we are supposed to serve. Therefore, we should devise adequate machinery for the quick and satisfactory settlement of any disputes that may arise from time to time, and not rely on these out of date methods of strike or lock-out. We talk of peace in the world. It would be an irony of fate if we cannot keep peace in our own country and settle our points of difference in a civilised and peaceful manner.

"I appeal to you, therefore, to look at this broad picture of our great country in travail, trying with all its might to march forward to prosperity. Do not do anything which might come in the way of this great adventure. And remember always those countrymen of ours who stand as sentinel on those high mountain peaks, relying on us here to back them up and to give them all the help and support that we can. Let this idea of a general strike be given up. Let us adopt other methods of peaceful consultation to settle such problems as may arise."

ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE STRIKE

Following is an analysis of the issues involved in the strike launched by certain Central Government employees at midnight on July 11. (The strike was called off unconditionally on July 16).

Persistent demands were made by certain associations of Central Government employees in 1957 for an addition to their dearness allowance and for certain other improvements in their conditions of service. Government, in pursuance of their firmly held belief that employer-employee relations in a planned economy should be adjusted by mutual negotiation and, if need be, impartial and independent investigation, rather than by a trial of strength, resorted to the accepted course of referring the whole matter to a high-powered Commission presided over by a Judge of the Supreme Court.

The Commission viewed the problems of the employees sympathetically and recommended an interim relief of Rs. 5 per month to the lower-paid employees—a concession which cost the public exchequer Rs. 12 crores per annum. After an elaborate and painstaking enquiry, in the course of which every point of view was carefully and sympathetically considered, the Commission submitted a report embodying recommendations of a far-reaching nature. That the implementation of the Commission's recommendations is estimated to cost Government immediately about Rs. 44 crores and ultimately about Rs. 55 crores is itself unmistakable evidence that, taken as a whole, the remuneration and conditions of service of the employees have undergone substantial improvement.

Minimum Remuneration Raised

The minimum remuneration of the lowest category of Central Government employees, which was Rs. 70 per month before the setting up of the Commission, will now be Rs. 80 per month. The rate of annual increment of these employees has been raised from half-a-rupee to one rupee. The employees will also get increments for a larger number of years than at present. Thus, in place of the existing scale of Rs. 30-½-35, with a dearness allowance of Rs. 40 (exclusive of interim relief), a Class IV employee will now be entitled to a scale of Rs. 70-1-85 with a dearness allowance of Rs. 10 per month. The minimum total remuneration has thus gone up by Rs. 10 and the maximum by Rs. 20. Similarly, an employee on the existing scale of Rs. 35—50 with a dearness allowance of Rs. 40 (exclusive of interim relief) will now be entitled to a scale of Rs. 75—95 with a dearness allowance of Rs. 10 per month. He too gains Rs. 10 at the minimum and Rs. 15 at the maximum. If the interim relief of Rs. 5 is set off, the increases mentioned above will be reduced by Rs. 5 in each case.

The wide extent of benefit arising from the increase in emoluments as a result of the Pay Commission's recommendations may be gauged from the fact that on the Railways alone, which account for 11.5 lakhs of employees, the immediate increase in emoluments (after setting off interim relief) will range from Rs. 5.50 per month to about 5 lakhs of employees in the lowest Class IV grade to Rs. 25 per month to employees in the highest grade of Class III. Those in intermediate grades will get increases varying from Rs. 5.24 to Rs. 13.27 per month. While the extent of increase will naturally vary from category to category, *all* Government employees in these categories, with insignificant exceptions, stand to gain through an immediate increase in emoluments.

Benefits from Merger of D.A. with Pay

The absorption of the bulk of the dearness allowance in basic pay gives two important and substantial benefits to employees. The first is higher pensionary benefits, and the second, higher rates of salary during certain types of leave. It has been estimated that the increase in retirement benefits as a result of the revision of pay and allowances is about 50% in the case of the lowest grade of Class IV employees and about 10% in the case of the highest grade of Class III employees, the benefits to other categories varying between these two limits. Retirement benefits have been further liberalized by the new provision which allows the period of temporary service, followed by permanency, to count in full instead of half as at present.

House-rent and City Compensatory Allowances

In the matter of house-rent and city compensatory allowances, the rates for employees in the lower pay groups have been improved. In a 'B' class city, for instance, an employee getting Rs. 30 on the existing scale of pay is entitled to Rs. 7 as house-rent allowance and Rs. 3 as compensatory allowance, *i.e.* a total of Rs. 10. Under the new terms he will get Rs. 7.50 as house-rent allowance and Rs. 5 as city compensatory allowance, *i.e.*, a total of Rs. 12.50. An employee getting Rs. 60 on the existing scale of pay and who has hitherto been getting a total of Rs. 15 between these two allowances, will, in future, get a total of Rs. 20.50 per month. In pay ranges above Rs. 100 Government have modified the Pay Commission's recommendations in favour of the employees in certain respects. For instance, an employee on a range of pay between Rs. 100 and Rs. 200 in Bombay and Calcutta would have got, under the Pay Commission's recommendations, a fixed house-rent allowance of Rs. 20 per month, but under the modification made by Government he will receive 15% of the pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 20. Hence if his pay is Rs. 199 he stands to gain Rs. 10 per month. If his pay is Rs. 250 he will gain Rs. 12.50. Similarly in the matter of city compensatory allowance in Bombay and Calcutta, the ceiling of Rs. 17.50 imposed for employees drawing between Rs. 150 and Rs. 300 has been done away with in favour of a uniform rate of 8% of pay. Thus an employee getting a salary of about Rs. 300 per month will get Rs. 24 per month instead of Rs. 17.50.

Other Benefits

In a number of other respects, too, the Pay Commission's recommendations have led to improvements for the employee. Some of these have just been announced. They include the following:

(a) extension of leave travel concessions to such industrial and work-charged staff as are entitled to regular leave;
(b) extension of leave travel concessions between the home and the nearest Railway Station;
(c) increase in the amount of minimum gratuity admissible to the family of a permanent employee who dies before completing 5 years' service but after completing one year of service to 6 months' pay instead of a maximum of 2 months' pay at present;
(d) reduction of the maximum house-rent recoverable from employees drawing a salary of less than Rs. 150 per month from 10% of pay to 7½%; and
(e) entitlement to travelling allowance for the journey back to home in the case of retiring Government servants under certain conditions.

Up-grading of Posts

An avenue for improvement in the prospects of employees, which is not readily visible from the pay scales recommended by the Pay Commission, is the up-grading of posts. In the Railways alone over 40,000 employees have benefited by the decisions recently taken as a result of mutual negotiations on this subject. 12,000 drivers will, by virtue of up-grading, get Rs. 15 more per month, 8,000 shunters Rs. 5 per month, Section Controllers Rs. 21 per month and so on.

It is true that in a few matters such as the number of public holidays, the extent of casual leave permissible, and the number of weekly hours of work, the recommendations of the Commission are somewhat less liberal than the existing terms of service. The Commission recommended that certain amenities applicable to Railwaymen, such as the number of free passes available, the extent of free transport of household effects on transfer, etc., should be reduced to some extent. As the Pay Commission's recommendations are to be taken as an integral whole, there would ordinarily be no case for reconsideration of these matters. Already, however, the Railways have announced that they have no intention of reducing the number of passes allowed to employees.

From this necessarily brief survey of some of the benefits accruing from the Pay Commission's recommendations it will be seen that these recommendations are far-reaching and not so devoid of substance as has been made out in certain quarters.

Employees' Demands and Government's Position

Employees have put forward six demands, the first of which is that dearness allowance should be linked to the cost of living on the basis of the First Pay Commission's recommendations. The basis suggested by the First Pay Commission was found to be clearly unworkable and was rejected by Government in the years immediately following the implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

Linking of D.A. with Price Index

The Second Pay Commission has considered at length the question of automatic linking of the dearness allowance with the consumer price index. The Commission came to the conclusion that there should not be any such automatic linking. They observed as follows:

"The economic consequences of compensation, if given, may also vary according to the state of the economy at the particular point of time. If the inflationary pressure is already severe, a further addition to incomes may aggravate the situation. Moreover, the claim of employees for compensation is only one of the claims on the financial resources of the Government, and we do not wish to make a recommendation which would, by implication, accord priority to that claim over all other competing claims, including those of investment essential for the country's advancement, and of expansion of social benefits which the employees of Government would share with the rest of the community. We believe a degree of flexibility to be essential for efficient management of a developing economy with its numerous social and other complexities and variables, and its rapidly changing situations; and it seems to us that a rigid, over-simple arrangement for adjustment of Government servants' remuneration to rise in prices would go ill with these desiderata."

The Pay Commission, however, observed that a substantial and persistent rise in the price index normally created a *prima facie* case for compensation and that if during a period of 12 months the consumer price index remained, on an average, 10 points above 115 (1949-100), Government should review the position and consider whether an increase in the dearness allowance should be allowed and if so at what rate. Government have accepted this recommendation and would be prepared to make a review of the entire position when the situation mentioned in the Report arises. It would not be proper to reject the recommendation of the Pay Commission and to substitute in its place a formula which was specially considered by the Pay Commission and rejected for cogent reasons.

Question of Minimum Wage

The second demand is that a need-based minimum wage should be fixed for the lowest category of employees in the light of the principles enunciated at the 15th Indian Labour Conference and that this should be a figure approaching, if not equalling, Rs. 125 per month. This demand too was elaborately examined by the Pay Commission. The Commission kept in view the principles enunciated at the Indian Labour Conference, and worked out a minimum wage which it felt was in consonance with those principles and with the economy of the nation. The difference between the figures mentioned by the employees and those worked out by the Commission appears to be in the choice of the particular diet which should be taken into account in making the calculations. Though the Indian Labour Conference recommended that the minimum food requirements should be calculated as recommended by Dr. Aykroyd for an average Indian adult of moderate activity, it did not say which one of the three diets approved by him, namely (1) the optimum diet, (2) the adequate or balanced diet, and (3) the improved diet, should be adopted for the purpose of calculation of the minimum wage. It is obviously wrong to assume that the balanced diet, which has apparently led to the calculation of a wage of Rs. 125 per month, was at all under the contemplation of the Indian Labour Conference. Moreover, the resolution adopted by the Indian Labour Conference itself stated that "wherever the minimum wages fixed are below the norms recommended above, it would be incumbent on the parties concerned to justify the circumstances which prevented adherence to the aforesaid norms". The Pay Commission has fully explained the reasons why it has been unable to go up to the figure mentioned by the employees.

While Government, therefore, cannot accept the position that the Pay Commission has done something contrary to the recommendations of the Indian Labour Conference, they must point out that the burden of the substantially higher minimum wage demanded by the employees will be very heavy and would be such as to upset the normal and developmental budgets of the country during the period of the Third Five Year Plan. If the demand for a minimum wage of Rs. 125 per month is accepted, this would mean an additional expenditure of Rs. 80 to 100 crores per annum for Central Government employees alone. It would also immediately have repercussions on the employees of State Governments whose salaries and emoluments compare unfavourably with those of Central Government employees. The minimum emoluments of the lowest class of employees prevailing in the various States vary from about Rs. 45 per month to about Rs. 70 per month. Already the gap between the emoluments of the State Government servants and those of Central Government servants is sufficiently wide. Any further widening of the gap must inevitably lead to demands from State Government employees, which State Governments will find it difficult to satisfy. If then the total additional expenditure on the remuneration of Government employees is of the order of say, Rs. 150 crores per annum, the extent of damage which such a concession is bound to inflict on the Third Five Year Plan can easily be imagined. Moreover, the increasing of the remuneration of Government employees by so substantial a margin must inevitably start an all-round inflationary spiral which must affect every citizen in the country. The choice before Government is, therefore, whether to placate their own employees without regard to the consequences of such action to the public at large, or whether to ensure that all sections of the public, including Government employees, got a fair deal as a result of the economic policies of Government.

Other Demands

Two other demands made by employees relate to the maintenance of existing privileges, rights and amenities and the setting up of suitable machinery, with provision for arbitration, for the implementation of the Pay Commission's recommendations. While Government have agreed not to make any changes in the recommendations made by the Pay Commission, they cannot obviously give a blanket guarantee that in the process of implementation of the Pay Commission's recommendations, no single person will be affected in any respect whatsoever. The primary task of the Pay Commission has been to rationalise existing conditions of the different categories of employees. The Commission's recommendations have to be taken as a whole. Government have offered to set up suitable machinery for consultation in the process of implementation of the Pay Commission's recommendations.

The fifth demand relates to the acceptance of the principle of arbitration in the relations between

Government and their employees. The setting up of Pay Commissions at reasonable intervals is, in substance, evidence of acceptance of such a principle. The Pay Commission has made certain recommendations relating to the setting up of Whitley Councils and the resolving of disputes which are not settled by mutual consultation. Already there is an adequate negotiating machinery on the Railways and in the Posts and Telegraphs and Defence Departments. Government are carefully examining the possibility of the setting up of an adequate machinery for the effective and satisfactory settlement of disputes that may arise from time to time between them and their employees.

The last demand of the employees is that certain rules of special application to Civil Servants which curtail the right of association, and certain others which permit of the removal of employees from service for reasons of security of the State without going through the normal procedure, should be repealed. These matters do not arise directly from the recommendations of the Pay Commission. They have received the consideration of Government in the past and will continue to do so in future so as to ensure that no injustice is caused to any individual or group of individuals. It seems wholly unnecessary to mix up these administrative matters with the implementation of the Pay Commission's recommendations.

OFFICIALS MEET ON SINO-INDIAN BOUNDARY ISSUE

In a Press Note issued on July 7, the Ministry of External Affairs has announced that the Chinese and Indian officials meeting in Peking in accordance with the provision of the joint communique of the Prime Ministers of China and India issued on April 25,1960, have, from June 15 to July 6, held 10 meetings. After preliminary exchange regarding scope of their work, the two sides have agreed on an agenda pattern to be followed in the examination, checking and study of factual material relevant to the Sino-Indian boundary, on which each side relies in support of its stand. The officials of the two sides are now dealing with the first item of the agenda: location and natural features of the boundary, and are engaged in obtaining clarifications of the descriptions of the alignments provided by the two sides.

The Indian officials left New Delhi for Peking on June 6.

Prime Minister's Visit To Ladakh

Adequate arrangements had been made to combat new dangers to the frontiers of the country, said Shri Nehru in Leh while replying to a civic reception held in his honour on July 4. Shri Nehru said that the new dangers should not frighten the people, but should, on the contrary, make them more watchful. India was a big home where all the people from the Himalayas to the Cape Comorin lived and nobody should entertain any fears as the country was determined to defend its frontiers with all its might. The country's mountains had defended the people for centuries and the time had come when the people had to defend these mountains. Shri Nehru further said that the defence personnel he met displayed confidence in themselves and in their ability to guard the borders.

He visited Chasul and other forward areas along the Indo-Tibetan border on July 5.

The Prime Minister arrived in Srinagar on July 2 on a 5-day visit to Kashmir and Indo-Tibetan border in Ladakh. He returned to New Delhi on July 7.

Canada-India Atomic Reactor

The atomic reactor at Trombay, Bombay, a joint Indo-Canadian project under the Colombo Plan costing about Rs. 10 crores, reached criticality on July 10. A group of Indian nuclear scientists and members of a special operating staff consisting of scientists and engineers from Canada were keeping a constant watch for chain reactions from the reactor on the outskirts of Bombay.

This reactor will be one of the most powerful radio-isotope producers in the world, capable of producing high activity radio-isotopes in large amounts. It will make India self-sufficient in all reactor-produced radio-isotopes and there will also be a margin for export. The annual output of cobalt-60, which is very useful in cancer therapy, is expected to be worth at least Rs. 60 lakhs.

This is the second reactor to go into operation in India, the first being the 'Apsara'.

CONFERENCE ON CENSUS DATA

A two-day conference of the Directors of State Statistical Bureaus ended in New Delhi on July 13. It was agreed that in the forthcoming Census the emphasis should be laid on the economic data in view of the development programmes that the Government had initiated or would plan. There were to be five economic questions: (1) working as cultivators; (2) working of agricultural labourers; (3) working at household industry; (4) doing other work, and (5) activity if not working.

In all tables relating to area, the conference decided that the area should be in square kilometres side by side with the corresponding figure in square miles. The tables for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would not be prepared for an individual caste or tribe, but certain special occupations like scavenging, cleaning, tanning and curing of skins and hides, would be specially tabulated.

In June last, representatives of the Central Ministries and Planning Commission also met to discuss the tables so as to divide the information collected under heads, like 'economic', 'social' and 'population'.

The tables are meant to enable the Government to draw upon the information collected during the Census as best as possible. Also, they will give a basic economic data so that comparability could be achieved in the future.

President Returns From U.S.S.R.

The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, returned to New Delhi on July 5 after the end of his two-week State visit to the Soviet Union. During his tour the President visited Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Sochi, Stalinabad, Samarkand and Tashkent. After his plane took off from Tashkent the President sent messages of greetings to the Soviet President Mr. Brezhnev and the Prime Minister, Mr. Khrushchev. In his message to Mr. Brezhnev, Dr. Rajendra Prasad expressed the hope that his visit to the Soviet Union would further promote the friendly relations between the two countries. To Mr. Khrushchev, the President said him success in his efforts. He also wished the Soviet peoples happiness and prosperity.

RECOGNITION TO TWO PARTIES WITHDRAWN

A Press Note issued by the Election Commission on July 2 says that the Commission has decided to withdraw the recognition accorded to the two political parties, namely the All-India Scheduled Castes Federation and the Maha Gujarat Janata Parishad, and amended its notification dated September 26, 1959 accordingly.

On the basis of the electoral support obtained by them at the last general elections, the All-India Scheduled Castes Federation was recognised as a State political party in the States of Andhra Pradesh, former Bombay, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, and the Maha Gujarat Janata Parishad in the former State of Bombay, for the purpose of allotting reserved symbols to the candidates sponsored by these two parties at subsequent elections.

The All-India Scheduled Castes Federation dissolved itself as a political party at an open convention held at Nagpur in October 1957. The Maha Gujarat Janata Parishad has also ceased to function as a political party with the coming into existence of the Gujarat State.

Allotment Of Election Symbols

According to a notification issued by the Election Commission on July 12, the Jharkhand Party, Bihar, will now be able to use exclusively the election symbol 'Cock', which it earlier shared with the Maha Gujarat Janata Parishad, Bombay.

Similarly, the Indian National Democratic Congress, Madras, has been exclusively allotted the election symbol 'Elephant', which was earlier shared by the All-India Scheduled Castes Federation also.

AWARDS FOR GALLANTRY

According to the Gazette of India dated July 9, the President has awarded five medals for gallantry.

The Police and Fire Services Medal has gone to Shri Jagdish Singh, Constable (deceased) and Shri Muzaffar Husain, Sub-Inspector (deceased), and the Police Medal to Shri Kartar Singh, Company Commander, Special Armed Force, Shri Hari Raj Singh, Sub-Inspector (deceased) and Shri Battina Ramaiah, Constable.

All the five officers exhibited courage and commendable devotion to duty at great personal risk.

The personal courage shown by Company Commander Kartar Singh by rushing to the areas where the danger was greatest, gave strength to his men who not only succeeded in repulsing a number of attacks from the most dreaded dacoit gang of the Chambal ravines, but also succeeded in killing the gang leader Rupa and his first lieutenant.

Three posthumous awards have been given to Sub-Inspector Muzaffar Husain, who shot dead a leader of dacoits near Shahjahanpur, Sub-Inspector Hari Raj Singh who faced bravely a mob of criminals and to Constable Jagdish Singh for fighting a group of criminals single-handed.

Constable Battina Ramaiah of Andhra Pradesh has been decorated for exhibiting leadership and courage in holding the raiders at bay, even though hit by a bullet.

Planning & Finance

DRAFT OUTLINE OF THIRD FIVE YEAR PLAN

The following are some of the goals which the Planning Commission have set before the country according to the Draft Outline of India's Third Plan released on July 6.

A total investment of Rs. 10,200 crores in the economy—Rs. 6,200 crores in the public sector and Rs. 4,000 crores in the private sector; a plan outlay of Rs. 7,250 crores in the public sector; a rise of national income of over 5 per cent per annum; a production of 100 to 105 million tons of foodgrains and a capacity target of 10 million tons of steel ingots; an increase in the total generating capacity of power from 5.8 million kw. to 11.8 million kw; creation of additional employment for 13.5 million people; extension of the community projects and co-operative movements to cover all the villages in the country; free and compulsory education for all children in the 6-11 years age group and the provision of minimum amenities to all rural areas including drinking water, roads linking each village to the nearest main road or railway station and a village school building, which may also serve as a community centre and provide facilities for the village library.

FRAMEWORK

The Outline presents the Third Plan in its broad framework. It takes into consideration the present needs of the national economy, progress realised since Independence and the perspective of development during the next 15 years or so.

The Outline, it is explained, has a two-fold purpose. It is intended to serve as a basis for consideration by Parliament and State Legislatures and all sections of public opinion of the objectives and priorities of the Third Plan and the targets to be achieved in different fields of development, and also to give an indication of the magnitude of the national effort needed in the coming years. It is also intended to assist the Central Ministries and the State Governments in working out their more detailed proposals for the final version of the Third Plan to be submitted to the Parliament early next year. All estimates in the Outline are necessarily tentative and will be reviewed in the next few months in the light of further discussions and comments.

FIRST AND SECOND PLANS

Over the past decade, through the Five Year Plans, India has endeavoured to harness her natural resources and energies of her people to the tasks of national development. From the beginning, it has been stressed that the objective of planned development was not only to increase production and attain higher levels of living, but also to secure a social and economic order based on the values of freedom and democracy in which "justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of the national life." The First and Second Five Year Plans which were formulated with these objectives in view marked the first phase in this endeavour.

The First Plan sought to strengthen the economy at the base, by repairing the damage caused by the War and the Partition and by establishing the basic social and economic development according to the Directive Principles of State Policy laid down in the Constitution. Among the important steps initiated in this plan, the community development movement and the programmes for Land Reform deserve special notice. In continuing and further developing the approach set out in the First Plan, the Second Plan aimed at a larger increase in production, in investment and in employment. It placed emphasis on accelerating the rate of growth of the national economy, building up basic industries, increasing employment opportunities, reducing the disparities in income and wealth and preventing the concentration of economic power. The national income increased by $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ per annum in the First Plan and 4% per annum in the Second Plan.

AIMS OF THE THIRD PLAN

The Third Plan represents another important phase in the development of the country's economy. Its broad aims are:

(i) to secure during the next 5-year period a rise in national income of over 5% per annum, the pattern of investment being designed also to sustain this rate of growth during subsequent plan periods;

(ii) to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains and increase agricultural production to meet the requirements of industry and exports;

(iii) to expand basic industries like steel, fuel and power and establish machine-building capacity, so that the requirements of further industrialisation can be met within a period of 10 years or so mainly from the country's own resources;

(iv) to utilise to the fullest extent possible the manpower resources of the country and to ensure a substantial expansion in employment opportunities; and

(v) to bring about a reduction of inequalities in income and wealth and a more even distribution of economic power.

SELF-SUSTAINING GROWTH

One of principal objectives of the Third Plan is to secure a marked advance towards self-sustaining growth. Basically self-sustaining growth implies that savings and investment in the economy rise sufficiently to secure a high rate of growth of income on a continuing basis. An important aspect of this problem, however, is that of creating within the country the capacity to produce the capital goods and equipment necessary to support the scale of investment proposed. In determining the pattern of investment in the Third Plan, this consideration has been kept in mind.

Self-sustaining growth can only be achieved by balanced development both in agriculture and industry. Incomes and employment cannot rise sufficiently without industrialisation. On the other hand an industrial revolution cannot be achieved without a radical improvement in agricultural productivity. The Third Plan calls for effort both to enlarge the capital base and to raise the output of food and raw materials.

In a country in which there is under-utilisation of man-power, expansion of employment opportunities becomes an important objective in itself. Increased production itself is to some extent dependent upon a better utilisation of the available manpower. Considerable emphasis is, therefore, given in the Plan to increase employment opportunities.

SOCIALIST PATTERN

Another important objective of the Plan is to devise means for reducing inequalities in incomes and wealth, the aim being to bring about a 'socialist pattern of society' in which all citizens will have the fullest opportunity for a rich and diverse life and for the development of their full potentialities. The term 'socialist pattern of society' implies that the basic criterion in determining social policies and the lines of the economic advance should be not private profit or the interests of a few but the good of the community as a whole. Reduction in inequalities in income and wealth has to be achieved through a large variety of measures and institutional changes undertaken as part of the Plan. The pattern of investment, the direction to economic activity given by State action, the impact of fiscal devices used for mobilising resources, the expansion of social services, the institutional changes in the sphere of land ownership and management, and growth of the co-operative sector under State sponsorship—all these determine the points at which new incomes will be generated and the manner of their distribution. It is the essence of a planned approach that all these measures are harmonised and brought to a focus in a manner that would ensure an enlargement of incomes and opportunities at the lower and a reduction of wealth and privilege at the upper end.

Population Problem

According to latest estimates, the population in 1966 will be 480 million instead of 434 million assumed in the Second Plan Report. In an economy with low levels of income and consumption, high rates of population growth severely limit the pace of economic development. It is, therefore, essential to stabilise the population. The accelerated growth of population also emphasises the urgency of more rapid economic development.

Priority for Agriculture

The Plan emphasises that in the scheme of development the first priority necessarily belongs to agriculture. The importance of achieving self-sufficiency in foodgrains and meeting the requirements of industry and export is one of the major aims of the Third Plan.

Agricultural production has to be increased to the highest levels feasible so that incomes and levels of living, as the rural population rises, should keep pace with incomes in other sectors.

The Plan provides for an outlay in the public sector of Rs. 1025 crores for agriculture and community development and Rs. 650 crores for major and medium irrigation. Investment by the private sector (exclusive of assistance received from the public sector) is estimated to be of the order of Rs. 800 crores. As the Plan proceeds, if larger resources are needed for assuring more rapid advance within the rural economy, specially through the fuller use of manpower, these will be made available.

Agricultural production is to be stepped up by 30 to 33% depending upon the targets which may be finally decided as a result of work on area agricultural plans. The targets of annual production proposed for some of the important agricultural commodities are as follows:—

	1960-61 (Expected)	1965-66 (Target)
	(In million tons)	
Foodgrains	75	100-105
Oil seeds	7.2	9.2-9.5
Sugarcane (in terms of gur)	7.2	9.0-9.2
Cotton	5.4*	7.2*
Jute	5.5*	6.5*

(*Figures indicate million bales)

In addition, measures will be taken to increase the production of food articles, like fruits and vegetables, milk, fish, meat, eggs, as also of other commodities like coconut, arecanut, cashewnuts, pepper, cardamom, tobacco, lac and timber.

The target proposed for foodgrains would allow for consumption of about 15 ozs. of cereals and 3 ozs. of pulses per capita per day, besides providing some margin against emergencies. The target for raw cotton is expected to be sufficient to provide about 17.5 yards of cotton textile per annum per capita and in addition, allow for some exports.

The net irrigated area is proposed to be expanded to about 90 million acres by the end of the Third Plan as against 70 million acres expected at the end of the Second Plan. About 40 million acres will be covered by dry farming techniques. Soil conservation measures are to be extended to an additional area of 13 million acres. The consumption of nitrogenous fertilisers is to be increased from 360,000 tons in terms of nitrogen in 1960-61 to one million tons in 1965-1966. Plant protection measures will be extended to 75 million acres. The community development programme will be extended to the entire rural area by October 1963; the programme of co-operative development will be intensified and finance through co-operative agencies is expected to play a considerable part in increasing agricultural production.

Large-scale Industry

A high priority is being given to industry, power and transport because development in these fields is vital for lifting the economy to a higher level and for its accelerated growth. Beyond a stage, the growth of agriculture and the development of human resources alike hinge upon advances made in industry. Public sector outlay in large scale industry and mineral development will be Rs. 1,500 crores and private sector investment (exclusive of assistance from public sector) is expected to be Rs. 1,000 crores.

Special emphasis is placed on heavy industries which will help make the economy self-sustaining, namely, steel and machine building and the manufacture of producer goods. Necessary measures are also proposed to be taken to expand the production of consumer goods.

Developments in iron and steel are linked with the capacity target of 10.2 million tons in terms of steel ingots and 1.5 million tons of pig iron for sale. The additional capacity and output in this field are expected to be realised almost entirely in the public sector. The Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur steel plants are proposed to be expanded, contributing jointly 5.5 million tons of steel ingots. The Plan also provides for a fourth steel plant in the public sector to be started at Bokaro.

Proposals for machinery and engineering industries during the Third Plan include heavy machine building plant, foundry forge, coal mining machinery plant, heavy machine tool factory, doubling of the output of Hindustan Machine Tools at Bangalore, expansion of Heavy Electrical Project in Bhopal, two additional heavy electrical projects and a scheme for the production of high pressure boilers and

precision instruments. Machinery manufacturing programmes in the private sector are expected to supplement considerably the efforts of the public sector. Near self-sufficiency is expected in regard to textile, sugar, cement and paper machinery.

The production of nitrogenous fertilisers is to be stepped up from 210 thousand tons of nitrogen at the end of the Second Plan to 1 million tons at the end of the Third Plan and of phosphatic fertilisers from 70 thousands tons to 400-500 thousand tons in terms of P 205.

Production of coal is to be increased to 97 million tons at the end of the Third Plan as against the target of 60 million tons at the end of the Second Plan.

On the basis of the present proved reserves, the Naharkatiya area is expected to produce 2.75 million tons of crude oil per year. Provision has been made for processing the Naharkatiya crude oil and also for further exploration with a view to obtaining additional production of crude oil from Cambay and other areas where prospects appear to be favourable.

Among the other important industrial targets which have been proposed are:—

	Annual Production 1960-61	1965-66
Cement	8.8	13.0 M.T.
Sugar	2.5	3.0 M.T.
Paper	0.32	0.7 M.T.
Sulphuric Acid	0.4	1.25 M.T.
Caustic Soda	0.12	0.34 M.T.
Mill Cloth (cotton)	5000.0	5800,0 M.Y.
Aluminium	17.0	75.0 Th.T.
Bicycles (organised sector)	1050.0	2000.0 Th.
Sewing Machines	300.0	450.0 Th.
Automobiles	53.5	100.0 Th.

(M.T. = Million Tons; M.Y. = Million Yards; Th.T. = Thousand Tons; Th. = Thousand).

Village And Small Industries

There is considerable emphasis on the development of village and small industries. Provision has been made for positive forms of assistance like facilities for training, technical know-how, supply of credit and raw materials, etc. Production of cloth in the decentralised sector is proposed to be increased from about 2,600 million yards in 1960-61 to 3,500 million yards in 1965-66. The number of industrial estates is expected to increase from 60 in the Second Plan to 360 in the Third Plan. In the programmes for small scale industries, the emphasis will be on promoting their development in small towns and rural areas and on linking them up more closely with large scale industries as ancillary or feeder units.

Power

As regards power, it is proposed to increase the total generating capacity from 5.8 million kw at the end of the Second Plan to 11.8 million kw at the end of the Third Plan. The programme for power includes a project for nuclear power generation of 300 thousand kw. It is expected that 15,000 additional towns and villages will be electrified during the Third Plan bringing the total to 34,000.

Transport And Communications

It is expected that the railways will be able to carry goods traffic to the extent of about 235 million tons in 1965-66 as against 162 million tons in 1960-61. One thousand two hundred miles of new railway lines will be constructed. Under the road developmnet programme, it is proposed to expand surfaced roads from 144,000 miles in 1960-61 to 164,000 miles in 1965-66. The expansion of road transport will be mainly in the private sector. It is estimated that the number of commercial vehicles will go up from about 200,000 to about 300,000. The shipping target proposes to add about 200,000 G.R.T. to the tonnage of 900,000 G.R.T. expected to be achieved at the end of the Second Plan.

Social Services

It is proposed to provide for free and compulsory primary education in the age group 6-11 years. Making allowance for slow progress in women's education in certain backward areas, it is estimated that the proportion of pupils to the number of children will go up from 60 to 80 per cent in age group 6-11, from 23 to 30 per cent in the age group 11-14 and from 12 to 15 per cent in the age group 14-17. The total number of students in schools will go up from 41 million in 1960-61 to 60 million in 1965-66.

Scientific and technical education will be given increasing support. The intake capacity of engineering colleges and polytechnics will increase from 37,200 at the end of the Second Plan to 53,500 at the end of the Third Plan.

The number of registered doctors will increase from 84,000 to 103,000, of hospitals and dispensaries from 12,600 to 14,600 and of primary health centres from 2,800 to 5,000. The number of family planning centres will increase from 1,800 to 8,200.

Programmes for low income group housing, housing for industrial workers, slum clearance and slum improvement and acquisition and development of land for housing will be expanded and finance for housing will be provided through Housing Finance Corporations.

The Third Plan includes a programme of local development works for enabling all rural areas to provide themselves with certain minimum amenities. These are (a) adequate supply of drinking water, (b) roads linking each village to the nearest main road or railway station and (c) village school building which may also serve as a community centre and village library.

Outlay And Investment

For achieving the above targets the Draft Outline envisages a total investment of Rs. 10,200 crores in the economy during the Third Plan period. Of this amount, Rs. 6,200 crores will be in the public sector and Rs. 4,000 crores in the private sector. The total outlay in the public sector will be Rs. 7,250 crores. A sum of Rs. 200 crores is expected to be transferred from the public sector for capital formation in the private sector. In the following table, the total outlay and investment in the Third Plan are compared with those of the Second:

	Public sector			Private sector	Total investment
	plan outlay	current outlay	investment		
				(Rs. crores)	
Second Plan	4600	950	3650	3100*	6750
Third Plan	7250	1050	6200	4000*	10200

(* Exclusive of Rs. 200 crores of assistance transferred from public sector)

The general pattern of investment in the Second Plan is being continued in the Third. But in the public sector there is greater emphasis on agriculture, industry and power and on certain aspects of social services. The distribution of plan outlay in the public sector in the Second and Third Plans is given in the following table:

	Outlay (Rs. crores)		Percentage	
	Second Plan	Third Plan	Second Plan	Third Plan
1. Agriculture and minor irrigation	320	625	6.9	8.6
2. Community development & Co-operation	210	400	4.6	5.5
3. Major and medium irrigation	450	650	9.8	9.0
4. *Total* 1, 2 & 3	980	1675	21.3	23.1
5. Power	410	925	8.9	12.8
6. Village & small industries	180	250	3.9	3.4
7. Industry & minerals	880	1500	19.1	20.7
8. Transport & communications	1290	1450	28.1	20.0
9. *Total* 5-8	2760	4125	60.0	56.9
10. Social services	860	1250	18.7	17.2
11. Inventories	—	200	—	2.8
12. *Grand Total*	4600	7250	100	100

The allocations proposed at present are necessarily provisional. They are intended to assist the Central and State Governments in undertaking detailed studies of their programmes and projects and in establishing priorities within each sector. It is stated that for approved programmes and targets under agriculture, village and small industries, primary education, technical education, special works programmes for utilising manpower resources, etc., additional domestic resources will be made available, if found necessary, after examination by States and Ministries.

In respect of approved projects for which substantial external finance is required, once the necessary foreign exchange is found, every effort will be made to find the requisite internal resources. Out of the total outlay in the public sector of Rs. 7,250 crores, Rs. 3,600 crores will be in the Centre and Rs. 3,650 crores in the States. Central assistance to States is estimated at Rs. 2,500 crores.

Resources For The Plan

The step-up in investment from a total of Rs. 6,750 crores in the Second Plan to a total of Rs. 10,200 crores for the Third Plan will call for a large effort for mobilising domestic resources. National income is expected to increase during the Third Plan period at a rate of over 5 per cent per annum. It is from this source that the additional demands for investment and for consumption have to be met.

The Plan aims at raising the level of investment in the economy from 11 per cent of national income by the end of the Second Plan to about 14 per cent by the end of the Third Plan. The rate of savings in the economy is at present about 8 per cent of national income. This has to be raised to about 11 per cent by the end of the Third Plan, the balance representing inflow of resources from abroad.

The Third Plan starts, unlike the first two, with a low level of foreign exchange reserves. There is no further scope for drawing on these resources. Moreover, the level of prices now is more than 20 per cent above the level at the end of the Second Plan. Both these considerations demand that inflationary financing of public outlays must be kept down to the barest minimum.

On the other hand, the situation is in several respects more favourable than in the earlier Plans. There has been a substantial step-up in investment over the last 10 years. There has been substantial progress in irrigation, power and transport.

While in the Second Plan most of the public sector projects were in the construction stage, in the Third Plan they will be functioning and will yield surpluses. These surpluses can and must be drawn upon for financing further investment. The enlargement of educational and training facilities that has already taken place and will proceed further in the Third Plan will yield increasing returns in the years to come. The supply of entrepreneurial talent, managerial experience and skills is also on the increase.

It is emphasised that the problem of finding resources for a Plan is not to be viewed as one of drawing upon some fixed or static pool. To an extent, resources grow as the economy develops. Despite the stresses and strains of the last few years, the progress that has been achieved provides the basis for a larger effort in the coming years. The vicious circle of poverty and low levels of saving and investment can be broken only by more effective mobilisation of potential resources and by a continuous channelling of the consequential gains in production into investment.

The Scheme Of Financing

The scheme of financing the Third Plan outlay in the public sector is given in the table below:

	Second Plan	Third Plan
	(Rs. crores)	
1. Balance from revenues on the basis of existing taxation (—)	100	350
2. Contribution of the Railways on the existing basis	150*	150
3. Surpluses of other public enterprises on the existing basis	**	440
4. Loans from the public	800	850
5. Small savings	380	550
6. Provident funds, betterment levies, steel equalisation fund and miscellaneous capital receipts	213	510
7. Additional taxation, including measures to increase the surpluses of public enterprises	1000	1650
8. Budgetary receipts corresponding to external assistance	982	2200
9. Deficit financing	1175	550
Total:	4600	7250

(* Inclusive of increased fares and freights.
(** Included in (1) above).

Additional Taxation

The fulfilment of additional taxation target of Rs. 1650 crores over the five year period is vital for the successful implementation of the Plan. Tax revenues in India now total about 8.5 per cent of national income. With the normal increases in tax yields and with the additional taxation proposed for the Third Plan, the proportion should go up to about 11 per cent. This cannot be considered as excessive increase in the tax burden when the developmental activities of Government are being rapidly accelerated. Nevertheless, an additional target of Rs. 1650 crores will involve considerable tax effort on the part of the Central and State Governments, the share of the States being about one-third of the total.

The Third Plan will necessitate increases both in direct and in indirect taxation, as also measures to raise the surpluses of public enterprises. As regards income and corporation taxes, further increases in yields will have to be sought mainly through a tightening of tax administration, watch on expense accounts of companies and other measures to check tax evasion. Indirect taxes and increases in the prices of products of public enterprises will no doubt tend to raise prices and cost to some extent, but this is part of the calculated sacrifices that have to be made.

Deficit Financing

A distinction is, however, made between the effect of indirect taxes as compared to that of deficit financing on prices. Indirect taxation 'works off' the inflation potential by raising prices, deficit financing builds up the inflation potential further. Deficit financing is, therefore, proposed to be limited to Rs. 550 crores in the Third Plan as against Rs. 1175 crores in the Second.

Foreign Exchange

The Third Plan, with its emphasis on rapid industrialisation, would involve a considerable amount of foreign exchange expenditure. It is estimated that the direct foreign exchange component of the Plan will be of the order of Rs. 1900 crores. In addition, it will be essential to provide for imports of about Rs. 200 crores worth of components, balancing equipment, etc., needed to increase the production of capital goods within the country. Thus, for the Plan and for imports of components, etc., foreign exchange of the order of Rs. 2100 crores is needed.

The estimates made at this stage show that even if the Plan requirements are not taken into account, the balance of payments position, because of the repayments of capital and payment of interest due in the Third Plan period, would show a deficit of Rs. 500 crores. The requirements of foreign exchange in the Third Plan period would thus come to Rs. 2600 crores. To this total of Rs. 2600 crores have to be added the estimated receipts of Rs. 600 crores by way of PL 480 commodity assistance from the U.S.A. On this basis, the total balance of payments deficit for the Third Plan would come to about Rs. 3200 crores.

As to the prospects of securing external assistance, no prediction can be made. The Plan will have to be flexible and the commitments in regard to foreign exchange expenditure will have to be made only on the basis of external resources that are clearly in sight. The fact that the commencement and execution of projects both in the public and private sectors will depend upon the external assistance that is forthcoming highlights the need for keeping ready, well in advance, a sufficient number of projects that can be executed as soon as the necessary foreign exchange has been secured. Any delay in utilising the external assistance offered cannot but upset the schedule for increased production during and by the end of the Third Plan period.

The balance of payments difficulties the country is facing are not a temporary or fortuitous phenomenon. They are part and parcel of the process of development. For a period, the excess import requirements have to be met from external assistance. But it is important to aim at a progressive reduction in the imbalance, so as to eliminate it within a foreseeable period. This is not to suggest that no inflow of resources from abroad would be desirable after this period. Commercial capital inflows can and should continue, but the reliance on special aid programmes has to be steadily reduced and after a period of years dispensed with.

Private Investment

Investment in the private sector covers not only organised industry, mining, electricity and transport, but also large and dispersed fields like agriculture, village and small increase from 8,200 at the beginning of the Second Plan to 10,600 by the end of the Second Plan, and coaches from 19,200 to 28,900 and wagons from 199,100 to 354,100.

The mileage of surfaced roads will increase from 97,500 miles at the beginning of the decade, to 144,000 miles in 1960-61. The shipping tonnage will increase from 3,90,000 G.R.T. to 9,00,000 G.R.T.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Facilities for education, health and social welfare have increased substantially during this period. The percentage of children attending school to all children in the age-group 6-11 will increase from 43 in 1950-51 to 60 by 1960-61. The total number of students in schools will go up by 75% and in Universities by 140%.

In the field of health the number of hospitals and dispensaries will increase from 8,600 in 1950-51 to 12,600 in 1960-61. The number of medical colleges will increase from 30 to 55 and of registered doctors from 59,000 to 84,000. The family planning programme which was initiated in the First Plan has made steady progress and the number of centres is expected to rise from 147 in 1955-56 to about 1,800 in 1960-61.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Facilities for technical education have been augmented. The annual intake of students in degree and diploma courses in engineering and technology is expected to increase by nearly four times from 10,000 in 1950-51 to 37,500 by the end of 1960-61. The annual intake of agriculture and veterinary colleges is expected to increase from 1,500 in 1950-51 to 5,800 in 1960-61.

PRICES AND EMPLOYMENT

In varying degrees, throughout the first four years of the Plan prices of foodgrains and agricultural raw materials as well as of several industrial commodities tended to rise. The index of wholesale prices (1952-53=100), which stood at 99.2 in the last year of the First Plan, rose to 105.1 and 106.1 during the two following years. Thereafter, it rose to 111.7 in 1958-59, the highest level reached during the year being 116.3. By the end of 1959-60, it stood at 118.6.

The increase in employment during the Second Plan has not kept pace with the growth of the labour force. It was hoped that the development programmes envisaged would lead to the creation of 8 million additional jobs outside agriculture. The achievement for the Plan period is at present estimated at about 6.5 million.

ESTATE DUTY AMENDMENT ACTS

The Estate Duty (Amendment) Act, 1958 and the Estate Duty (Amendment) Act, 1960 have come into force on July 1, says a Press Note of the same date issued by the Ministry of Finance.

The Amending Act of 1958 has made some important changes in the provisions of the Estate Duty Act 1953. Under the Amending Act, the general exemption limit has been reduced from one lakh rupees to fifty thousand rupees and the rates of duty have also been slightly reduced in respect of the lower slabs. In the case of a deceased member of a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara, Marumakkattayam and Aliyasanthana school of law, the Amending Act has made provision for taking into account for rate purposes not only the coparcenary interest of the deceased in the joint family property but also the interest therein of his lineal descendants. The assessment and appellate procedures have also generally been brought into line with those under the other direct taxes Acts.

JURISDICTION

The new provisions will have effect only in cases where death occurs on or after July 1, 1960. The revised procedures for assessment and appeals will come into force as from that date irrespective of the date of death but subject to the reservation that any appeal under Section 63 of the Estate Duty Act, 1953, already pending before the Central Board of Revenue, or any right or remedy by way of appeal which has accrued to any person in respect of any order made by the Controller before July 1, 1960, will continue to be governed by the provisions of the Estate Duty Act, 1953.

The Amending Act of 1960 was passed in order to give effect to the resolutions of State Legislatures under Article 252 of the Constitution regarding application of the provisions of the Estate Duty Act, 1953, as amended, to agricultural lands in the States concerned. The Act clarifies that the provisions will apply to the levy of estate duty on agricultural lands situated in all States except the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Orissa and West Bengal. It further clarifies that the Estate Duty Act, 1953, ceased to apply from April 1, 1959 to the levy of estate duty in respect of agricultural lands situated in the State of Orissa and in the territories transferred to West Bengal under the Bihar and West Bengal (Transfer of Territories) Act, 1956.

APPEALS UNDER THE ACT

In a Press Note issued on July 7, the Ministry of Finance has announced that under the Estate Duty Act, 1953, as amended, all appeals from the orders of the Assistant Controllers or Deputy Controllers of Estate Duty passed on or after July 1, 1960, will lie to the Appellate Controller of Estate Duty instead of the Central Board of Revenue as heretofore. For the present, only one Appellate Controller Estate Duty, with jurisdiction all over India, has been appointed by the Central Government with headquarters at Calcutta. His address will be 4-Hastings Street, Calcutta.

Central Excise Revenue In 1958-59

According to a review of the Central Excise Administration in India, published by the Central Board of Revenue on July 8, the cost of collecting the Central Excise Revenue of Rs. 312.5 crores in 1958-59 was only 1.6 per cent as against 1.8 per cent in the preceding year.

The revenue realised in 1958-59 exceeded the revenue realised during any of the previous years — the gross revenue being 14 per cent higher than the amount realised in the previous year.

The increase in the net revenue collection of 1958-59 over the previous year was contributed by almost all excisable commodities except cigars and cheroots, cotton fabrics, vegetable non-essential oils and motor spirit.

Cotton fabrics yielded the highest excise revenue in 1958-59, amounting to Rs. 62.09 crores, followed, among others, by sugar which yielded Rs. 59.71 crores, unmanufactured tobacco Rs. 34.47 crores, motor spirit Rs. 33.48 crores, matches Rs. 19.11 crores, cement Rs. 14.1 crores and refined diesel oils and vaporising oil Rs. 11.27 crores. In all these cases except cotton fabrics, revenue was higher than in the previous year. Total gross collections were the highest in Bombay amounting to Rs. 114.91 crores.

Offences against the Central Excise Act and Rules registered in 1958 showed a decline of 62.2 per cent as compared to the cases registered in 1957. The provisional figure of such cases in 1958 was 27,645 as against 73,063 in 1957. The decline in the commission of offences was mainly in respect of tobacco.

CENTRAL LOANS FLOATED

In a Press Communique issued on July 4 by the Ministry of Finance, the Government of India have announced the simultaneous issue of the following two new loans for a total sum of Rs. 175 crores:—

(a) 3½ per cent Bonds 1966—Issue price Rs. 99.75 per cent and repayable at par on the 18th of July 1966; and

(b) 4 per cent Loan 1980—Issue price Rs. 99.90 per cent and repayable at par on the 18th of July 1980.

Interest on the new loans is payable half-yearly on the 18th of January and the 18th of July and will be liable to tax under the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922.

Subscription lists will open on the 18th of July, 1960 and close on the 20th of July, 1960, but may be closed earlier without notice as soon as the total subscriptions to the bonds and loan amount to Rs. 175 crores approximately. Government reserve the right to retain subscriptions upto ten per cent in excess of the notified amount.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions may be in the form of cash/cheque or securities of the 2¾ per cent Loan 1960 or 4 per cent Loan 1960-70 or 2½ per cent Hyderabad Loan 1955-60 (H.E.H. the Nizam's Government 2½ per cent O.S. Rupee Loan 1365-70F) which will be accepted for conversion at Rs. 100 per Rs. 100 (Nominal), Rs. 100.30 per 100 (Nominal) and Rs. 84.75 per Rs. 85.71 or O.S. Rs. 100 (Nominal) respectively.

Applications for the bonds and loan will be received at:

(a) Offices of the Reserve Bank of India at Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Nagpur and New Delhi;

(b) Branches of the State Bank of Hyderabad conducting Government business and those at Mancherial, Nagarjunasagar, Purli Vaijnath and Sailu;

(c) Branches of the State Bank of Mysore in the State of Mysore except at Bangalore, Mangalore and Gulbarga; and

(d) Branches of the State Bank of India at Mangalore and at other places in India, except at the places mentioned in (a), (b) and (c) above.

Discharge Of 2¾ p.c. Loan 1960

A Press Note issued on July 1, by the Ministry of Finance says that the outstanding balance of the 2¾ per cent Loan 1960 is repayable on July 15, 1960 and no interest will accrue thereon from that date.

To facilitate discharge of the loan on the due date, holders may tender their securities at the Public Debt Office, Treasury or Branch of State Bank of India/State Bank of Hyderabad/State Bank of Mysore at which they are enfaced/registered for payment of interest on or after July 8, 1960.

Nomination By Holders Of Savings Certificates

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on July 2 says that the Government of India have announced the rules providing for nomination facilities to holders of National Savings Certificates and depositors of Post Office Savings Bank, involving amounts exceeding Rs. 5,000. The rules will come into force on August 1, 1960.

Under the rules, the holders of 12-Year, 7-Year and 5-Year National Savings Certificates, 10-Year National Plan Certificates and depositors in the Post Office Plan Certificates and depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank and Cumulative Time Deposits Scheme will, with effect from August 1, 1960, be entitled to nominate a person or persons to receive the amounts due to them, in the event of the death of the former without the production of legal proof of title and to the exclusion of the rights of all other persons. The right of nomination, however, is being given only to individual holders/depositors including minors who purchase certificates or have an account in their own names.

The facility will not be available to the holders of certificates purchased by two persons jointly or by institutions or by a person on behalf of a minor. Similarly, in the case of Post Office Savings Bank, joint or public accounts or accounts opened on behalf of minors will not be eligible for nomination. Nominations once made can be cancelled or varied by making a fresh application in the prescribed form to the Post Office concerned.

Commerce & Industry

HEAVY ELECTRICAL FACTORY COMMISSIONED

The Heavy Electrical Factory at Bhopal, first of its kind in India, commenced production on July 1 according to schedule.

Biggest in Asia, the production range in the Bhopal factory will include a variety of equipment essential for the development of power—switch gear, control panels, power transformers, capacitors, traction motors, equipment for electric locomotives, industrial motors, and hydro and thermal generators. The factory will be in full stride in about 7 years' time.

The first factory block with 7 bays, each 800 ft. long and 60 ft. wide and equipped with cranes, has been completed and the other block is nearing completion. Foundry and pattern shops are located away from the factory blocks and a maintenance block for repair work is already complete. A well-equipped laboratory for testing and research is also getting ready.

Over 20,000 men are on the pay roll of the project. The population of the township, which is fast coming up with all modern amenities, will eventually exceed over a lakh. Over 3,000 quarters have already been completed and a thousand more are under construction.

Training

Arrangements for training technicians and skilled persons on a comprehensive scale have been completed. The first batch of 2,700 apprentices will complete their course shortly at the Bhopal Training Centre, which is well equipped with its own workshops and hostel accommodation. Over a hundred senior engineers have been trained in the United Kingdom at the workshops of the Associated Electrical Industries, who are the technical consultants for the Bhopal project.

The annual output at the factory will be of the order of about Rs. 25 crores. It is proposed to expand this further and the workshop design and equipment have been adjusted to suit the manufacture of heavy generators and transformers.

The Bhopal factory will be able to meet a major part of the country's annual requirements of heavy electrical machinery. Government have decided to establish two more heavy electrical factories during the Third Plan period. The preliminaries for these are being completed and it is expected that these factories would go into production in about three years' time.

Production Of Motor Vehicles

According to an announcement of July 7, the production figures of motor vehicles in the first half of 1960 indicate that the output this year will be about 40% higher than last year.

During January-June 1960, production of motor vehicles totalled 32,247, as compared to 19,025 during the corresponding period last year.

A break-up of the January-June production figures shows that the rise has been particularly striking in respect of cars, commercial vehicles and scooters. The output of cars at 9,218 was almost double than during the first half of last year. In the case of commercial vehicles, the production of January-June 1960 amounted to 12,213, about 50% higher than during the corresponding period last year. Scooter production amounted to 5,838, as against only 2,008 in January-June last year.

The production of jeeps and motor cycles totalled 3,045 and 1,933 respectively, as against 2,628 and 1,363 last year.

Manufacture Of Gas Cylinders

The Government of India have decided to permit the setting up of units for the manufacture of gas cylinders in the country, says an announcement dated July 10.

The decision has been taken in view of the expected large-scale expansion in the production of various industrial gases in the next few years and the corresponding rise in the domestic demand of cylinders for bottling and transporting these gases. While the sizes and specifications of the cylinders vary according to the nature of the gases, it has been estimated that by the end of the Third Plan, about a lakh of cylinders would be required. By the end of the Fourth Plan, the domestic requirement would be double this number.

In forwarding their proposals for Government approval, intending entrepreneurs have been asked to indicate particularly what arrangements they have made for importing the required capital equipment. The Government would prefer import of capital equipment through the utilisation of the share of the foreign collaborator in the capital structure of the scheme. Import of capital machinery and equipment required for the pro-

ject under long-term credit arrangements or long term deferred payments acceptable to Government or through Rupee Payment Arrangements will also be considered.

The proposals may be forwarded to the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry as early as possible before the close of the year 1960.

Company Registrations In 1959-60

A New Delhi announcement of July 9 says that according to the statistics available, a further rise in the number of newly-formed companies was recorded in 1959-60. The number of new companies registered during 1959-60 totalled 1,452, as against 1,095 companies formed during the previous year.

The level of new formations in 1959-60 was the highest during the last eight years and indicates that with the progressive realisation of the significance of the various provisions of the Companies Act by the public, the trend of new registrations would steadily improve.

Of the 1959-60 registrations, 1,365 were private and 87 public companies. The authorised capital of these was Rs. 93.40 crores and Rs. 67.14 crores respectively.

A State-wise break-up shows that the highest number — 399 — of new companies was formed in West Bengal, followed by Madras where 342 new companies were registered. The number of new registrations in Bombay and Delhi was 293 and 141 respectively. New registrations in the other States ranged between 11 in Bihar and 45 in U.P.

Pattern Of Registrations

Broadly speaking, the industrial pattern of new companies remained unchanged. The two main industrial groups, viz. processing and manufacture, and commerce (trade and finance) together accounted for 981 companies or about 68 per cent of the new registrations.

The shift in favour of company management by Board of Directors as against other forms, which began with the enforcement of the Companies Act, was distinctly noticeable in 1959-60. Of the new registrations, 924 companies were to be managed directly by Boards of Directors and 508 companies proposed to have Managing Directors. Only 14 companies preferred to have managing agents and three companies each were to have Secretaries and Treasurers and Managers.

Among the 1959-60 floatations were 31 giant companies with an authorised capital of Rs. 1 crore and above.

The total number of companies at work in the country as on March 31, 1960 has been estimated at 26,921, with a total paid-up capital of Rs. 1,593 crores. Of these, 7306 are public limited companies with an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 812 crores and 19,615 are private limited companies with a total paid-up capital of Rs. 781 crores.

INDUSTRIAL LICENSING

According to a New Delhi announcement of July 13, the procedure for granting licences under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act has been further simplified to ensure quicker disposal of applications.

The Government of India have now decided that where a greater level of production can be achieved through the installation of balancing plant or machinery the requisite licences should be issued without prior reference to the Licensing Committee. The value of such ancillary equipment, required for utilising any excess intermediate product of the main plant, should not exceed 10 per cent of the machinery already installed or Rs. 2 lakhs, whichever is less.

Earlier this year, the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry had announced a list of 49 industries in respect of which licences for setting up fresh capacity are issued freely. The list, which contained 22 engineering and 27 non-engineering industries, had been drawn up to facilitate the expeditious disposal of applications seeking Government's approval for setting up new units.

Government Take Over Indian Electric Works

An announcement of July 11 says that the Government of India have assumed control of the India Electric Works Limited, Calcutta, under Section 18A of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, and have appointed Shri S.C. Banerji, Development Officer, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to take over the management of the undertaking.

This action has been taken on the recommendation of the four-man Committee of Enquiry, which the Government set up last month to investigate into the affairs of the Company. Of late, there has been a gradual fall in production and the workers have gone on a stay-in-strike from June 10. The Committee of Enquiry recommended that, in the interest of the Company and its employees and to maintain production, Government should immediately assume control of the undertaking.

UTILISATION OF IRON ORE FINES

The Government of India have set up an eight-member committee to study the problem of utilisation of iron ore fines, says an announcement dated July 3.

The Committee will study and make recommendations on the problems of utilisation of iron ore fines in all its aspects including extent of fines production and the cost at which these can be procured. The various technical processes for agglomeration to render fines fit for steel plants or export together with their economics will also be studied by the Committee.

It will also study the extent to which fines can be and should be utilised in Indian steel plants and the measures for securing this utilisation. Research facilities and pilot plant, the allied problem of suitable feed for blast furnace and the need to conserve coking coal reserves will also be studied.

NEW DIRECTORIAL BOARD FOR N.R D.C.

A New Delhi announcement dated July 2 says that the Board of Directors of the National Research Development Corporation has been reconstituted. The new Board will consist of 10 members with Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, as Chairman, and Prof. M.S. Thacker, Director-General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, as Vice-Chairman.

The other members of the Board are: Dr. K.S. Krishnan, Director, National Physical Laboratory, Poona; Dr. M.D. Parikh, Messrs National Rayon Corporation Ltd., Bombay; Shri Anantaramakrishnan, Messrs Simpson and Co. Ltd., Madras; Shri B.D. Kapur, Messrs Atlas Cycles, Ltd., Sonepat (Punjab); Shri A.V. Venkateswaran, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi; and Dr. G.P. Kane and Dr. B.D. Kalelkar, Senior Industrial Advisers, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi.

The term of office of the new Board will be till December 31, 1962.

The main function of the N.R.D.C. is to stimulate development of patents and inventions of research institutions financed out of public funds and such others as may be voluntarily assigned to it by any institution or individual. The Corporation acquires by agreement and negotiations the development rights of patents and inventions.

LICENCES FOR IMPORTS FROM PAKISTAN

An announcement dated July 2 says that the Government of India have decided to grant licences for import of six items from Pakistan as provided for in Protocol No. I to the Trade Agreement between the Governments of India and Pakistan signed on March 21, 1960. The items are betelnuts, betel leaves, eggs and poultry, fish dried and salted, drugs and medicines including Unani and Ayurvedic, and live stock including horses.

Protocol No. I to the Trade Agreement provides for import of these items from Pakistan against payments in non-convertible Indian rupees. Licences will now be issued subject to this condition and as indicated below:

1. Betelnuts: Licences will be issued at the ports to established importers to the extent of 15% of the face value of their quota licences for April-September 1960.

2. Betel Leaves: Applications will be considered on an ad hoc basis from established importers who have imported this item from Pakistan during the basic period upto and including 1954-55. The licensing authority will be the Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi.

3. Eggs And Poultry: Licences will be issued by the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Calcutta, to established importers of eggs on a quota of 50%. Upto 25% of the face value of quota licences can be utilised for import of poultry. Licences will be issued by the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Calcutta, to Consumers' Co-operative Societies, established importers and dealers from Tripura State on an ad hoc basis on the recommendation of the State Government of Tripura. The Assistant Controller of Imports and Exports, Shillong, will also issue licences on a similar basis on the recommendation of Assam State Government. The Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi, will issue import licences on an ad hoc basis to hotels and restaurants approved by the Department of Tourism for catering to tourist traffic.

4. Fish, Dry And Salted: Licences will be issued by the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Calcutta, to established importers on a quota of 25%. In addition, licences will be issued to Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Tripura on an ad hoc basis on the recommendation of the Tripura State Government. The Assistant Controller of Imports and Exports, Shillong, will also issue licences on a similar basis to such co-operative societies in Assam and Manipur on the recommendation of the State Government concerned.

5. Crude Drugs For Ayurvedic Medicines: Licences will be issued at the ports to established importers to the extent of 12½% of the face value of their quota licences issued for April-September, 1960.

6. Live Stock Including Horses: Applications for import of race horses should be made through the Turf Clubs for ad hoc consideration. Applications from stud farms for import of brood mares for breeding purposes will also be considered on an ad hoc basis. Licences will not be issued for import of other animals. The Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi, will be the licensing authority.

The validity period of the licences issued for all these items will be six months.

O.G.L. For Imports From Pakistan

According to an announcement dated July 1, the Government of India have issued an Open General Licence for import of four items produced or processed in Pakistan. The items listed in the O.G.L. are: fish, not otherwise specified; fish, salted, wet; hides and skins, raw or salted; and kapok. Payments for import of the last item, viz., kapok, under this O.G.L. will be made in non-convertible Indian rupees as provided for in the Trade Agreement between the Governments of India and Pakistan signed on March 21, 1960.

The O.G.L. will be valid up to September 30, 1960.

Import Of Petroleum From U.S.S.R.

An agreement for the import of kerosene and other petroleum products from the U.S.S.R. was signed in New Delhi on July 15 between the Indian Oil Company and the Soviet Oil Export Organisation.

The Indian Oil Company, wholly owned by the Government of India, has been set up to enter the distribution and marketing of petroleum products in India.

The payment for the supplies under this contract shall be in rupees, the contract being covered by the Indo-Soviet Trade Agreement. The initial period of the contract is four years and the quantities to be imported will increase from year to year.

Due to rapidly increasing consumption of kerosene and diesel oil, it is estimated that the total quantities to be imported for the country's requirements will hardly be reduced by the time the two new refineries in the public sector come on stream. The supplies under the present contract are expected to meet an increasing proportion of that deficit.

IMPORT OF U.S. FILMS

An arrangement for the import of films from the U.S.A. was signed in New Delhi on July 14 between the Government of India and the Motion Picture Export Association of America.

The arrangement, which will be in force till March 1962, provides for utilisation, inter alia, of earnings of U.S. films in India for the purchase or rent of Indian films, production and co-production of films in India and also for investment in Indian Government securities.

The Motion Picture Export Association has undertaken to ask their member companies to assist in promoting exports of Indian films to the U.S.A. and other markets.

It is expected that, as a result of this arrangement, a healthy collaboration will develop between the film industry in India and the U.S.A. and that Indian films will find an increasing market in U.S.A. and other countries served by the Motion Picture Export Association.

Import Duty On Films Reduced

According to a notification in the Gazette of India Extraordinary of July 14, the Government of India have decided to reduce the import duty on standard films imported into India for exhibition to 27 nP per linear foot, the rate which was in force prior to April 1, 1960. This decision has been taken following representations received from the interests concerned.

The revised rate came into force on July 14.

COTTON TEXTILE INCENTIVE SCHEME

The Government of India have extended the Cotton Textile Incentive Scheme upto March 31, 1961, says an announcement dated July 2.

The Incentive Scheme, which was introduced in October 1958, provides for the grant of licences for the import of coal-tar dyes, textile chemicals and gums against the exports of cotton textiles and handloom fabrics by mills and handloom co-operatives.

As a measure of further incentive to export promotion, it has also been decided to increase the rate of import entitlements in the case of exported handloom and handprinted fabrics with effect from April 1 this year. The import entitlement has been raised from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 for every 100 yards of handloom and hand printed fabrics exported. In the case of exports by weight the rise will be from Rs. 7.50 to Rs. 10 per 25 lbs.

In the case of mills earning import entitlements under the Incentive Scheme, Government have decided to relax on merits the face value and other restrictions in regard to the import of certain types of dyes. While applying to the Textile Commissioner for import entitlements, the mills should specifically state what relaxations are required by them. The relaxation however will not apply to the dyes which are now banned for import, and will be subject to the condition that the dyes and chemicals so imported shall be utilised by the mills only for their own consumption and not sold to anybody else.

The basic period for calculating the import entitlements of mills, which have newly entered the export field, has been fixed as July 1, 1959-June 30, 1960, or Rs. 2,000 per loom, whichever is higher.

Rebate On Excise Duty

In a Press Note issued on July 2, the Ministry of Finance has announced that the Government of India have decided to extend to screen printed furnishing fabrics, the procedure under Rule 191-A of the Central Excise Rules, 1944, for export out of India of articles under claims for rebate of duty on the excisable goods used in their manufacture. This procedure is already applicable to ready-made apparel, tents, sugar products, cotton bags, umbrellas, chaddars, pillow cases, table covers and several other articles.

Government have also decided to permit the manufacture in bond of screen printed furnishing fabrics for the purpose of export, under Rule 191-B of the above-mentioned rules.

For further information, manufacturers of screen printed furnishing fabrics, who wish to export them out of India under these procedures, may contact the Collectors of Central Excise in whose jurisdiction their factory is situated.

DRAWBACK ON CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DUTIES

In a Press Note of July 14, the Ministry of Finance has announced that, as a measure of export promotion, the Government of India have decided to allow drawback of customs and central excise duty paid on raw materials used in the manufacture of biscuits, electric motors, paper laminated hessian bags and iron castings. Changes have been made in the rates of drawback for panel pins, plastic sequins, tin containers and fabrics containing lurex yarn. Further items relating to pigments, colours, paints, etc. have been changed from First Schedule to the Second Schedule.

STEEL CLIPS TYPE U

A Press Note issued by the above Ministry on July 15 says that as a measure of export promotion, the Government of India propose to grant drawback of duty on 'Steel Clips type 'U' for railway track' at the rate of Rs. 52 per ton of steel content.

In this respect, Government have issued a draft notification inviting objections and suggestions, if any, by July 26, 1960.

METRIC SYSTEM IN COTTON TRADE

From October 1, 1960, the use of metric system of weights in cotton transactions will become compulsory, says an announcement dated July 1.

Raw cotton is now sold in bales of varying sizes and prices are also quoted in various units. In 1958, Government had issued notifications permitting the use of metric system in the purchase of cotton and sale of cloth by textile mills. For a period of two years, the simultaneous use of the existing system was allowed. This period will end on September 30, 1960, after which only metric weights can be used in transactions in cotton.

The Government of India have also approved of the recommendations of the representative committee set up by the Textile Commissioner that, with the adoption of metric system by the cotton trade, prices should be quoted in rupees per quintal (100 kgs.), and that the size of the standard bale should be 180 kilograms.

Maximum Price For Woollen Yarn

An announcement dated July 12 says that the Government of India have statutorily fixed maximum prices for the different categories of woollen worsted yarn under the provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. The prices have been fixed for worsted hosiery yarn of counts ranging from 2/12s to 2/48s spun from various grades of wool tops from 48/50s to 70s.

These prices, notified in the Gazette, will be effective from July 2, 1960.

During the recent past, manufacturers of woollen hosiery have been experiencing considerable difficulties in securing adequate supply of hosiery yarn at reasonable prices. The present step has been taken to help the manufacturers.

Towards the end of last month, the Government had announced their decision to grant *ad hoc* additional licences for import of raw wool and wool tops to manufacturers of woollen hosiery yarn.

RETURNS OF MINING LEASES

According to a Press Note issued on July 1 by the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel, the Government of India have extended, as a special case, by three months from July 1 the period for submission of returns about the existing leases by the mine-owners to the Controller of Mining Leases, Nagpur.

If the returns are not submitted within the above period, action will be taken against such lessees according to law.

A lessee, who fails to comply with the provision under Rule 5 of the Mining Leases (Modification of Terms) Rules, 1956, renders himself liable to the penalties provided in the rules, namely imprisonment extending to six months or fine extending to Rs. 1,000, or both.

Communications

REVISED PAY SCALES FOR RAILWAYMEN

A larger initial "Take Home" pay packet for well over a million railwaymen, and substantially increased retirement benefits for most of them, as a result of an increase in basic emoluments, higher rate of annual increments, lengthening of time scales, and upgrading of some categories of posts will be the main effects of the Railway Board accepting the main recommendation of the Pay Commission with regard to pay scales of railwaymen. The formal orders by the Railway Board are expected to be issued shortly. The orders will take effect from November 1, 1959. The implementation of the recommendations of the Pay Commission is likely to involve the Railway Ministry in an annual expenditure of about Rs. 13 crores initially. This will be in addition to the expenditure of Rs. 6 crores annually which represents the cost of the interim increment of Rs. 5 sanctioned in 1957 on the recommendation of the Pay Commission.

Under the revised pay scales, the total average emoluments of about 5 lakh employees, who are

in the lowest pay scale, will go up from about Rs. 78 to about Rs. 89 per month, representing a monthly gain of Rs. 11. Other categories of class IV and class III employees will also benefit in varying degrees.

Man-Days Lost On Railways In 1959-60

A New Delhi announcement of July 3 says that, according to an official review, the man-days lost through work-stoppages on the Indian railways touched the lowest point since independence during the year 1959-60. The losses dropped sharply from 2.26 lakh man-days in 1956-57 to 12,000 and 11,000 man-days respectively in the following two years and to less than 5,000 man-days in 1959-60.

The largest public-owned undertaking in the country, the railways at present have over 11 lakh men on their pay rolls who put in more than 400 million man-days of work annually.

In the country as a whole, 56 lakh man-days were lost in the industrial sector during the calendar year 1959, while 78 lakh man-days were lost in the previous year.

Wharfage Rates At Kandla Reduced

A Press Note issued on July 15 by the Ministry of Transport and Communications says that the Government of India have decided to reduce the existing rates of wharfage charged at Kandla Port on bones (crushed and uncrushed, meat dust and sinews), coconuts, copra, cotton seeds, fertilisers including sulphate of ammonia, vegetable and hydrogenated oils, piece-goods, oilseeds and heavy lifts not exceeding 10 tons for a period of one year from July 15, 1960. The reduction ranges from 75 nP to Rs. 1.50 per ton.

All the four cargo berths included in the Kandla Port Project were completed and brought into commission from July 1957. The traffic handled at the port in 1957-58 was 8.47 lakh tons. It rose to 10.7 lakh tons in 1958-59 and to 11.27 lakh tons in 1959-60. This exceeds the traffic expected to be handled by the port in the first five-year period of its existence as a major port. It is hoped that the reduction now decided upon, which is designed to bring the wharfage charges at Kandla port more in line with those obtaining at Bombay port, will attract more traffic to the Port of Kandla.

IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES IN CALCUTTA PORT

An announcement of July 1 says that the Government of India have approved a scheme for the installation of eleven 5-ton portal electric cranes in Calcutta port at a cost of about Rs. 28.65 lakhs.

The scheme is part of the programme for re-conditioning and strengthening of the Kidderpore docks of the port intended to provide modern facilities.

The electric cranes will be supplied and erected by a West German firm. A considerable part of the total cost of the scheme will, however, be incurred in India, the foreign exchange cost being about Rs. 17.4 lakhs.

Calcutta, which is a river port, is now handling over 10 million tons of cargo every year. The two most important foreign exchange earners, tea and jute goods, are exported through Calcutta.

The modernisation of port equipment, on which emphasis has been laid in the Second Plan, will, together with other schemes now under implementation, raise the capacity of the port at the end of the Second Plan to 12.5 million tons per year.

A provision of about Rs. 32 crores has been made in the Second Plan for development and improvement of facilities in Calcutta port. A part of the expenditure is to be carried over into the Third Plan during which, it is hoped, a total expenditure of about Rs. 22 crores will be incurred on further improvement of the port. A provision of Rs. 7 crores for the development of a subsidiary port at Haldia, downstream from Calcutta on the Hooghly, is also being made.

Food & Agriculture

RELEASE OF SUGAR IN JULY

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture on July 2, the Government of India have decided to release 2 lakh tons of sugar in July. 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. 38.60 and Rs. 39.85 per maund respectively for sugar of ISS D-29 grade.

ELEVENTH VANAMAHOTSAVA

The Vice-President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, this morning planted two 'KADAMBA' saplings in the Rashtrapati Bhavan gardens to mark the 11th Vanamahotsava on July 1. After the ceremonial planting, Dr. Radhakrishnan expressed the hope that Vanamahotsava would be an incentive to people to plant more trees.

Education & Culture

MEETING OF ALL-INDIA COUNCIL OF SPORTS

The All-India Council of Sports met in New Delhi on July 11 and 12 under the chairmanship of H.H. the Maharaja of Patiala, president of the Council. The Council examined the proposal of the Indian Olympic Association for financial assistance for the deputation of the Indian contingent to the next Olympic Games. After a full discussion, the Council emphasised the following principles:

(i) In view of the highest priority attached to the development of games and sports in the country, the expenditure on international competitions should be reduced to the barest essential;

(ii) As a rule no one below the prescribed standard of performance should be included in our Olympic contingent; in very exceptional circumstances, promising and very young athletes, with an outstanding record of performance, may however be considered for inclusion;

(iii) In view of paucity of financial resources, priorities should be established for the selection of items on which India should compete; in some cases it may be necessary to restrict or eliminate our participation even if the minimum prescribed standard had been achieved.

On the basis of the principles enunciated above, the Council agreed to recommend 60 per cent of the approved expenditure as a grant from Government towards meeting the expenditure on India's participation in the forthcoming Olympiad on the following items:

Athletics — 13 athletes (men) and one manager and one coach; Hockey — 18 players and one manager and one coach; Football — 18 players and one manager and one coach; Wrestling — 5 wrestlers and one manager and one coach; Ribe Shooting—2 competitors and one manager; Chef-de-Mission; one A Grade Hockey umpire; two masseurs and two cooks.

Other Recommendations

The Council reiterated its recommendation regarding the grant of token financial assistance to the Indian Golf Union for participation in the World Amateur Team Championships for the Eisenhower Cup. An earlier recommendation of the Council on the subject had not been accepted by the Government due to paucity of funds.

Shri V.N. Kak was nominated to be the Council's representative on the Board of Governors of the National Institute of Sports.

Recognition was accorded to the Squash Rackets Association and the Indian Golf Union.

The Council approved the proposed allocation of funds to the various States for acquisition of playfields, purchase of equipment and promotion of sports in rural areas.

The Council also approved, with slight modifications, proposals for financial assistance received from the Government of Maharashtra, All-India Football Federation, All-India Women's Hockey Association, Rajasthan State Sports Council, All-India Chess Federation, Badminton Association of India, All-India Lawn Tennis Association and the Central Police Sports Committee, Bihar.

NATIONAL DISCIPLINE SCHEME

More than 3 lakh children, drawn from 622 educational institutions in the country, received training under the National Discipline Scheme during the year 1959-60. This is almost double the number trained in the previous year. Per capita cost on the scheme during the year came to less than Rs. 5. It was expected to go down further in the current year. The target for training instructors was fulfilled in time.

The number of children covered by the scheme by January 1961 would be more than 8 lakhs.

Indian Historical Records Commission

Problems relating to the proper maintenance and utilisation of archives of institutions such as universities, business firms and research bodies were discussed at the thirtieth meeting of the Research and Publications Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission in Delhi on July 8.

The appointment of a sub-committee to examine these problems in detail was recommended.

The Committee adopted a number of resolutions with regard to the utilisation and publication of records in the custody of various repositories in India. These resolutions deal with, among other matters, public access to all non-confidential records in the National Archives of India and compilation and publication by all the Record Offices of descriptive lists of various series of records in their possession.

Compilation of descriptive lists of the 17th century Dutch records in the National Archives

of India, which deal with trade, commerce and other economic activities of the country, was another task whose importance was emphasised by the Committee.

The meeting, which was attended by representatives of the State Governments, universities and a number of institutions in India, was presided over by Shri P.N. Kirpal, Educational Adviser to the Government of India and Chairman of the Committee.

Netaji's Speeches

The Advisory Committee constituted by the Government of India in connection with the publication of 'Selected speeches of Subhas Chandra Bose' has issued an appeal for making available to it all material relevant to the proposed publication. All such material may be sent to Shri J.K. Bhonsle, 2, Safdarjang Lane, New Delhi.

The book, which will be brought out by the Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, will comprise the important speeches delivered by Netaji throughout his public life, including speeches abroad during the last war.

The Advisory Committee consists of Prof. N.K. Sidhanta (Chairman) and Sarvashri J.K. Bhonsle, S.A. Ayer and M. Sivaram.

A.I.R. Music Competition

According to an announcement of July 14, the All India Radio is organising an All India Music Competition for discovering and encouraging young artistes. The first stage will be a preliminary competition at each station of All India Radio; and the second stage will be a final competition, which will be held at two centres: at Delhi for Hindustani music and at Madras for Karnatak music.

The competition will be open to persons between 16 and 21 years of age on August 30, 1960, and who have never broadcast from any station of All India Radio except in the children's programmes.

The competition will cover the categories of Vocal Music (Classical, Light Classical and Light); Instrumental Music (Classical and Light Classical) and Vrindagaan (Chorus).

The preliminary competition will be held from August 30. Winners in the preliminary competition will be eligible for the finals to be held at Delhi and Madras, the dates for which will be announced later. Suitable prizes will be awarded to those adjudged best in the final competition.

'Heera Moti' For Film Festival

An announcement of July 8 says the Hindi feature film 'Heera Moti', which won the All India Certificate of Merit as the Second best feature film in the State Awards for films for 1959, has been entered by the Government of India for the XII International Film Festival to be held at Karlovy Vary from 9th to 24th July, 1960.

OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS

In a Press Note issued on July 7 the Ministry of Education announced the name of a candidate who has been awarded a scholarship by the Ministry for study abroad under the Government of India Union Territories Overseas Scholarships, 1960-61.

French Scholarship

In a Press Note of July 15, the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs has announced the name of a candidate who has been selected for the award of a scholarship offered by the Government of France during 1959-60 for Specialized Training in Administration.

COMMONWEALTH FELLOWSHIP

In a Press Note issued on July 13, the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs announced the name of a candidate who has been selected for the award of a Fellowship for Ancient Indian History and Culture at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, under the Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships Plan, 1960-61.

Health

STIPENDS TO PUBLIC HEALTH PERSONNEL

According to an announcement of July 1, the Union Ministry of Health has decided to give financial assistance in the form of stipends, fees and other expenses to 240 Public Health Engineers and Auxiliary Public Health Engineering personnel studying courses which commenced on or after April 1 this year.

Thirty engineers under training for the M.E.(PH) Degree at the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, and 10 engineers for the M.Sc. Degree in Public Health Engineering at the Engineering College, Guindy, Madras, will be given stipends of Rs. 150 per month each for a period of 10 months.

Stipends have been sanctioned for not more than 90 engineers for the three month courses at the Engineering Colleges at Roorkee and Guindy at the rate of Rs. 150 per month each for a trainee.

For the Engineering Subordinate Courses at the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, and at the Engineering Colleges at Roorkee and Guindy, 120 trainees will get stipends of Rs. 100 per month each.

Stipends will be given to not more than 60 Water Works Operators to be trained in short courses of about a month at Regional Centres. The value of the stipend per trainee will be Rs. 100 per month.

Thirty stipends of Rs. 75 per month per trainee have been sanctioned for Sanitary Inspectors to be trained in a short course to be organised at a suitable centre.

Candidates sponsored by the State Governments, Municipal Corporations, Improvement Trusts, Local Bodies and approved by the Ministry of Health are eligible for the assistance.

The stipends will, in all cases, be given to candidates in addition to the normal pay and allowances drawn by them from their States.

STIPENDS TO MEDICAL STUDENTS

The Indian Council of Medical Research have instituted a special Post-Doctoral Fellowship Programme to help medical students, who, having received specialised training in India and abroad, are unable to secure proper employment. Under this programme such students will be temporarily placed in suitable institutions and awarded stipends for one year.

ROCKEFELLER FELLOWSHIP

The Rockefeller Foundation have granted a sum of $ 30,500 to the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences for support of a fellowship programme for post-graduate students at the Institute during a four year period, beginning in July 1960.

GRANTS FOR STUDIES IN LEUKEMIA

According to an announcement of July 8, the Union Ministry of Health has been informed by the Leukemia Society Inc., New York, that grants-in-aid will be given by the Society for research projects dealing with the causes and cure of leukemia and allied diseases.

Applications for fellowships for studies in leukemia and allied diseases will also be accepted. The Society will support research studies covering more than one year.

Qualified investigators are entitled to apply. Applications may be made at any time and are reviewed by a selection committee every quarter — March, June, September and December. The application forms can be had from Mr. Richard Mitchell, Executive Director, The Leukemia Society Incorporated, 27 William Street, New York 5, N.Y.

Mac Donnel Fund

According to an announcement dated June 27, the Union Ministry of Health has issued instructions that all property of the 'Mac Donnel Fund for Training of Lady Doctors' should be transferred to the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments for the State of Uttar Pradesh. This has been done because the benefits of the fund do not extend beyond Uttar Pradesh.

Panel On Ayurveda

The Planning Commission has set up a Panel on Ayurveda with Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda, Minister for Planning, as its Chairman, says an announcement dated July 13.

The Panel will review the progress made by various schemes launched in the field of indigenous systems of medicine and advise the Commission on programmes relating to the Third Five-Year Plan.

Besides Shri Nanda, the Panel has 34 members.

Panel On Health

An announcement of July 15 says that the Planning Commission has reconstituted its Panel on Health with Dr. A.N. Khosla, member of the Commission, as its chairman.

The Panel will review the progress of health plans and advise the Commission on programmes relating to the Third Five-Year Plan.

Besides the Chairman, the Panel will have 38 members.

Social Welfare

DISPOSAL OF ACQUIRED EVACUEE PROPERTIES

An announcement of July 12 says that the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation has enhanced the powers of the Regional Settlement Commissioners and fixed a time-limit for the finalisation of transactions to speed up the disposal of acquired evacuee properties.

The Regional Settlement Commissioners can now sell by negotiations, to the State Governments, Government Departments, Local Bodies and recognised Institutions engaged in educational and medical activities, acquired property valued upto Rs. 25,000. So far, the disposal of properties valued above Rs. 10,000 had to be referred to the Chief Settlement Commissioner.

To ensure that these negotiations do not drag on for an indefinite period, it has been decided that the prices of such properties should be realised from parties within one month, otherwise properties should be auctioned to other parties.

Those Local Bodies etc. who are in unauthorised possession of acquired evacuee properties

will be evicted. Only in special circumstances, will they be given an option to purchase the properties with a premium ranging from 10 to 50 per cent, according to the circumstances of the case.

About 800 properties, whose value ranged upto Rs. one lakh or above, have been sold by negotiations so far. With the enhancement of their powers, the Regional Settlement Commissioners will be able to dispose of 50 properties immediately.

Acquired evacuee properties are sold to Government departments etc. provided these are already in their occupation or are lying vacant and also are required by them for public purposes.

Resettlement Of D.P.s In Mikir Hills

A New Delhi announcement of July 13 says that the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation has placed Rs. 3.5 lakhs at the disposal of the Assam Government for providing house building loans to displaced persons who have been evicted from the Mikir Hills.

The loans would be distributed among 600 to 700 evictee displaced families who are being settled at alternative sites in the Mikir Hills district itself. The District Council has released about 3,400 bighas of land for resettling these families.

The Union Government have accepted full responsibility for the resettlement at alternative sites in Assam of eligible displaced families evicted from Mikir Hills. The Government will not, however, grant any assistance to these evictee families in other State.

The total number of families to be shifted from the Mikir Hills is between 1100 to 1200. The Assam Government have agreed to provide about 5,400 bighas of the forest area known as the Jamuna-Moudanga Reserve, which is at a distance of 5 to 6 miles from the Noamati Mouza in the Mikir Hills district for the resettlement of 900 to 1,000 families. Another 600 to 700 families are being settled in the Mikir Hills district itself and for the remaining families the Union Rehabilitation Ministry has already sanctioned schemes for settlement at Barapani, Coolie-Coosie, Lettekujan and Jorabari.

The States

PRIME MINISTER'S APPEAL TO PEOPLE OF ASSAM

In the course of an appeal on July 9 to the people of Assam on the recent disturbances on the State language issue in some parts of that State, Prime Minister Nehru expressed his deep distress at those occurrences. He observed that a frequent resort to violent methods struck at the root of democratic and peaceful progress. It created an atmosphere which came in the way of all national effort.

Continuing he said, "Anything involving human tragedy is bad and inexcusable, whatever the original cause might be. For language to be made a reason for this is particularly unfortunate, for that language itself suffers most by this approach. We want development of all our national languages, but surely this is not the way to develop or encourage them. It has been the misfortune of our country to have to face disruptive tendencies whether based on communalism, province or language. And yet, we all know that the progress of India can only take place by the emotional integration of all the people who live in this great country."

He further said that Assam was potentially a rich State. But that potential could only become actual by hard and concentrated work. It must always be remembered that the basic conditions of progress in India, as elsewhere, are peace, tolerance, unity and hard work. He appealed to the people of Assam, whoever they might be, not to indulge in any behaviour which injured both the present and the future of Assam.

ASSENT FOR ORISSA BILLS

An announcement of June 28 says that the President has given assent to the Orissa Ayurvedic Medicine Bill, 1960, which provides for the development of the Ayurvedic system of medicine and regulation of its teaching and practice.

The bill contemplates the constitution of a Council and a Faculty with authority to prescribe the courses of training, qualifications, etc., and to ensure maintenance of an adequate standard of proficiency in the practice of the system.

Provision has also been made in the bill for registration of the Ayurvedic practitioners under a separate authority.

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS BILL, 1960

According to an announcement of July 14, the President has given assent to the Orissa Legislative Assembly Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Bill, 1960.

The Bill seeks to give immunity to the press from civil or criminal proceedings 'if they publish the proceedings of the Orissa Legislative Assembly in a substantially correct manner without any malice.'

Under the present system, a member of the legislature is immune from legal proceedings for his speeches in the House, but the newspapers are liable for legal proceedings.

The Press Commission had recommended that the Parliament and the State Legislatures should take steps to extend this privilege to the newspapers.

Assent For Punjab Bill

The President has given assent to the Punjab Gram Panchayat (Amendment) Bill 1960, says an announcement of June 24.

The legislation seeks to unify the law relating to panchayats in the territories which, immediately before November 1, 1956, were comprised in the erstwhile States of Punjab and PEPSU. This is being done by extending the territorial application of the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, throughout the reorganised State of Punjab.

The Act has also been amended to enable the panchayats to function effectively as units of Local Self-Government and as agencies for planning and execution of developmental activities in rural areas.

SEATS FOR J. & K. STUDENTS IN DENTAL COLLEGES

An announcement of July 6 says that the Union Ministry of Health has, on the request of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, made arrangements for the reservation of seats in the B.D.S. course for students belonging to Jammu and Kashmir for the academic year 1960-61 in dental colleges in other States.

The Governments of West Bengal, Bombay, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh and the Principal, Nair Hospital Dental College, Bombay, have agreed to reserve 2 seats each in their dental colleges and the Government of Madras one seat in the Dental Wing of the Madras Medical College, Madras.

DRAFT MASTER PLAN FOR DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority approved the Draft Master Plan for the capital at its meeting held in New Delhi on July 6 and has published it for comments and suggestions.

The need for a comprehensive plan for Delhi has been obvious for some years on account of the city's rapid growth. As a first step the Government of India had an interim plan prepared by the Town Planning Organisation of the Union Ministry of Health for general guidance.

The Master Plan has been drafted after requisite surveys and investigations.

Government's Responsibility

The Delhi Development Authority has recommended the creation of an *ad hoc* committee consisting of representatives of U.P., Punjab and Delhi to initiate, in the first instance, preparation of plans for the entire Greater Delhi area and review those in progress.

The Master Plan further suggests that the *ad hoc* committee should act as an advisory body to the Union Government which should also be ultimately responsible for review. Once plans have been approved, each territory will take them over for areas in its jurisdiction and proceed to sanction and implement them.

This will naturally mean provision of funds for the projects as indicated by the plan making agency. It is expected that the State Governments will feel encouraged to make adequate funds available for the execution of the programmes sanctioned by them.

The planners have found that Old and New Delhi are both inadequate to meet the present and future demands. It is with a view to harmonising the two, both at the physical as well as the social level, that the plan has been prepared. Despite its high objectives, it is based on a realistic approach to current and future problems. It attempts to set right the adverse consequences of past growth, and to regulate future development.

Division Of Area

The draft plan has made major proposals for the period extending up to 1981, when, according to a conservative estimate, the population of the Delhi State will be about 55 lakhs — roughly double that at present.

The draft plan deals with four distinguishable but closely built-in areas. These are:— (i) Delhi-New Delhi areas, present and future—170 sq. miles; (ii) Rural areas in Delhi territory—400 sq. miles; (iii) Metropolitan area, i.e. towns close to Delhi whose development is inextricably connected, like Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Bahadurgarh and Narela—800 sq. miles; (iv) The National Capital region which goes up to a distance of 70 miles at places—4500 sq. miles.

The metropolitan region has a great deal of homogeneity and sooner or later will have to be planned in a proper manner. Similar growth is taking place in the urban population in the adjoining districts of UP and Punjab. It is, therefore, necessary not only for the orderly growth of Delhi but of the entire region that cities in the neighbouring districts should also be properly developed. Otherwise they will degenerate into slums and life in them will become extremely uncomfortable.

Eight Districts

After fixing the urbanisable limits upto 1981, the entire existing and proposed urban area has been divided into the following eight districts: Old City — 2,900 acres, population 3,80,000; City Extension — 5,655 acres, population 4,45,000; Civil Lines—6985 acres, population 3,92,000; New Delhi-17,055 acres, population 7,20,000; Shahdara—19,075 acres, population 7,00,000; South Delhi 27,910 acres, population 7,46,000; West Delhi—23,300 acres, population 6,78,000; and West Yamuna Canal Area—10,600 acres, population 5,24,000.

One of the aims in planning these districts is that each should have its own principal shopping centre and major work centres for its population. Each district is intended to be self-contained in employment and community facilities. Each district centre will have one or more sub-district centres which will have one or more sub-district centres which will be subservient to it, a college, a general hospital and a park. The district centre as well as the sub-district centres will have adequate room for future expansion.

For working out specifically the general land use pattern, each district is sub-divided into smaller workable areas or planning areas and these are further subdivided into planning units. The total number of planning areas is 96.

Parks will be within walking distance of the neighbourhood. Regional parks are also proposed for a much wider range of population. The agricultural belt around the main arterial roads and railways is intended to limit the development to specified rural uses. This belt will lie beyond the urbanisable limit of 1981.

Rural Areas

The major proposals for the rural areas of Delhi include provision of schools, hospitals and shopping centres and improvement of communications. One of the main recommendations is regarding the development of certain 'urban' villages just outside the urbanisable limits of 1981, with a view to developing them for the relocation of those industries which are at present in the city but are basically of a rural character, like maintenance of milch-cattle, pottery, weaving, tanning, etc.

The locations proposed for urban villages are Badli, Nangloi Jat Mahipalpur and Madanpur; and if steps are taken to provide them with certain minimum amenities, it should be possible to remove some of the obnoxious trades from the residential areas in the city. The removal of these trades and industries will open up quite a large area of valuable land for urban uses.

To make the plan a reality, the draft outlines proposals for phasing the programme until 1966 in accordance with studies of revenue resources, need of capital, remunerative and non-remunerative items.

MORE 'KALYAN KENDRAS' IN DELHI

An announcement of July 8 says that more *Kalyan Kendras* (welfare centres) for the families of Central Government employees are to be organised in and outside Delhi this year.

A *Kalyan Kendra* is a place where the wives of Government employees are taught how to knit, embroider or tailor, so that they may add to the families' incomes by doing job-work in their leisure. The Welfare Section of the Union Home Ministry has opened 21 such centres and proposes to open another 12.

Also, Staff Welfare Committees are working in every Ministry to give the employees a sense of participation in the promotion and execution of welfare measures.

The grants-in-aid have also progressively increased during the last six years. The figure stood at Rs. 55,000 in 1954-55; the allocation for 1960-61 is Rs. 6.4 lakhs.

Kerala-Madras Pact On Parambikulam Waters

An agreement is reached between the Kerala and Madras Governments on the sharing of Parambikulam and Sholayar waters at a meeting convened by the Union Home Minister, Shri G.B. Pant, in New Delhi on July 4, says a Press Note issued the same day by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power.

The agreement provides for the construction of reservoir by the Madras Government on the river Sholayar in Madras territory, and the method of ensuring 12,300 million cft. of water annually for use in Kerala at the Sholayar Power House in Kerala.

A detailed agreement, specifying the designs and working table of the projet, will be worked out by the two Governments, and finalised in consultation with the Union Ministry of Irrigation and Power.

Defence

INDIA-INDONESIA NAVAL EXERCISES CONCLUDE

The last phase of the combined exercises between the ships of Indonesian and Indian Navies has just concluded with the final series of exercises carried out by the combined force in the waters between Sourabaya and Bali, says a message received in New Delhi on July 15 from the Navy's flagship MYSORE, from the Java Sea. The IN ships that participated in these exercises included the MYSORE and the new frigates BRAHMAPUTRA, KUTHAR and KHUKRI.

The senior officers of both the Navies, says the message, had expressed their satisfaction over the close relationship and better understanding forged by these joint exercises.

The IN ships are due to leave Indonesia on July 1 for Singapore for further training exercises to be held with the Commonwealth Navies.

NAVY CHIEF VISITS INDONESIA

Vice-Admiral R.D. Katari, Chief of the Naval Staff, left New Delhi on June 23 for Calcutta on a 12-day visit to Indonesia, on the invitation of the Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Navy. Admiral Katari, accompanied by Mrs. Katari, reached Jakarta on June 30.

This is the first visit of the kind to be paid by Admiral Katari as Chief of the Naval Staff. It also coincided with the goodwill visit to Indonesia by the flagship I.N.S. MYSORE and the 14th Frigate Squadron. These ships during their visit to Indonesia also carried out combined exercises with the Indonesian fleet.

Sikh Light Infantry Honours Lt. Gen. Savory

India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Shrimati Vijayalakshmi Pandit, presented on behalf of the Sikh Light Infantry a memento to Lt. General Sir Reginald Savory at India House, London, on June 24. The memento, which was a silver statuette of a Sikh soldier, was a tribute by the Sikh Light Infantry to the services rendered by General Savory during ten years as Colonel of the Regiment.

NEW ARMY APPOINTMENT

Major-General G.S. Gill has assumed the appointment of Director of Supplies and Transport at the Army Headquarters. He succeeds Major-General P.S. Chowdhury, who has retired.

Thirteenth Graduates' Course At I.M.A.

In a Press Note issued on June 21, the Ministry of Defence has announced the names of 89 candidates, who have qualified for admission to the 13th Graduates' Course commencing at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, on July 25, 1960.

'ARMY OFFICERS OF TOMORROW'

The Films Division's colour documentary, "Army Officers of Tomorrow", which was released recently, describes the working of the Military Academy at Dehra Dun.

The documentary shows the intensive training received by cadets of the Academy from their admission to the passing out parade which marks the end of the training when the cadets become full-fledged officers of the Indian Army.

India & The World

INDIAN SCHOOL IN KABUL

India's Charge d'Affaires in Kabul, Shri D. Murugesan, inaugurated the first Indian primary school in Kabul on July 14.

The incentive for the school was provided by the Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, during his visit to Kabul in September last when he returned 100,000 Afghanis presented to him by the Indian traders for his Relief Fund for providing educational facilities for Indian children in Kabul.

GIFT TO ROYAL SIAM SOCIETY OF THAILAND

India's Ambassador to Thailand, Shri Niranjan Singh Gill, presented to the Royal Siam Society of Thailand documentaries on Gautama—The Buddha and Khajuraho on July 11. Shri Gill also presented six tape-records for learning Sanskrit.

INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION IN TUNIS

An Indian Photographic Exhibition was inaugurated in Tunis on June 23 by the Tunisian Minister of Information, Mr. Mohamed Masmoudi, in the presence of several Tunisian Ministers and Heads of diplomatic missions. The exhibition, which opened up to July 8, depicted India's achievements since independence.

INDIAN ENVOYS ABROAD

BURMA

In a Press Note issued on July 12, the Ministry of External Affairs announced that Shri Rangiah Subra Mani, Ambassador of India to Chile has been appointed as Ambassador of India to Burma. He will take up his new post in October.

MADAGASCAR

In a Press Note issued on July 6, the Ministry of External Affairs says that, consequent on the attainment of independence by Madagascar, the Government of India have decided to raise the status of its Mission at Tananarive from that of a Consulate General to that of an Embassy with effect from June 27, 1960, and to appoint Shri J.A. Shah, at present Consul General there to be Charge d' Affaires ad interim with rank of Minister.

LIBERIA AND GUINEA

A Press Note issued on July 7 by the Ministry of External Affairs says that, in order to strengthen the friendly relations existing between them, the Governments of India and Liberia have decided to establish diplomatic relations at Embassy level.

By another Press Note dated July 8, the Ministry has announced the Government's decision to establish diplomatic relations between India and the Republic of Guinea at Embassy level.

Shri Khub Chand, India's High Commissioner in Ghana, will concurrently be Ambassador to Liberia as well as to Guinea with residence in Accra.

HIGH COMMISSIONER OF NEW ZEALAND

Mr. G.R. Powles, High Commissioner-designate of New Zealand, presented his Credentials to the President at Rashrapati Bhavan on July 8.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

JULY 1 To 15

July 1 — The Heavy Electrical Factory at Bhopal, first of its kind in India, commences production according to schedule

— The Estate Duty (Amendment)) Act, 1958 and the Estate Duty (Amendment) Act, 1960 come into force

— The eleventh Vanamahotsava begins all over the country

— Shri V.V. Giri and Dr. B. Ramakrishna Rao are sworn in as Governors of Kerala and Uttar Pradesh respectively

— In a recorded broadcast to the nation over All India Radio, President Rajendra Prasad inaugurates the "Freedom From Hunger" campaign in India, as part of the worldwide campaign sponsored by the FAO

2 — The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, arrives in Srinagar on a five-day visit to Kashmir and Ladakh

— Mrs. Aung San, Burma's Ambassador-designate to India, arrives in New Delhi

— The Board of Directors of the National Research Development Corporation is reconstituted

3 — The talks, which started on June 28 between water resources experts from India and Pakistan on exchange of data of river projects, conclude in New Delhi

— The Government of India set up an eight-member committee to study the problem of utilisation of iron ore fines

4 — The Government of India announce the issue of two new loans for a total sum of Rs. 175 crores — one 3½ per cent Bonds 1966 and the other 4 per cent Loan 1980, both to be subscribed simultaneously from July 18 to 20

5 — The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, returns in New Delhi after a 15-day visit to the U.S.S.R.

8 — The President promulgates the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance, 1960, under which the Government of India declare illegal the proposed strike of Central Government employees

10 — The Canada-India reactor at Trombay, the second in India, reaches criticality

11 — A strike is launched at midnight by certain sections of Central Government employees

14 — An arrangement for the import of films from the U.S.A. is signed in New Delhi between the Government of India and the Motion Pictures Export Association of America

15 — An agreement is signed in New Delhi between the Indian Oil Company and the Soviet Oil Export Organisation for the import of kerosene and other petroleum products from the U.S.S.R.

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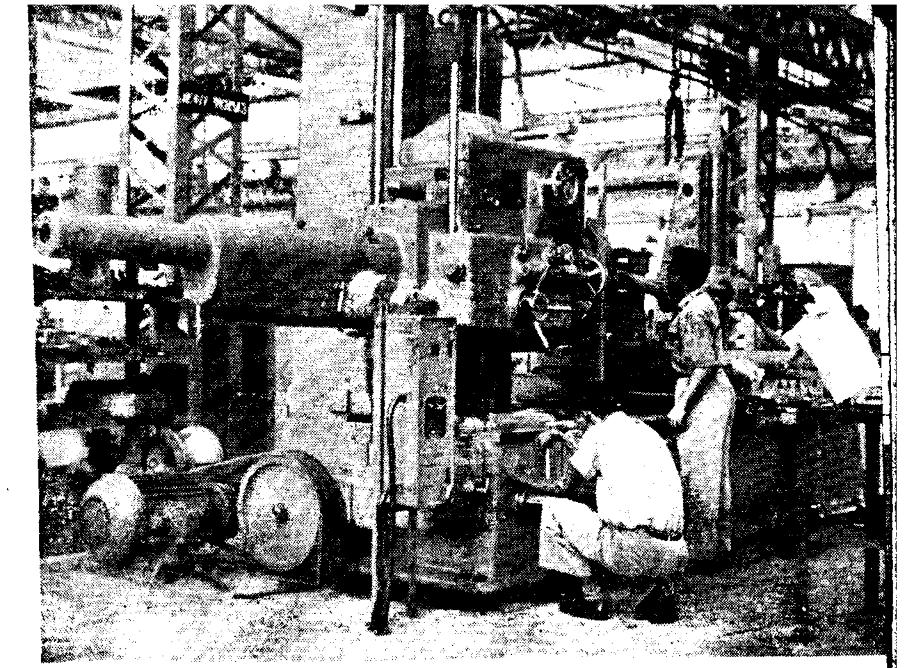
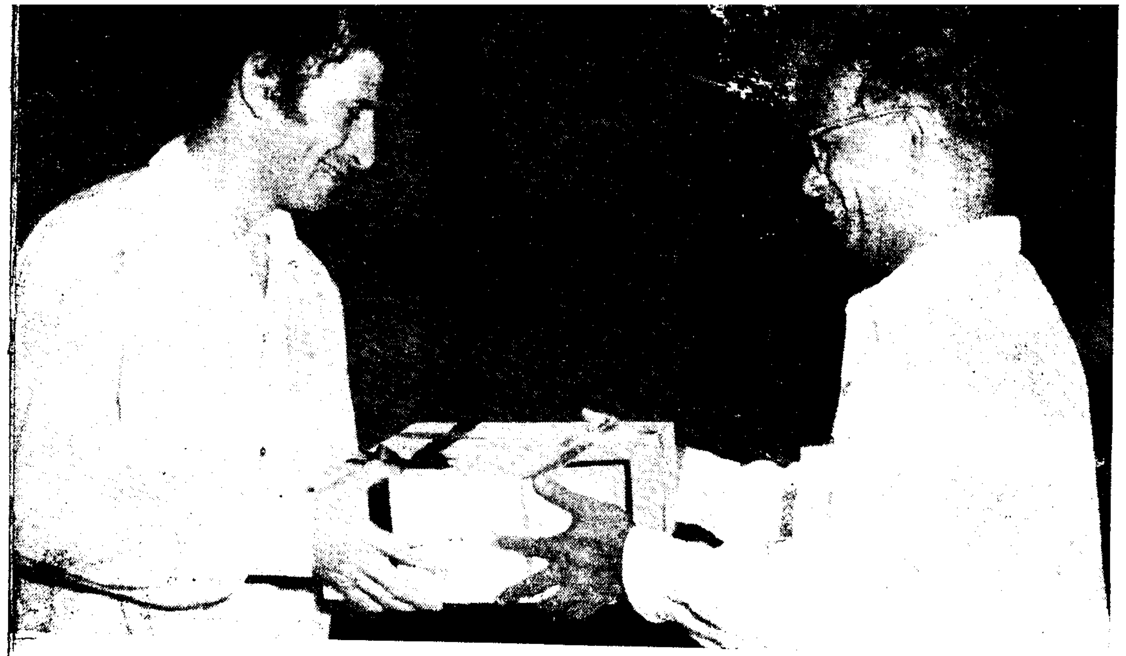


A section of the Heavy Electrical Factory at Bhopal, the first of its kind in India and the biggest in Asia, which commenced production on July 1

The leaders of delegations from India and Pakistan signing papers in connection with the exchange of data regarding river projects, at the concluding session of the six-day talks in New Delhi on July 3

Prime Minister Nehru chatting with a group of foreign students in India when the latter called on him on July 11



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Inviting artists from foreign lands and sending out cultural delegations abroad is a regular feature of the cultural exchange programme of the Government of India. Picture on the left shows Mr. Marcel Marceau, world famous French mime, who gave six performances in Bombay, New Delhi and Calcutta at the invitation of the Government of India, receiving a souvenir from Dr. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs

Picture below shows the members of a dance and music troupe from India which left New Delhi for Mongolia on July 7

Indian Information

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The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, receiving H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad when the latter called on him at Rashtrapati Nilayam, Hyderabad, on July 27 during the President's State visit to Andhra Pradesh

The signing of an agreement in New Delhi on July 29 for the import of additional 4,00,000 bales of cotton from the U.S.A. under P.L. 480

The Naga delegation holding talks with the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, on July 30 during their recent visit to New Delhi

Indian Information

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COVER: Their Majesties King Mahendra and the Queen of Nepal with President Rajendra Prasad and Prime Minister Nehru on their arrival at Palam airport on July 20

(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

FLAG CODE FOR DISPLAY OF NATIONAL FLAG

To ensure the correct display of the National Flag, the Government of India issued a Flag Code on July 25.

The rules in the code are not applicable to defence installations and personnel. According to the rules, wherever the flag is flown, it should occupy the position of honour and be distinctly placed. In no case, the flag will be dipped in salute to any person or thing. Nor will any other flag or bunting be placed higher or above it.

Only such important public buildings as High Courts, Secretariats, Commissioners' Offices, Collectorates, Jails, and Offices of the District Boards, Municipalities and Zilla Parishads will normally fly the flag. It will be displayed on all days, including Sundays and holidays from sunrise to sunset irrespective of weather conditions. The flag may also be flown on such buildings at night but this should be on very special occasions.

ON NATIONAL DAYS

On special occasions like the Republic Day and the National Week following it, the Independence Day and Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Day or any other that, after their meeting on the 25th July 1960 at the conclusion of six weeks' discussions, during which 18 meetings were held, the Indian and Chinese officials, who are meeting at Peking to examine documents in support of the stands of the two Governments on the Sino-Indian boundary question, adjourned and will resume their work in Delhi in the middle of August.

After complete consideration of item one of their agenda, *i.e.*, location and terrain features of the boundary as claimed by the two Governments, the officials have dealt in the last few meetings with item two of their agenda, *i.e.*, the basis of the boundary alignments in treaties and agreements, traditional and customary.

The discussions began in Peking on June 15.

ENGINEERING FORCE FOR NORTHERN BORDER

A General Reserve Engineering Force for developing roads and other communications along the Himalayan border is to be constituted shortly.

The Force which will consist of skilled and unskilled personnel, including ex-Servicemen will be set up on the pattern of the Military Engineering Service.

The entire project of co-ordinating and developing the border areas is expected to cost about Rs. 120 crores.

Recruitment to the General Reserve Engineering Force, which will function as a civilian cadre, will be through employment exchanges, the river valley projects and the recruiting offices throughout the country. Those joining the Force are to be offered liberal scales of pay besides a special allowance and several facilities.

The Border Roads Development Board has already completed a survey of the needs of the border areas and has worked out priorities of development. The object is to construct roads linking the 2,500-mile Sino-Indian boundary. Roads will be constructed in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and the North East Frontier Agency. The ultimate aim is to develop the areas in such a way as to populate the border regions.

FOREIGNERS IN INDIA

A New Delhi announcement of July 29 says that in the last seven months the number of registered foreigners in India went down by about 2,000, from 55,104 on October 31, 1959 to 53,079 on June 1, 1960.

The Chinese numbered 11,936, Afghans 7,039, Iranians 4,066, Americans 3,783, Germans 3,227, Russians 1,925, Italians 1,118, Portuguese 1,037, and French 998.

Registration is not required for the Commonwealth citizens, including those from Pakistan.

There is no registration of foreigners coming for a stay of 30 days or less. Those holding visas valid for stay of more than 30 days but less than 90 days are required to register themselves at the registration office of the place where they happen to be resident when they have stayed in India for 30 days. Registration offices have been set up in Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Delhi.

Films Division Made Permanent

An announcement of July 26 says that the Government of India have decided that the Films Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should be treated as a permanent organisation and 80 per cent of the posts, which have been in existence for at least three years and are for work of a permanent nature, made permanent. This decision will entitle the staff confirmed to pension and death-cum-retirement gratuity benefits.

The Division produces, in addition to weekly newsreels, about 110 documentary films per year.

Revived in 1948, the Division has up to December 31, 1959, produced and distributed 618 films and 585 weekly newsreels. These provide interesting factual information on India, and the demand for them here and abroad has been growing steadily.

Travel Concession To Government Employees

A New Delhi announcement of July 26 says that the industrial and work-charged staff, who are entitled to regular leave, will also be eligible from this year to leave travel concessions like the other Central Government employees.

The concession will be admissible for journeys between places not connected by rail as well. The extent of assistance from Government in such cases will be limited to what would have been admissible had the journey been done by rail in the authorised class, or 90 per cent of the actual expenses, whichever is less.

Under the concession scheme, introduced on October 11, 1956, the entire cost of the journey for the initial 250 miles on each of the outward and return journeys is borne by the Government servant himself. For the remaining distance, the Government meets 90 per cent of the actual fare while the employee bears the balance.

However, from January 1, 1958, further concession has been made for the Class IV employees and now they pay only 10 per cent as travelling fare when they go on leave if their posting is a hundred miles away from their homes. The minimum limit was reduced because it was found that most of the Class IV employees had their homes within 250 miles of the headquarters.

PAID HOLIDAY ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

In a Press Note issued on July 28, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has announced that, in pursuance of the instructions issued by the Ministry on previous anniversaries of Independence Day, the Government of India have issued a similar directive this year to their Officers-in-charge of industrial undertakings to declare August 15 as holiday for workers without any loss in their wages. It is hoped that other employers also will co-operate by declaring this national day as a paid holiday.

Teaching Of Hindi To Government Employees

A New Delhi announcement of July 28 says that facilities for training Government employees in Hindi are to be doubled from this year.

At present, there are 85 centres in the country to offer instruction to as many as 20,000 employees.

The scheme which was initially started by the Ministry of Education in July 1952 was taken over by the Union Home Ministry in September 1955. Then the number of employees under training at the various centres stood at 2,500.

Employees have been offered three courses — Prabodh, Praveen and Pragya — each one lasting for nine months. The medium of instruction is English.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR I.G.Y.

According to an announcement dated July 24, the Government of India have decided that the present Indian National Committee for the International Geophysical Year should continue to function for another year from May 1960.

By that time, the Committee which is headed by Dr. K.S. Krishnan, Director, National Physical Laboratory, would have published the data of all the International Geophysical Year and the International Geophysical Co-operation programmes and also held symposium on the work of the International Geophysical Year scheduled for the later part of this year.

During this period the National Committee will also act as the Indian Committee adhering to the International Committee on Geophysics.

LONDON VARSITY HONOURS DR. H. J. BHABHA

A New Delhi announcement of July 26 says that Dr. H.J. Bhabha was awarded honorary degree of Doctor of Science by the London University on July 25 at a special convocation held at the Royal Festival Hall to mark the double celebration — the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Society and the centenary of the University.

Dr. Bhabha was one of the six Royal Society members whom the University chose to honour on this historic occasion. The award was made personally by the Queen Mother, Chancellor of the University.

AWARDS FOR GALLANTRY

The President has awarded the Police Medal for gallantry to Shri Bhoor Singh (deceased), Constable, Special Armed Force, Madhya Pradesh, says an announcement of July 23.

On the night of March 5 this year, he took up an exposed position knowing fully well that a desperate and dangerous dacoit, fully armed, was hiding in a temple nearby.

In the encounter, the dacoit was killed but the Constable Bhoor Singh received fatal bullet wounds which resulted in his death.

Another announcement dated July 15 says that the President's Police and Fire Services Medal for gallantry has been awarded to Shri Narain Singh, Officiating Deputy Superintendent of Police, Dholpur, Rajasthan.

Shri Narain Singh 'displayed exemplary courage and devotion to duty of a very high order'. At great personal risk, he shot dead the notorious dacoit, Babu Gujar, who had terrorised the people of Dholpur Sub-Division and Morena District where his gang had committed several serious crimes including dacoities and murders.

Planning & Finance

MEETING OF CUSTOMS & CENTRAL EXCISE ADVISORY COUNCIL

A two-day session of the Customs and Central Excise Advisory Council was inaugurated in New Delhi on July 25 by the Union Minister for Revenue and Civil Expenditure, Dr. B. Gopala Reddi.

In his address, Dr. Reddi said that Customs and Excise taxation constitutes the major part of the Union Government's tax resources. These two had together accounted for Rs. 2,323 crores over the Second Plan period, representing about 65 per cent of the total tax revenues of the Centre. Of this amount, the quantum of additional taxation accounted for Rs. 582 crores and almost the entire sum had to be raised by way of Central Excise duties. Apart from the normal growth of revenues, additional taxation by the Centre and the States to the extent of Rs. 1,650 crores would have to be attempted for the successful implementation of the Third Plan. Naturally the Customs and Central Excise Departments would again be called upon to make substantial contributions to the raising of resources, he added.

The Minister informed that the Estimate Committee of Parliament had recommended the setting up of a Reorganisation Committee for Central Excise. The Government had accepted the recommendation in principle and steps were being taken to set up the Committee very shortly. Dr. Reddi also disclosed that the Government were actively engaged in a comprehensive revision of the Customs Act.

Customs Items

On the first day of its session, the Council disposed of an 18-point agenda relating to Customs.

The Council was informed that goods liable to Central Excise duty exported through land customs frontiers, were not re-examined at the Land Customs Stations as a matter of course. Such examination was undertaken only in cases where the seals on the packages were found to be broken or damaged.

Regarding a complaint of pilferage of goods awaiting clearance at Port Trust sheds in Bombay, an official of the Ministry of Transport and Communications gave the assurance that the Bombay Port Trust were fully alive to the problem and were taking several measures to stop the evil. It was also stated that imported metal components were now stored in sheds and not left in the open.

About the procedure for the release of drugs and medicines required to be tested under the provisions of the Drugs Rules, it was stated that Customs Collectors had been asked to accept a simple letter of undertaking without a bank's surety as they had been doing till recently.

Also, instructions had been issued to the Customs authorities that where the value of the goods alone had been stipulated as a limiting factor in an import licence, they should not go by the quantity of goods imported.

In determining the assessability of component parts of capital machinery, the Government of India had, in accordance with the recommendation of the Customs Reorganisation Committee, issued instructions that appraisers should take a liberal view in deciding which articles could be deemed to be component parts of the machinery. It was further stated that Government were laying down detailed procedure for giving effect to their decision that where only a part of an essential item of machinery was imported, the rest being manufactured indigenously, the component parts of the machinery should get the same concession in the matter of duty as would have happened if the entire machinery had been imported.

The Council was also informed that where samples of goods were drawn for test by the Customs department and were destroyed in the process of test, it had been decided that the payment of import duty on the samples would be waived if the duty amount was Rs. 10 or more.

Before it adjourned for the day, the Council discussed a Government sponsored item seeking the co-operation of the trade in the prevention of smuggling and tax evasion.

Central Excise Items

On the second day, the Council took a number of decisions on a 36-point agenda relating to Central Excise.

Ten items were accepted by Government immediately after their receipt from the members. Those accepted were:

(1) The existing procedure of charging duty on the actual quantity of sugar recovered from unfinished sugar would be continued without change.

(2) The time limit for submitting final manufacturing report had been extended to 25 days after the close of the season.

(3) The old procedure in respect of check-weightment of empty gunny bags in sugar factories had been restored.

(4) Non-power operated soap manufacturers had been exempted from maintaining a new form.

(5) Instruction had been issued requiring the factory officer to attend to opening, salvaging and dismantling of automobile batteries.

(6) Orders had been passed for bringing in duty-paid paper for use in the mills for the manufacture of certain items of stationery.

(7) Suitable instructions had been issued for removing the difficulties of the factories for storing duty-paid goods within the factory premises subject to certain safeguards.

(8) Instructions had also been issued for maintenance of eparate accounts for certain types of goods in respect of goods brought back to the factory after reconditioning, etc.

(9) Manufacturers of vegetable non-essential oils had been permitted to arrange the manufacturing programme in such a way as to manufacture dutiable oils during certain weeks, and the exempted varieties during certain other specified weeks in a month under certain conditions.

(10) Suitable instructions had been issued regulating the use of residential accommodation required to be provided by the factories under the rules.

Compounded Levy Scheme

There was some discussion in respect of the compounded levy scheme for vegetable non-essential oils. One member pressed for the extension of the scheme to larger units as well while another wanted that double chamber expellers should also be brought within the purview of the scheme. The Chairman of the Council, Dr. B. Gopala Reddi, explained why both these suggestions could not be accepted. He said, the new scheme should be given a fair trial before further changes could be considered.

Another point raised related to a proposal regarding acceptance of payment of excise duty through cheques or credit notes. The Chairman explained that Government had agreed to the suggestion in principle and that procedural details were being worked out.

The Council also considered an 18-point agenda relating to Customs

REPLACEMENT OF SALES TAXES

The Committee of Chief/Finance Ministers of States met in New Delhi on July 29 to consider the replacement of the existing Central and States Sales Taxes on certain commodities such as silk fabrics, matches, paper and vegetable products by the levy of additional excise duties by the Centre. It agreed that sales tax on silk fabrics should be so replaced. In respect of the other commodities, different views were expressed and it was decided not to pursue the matter until further experience was gained on the working of the existing additional excise duty scheme on sugar, tobacco and textiles.

The meeting was presided over by the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. B.C. Roy, who is Chairman of the Committee. The States represented on the Committee were Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madras, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal. Representatives of Gujarat and Bihar attended by special invitation.

Central Revenue For May, 1960

A New Delhi announcement of July 24 says that the revenue realised from important dutiable items in the first two months of the financial year 1960-61 amounted to Rs. 103.05 crores; of this, Rs. 53.88 crores were collected during May 1960. The corresponding figures for the first two months of the financial year 1959-60 were Rs. 87.28 crores of which Rs. 44.16 crores were for May 1959.

INDO-SWISS CREDIT AGREEMENT

The Governments of India and Switzerland signed a credit agreement at Berne on July 30. The agreement provides for the purchase of Swiss capital goods by India for India's development programmes. The credit is for a period of 10 years covering transactions of the value of 100 million Swiss francs (Rs. 10.9 crores). Of this amount, a sum of 60 million Swiss francs will be made available immediately and the balance of 40 million Swiss francs later. The credit will be provided by a consortium of Swiss banks on mutually agreed terms. The credit will be guaranteed by the Swiss Government within the framework of their Federal Law on Export Risk Guarantees.

Indian imports of specified capital goods under this agreement will be in addition to Indian imports under the normal import policy of the Government of India which provides for non-discriminatory licensing so far as imports financed from India's own free foreign exchange resources are concerned.

Discussions on this agreement were initiated last year during the visit of the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, to Switzerland at the invitation of the Swiss Government.

NEW STATE LOANS FLOATED

According to a Press Communique issued on July 28 by the Reserve Bank of India, twelve State Governments have announced the issue of their new loans bearing interest at four per cent per annum for amounts aggregating to Rs. 7,500 lakhs as under:—

All the above loans will be repaid at par on August 29, 1969.

All loans will open for subscription on August 29, 1960 and close on September 3, 1960 (September 6 in the case of Kerala loan) or earlier without notice as soon as subscriptions approximate to the amount of such issue. All the Governments reserve the right to retain subscriptions upto 10 per cent in excess of the notified amount.

Rate Of Interest

All the loans will bear interest from August 29, 1960. Interest will be liable to tax under the Indian Income-Tax Act, 1922.

Subscriptions may be in the form of cash/cheque in respect of all the loans. Three per cent Bombay State Development Loan 1960 will be accepted at par for conversion into the new loan of the Government of Maharashtra. Securities of 3% Madhya Pradesh Loan 1960, Madras Government 3% Development Bonds 1960, Madras Government 3% loan 1960 and 3% U.P. Loan 1960 will also be accepted for conversion at par into the new loans of the *respective State Governments.*

Interest at the rate of 3% per annum on the securities of Madras Government 3% Loan 1960 and 3% U.P. Loan 1960 tendered for conversion will be paid upto and inclusive of August 28, 1960. In case of securities tendered in respect of Madras Government 3% Development Bonds 1960, 3% Madhya Pradesh Loan 1960 and 3% Bombay State Development Loan 1960, which are due to mature on July 31, 1960, interest will be paid at the rate of 3% per annum upto and inclusive of July 30, 1960 and at the rate of 4% per annum from

Name of State	Amount of Loan Rs. in lakhs	Year of Maturity	Issue Price Per Cent (Rs.)
Andhra Pradesh	900	1969	99.75
Bihar	300	1969	99.50
Gujarat	500	1969	100.0
Kerala	400	1969	99.50
Madhya Pradesh	500	1969	99.50
Madras	1200	1969	99.75
Maharashtra	1000	1969	100.0
Mysore	400	1969	99.75
Orissa	400	1969	99.50
Rajasthan	500	1969	99.75
Uttar Pradesh	700	1969	99.75
West Bengal	700	1969	99.75

July 31, 1960 to August 28, 1960 inclusive.

SPECIAL OPTION

Applications for the loans will be received at the public debt offices of the Reserve Bank of India at Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and New Delhi and at the branches of the State Bank of India/State Bank of Hyderabad/State Bank of Mysore and at Government treasuries and sub-treasuries as indicated in the respective loan notifications.

Applicants tendering their applications at the offices of the Reserve Bank of India, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, New Delhi and Madras will, in the event of over-subscription to the loan applied for, be given the option of transferring their cash refunds to any of the other State Government loans which may not be fully subscribed by that time. To avail themselves of this facility, they should complete and tender along with their loan applications the 'special option form', copies of which are obtainable on application from any of the above-mentioned offices of the Reserve Bank of India.

New Central Loans Fully Subscribed

Subscription lists for the 3½ per cent bonds 1966 and 4 per cent loan 1980 were closed on July 20 as the notified amount had been fully subscribed, announced the Ministry of Finance in a Press Note of the same date.

The two new loans announced on July 4, were for a total sum of Rs. 175 crores. Subscription lists opened on July 18.

Nomination By Holders Of Small Savings

An announcement of July 29 says that the Government of India have framed rules providing for nomination facilities to holders of 10-year Treasury Savings Deposits Certificates and 15-year Annuity Certificates. They will come into force on August 1, 1960.

Under the rules, the holders of these certificates can nominate a person or persons who, in the event of their death, will be entitled to the certificates and to payment of the amount due thereon without production of a succession certificate etc. This facility will, however, be restricted to individual holders only and will not be available in respect of certificates held by two adults jointly or a guardian on behalf of a minor or by an institution. Nominations once made can subsequently be cancelled or varied at the option of the holders.

This facility has been made in response to suggestions made from time to time that the existing procedure involves considerable delay, expense and inconvenience to the claimants. In order to remove these difficulties, the Public Debt Act, 1944, which applies to these certificates, was amended last year.

A provision has also been made in the rules permitting their transfer to other persons if they are otherwise eligible to hold the certificates.

PLAN CERTIFICATES ETC.

Also from August 1, 1960, nomination facilities will be available to holders of 12-year National Plan Savings Certificates, 12-year, 7-year and 5-year National Savings Certificates, 10-year National Plan Certificates and depositors in Post Office Savings Banks and the Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme. Under the rules made by the amendment of the relevant Acts for the purpose, certificate holders and depositors can nominate a person or persons to receive the amount due to them in the event of their death without production of legal proof of title. The right of nomination, however, is being given only to individual holders, depositors, including minors who purchase certificates or have accounts in their own name. The facility will not be available to the holders of certificates purchased by two persons jointly or by an institution or by a person on behalf of a minor. Similarly, in the case of Savings Banks, joint or public accounts or accounts opened on behalf of minors will not be eligible for nomination. Nominations once made can be cancelled or varied subsequently.

EXPORT RISKS INSURANCE CORPORATION

According to an announcement of July 29, the Export Risks Insurance Corporation issued 135 policies during the six months from January to June 1960, as against 110 policies issued during the corresponding period last year.

The Corporation, which started underwriting risks involved in exports on credit terms in October 1957, had a total of 269 policies, with a maximum liability of Rs. 6.74 crores in force on June 30, 1960, as against 198 policies with a maximum liability of Rs. 6.64 crores on June 30, 1959.

During the first half of this year, the Corporation covered shipments/contracts for Rs. 3.50 crores as against Rs. 2.38 crores during the first half of last year. This showed an increase of 50 per cent in risks covered by the Corporation.

Premium income during this period amounted to Rs. 1,05,885 as against Rs. 75,238 in the previous year thereby showing an increase of 40 per cent.

During this period, the Corporation has registered 835 assignments in favour of the financing banks as against 703 during the corresponding period last year.

Commerce & Industry

MORE EXPORTS TO WEST GERMANY

The West German Government have agreed to take a series of steps to liberalise imports from India, says an announcement dated July 21.

This follows consultations between the representatives of the Governments of West Germany and India in pursuance of the Trade Arrangement between the two countries concluded on October 30 last year and the GATT decision asking West Germany to relax existing restrictions as soon as possible.

It is understood that West Germany has programmed to free most of the import restrictions on the textile group during the next five years. Among the other items on the restricted list, imports of goods like sewing machines, ceramics and toys, in which Indian exporters are interested, are now regulated under global quotas, which are to be increased annually. Licences for imports from India will be available to German traders in terms of these quotas.

For certain textile items, it has not been possible so far for the West German Government to indicate an official date for complete liberalisation, but it is their intention to establish quotas for these. Indian exporters could utilise this facility to effect sales to German buyers.

As regards hand-woven cotton fabrics, the West German Government has indicated its readiness to consider the grant of additional licences, if applications are certified by an Indian Government authority that the goods are 'hand-woven'. The All India Handloom Board in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry may be approached for the required certificate.

CONSULTATIVE PROTOCOL

A Consultative Protocol on these lines has already been signed between the representatives of the two Governments. The Protocol provides that, as soon as the value for which licences are issued is fully taken up, West Germany will automatically increase the quota by 50 per cent. In respect of 'household articles', this automatic rise will be of the order of 100 per cent. The items covered by the Protocol are fabrics made of cotton, wool, art silk, artificial and synthetic textiles, filaments and garments, coir carpets and fabrics, showing machines, toys, etc.

In order to take full advantage of the quotas released from imports from India, Indian exporters may approach for further details the Director of the India Trade Centre, Frankfurt or the First Secretary (Commerce), Indian Embassy at Bonn, or the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce at Bombay and Calcutta.

EXPORT INCENTIVE SCHEME EXTENDED

A Public Notice issued on July 28 by the Import Trade Council says that the Cotton Textile Export Incentive Scheme will be extended to the export of ropes, tapes, newar, twine, webbings and braids manufactured out of cotton yarn.

With effect from the quarter April-June 1960, exporters of these articles will be entitled to import entitlements of 10 per cent of the f.o.b. value of the articles exported. Coal tar dyes, textile chemicals, etc. imported under the scheme will have to be sold only to any unit of the textile industry.

The licences will be granted by the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Bombay, once in a quarter on the basis of exports effected in the preceding quarter.

TRADE CENTRE IN IRAQ

India's Trade Centre was inaugurated in Baghdad on July 23 by the Iraqi Trade Minister, Sayid Abdul Latif Alshawf.

Agreement On Import Of Cotton From U.S.A.

An agreement was signed in New Delhi on July 29 between the Government of India and the U.S.A. for the import of an additional quantity of 4,00,000 bales of cotton under title I of P.L. 480 programme. Two-thirds of this quantity will be available in staple lengths below 1-1/16 inch and the remaining one-third will be in staple lengths between 1-1/16 to 1-3/16 inches.

The cost of the cotton, including 50 per cent of the cost of transportation in American ships, will be $ 41.6 million (Rs. 19.8 crores).

These imports will be paid for in Rupees by the Government of India. The agreement indicates that 85 per cent of the rupee sale proceeds will be available to the Government of India for economic development.

Arrangements have also been made to license the import of a further quantity of 2,00,000 Indian bales to be procured from usual commercial sources.

Since the inception of the P.L. 480 programme in India in 1956, raw cotton worth $ 87 million and covering a quantity of about 8,00,000 Indian bales has been received from U.S.A. under the programme.

Total U.S. economic assistance to India till date amounts to over $ 3.5 billion (Rs. 1,666 crores).

IMPORT OF FILMS FROM U.K.

An arrangement was signed in New Delhi on July 26 between the Government of India and the

Rank Films of U.K. for the import of films from the U.K. The arrangement will remain in force for a period of two years.

The arangement provides for the utilisation, inter alia, of the earnings from U.K. films in India for rental or purchase of Indian films for export to non-traditional markets and for production of films in India in collaboration with Indian producers or otherwise.

A similar arrangement was signed recently with the Motion Picture Export Association of America regarding import of films from the U.S.A.

PROTECTION WITHDRAWN FROM THREE INDUSTRIES

In a Press Note dated July 22 the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced that the Government of India have accepted the Tariff Commission's recommendations that protection to the automobile hand tyre inflator industry need not be continued beyond December 31, 1960.

In the Resolution, Government have drawn the attention of the Indian Standards Institution to another recommendation of the Commission that ISI should take up the formulation of a standard for seamless brass tubes required for the industry.

There are at present six units, four in the large-scale sector and two in the small-scale sector, manufacturing automobile hand tyre inflators. The annual rated capacity of these units has been estimated by the Commission at 85,200 for hand tyre inflators and 96,000 for pump connections. As against this, the actual production in 1959 amounted to 47,784 hand tyre inflators and 48,906 pump connections.

The Commission has estimated the current annual domestic demand at 55,000 inflators and 1,50,000 pump connections. It has observed that the demand for inflators will be stable on this level, except for a slight upward trend.

Wood Screw Industry

The Government of India have also accepted the Tariff Commission's recommendation that protection to the wood screw industry need not be continued beyond December 31, 1960.

In the Resolution on the Commission's report Government have taken note of the recommendation that steps should be taken to ensure that no export of wood screws takes place, unless accompanied by a proper test certificate regarding its quality and proper packing.

Government have also drawn the attention of the wire manufacturers to the Commission's recommendation that, in the context of increased supply of billets to them, they should endeavour to meet more fully and expeditiously the demand of the wood screw manufacturers for steel wire. The need for taking urgent steps to improve the quality of wire rods and wires and conform to Indian Standard specifications has also been stressed.

Protection to the wood screw industry, first granted in 1947, has, so far, been extended from time to time.

The combined output of wood screws in both the large-scale and small-scale sectors rose from 8.5 million gross in 1957 to 9.9 million gross last year.

There are at present 25 units in the large-scale sector with total rated capacity (on a single shift basis) of about 7.8 million gross. In addition, there are about 28 units in the small-scale sector and their capacity is estimated at about one million gross wood screws a year.

The Commission has estimated the domestic demand at about 11 million gross for 1960, which may increase by at least one million gross per annum, reaching 14 million gross in 1963.

Calcium Lactate Industry

In a Press Note issued on July 28, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced that the Government of India have accepted the Tariff Commission's recommendation that protection to the calcium lactate industry need not be continued beyond December 31, 1960.

There are two units in the country producing calcium lactate at present. Together, their annual rated capacity amounts to 181 tons. Domestic production, which was about 53 tons in 1957, increased to 98 tons in 1959.

The Tariff Commission has estimated the domestic demand for calcium lactate at 105 tons for the current year (1960). This is expected to rise to 150 to 175 tons.

Tea Association Of India

Shri Satish Chandra, Union Deputy Minister for Commerce and Industry, inaugurated the fourth annual general meeting of the Tea Association of India at Calcutta on July 22.

In his address the Minister said that the production target of 850 million lbs. of tea by 1955 did not inspire a sense of optimism, though it was 135 million lbs. more than the actual output of 715 million lbs. achieved in 1958. Considering the fact that the average increase in domestic consumption was about 15 million lbs. a year, India would be left without much surplus over and above the present level of exports. Many countries had expanded production of tea considerably during the last decade, but India's share in the world production had fallen from 46.5 to 42.8 per cent, he pointed out.

The target of 550 million lbs. for export in 1965 was only 27 million lbs. more than 523 million lbs. exported in 1956 and 42 million lbs. more than 508 million lbs. exported in 1958. From 1950 to 1958, India's exports rose from 403 million lbs. to 508 million lbs. an increase of 105 million lbs. "In the seven years from 1958, we are contemplating an increase of 42 million lbs. only", the Minister said.

He agreed that if the industry was to achieve a higher target of production, it should have the means and tools to accomplish it. "If you have a bold and forward-looking approach, Government will make all possible endeavours to provide you with reasonable facilities for the achievement of higher targets of production and exports", he assured.

Assistance Measures

Outlining various measures taken by the Tea Board to assist the Industry, Shri Satish Chandra said that the scheme for financial assistance to marginal gardens had been put into operation. The hire-purchase scheme for the supply of machinery would help many tea estates to renovate their factory equipment. Less favoured areas like Cachar and Tripura were being helped with transport and fertiliser subsidies. Several schemes for providing replantation finance were before the Government. "We accept in principle the need for replantation finance, and I hope that a decision about this matter will be taken", he added.

The difficulties in the way of utilisation of the Rs. 2-crore Plantation Housing Loan had now been resolved. These loans would be advanced on easy terms and a Pool Guarantee Fund would cover bad debts. Losses, if any, exceeding the accumulation in the Fund would be shared equally between the Central Government, the State Government and the Tea Board.

Referring to the trend of tea prices in the auction market, the Minister said that the year 1959 had been good for the industry. The average prices of tea from all the districts except Darjeeling recorded an encouraging rise. There was a welcome improvement in the prices of common teas which were on an average about 20 nP. higher than in 1958. But in 1959 the exports dropped and the foreign exchange earnings declined from Rs. 136.54 crores to Rs. 126.39 crores.

Mineral Production In January-March, 1960

According to the latest report of the Indian Bureau of Mines, released on July 22, the total value of mineral production in India during the first quarter of 1960 is estimated at Rs. 373 million compared with Rs. 341 million in the corresponding period of 1959. This does not include petroleum, minor minerals and minerals prescribed under Atomic Energy Act, 1948.

The increase of Rs. 32 million or 9 per cent over the total value of production in January-March 1959 was mainly due to the increase in the output of coal, iron ore, chromite, gold, dolomite and limestone.

Coal was the leading commodity and was valued at Rs. 262 million which is about 70 per cent of the total value of mineral production.

The value of metallic minerals produced during the period was Rs. 75 million of which the ferrous group of minerals accounted for Rs. 47 million while the minerals of non-ferrous group accounted for Rs. 28 million.

The output of iron ore reached the peak figure of 2.6 million tons.

Index Of Production

The overall position is indicated by the quantity index of mineral production which stood at 105.9 in the first quarter of 1960 (Base first quarter of 1959-100). The rise in the index was contributed by coal, metallic minerals and building materials. The index of coal rose by 6.7 and the rise in the case of metallic minerals and building materials was 7.8 and 8.1 respectively.

The metal production during the first quarter of 1960 was valued at Rs. 469 million which is 41 per cent higher than that of corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The increase has been largely due to higher output of steel, pig iron, aluminium and copper. The production of pig iron during the period under review is placed at 1,057,000 tons and that of finished steel at 522,000 tons.

The aluminium output during the period rose to about 4,500 tons which was 12 per cent higher than the output in the corresponding quarter of 1959.

Exports And Imports

The exports of minerals from India during the first quarter of 1960 were valued at Rs. 125 million and constituted about 8 per cent of the country's total foreign exchange earnings during that period. Japan continued to be the principal market for Indian minerals accounting for more than 34 per cent in terms of the value of the export.

Among the items of exports, iron ore was the leading commodity, the exports of which were 882,000 tons valued at Rs. 44 million followed by manganese ore valued at about Rs. 26 million.

The exports of mica were valued at Rs. 21.5 million and that of ilmenite at Rs. 10 million.

During the period, the total value of metals imported into India was Rs. 314 million as against Rs. 288 million in the first quarter of 1959.

The imports of iron and steel materials accounted for Rs. 205 million while the imports of non-ferrous metals were at Rs. 105 million.

Copper Ore Production In January-May, 1960

An announcement of July 25 says that, according to the Indian Bureau of Mines, the production of copper ore during January-May 1960 was 182,753 metric tons according to the Indian Bureau of Mines. This represents an increase of about 8 per cent as compared to the output of 168,683 metric tons in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

The entire production was reported from the Singhbhum district of Bihar State.

The production of copper metal during January-May 1960 was 3,658 metric tons as compared to 3,141 metric tons in the corresponding period of 1959.

Lead-Zinc Production

According to another announcement of July 26 the production of lead-zinc ores during January-May 1960 was 63,137 metric tons.

The entire production was reported from the Zawar mines in Udaipur district of Rajasthan State.

The recovery of lead and zinc concentrates amounted to 2,252 metric tons and 4,007 metric tons respectively.

The production of lead metal was 1,562 metric tons.

Lead concentrates are sent to the lessee's smelter at Tundoo in Bihar State for extraction of lead and silver while the zinc concentrates are shipped to Japan for smelting of zinc, as there is no zinc smelter in India at present.

Plant For Manufacture Of Co-axial Cables

The co-axial cable manufacturing plant at the Hindustan Cables Limited, Rupnarainpur, was inaugurated on July 20 by Shri Manubhai Shah, Union Minister for Industry.

Long distance trunk telephone communications, mostly carried by over-head lines, were found to be inadequate and the P. and T. Department had drawn up schemes for linking up major cities of the country with underground co-axial trunk cables.

The Minister said that to begin with, the factory would produce 300 miles of co-axial cables per annum costing about Rs. 70 lakhs and it was hoped to double this output on a multiple shift system in the next two years.

Shri Manubhai Shah said that the factory, which started production in 1954, had been progressively increasing its output. In 1955, the annual production was 77 lakhs worth of cables and in five years it had risen to an estimated production of Rs. 1.71 crores in 1960. The factory produced about 650 miles of dry core telephone cables last year and it was expected that during the current year the production of about 1,000 miles would be reached.

Expansion Schemes

Referring to the schemes for expansion of the factory the Minister observed that there was a proposal for doubling the output of the dry core telephone cables to 2,000 miles per annum and also to set up a wire drawing plant with a capacity of 1,500 tons per annum. The manufacture of plastic insulated switchboard cables was also under consideration. These three schemes, which were estimated to cost about Rs. 4 crores, were expected to be completed by 1962-63. On implementation of these schemes, the economics of the factory would show considerable improvement and also save valuable foreign exchange.

With a total investment of Rs. 7 to 8 crores, an annual production of about Rs. 8 to 10 crores worth of cables and other products would be achieved during the Third Plan period.

Shri Manubhai Shah added that the management proposed to introduce an incentive scheme for increasing productivity.

Production Programme For Bhopal Factory

An announcement of July 21 says that the Board of Directors of Heavy Electricals Limited, Bhopal, has approved a 3-crore production programme for July 1960 — March 1962, which includes the manufacture of switchgear, transformers and capacitors. The possibility of further increase in the output during this period is being examined. A higher range of switchgear and transformer manufacture will start from 1962.

The Board has also finalised arrangements for the import of machinery for the second and third phases of the project, when production of traction and industrial motors, heavy rotating plants, water turbines and rectifiers will be undertaken.

The Heavy Electrical Plant at Bhopal commenced production on July 1 last.

METAL MIXER COMMISSIONED AT DURGAPUR

The first 800-ton metal mixer of the steel melting shop was commissioned at the Durgapur Steel Works on July 21.

This 'drum-type' inactive hot metal 'mixer', together with a similar unit, constitute the storehouse for molten basic iron before it is charged in the open hearth furnaces for further reduction into steel.

So far, the steel melting furnaces at Durgapur were being charged with pig iron. With the commissioning of the hot metal mixer, molten iron will be charged with the help of 80-ton ladle into the open hearth furnaces.

The hot metal mixer, a huge cylindrical steel shell with magnesite refractory lining, is 16 ft. in diameter and 31 ft. in length. The mixer is maintained at a temperature of 1,250 degrees centrigrade by coke oven gas and tilted by an electric tilting gear.

CONSULTATIVE BOARD OF COTTON TEXTILE MEETS

A meeting of the Cotton Textile Consultative Board was held in New Delhi on July 29. Shri Nityanand Kanungo, Minister for Commerce, who is the Chairman of the Board, presided.

Addressing the meeting, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Minister of Commerce and Industry, said that, in view of the paramount need of holding the price line, Government had decided to maintain the ceiling price of cotton unchanged in the coming season. He added that firm measures would be taken to enforce the ceilings by requisitioning cotton, if necessary. He also suggested a number of steps, which the industry could take to bring down prices of cloth.

In the discussion that followed, the representatives of the mill industry assured the Government that they would ensure adequate supplies of cloth at reasonable prices and take all necessary steps in this regard in the next few days. The industry agreed to open their own retail shops and display prominently the price lists, which would also be communicated to the Textile Commissioner. It was also agreed that, wherever the handloom weavers were organised in co-operative societies, supplies of yarn would be effected through these societies.

The Board felt the need for evolving a long-range policy in regard to import of cotton. A Sub-Committee has been appointed to examine this question.

COIR BOARD RECONSTITUTED

The Government of India have reconstituted the Coir Board with effect from July 26 for a three-year period, says an announcement of the same date.

The new Board will have 33 members, besides Shri P.V.S. Sarma, the present Chairman, who will continue to hold that post.

Incentive To Khandsari Sugar Industry

In a Press Note dated July 20, the Ministry of Finance has announced that, in view of the special difficulties of the *khandsari* sugar industry, this year, Government have decided to reduce the rates by one-third for the period July 22 to October 31, 1960. From November 1, 1960 the original rates will apply.

With a view to helping the manufacturers of *Khandsari* sugar, working without the aid of sulphitation plants, the Government of India introduced a compounded levy scheme from March 1, 1960. Representations had since been received indicating the difficulties of the industry in paying duty at these rates during the galawat period.

Company Secretaries Examination

The Department of Company Law Administration published on July 27 the rules for registration of students in connection with the Preliminary and Intermediate Examinations for qualifying as Company Secretaries.

It has been decided to extend the last date for registration of students for the Intermediate Examination upto August 31. Candidates intending to appear for the Examination, which will be held in February-March, 1961, must first apply for exemption from the Preliminary Examination and then register themselves as students with the Department of Company Law Administration, if qualified for such exemption. Applications for exemption from the Preliminary Examination and for registration have to be made separately and candidates will have to pay the exemption and registration fees as prescribed under the rules.

Candidates for the Preliminary Examination are not required to register themselves as students, but have only to enrol themselves as candidates for the examination by submitting the prescribed examination fee, along with their applications.

A booklet containing the rules and subjects and syllabus for the two examinations is available with authorized agents of Government publications.

Inquiry Into Dhulia Mill

A Press Note issued on July 19 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry says that the Government of India have, in exercise of powers under Section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, set up a 3-member committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Shantilal Mangaldas to enquire into the affairs of Messrs. New Partap Spinning, Weaving and Manufacturing Co., Ltd. Dhulia (West Khandesh), Maharashtra State.

COMMODITY PRICES IN MAY

According to a Press Note issued by the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, New Delhi, on July 18, the wholesale prices, as measured by the official index (with the year ended March 1953 as 100), moved up by 1.8 per cent to 122.7 during the month of May 1960 as compared with 120.5 for April 1960. The index was higher by 7.6 per cent when compared with 114.0 for May 1959.

During the month under review, the index for 'Food Articles' advanced by 1.2 per cent to 120.0, 'Tobacco' by 4.4 per cent to 105.7, 'Industrial Raw materials' by 4.3 per cent to 140 and 'Manufactures' by 1.7 per cent to 119.8, while the index for 'Fuel' declined by 0.1 per cent to 118.6.

Food Articles

An advance in the prices of rice, jowar, bajra, maize and ragi raised the index for 'Cereals' by 1.9 per cent to 105.8, notwithstanding a fall in the prices of wheat and barley. The index for 'Cereals' showed a rise of 7 per cent when compared with the corresponding month of the previous year. Higher prices of gram and urad pushed up the sub-group index for 'Pulses' by 0.6 per cent to 89.9, although the prices of arhar, mung and masur exhibited decline. The index for 'Fruits and Vegetables' receded by 3.4 per cent to 132.0 due to considerable decline in the prices of potatoes, onions and oranges, despite an increase in the prices of bananas and cashewnuts. An advance of 2.4 per cent to 117.4 in the sub-group index for 'Milk and Ghee' was caused by higher prices of both milk and ghee. Prices of groundnut oil, mustard oil and coconut oil moved down while those of gingelly oil and vanaspati (dalda) moved up and in consequence the index for 'Edible oils' drifted down by 0.1 per cent to 138.0. The sub-group index for 'Fish, Eggs and Meat' witnessed a rise of 1.0 per cent to 119.2 owing to an increase in the prices of fish meat; the prices of eggs, however, went down. A fall in the prices of gur brought down the index for 'Sugar and Gur' by 1.0 per cent to 138.3. Higher prices of tea, coffee, black pepper, chillies, betelnuts and salt — raised the index for 'Other Food Articles' by 2.8 per cent to 164.4 although the prices of cloves, turmeric and cardamoms witnessed declines.

The index for 'Tobacco' went up by 4.4 per cent to 105.7 as a result of an increase in the prices of raw tobacco.

Lower prices of Castor oil brought down the index for Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants' by 0.1 per cent to 118.6.

INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS

Higher prices of raw jute and raw hemp raised the index for 'Fibres' by 13.2 per cent to 147.2. The index for 'Oilseeds' declined by 1.1 per cent to 139.8 owing to a fall in the prices of groundnuts and castorseed, although prices of gingellyseed, cottonseed and copra showed a rise. The sub-group index for 'Minerals' remained stationary at its earlier month's level of 98.2. A fall in the prices of raw skins, tanning materials, lac and bamboos caused a decline of 0.9 per cent to 129.5 in the index for 'Other Industrial Raw Materials'; the prices of raw hides, however, showed a small increase.

The index for 'Intermediate Products' rose by 1.8 per cent to 125.4 as a result of higher prices of cotton yarn, rayon yarn, coir yarn, aluminium, zinc, brass and copper, notwithstanding a fall in the prices of linseed oil and lead.

FINISHED PRODUCTS

The index for 'Textiles' moved up by 3.4 per cent to 120.2 due to an increase in the prices of cotton manufactures (+.02 per cent to 124.8), jute manufactures (+ 13.8 per cent to 117.2) and silk and rayon manufactures (+1.8 per cent to 104.3). Among cotton manufactures, both mill-made and hand-loom cloth recorded a rise. The sub-group index for 'Metal Products' stood unchanged at its previous months level of 148.3.

A rise of 0.2 per cent to 104.7 in the sub-group index for 'Chemicals' was brought about by an increase in the prices of drugs and medicines, although the prices of general chemicals exhibited a slight fall. 'Oilcakes' came down by 3.9 per cent to 133.7. The sub-group index for 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' maintained its earlier months' level of 110.6. Prices of bricks and tiles went down, while those of lime were marked up and in consequence the index for 'Other Finished Products' moved down by 0.1 per cent to 11.6.

On the whole, the index for 'Finished Products' advanced by 1.7 per cent to 118.9 during the month under review.

RESEARCH ON FERRO ALLOYS

According to an article published in the July 1960 issue of the *Research and Industry*, a monthly journal of the C.S.I.R., the National Metallurgical Laboratory at Jamshedpur has embarked on a major research programme to study the suitability of Indian raw materials for production of ferro-alloys. The Laboratory will also develop methods for the production of special ferro-alloys like low-carbon ferro-manganese and low-carbon ferro-chrome.

A pilot smelting furnace with a capacity of one ton ferro-manganese per day is being installed at the laboratory. The pilot furnace is expected to yield useful information on process efficiency, power and electrode consumption, percentage recovery, and other relevant data on various production techniques.

Excepting ferro-manganese and ferro-silicon, other ferro-alloys are largely imported. The value of imports in the first six months of 1959 was about Rs. 5.8 lakhs.

For setting up the alloys tools and alloy steels industry in the country, the full range of ferro-alloys will have to be produced indigenously. Raw materials for the production of all ferro-alloys, excepting ferro-molybdenum, are available in the country. An alloy and tool steels plant is proposed to be established in the public sector for producing 40,000 tons of special steels.

NEW METHOD DEVELOPED FOR PROTECTION OF METALS

According to an article published in the June 1960 issue of the 'Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research,' studies conducted at the Central Electro-Chemical Research Institute, Karaikudi, have shown that two inexpensive organic chemicals, *meta-dinitrobenzene* and *beta-naphthol*, afford adequate protection to metals against corrosion if they are kept enveloped by the vapour of these chemicals.

This newly-developed method of corrosion prevention, named 'Vapour Phase Inhibition' eliminates the need for applying grease or oil on the metal surface. The chemicals so modify the atmosphere that corrosion ceases to take place.

A significant aspect of the present studies is that unlike the inhibitors now being used *comlammonium nitrite* and *cyclohexylamine carbonate*, the two compounds can be readily produced in India at a very low cost. They are stable at atmospheric conditions obtaining in the country.

Communications

WORLD BANK LOAN FOR RAILWAYS

On July 29 the World Bank made an allocation equivalent to $ 70 million to India for the improvement and expansion of the Indian Railways. The loan will cover the greater part of the foreign exchange required for the final year of the railway programme under India's Second Five Year Plan. The railway programme has been a central part of the Plan accounting for about one quarter of all public expenditure under the Plan.

The Bank's loan is for a term of 20 years and bears interest at 5¾ per cent per annum including 1% commission which is allowed to the Bank's Special Reserve.

Six private commercial banks are participating in the loan without the World Bank's guarantee to the extent of $ 2.5 million representing the first maturity and part of the second which falls due between January and July 1964.

After having been approved by the Bank's Executive Directors, the loan documents were signed by Shri M.C. Chagla, Indian Ambassador in Washington, on behalf of India.

LARGEST LOAN

The Bank has now lent $ 328 million for the Indian Railways, the largest amount ever lent by it for a single project. A loan of $ 33 million was made in 1949 for Railway rehabilitation and, since then, seven loans totalling $ 295 million have been made to assist the financing of the Indian Railways' programme of expansion in the Second Plan.

Total investment in the railway programme in the first four years of the Second Plan is estimated at Rs. 8.7 billion ($1827 million), and Rs. 2.3 billion ($483 million) is expected to be spent during the current year. Of the total amount, foreign exchange requirements are estimated at $718 million of which 40 per cent will have been supplied by the Bank and another 20 per cent from other external sources. The original foreign exchange estimate was $893 million. This has been progressively reduced to the present figure of $718 million because of the increased availability of railway equipment manufactured in India.

The Indian Railways estimate that $85 million in foreign exchange will be required for purchases in the last year of the programme. The World Bank loan will provide $70 million of this amount and will be used for the purchase abroad of rolling stock, track material and other equipment.

OTHER LOANS

It may be recalled that representatives of the Governments of Canada, Germany, Japan, the U.K. and the U.S.A. first met at the invitation of the Bank in August 1958 to seek ways of helping India to keep the foreign exchange requirement of the remaining years of the Second Plan. At that time, the Bank indicated its intention of extending to India loans amounting to $225 million for the remaining 2½ years of the Plan. Total Bank lending for that purpose now amounts to $255 million of which $225 million is expected to be disbursed when the Plan period ends on March 31, 1961.

The Bank has now made 24 loans totalling $662 million to India. In addition to the railways, the loans have been made for the expansion of iron and steel production and of electric power facilities for the purchase of commercial craft, for development of agriculture and ports and for a development bank to lend to private industry.

TOURIST OFFICE AT TORONTO OPENED

An announcement of July 21 says that a Government of India Tourist Office has been opened at Toronto to stimulate further the tourist traffic to India from Canada.

Hitherto, the tourist offices at New York and San Francisco have been responsible for tourist promotion in Canada, in addition to their normal work of tourist promotion in the U.S.A. In view of the great size of Canada and its enormous tourist potential, this separate office has been set up.

The first overseas tourist office opened by the Government of India was in New York in January 1953. Since then, overseas tourist offices have been opened at San Francisco, London, Paris, Frankfurt, Melbourne and Colombo.

Food & Agriculture

ANNUAL REPORT OF CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION

The annual report of the Central Warehousing Corporation for the year 1959-60 was adopted by the shareholders of the Corporation at the annual general meeting held in New Delhi on July 16. The Union Food Secretary, Shri B.B. Ghosh, Chairman of the Corporation, presided. The report shows all-round progress.

The Central Warehousing Corporation opened 17 new Central Warehouses during the year including one branch warehouse at Jangaon. Nine warehouses were already in existence at the beginning of the year. New warehouses were opened at Kozhikode, Guntur, Sriganganagar, Mangalore, Indore, Madras, Alleppey, Akola, Kotah, Cooch Behar, Nizambad, Kolhapur, Cochin, Dalsinghsarai, Saharanpur, Coimbatore and Behrampur. About 60 commodities were stored in these warehouses. The storage capacity available also increased from 3.83 lakh maunds. Gross earnings from storage charges registered a five-fold increase from Rs. 76,193 in 1958-59 to Rs. 3,81,198 during the year 1959-60. The Corporation has conducted a survey of 68 centres all over the country for opening new warehouses.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

The Corporation has also undertaken construction at a number of centres. Construction of storage accommodation at the tune of 2,12,800 maunds is nearing completion at Amravati, Sangli, Davangere and Warangal. Additional construction of a total capacity of 21.84 lakh maunds was also undertaken during the year under review. Construction of a storage capacity of 14 lakh maunds is proposed to be undertaken during the current financial year. Besides this, it is also proposed to construct two cold storages with a capacity of 56,000 maunds each.

A new achievement during the year was the provision for specialised storage of a number of commodities like gur, ginger, pepper and copra. Among the schemes being considered by the Corporation are storage facilities for vegetable oils, molasses, wool and lac, intended for export, cold storages in Delhi and Gauhati and storage of apples and potatoes at Theog in Himachal Pradesh.

Apart from the storage and banking facilities provided to depositors, the Corporation further intensified its programme of imparting training. During the year, 231 persons were trained in scientific storage, marketing, banking, accountancy and other allied subjects.

The expansion in the activties of the Corporation was marked with a corresponding expansion in the activities of State Warehousing Corporations. These Corporations now have an issued share capital of Rs. 204.1 lakhs out of which the Central Corporation has so far subscribed Rs. 93.6 lakhs. The State Corporations set up new warehouses at 106 centres during the year bringing the total number of such warehouses to 148. While Central Warehouses are set up at centres of export of inter-State trade, State Corporations' warehouses are established at places which are of importance to State trade only.

INDO-U.S. TEAM'S STUDY OF AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS

According to an announcement of July 23, the Joint Indo-American Team has made a critical analysis of the requirements of Indian agriculture in the context of planning. It has suggested that agricultural institutions and organisations should be under the administrative control of men with scientific qualifications.

The Team calls for efforts to develop talent for research into problems of cultivators and recommends that additional funds be allocated for intensifying research on rice, wheat and pulses. It says that facilities for agricultural education should be increased by opening more multipurpose high schools. There should also be at least one home science college in every State. The Team suggests the development of a co-ordinated educational pattern for agriculture from the lowest level to the University stage. The organisation of agriculture and community development, it says, should be streamlined from the Central Government down to the village.

The Joint Team was set up by the Government of India in September last.

FOURTH MILK YIELD COMPETITION

According to an announcement of July 29, Sita, a cow of the gir breed from Ashram Gaushala, Uruli Kanchan (Maharashtra State) with a milk yield of 45.55 lbs., has won the first prize, in its class, of Rs. 2,000 and a certificate of merit in the Fourth All India Milk Yield Competition organized during 1959-60 by the Central Council of Gosamvardhana.

Among the cows of the kankroj breed, the first prize has gone to Jaya of the Institute of Agriculture, Anand. The milk yield was 40.50 lbs.

In the hariana and ongole breeds, the highest yielding cows were from Delhi and Guntur districts respectively.

The best murrah buffalo came from Rohtak with a milk yield of 51.33 lbs. It won a cash prize of Rs. 2,000 and a certificate of merit.

As a measure of stepping up milk yield in different breeds of cows and buffaloes, the All India Milk Yield Competition is organised annually by the Central Council of Gosamvardhana.

PROGRESS OF LAND REFORMS IN STATES

An announcement of July 24 says that a review of the progress of land reforms in the country since independence shows that in most States, legislation has been enacted to abolish intermediaries (Zamindaris, Jagirs and inams) and tenants have been brought into direct contact with the Government. By the end of 1959, Rs. 129 crores had been paid to intermediaries as compensation. The total amount of compensation payable is estimated at Rs. 435 crores.

Many States have passed legislation to regulate land rents. A tenant now pays a rent not more than fourth of the gross produce, and in some states it is as little as a sixth.

Most states have also enacted legislation providing for security of tenure. In other states, Bills for the purpose have been introduced in the legislatures. Ceilings on land holdings have been or are being fixed in all states. No ceiling however has been put on agricultural income and the owner is free to raise his earnings from the holding.

Special attention is also being given to bettering the lot of landless labour. About three million acres of cultivable waste land and about a million acres of Bhoodan land have been distributed to them in recent years.

ESTIMATE OF RAPESEED AND MUSTARD

In a Press Note issued on July 19, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture has announced that, according to the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, the All-India Final Estimate of rapeseed and mustard for 1959-60 puts the current year's area and production at 71.67 lakh acres and 10.37 lakh tons as against the Partially Revised Estimates of 60.21 lakh acres and 10.25 lakh tons for 1958-59, thereby showing an increase of 11.46 lakh acres or 19% in area and 12,000 tons or 1.2% in production.

The increase in area during the current year is accounted for mainly by Uttar Pradesh — the major rapeseed and mustard producing State — and partly by West Bengal and Bihar. This increase has, however, been offset to some extent by decrease in area reported from Punjab and Rajasthan.

The increase in production has been reported mainly by Uttar Pradesh. This increase has been offset to a large extent by the decline in production reported by Punjab, Rajasthan, Assam, Bihar and West Bengal.

Production Of Sugarcane

A Press Note issued on July 19 by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture says, the All-India Final Estimate of Sugarcane, 1959-60, puts the current year's area and production of the crop at an all time record of 51.78 lakh acres and 750.38 lakh tons in terms of cane (or 75.97 lakh tons in terms of raw sugar 'gur') respectively. As compared with the Partially Revised Estimates of 48 lakh acres and 704.56 lakh tons in terms of cane (or 71.13 lakh tons in terms of gur) for 1958-59, the estimate for 1959-60 shows an increase of 3.75 lakh acres or 7.8% in area and 45.82 lakh tons (cane) or 6.5% in production.

The increase in acreage during the current year has been reported mainly by Uttar Pradesh, the premier sugarcane growing State, and by Punjab, Bihar, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

The increase in production has been shared mainly by Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Bihar. Andhra Pradesh, has, however, reported slight decrease in production.

River Projects & Power

SONE BARRAGE PROJECT

An announcement of July 27 says that the Government of India has approved the Sone barrage project, under which a 4722-foot long barrage-cum-bridge will be constructed on the river Sone a tributary of the Ganga at a point 5 miles above Dehri in Bihar.

Other works under the project are remodelling of the existing canal system and construction of two new link canals, one on either bank, to feed the Sone canals, with possibilities of power generation.

It is also proposed to construct two high level canals, one on each side of the bank, at a later date. The additional area, to be provided with irrigation under the project, is 13.16 lakh acres, most of which is at present fertile but affected by the vagaries of the monsoon.

The work for the project, estimated to cost Rs. 20.59 crores, including Rs. 6.16 crores for the high level canals, has already started, and is expected to be completed by 1965-66.

DETAILS OF WORKS

The present anicut at Dehri on the Sone, constructed as early as 1873-74, has an elaborate canal system on both banks. Originally the anicut was intended to provide irrigation facilities for the rabi crop only, but the farmers have started growing paddy in their fields. The capacity of the canal is, however, limited and it cannot cope with the requirements of paddy.

The upstream reaches of the anicut are silted up, and the regulator can withdraw only a limited volume of water.

As the anicut outlived its useful life, a barrage, along with a canal system, is now proposed to be constructed. This canal system, including those canals which are remodelled, will irrigate about 10.40 lakh acres in districts of Shahabad, Gaya and Patna.

With the completion of the Rihand Dam in Uttar Pradesh, an additional release of 6000 cusecs from June 1961 onwards is also assured for the Sone canals. The high level canals, fed by the Sone and the supply from the Rihand reservoir, will irrigate an additional area of 2.76 lakh acres.

The monsoon flows in the rivers Sone and Rihand, which hitherto were wasted, would thus be used to irrigate the dry areas in Bihar.

CAUSE OF BHAKRA MISHAP

An announcement of July 24 says that the committee of five senior engineers, appointed by the Government to inquire into the collapse of the hoist chamber at Bhakra in August last year, has held that the mishap was the result of vibration stresses caused by the pressure of water in the diversion tunnel. The committee, which was presided over by Dr. A.N. Khosla, now member Planning Commission, did not blame anybody for the accident.

The committee said the structure would have withstood all the normal pressures were it not for vibration stresses which resulted in fatigue, which was the real cause of the mishap. These vibration stresses could not have been visualised earlier and were thus beyond the control of project engineers.

On the point whether all the necessary precautions had been taken, the committee felt that the failure that had occurred was one of a rare type and the steps taken would have been adequate but for the unforeseen fatigue element.

Bhakra Dam Ready To Pass Monsoon Flow

An announcement of July 17 says that the Bhakra Dam, the average height of which is now 540 ft. above the deepest foundation, is ready to pass safely the monsoon flow in the river Sutlaj this year.

Since last year, the dam has risen by more than 100 ft. on the abutments and 18 ft. in the centre. The present reservoir level is 15 ft. below the crest of the temporary spillway, and about 45 ft. below the lowest abutment blocks.

The head gates of two penstocks—each gate weighing 80 tons—have been placed in position, and the penstocks, through which water would flow to the turbines, painted.

The right diversion tunnel has been sealed completely, the plug in it having been extended by 80 ft. in length after the hoist chamber had been filled with concrete. The approach tunnel, which had been constructed for access to the hoist chamber for repairs, has also been backfilled with concrete.

An extra precaution taken this year is the installation of additional bulk heads at key points in galleries to isolate the left bank power house from the main gallery system to the dam.

WATERLOGGING IN PUNJAB

A New Delhi announcement of July 31 says that it is proposed to establish pilot projects in waterlogged areas of the Punjab, which is one of the worst sufferers in this respect. The results from these projects would be carefully watched and the suitability of each measure under varying conditions studied by experts.

It is estimated that in the Punjab 19.7 lakh acres are affected by waterlogging.

In Mahrashtra and Gujarat, 10,800 acres are waterlogged, in Jammu and Kashmir 4,500 acres, and in New Delhi 3,200 acres.

In the Punjab, three-fold measures are being undertaken. These are: sinking shallow tubewells, lining of irrigation canals, and construction of deep seepage drains. A number of schemes are being finalised for implementation in the State.

Two of these schemes are for shallow tubewells for the Upper Bari Doab tract in Amritsar district. For the Sangrur and Patiala districts and Fazilka and Zira tracts of Ferozepore district, four schemes are in hand and these mostly include the construction of seepage drains.

There is also proposal to line short stretches of irrigation canals in the Upper Bari Doab tract of Punjab.

Minor Irrigation In Andhra Pradesh

A three-point programme for improving minor irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh has been recommended by the Team on Minor Irrigation Works after several visits to different districts in the State. These are: (1) implementing the Master Plan for restoring old tanks, (2) utilisation of sub-soil water and drainage water as an extra source of minor irrigation, and (3) regulating the capacity of tanks lost due to silting, by raising their levels and adopting, wherever feasible, the desilting-*cum*-reclamation schemes to reduce the area of submergence.

The report of the Team, published on July 23, shows that minor sources of irrigation account for 54 per cent of the irrigated area in Andhra Pradesh which indicates the importance of this source of irrigation.

The Team, headed by Dr. A.N. Khosla, recommends a certain minimum annual grant for each tank in addition to special grants for repairs when necessary.

To accelerate lift irrigation by pump-sets, the recommendations are: (1) encouraging diesel pump-sets until rural electrification is developed by suitable relaxation in the existing rules, and (2) encouraging co-operative lift schemes to enable small farmers to get the benefits of such schemes.

The Team has also recommended the raising of non-paddy crops. This would result in higher incomes to cultivators and additional areas under cultivation, thereby increasing food production. These measures would also minimise waterlogging and ensure a more balanced diet.

Among other recommendations are increased use of green and artificial manure, and rotation of crops and use of super phosphates particularly in the low rainfall areas. The introduction of uniform and increased rates on a rational basis has also been recommended.

POWER GENERATION IN HILL STREAMS

An announcement of July 18 says that the Central Water and Power Commission is conducting investigations on the possibility of generating power from hillstreams in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, northern U.P., Assam, Tripura and Manipur for electrification of centres in isolated and remote areas.

Surveys have also been undertaken recently to select appropriate sites for establishment of small hydro-electric units in these regions.

A provision of Rs. 1.6 crores is likely to be made in the Third Five Year Plan for setting up of small hydro-electric units, having a total installed capacity of 15,000 kw.

The rapids in streams and small waterfalls in hilly areas, mostly perennial, offer possibilities of economical generation of power. With a view to tapping this source of energy, the C.W. and P.C. has developed designs for a turbine capable of generating 3 to 6 kw. of power. The turbine can be coupled to locally made self-regulating generators. Designs for the flumes, penstock, silt excluder and inlet valve, using as far as possible, indigenous materials, are also being evloved. Some of these designs have been run on a trial basis under actual site conditions in the Union Territory of Himachal Pradesh.

Facilities have also been given to a commercial firm for trial runs of the hydro-electric generating units, having a capacity of 100 kw., which have been manufactured and developed by it. These runs are being made in one of the water channels of the Central Power House of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, Delhi.

NAHARKATIYA THERMAL POWER PROJECT

An announcement of July 21 says that the Government of India have approved the Naharkatiya Thermal Power Station Project, under which a thermal power station, along with a network of transmission lines, will be constructed at Namrup in Assam.

The power station, utilising the natural gas available from the Naharkatiya oilfields, will have an installed capacity of 50,400 kw., each of the three gas turbines producing 16,800 kw. of power. There will also be a provision for the addition of two similar sets at a later date.

The total length of the transmission system will be 416 miles.

Of this, the 66 kv. double circuit lines from the power house to Tinsukia, Golaghat via Nazira and Mariani, and 66 kv. single circuit lines from Tinsukia to Dibrugarh and from Golaghat to Bokajan will be 112 miles.

For regulating the supply of power, 12 sub-stations will be established — 66 sub-stations at Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Nazira, Mariani, Golaghat and Bokajan, and 33 substations at Moran, Nazira, Jorhat, Doon-duma, Digboi and Margherita.

It is estimated that the load demand on the power station will rise to 33,750 kw. by 1965. Among the industrial units requiring power in the region are the fertiliser, cement and oil plants at Namrup, Bokajan and Moran respectively. The tea estates, railways and other units, will also be supplied with power by this thermal station.

The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 926.71 lakhs — Rs. 608.89 lakhs for the generating station and Rs. 317.82 lakhs for the transmission system.

The work relating to the projects will start in 1960-61.

Radio-Active Tracer Unit For Silt Study

The Government of India have sanctioned the setting up of a unit for radio-active tracer studies at the Central Water and Power Research Station, Poona, says an announcement of July 19.

This will enable development of utilisation of isotope techniques in the solution of hydraulic problems. By using these isotopes, it would be possible to determine ground water flow, permeability of the strata, and determination of the litteral drift and sedimentation.

Radio-active research has been found to be particularly useful for ascertaining the silt movement in the Bombay harbour. The experiments in the harbour consisted essentially of determining the movement of dredging material dumped on the sea.

In the last four decades the major channel of the Bombay harbour had to be frequently dredged to enable smooth passage of tenders and deep draft vessels, as the dredging material dumped into the sea is recirculated and finally redeposited in the channel.

To discover safe dumping grounds at seat bed, the tests, based on radio-active studies, were conducted by the Central Water and Power Research Station, Poona.

Similarly, the studies can be used for finding out the movement of sand near Madras, Mangalore and other harbours. These studies will be conducted in co-ordination with the Atomic Energy Commission, Bombay.

Protection Works At Dibrugarh

A New Delhi announcement of July 16 says that protection works on the Brahmaputra at Dibrugarh, designed by the Central Water and Power Commission and constructed by the Assam Government, have withstood the recent record floods in the river and have afforded complete protection to the city.

Education & Culture

SCHEME FOR PUBLICATION OF RARE MANUSCRIPTS

An announcement of July 26 says that the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs has finalised a scheme for grants-in-aid to institutions for editing and publishing rare manuscripts in Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Arabic and Persian.

All registered institutions, Government-maintained bodies and semi-Government organisations engaged in the editing and publication of rare manuscripts, excepting those affiliated to or maintained by Universities, are eligible for assistance under the scheme.

The grant will be at the rate of Rs. 5 per printed page of royal octavo size of every approved manuscript and at 50 per cent of the actual publication cost. The institution concerned will bear the balance of expenses of 50 per cent for printing and publication. Institutions which are in a position to guarantee adequate funds need apply.

The work of editing and publication will be done in consultation with Boards of Editors set up by Government for this purpose. The Board of Editors for Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit consists of: Dr. R.N. Dandekar, Prof. of Sanskrit, University of Poona; Dr. V. Raghavan, Prof. of Sanskrit, University of Madras and Shri Vishva Bandhu, Director, Vishveshvaranand Vedic Research Institute, Hoshiarpur.

The Board for Arabic and Persian manuscripts will be composed of: Dr. M. Nizamuddin, Director, Daira-tul-Maarif-il-Osmania, Hyderabad, and Dr. Hadi Hassan, Lalazar, Fort Road, Aligarh.

PRIZES FOR HINDI BOOKS ON SCIENCE

The last date for the receipt of entries for the award of 20 prizes of Rs. 1,500 each for unpublished advanced books on scientific and technical subjects in Hindi has been further extended to September 30, 1960.

These prizes will be open to any living author for original works as well as translations of standard books from other languages. The terminology evolved by the Union Ministry of Education should be used in the books.

The prizes will be divided into the following three categories:—

Category I: Six prizes of Rs. 1,500 will be given one each for the Physical or Natural Science subjects, viz. Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Geology. The standard must not be lower than that of B.Sc. of Indian Universities.

Category II: Six prizes of Rs. 1,500 will be awarded one on each of the following subjects: Agriculture, Medicine, Meteorology, Civil Engineering, Metallurgy and Architecture. The standard should not be lower than that of the graduate standard of Engineering and Technological Institutes.

Category III: Eight prizes of Rs. 1,500 to be given one each for the following social sciences: Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Anthropolgy, International Law, Psychiatry, Experimental Psychology and Education.

The standard of books submitted under this category should not be lower than that of the post-graduate standard of the Indian Universities.

OTHER FACILITIES

The prize-winning authors will be free to get their books published and the Government will guarantee the purchase of at least 500 copies of each of the books, subject to the condition that the books are published according to the pattern set by the Government of India. The Government will not, however, bear any share of the cost of publication of the books.

A Committee of three competent persons will be set up to examine the entries for each subject. Their assessment will be submitted to the Ministry within a month of the receipt of entries by them and the Ministry's decision, in all cases, will be final.

The prize money will be paid to the authors of prize winning books in the form of National Saving Certificates but payment can also be arranged in cash if it is so desired by the prize winners.

Competing authors are required to submit five copies each of their manuscripts along with a brief biographical note giving their academic qualifications, experience, etc.

Indian Ephemeris And Nautical Almanac

According to an announcement of July 23, the Indian Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac for 1961 has been published by the Directorate General of Observatories of the Meteorological Department.

The publication of the Indian Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac was undertaken in accordance with a decision of the Government of India and marked an important step in the plans for the development of astronomical studies in the country.

At present Nautical Almanacs, containing more or less similar data as in the Indian edition, are prepared and published by five other countries — the U.K., the U.S.A., France, the U.S.S.R. and Spain. The corresponding publication of Germany has, however, been discontinued after its 1957 issue.

The contents of all the above national ephemerides have undergone considerable changes from time to time and the process of change still continues. One very important change that has been introduced in the above-mentioned ephemerides, as well as in the Indian edition from the issue of 1960, is that the places of planets are now being shown according to the Ephemeris Time, which is slightly different from the Universal (Greenwich Mean) Time.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR OCEANIC RESEARCH

An announcement of July 23 says that, on the recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet, the Government of India have decided to set up a seven-member National Committee for Oceanic Research with Dr. D.N. Wadia, Geological Adviser, Department of Atomic Energy, as the Chairman.

Under its terms of reference, the National Committee will draw up a co-ordination plan for India's participation in the International Indian Ocean Expedition and co-ordinate the research programmes. The Committee will also give advice on the allocation of the programme between the various departments of Government, research organisations and university laboratories; consider and approve detailed plans for research in the several scientific disciplines relating to India's participation in the programme and also advise the Government generally on all matters connected with India's participation in the Expedition.

The Indian National Committee for Oceanic Research will also function as the National Committee for all oceanographic work including the International Indian Ocean Expedition.

Advisory Committee For Libraries

An announcement of July 31 says that Departmental Libraries of 16 Union Ministries have agreed to answer bibliographic enquiries and other references from the Central, State and other public libraries, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Libraries.

The libraries concerned are the Departmental Libraries of the Union Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Defence, Education, External Affairs, Finance (Department of Economic Affairs), Food and Agriculture, Health, Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Irrigation and Power, Labour and Employment, Law, Railways, Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Steel, Mines and Fuel, (Departments of Steel, Mines and Fuel) and Works, Housing and Supply.

This decision has been taken so as to extend library facilities to the public by ensuring greater co-operation between the different types of libraries.

The Advisory Committee for Libraries was set up in 1957 by the Government of India under the chairmanship of Shri K.P. Sinha, formerly Director of Public Instruction, Bihar, to inquire into the reading needs of the people and to recommend a library structure for the country in the future.

The Committee recommended, among other things, facilities for free library service to every citizen, establishment of an independent Directorate of Social Education and Libraries in every State, a 25-year library plan at the Central and State levels and a cess to meet the expenses of a free library service.

BUILDING GRANTS TO CULTURAL BODIES

An announcement of July 19 says that a scheme for making available building grants to cultural organisations has been drawn up by the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided in the current year's budget for this purpose.

The scheme will cover all cultural institutions promoting the development of such activities as drama, dance, music, fine arts, literature and Indology, but will exclude institutions maintained by the Universities.

The building grant will be available to any registered organisation which has been functioning for a minimum period of three years.

The maximum assistance admissible to any institution in Delhi and New Delhi will be 1/3 of the estimated or actual cost not exceeding Rs. 50,000 per institution. The amount given will also not exceed 50 per cent of the sum collected by the institution from other sources.

For institutions outside Delhi and New Delhi the pattern of assistance will be 50 per cent of the estimated or actual cost, not exceeding Rs. 1,00,000 per institution. The sum given will also not exceed the actual amount collected by the institution from other sources.

YOUTH FESTIVAL DROPPED

The Seventh Inter-University Youth Festival, which was scheduled to be organized in New Delhi towards the end of October, will not be held this year.

This decision has been taken by the Union Ministry of Education in the light of the recommendations made by the Conference of Vice-Chancellors of Universities held at Khadakvasla in June last.

Universities will, however, continue to conduct Inter-Collegiate Youth Festivals so as to promote the healthy interest in cultural activities which the Inter-University Youth Festivals have aroused in students.

PRIZES FOR READERS IN SANSKRIT

An announcement of July 28 says that the Government of India have decided to award about 20 scholarships to scholars of the traditional system of Sanskrit Education to carry out research in Sanskrit.

The value of each scholarship will be Rs. 100 p.m. The awards will be made on the recommendation of the Central Sanskrit Board.

Candidates must have obtained a first class Degree/Diploma in Sanskrit in the highest examination in Oriental Learning conducted by a University or State Government. Applications from those who have obtained a II Class will be entertained only in exceptional circumstances.

No age limit is prescribed. However, preference will be given to scholars below 40 years.

The subjects for research include: (a) critically editing difficult Shastraic texts; (b) bringing out expositions of the recondite texts, technique and terminology; (c) study of a writer or thought and/or its development; and (d) such other subjects that are commonly taken up in the field of Sanskrit Research at Universities.

The scholarship will normally be tenable for 2 years or up to the time of completion of the research work, whichever is earlier.

The last date for the receipt of applications is September 15, 1960.

READERS IN SANSKRIT

A New Delhi announcement of July 3 says that, the last date for receipt of draft Readers for the award of prizes for the production of three standard/modern graded Readers in Sanskrit, mainly intended for pupils of the middle or lower secondary stage of the age-group 10-13, has been extended to August 31, 1960. The last date announced earlier was July 31, 1960.

Under the prize scheme, three prizes of the value of Rs. 2,400, Rs. 2,100 and Rs. 1,800 respectively will be awarded to the authors.

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

A Press Note issued by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research says that ten candidates have been selected by the Council for the award of the Burmah-Shell and the Assam Oil Company Scholarships for research and training in U.K. during the session commencing October 1960:

Arrangements for admission of the scholars in British Universities are being made through the Indian High Commission in the U.K.

FRENCH SCHOLARSHIPS

According to an announcement of July 23, a candidate has been selected for the award of a scholarship for Specialised Training in Architecture and Multi-storied Structural Problems offered by the Government of France during 1959-60. These scholarships are administered by the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

IMPERIAL RELATIONS TRUST FELLOWSHIPS

A New Delhi announcement of July 30 says that two candidates have been selected for the award of Fellowships of the Imperial Relations Trust (London University Institute of Education) for 1960-61 for Associateship Course of the Institute of Education, London.

Dutch Degree Recognised

It has been announced on July 19 that the Government of India have recognised the M.S.S. Degree awarded by the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Netherlands, as equivalent to M.A. Degree of an Indian University for employment under the Central Government.

BALLET TROUPE WINS PRIZES AT THEATRE FESTIVAL

A New Delhi announcement of July 17 says that Indian artists have been awarded two prizes for their performances at the International Theatre Festival, organised by the Theatre Des Nations, which concluded in Paris recently.

The Little Ballet Troupe of Bombay was awarded the prize for the best decorations. Special mention was made of the Panchatantra performances, the decorative costumes and masks of Ramayana displayed by the troupe.

Shri Narasihma Rao of Shrimati Indrani Rahman's troupe received the Diploma for the best male dancer.

One of the foremost ballet troupes in the country, the Little Ballet Troupe was founded in 1952 by the well-known artiste, the late Shri Shanti Bardhan. The troupe is now on an extensive tour, lasting about six months, of Europe, North Africa and Latin America. The tour has been sponsored by the Government of India.

American Committee For Kalakshetra

An announcement was made in New York on July 28 that, an American Committee for the expansion of Kalakshetra had been formed, whose main purpose would be to attempt to raise $250,000 for the erection of buildings at the new site for the Kalakshetra in Tiruvanniyur near Madras city.

The personalities behind this project include Mr. Yehudi Menuhin, the violinist; Martha Graham, the dancer; Mr. Paul Hoffman; Mr. C.B. Marshall, Vice President, Standard Vacuum Oil Company and Mr. Joseph Owens of the Pittsburg Plateglass Company.

As immediate reciprocal gesture, Srimati Rukmini Devi announced that the Kalakshetra would give two scholarships a year to two talented young Americans. This scholarship will cover complete tuition for one year. The young people will be chosen by the above committee for these awards.

REPORT OF WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION IN DELHI

The Working Group of leading educationists and administrators, constituted by the Union Ministry of Education to study the question of collegiate and school education in the Union Territory over the next two decades, has submitted its report which was released on July 30.

In the report the Working Group has estimated the requirements of additional schooling facilities in the urban areas at the primary, middle and higher secondary levels during the next four quinquennia. It is estimated that by the beginning of the fourth quinquennium, i.e. 1976-81, the population of Delhi might be about 35.7 lakhs.

On an average of 200 students per school, 1,712 additional single-section primary schools would then be needed to cater for the increase in the population of the age group of 6-11 years. These schools would have to be manned by 8,560 teachers. Similarly, 652 middle schools with 5,868 teachers would be required for middle school education, each school catering for 250 students. At the higher secondary level, 532 additional schools would be needed with 4,740 teachers, each school catering for 200 students with double sections.

Provision Of Schools

As regards the projection of schools during the four quinquennia, locality-wise, the Working Group is of the view that further examination would be possible only after the completion of the survey of localities, which is being undertaken by the Delhi Municipal Corporation.

A committee comprising representatives of the Delhi Administration, the Municipal Corporation and the Town Planning Organisers has been formed to prepare a detailed estimate of the requirements, including sites for school buildings, locality-wise, during each quinquennium.

For Delhi's student population, which has trebled since the partition, a number of steps have already been taken to provide facilities in secondary schools and colleges. At the end of July, 1959, there were 243 high or higher secondary schools and 21 arts and science colleges to provide education to students. In addition, six other colleges made available facilities of a professional nature.

In order to satisfy the pressing demand for admission of students, the University of Delhi authorities have agreed to raise the limit of admissions to the various constituent colleges.

Higher Education

The Working Group has estimated that if the existing trends continue, the present University population of about 20,000 may increase to about 80,000 at the end of the 20 years. Allowing for various kinds of canalisation of the school population into polytechnics, etc. it would still be necessary to provide for about 60,000 college students.

This means that accommodation for twice as many more college students as there are today would have to be found in the next few years. If it is considered desirable, the Working Group points out that the average size of a college should be about 1,250 students, about 32 additional colleges would be required. If the rate of expansion is reasonably staggered, this would mean adding roughly three colleges every two years to the present number of colleges.

In terms of space this may mean, on a conservative estimate, 10 acres of land per college and a total of 320 acres would have to be provided in the course of the next 20 years for college campuses alone.

According to the Working Group, university education cannot always be related to the population figures and it would be impossible to go on increasing colleges and universities as population increases. It would, therefore, be necessary to stabilise the university population in Delhi at about 50,000 in the next 20 years.

The Working group was formed in August 1959 under the chairmanship of Shri P.N. Kirpal, Secretary, Union Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education has forwarded the report of the Working Group to the Delhi University, Delhi Municipal Corporation, University Grants Commission, Delhi Administration, Ministries of Home Affairs and Works, Housing and Supply etc. for necessary action so that the future development of education at various levels in the metropolis may be planned in the light of the recommendations contained in the report.

Health

MEETING OF PANEL ON AYURVEDA

The Panel on Ayurveda, recently constituted by the Planning Commission, concluded its two-day session in New Delhi on July 21. Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, Union Minister for Planning and Chairman of the panel, presided over the session.

The Panel recommended the setting up of a statutory Central Council of Indian Medicine to control and regulate the education and practice of the Indian systems of medicine.

Stressing the need for giving the Indian systems recognition and due place in the health programmes of the country, the Panel suggested that the status and privileges of the practitioners of these systems should be the same as those accorded to the practitioners of modern systems, provided the former are competent and capable of giving necessary service.

The Panel recommended the upgrading of Ayurvedic Colleges and a four-year diploma course devoted exclusively to the study of Indian system of medicine, and prescribed minimum standards for admission to these institutions. Facilities should, however, be provided for those willing to join government service to enable them to study for two more years and obtain a degree.

The opening of post-graduate-*cum*-research centres in as many places as possible and preparation of suitable text-books for Ayurvedic curriculum were also recommended.

The Panel suggested a scheme for 'Arogya Kendras' for providing health education in rural areas. The publication of pamphlets in regional languages, containing information on diagnosis and treatment of common ailments was also suggested.

Among other recommendations of the Panel were the preparation of a standard Pharmacopoeia of Indian Medicine, survey of medical drugs which are in common use and which have been found beneficial in common ailments, and the establishment of Central and regional gardens of medicinal herbs, regional drug farms, storage depots and museums of Ayurvedic and Unani drugs and herbs. Another suggestion was for setting up a separate Central Drugs Control Organization and a Central Drugs Laboratory.

NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION COMMITTEE

The future programme of action and the procedure to be adopted for eliciting information on urban and rural water supply and sanitation in various States and for assessing their requirements in this regard was discussed at a meeting of the National Water Supply and Sanitation Committee held in New Delhi on July 29. The Committee met under the chairmanship of Smt. Lourdhammal Simon, Minister of Local Administration, Government of Madras.

The Committee finalised, after detailed consideration, four proformas and two questionnaires to be addressed to the State Governments for expeditious collection of information. The Committee also decided, in view of the urgency and importance of the subject, to request the Chief Ministers of the States to issue instructions in this connection.

The Committee further decided to tour the States to study conditions on the spot and hold discussions with local officials and non-officials. It will visit the States of Madras and Kerala between September 19 and 24.

The Committee hoped to complete its work before the end of the financial year so that its recommendations could be taken into consideration during the implementation of the Third Plan projects.

CONTROL OF GOITRE

According to an announcement dated July 21, the Goitre Pilot Project of the Union Health Ministry recently carried out a survey in collaboration with the Government of Punjab in the Kangra district of Punjab. The survey has revealed that the use of common salt fortified with potassium iodide and potassium iodate in place of common salt, considerably decreases the incidence of goitre.

Three zones formed to carry out this experiment were supplied with three types of salt for a period of about 30 months. In the zone supplied with iodised salt, the incidence of goitre was reduced among adults from 43 per cent to 24 per cent, among boys from 34 per cent to 23 per cent and among girls from 50.9 per cent to 18 per cent. Similarly in the zone supplied with iodated salt the re-survey revealed that the 49.5 per cent among girls before the supply of salt, has come down to 24 per cent, 29 per cent and 37 per cent respectively. It was found that there has been no appreciable decrease in the incidence of disease in the third zone which had supplied with common salt.

SURVEY TEAMS

Surveys for the disease have also been carried out in other parts of the country. In the district of Dehra Dun in Uttar Pradesh it was found that the average incidence of this disease is 36.8 per cent. Another goitre survey team operating in the Naga Hills has completed work in the districts of Kohima, Mokokehung and Tuensang. The average incidence in these areas is 32.7 per cent. The purpose of these teams is to delimit the areas of goitre endemicity for distribution of iodated salt.

About 16,000 metric tons of iodated salt is expected to be produced by Sambhar Lake when the plant provided by UNICEF will begin to operate.

SICKNESS SURVEY IN DELHI

The Central Ministry of Health has decided to carry out, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research, a morbidity survey among all grades of Government employees and their family members covered under the Contributory Health Service Scheme. The survey will determine the nature, extent and the effects of various types of diseases prevailing among them. It is proposed to extend the study afterwards to other sectors of the city population.

The objective of the proposed survey is two-fold: firstly, to obtain a clear picture of the morbidity pattern of the community and its relation to socio-economic conditions. Secondly, to utilise this information for a more rational appreciation of the needs of CHS Scheme and

for evolving ways and means for instituting such measures as may be necessary by deploying the resources to a better advantage.

WELL-BABY CLINICS

The survey will also include the follow-up study of the infants and toddlers continuously from their birth to five years of age in regard to their development, health conditions and sickness. Well-Baby Clinics have been established at the various Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. The Health Officers attached to these Centres visit the children periodically to check up their health. Those babies who will be registered at the Well-Baby Clinics will form the group for the purpose of this study.

Social Welfare

CONFERENCE OF STATE SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTERS

The conference of the State Social Welfare Ministers was held in New Delhi on July 29 and 30. Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, presided.

In his address Dr. Shrimali said that some of the States had recently taken an important step towards democratic decentralisation and had delegated powers to statutory bodies. In the near future other States would also follow this example. This move of delegating greater power and responsibility to the Panchayats which undoubtedly would strengthen our democracy, was welcome. But it raised some fundamental issues with regard to the relationship of statutory bodies like Panchayats with those of other agencies which were already working in the field.

It was difficult to draw a rigid line of demarcation between the fields of activity of a statutory body and a voluntary organisation. Though the Panchayats had at their disposal all the financial resources of the State and the advice of experienced administrators, yet it would be desirable to entrust many of the social welfare activities to the voluntary organisations. Even when the statutory bodies took over many of the responsibilities, the services of voluntary organisations could be utilised for conducting research, in investigating causes and in suggesting preventive measures for various social maladies, for training the personnel and for organising all those services which required individual approach. Moreover, the problems of social welfare in our country were too many and the tasks were of such great magnitude that even when social conditions had considerably improved and a comprehensive scheme of social security and social welfare was introduced by the State, there would always be need for voluntary agencies.

In order that both the Panchayats and the voluntary agencies might play their due role, the State would have to assist them in the training of social workers and in the promotion of research and the exchanging of information on the latest developments and techniques of social work. It would also encourage the Panchayats and the voluntary associations to take over new responsibilities in social administration whenever possible. The maximum of results would only be achieved when there was fullest collaboration and understanding between all the agencies—the State, the statutory bodies, and non-official and voluntary organisations. Their relations should be based on mutual co-operation and respect and not on unhealthy rivalry.

The Minister added that the mere existence of social services should not lead people to seek outside support and assistance when with a little more effort and initiative and some mutual assistance they could resolve their difficulties unaided and in the congenial atmosphere of the family itself. Social services should be a means of releasing the potentialities of individuals and groups, rather than an excuse for increased dependency.

Dr. Shrimali observed that another direction in which some reorientation is necessary is the change of emphasis in our programmes from curing social malady to adopting social measures which would prevent the occurrence of the malady itself. There would be no need for social welfare in some fields at least, if we took necessary preventive measures.

Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh, Chairman of the Central Social Welfare Board, addressing the conference emphasised the role of voluntary organisations.

DECISIONS OF CONFERENCE

The conference was attended by the Ministers from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. It considered at length some of the important recommendations of the Study Team on Social Welfare appointed by the Committee on Plan Projects, under the chairmanship of Shrimati Renuka Ray. The recommendations related to the status, functions and the constitution of the State Social Welfare Boards, democratic decentralisation and welfare extension projects.

During discussions on the question of status and functions of the State Social Welfare Boards, the question of the status and functions of the Central Social Welfare Board also came up for consideration. The Education Minister informed the Ministers that the matter was under consideration of the Government of India and the legal and constitutional position was being examined. The conference resolved that the State Social Welfare Boards may, as before, continue to work as advisory bodies at present.

Extension Projects

With regard to the question of democratic decentralisation and welfare extension projects in Block areas, the conference concluded that as democratic decentralisation was a generally accepted pattern, when the Panchayat Acts were passed and implemented, the Panchayats would take over all the powers. Whether the project implementing committees should continue to work, as they had been functioning in the past, or whether there should be some adjustment between the panchayats and the project implementing committees, was a matter that the State Governments would have to decide.

There would be room for voluntary organisations and non-officials to work within the framework of the Panchayat Acts and it would be desirable to make use of their experience as far as possible. Some kind of adjustment would be necessary so that both could work smoothly. The funds of the Central Government would of course, be made available for the work whatever be the agency to undertake the work.

The other items of the agenda, mainly after-care, grants-in-aid and administrative set up of the State Social Welfare Boards, were not taken up by the State Ministers as it was felt that all these matters were consequential to the decision on the question of status and functions of the Central Social Welfare Board and the State Boards.

Central Assistance For Harijan Welfare

A Press Note issued on July 24 by the Ministry of Home Affairs says that, in order to enlist public support and co-operation and to arouse mass enthusiasm, the Government of India have, in the Second Five Year Plan, approved a programme of Central assistance to voluntary organisations which are engaged in publicity and propaganda for the removal of untouchability and are doing welfare work among the Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes. To achieve this object, the Government of India give financial assistance to deserving non-official organisations of all-India status, for doing such work. Application from such all-India bodies for direct Grant-in-aid may be sent to the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi (by designation). Other organisations of local character doing similar work should send their applications direct to the State Government concerned.

FREE LAND FOR HARIJANS

An announcement of July 26 says that land free of cost has been allotted to Scheduled Castes by the Governments of 11 States — Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Orissa and Rajasthan.

In their 48th Report, the Estimate Committee had recommended that 'an assessment of the size of the problem of providing land to landless Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the extent to which it has been solved should be made and some special machinery, if necessary, may be created for a temporary period to solve the problem according to a phased programme. Further, special efforts should be made to arrange for a speedy distribution of land received in Bhoodan and other surplus fallow cultivable land, first to landless Harijans and then to others."

The Union Home Ministry has requested the State Governments and Union Territory administrations to implement these recommendations.

As regards the States plan schemes for making provision of houses and house-sites, nearly 50 per cent of the outlay had been utilised by the end of the third year of the Second Plan. The total provision for health, housing and other schemes is Rs. 28.92 crores.

NEW SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE TO DANDAKARANYA D.Ps.

In a Press Note issued on July 30, the Dandakaranya Development Authority says that it has reviewed and revised the scales of financial assistance for the settlers in the project area during their work period and finalised the details of rehabilitation assistance to be given to the settlers. The following scales have been laid down:

I. Scales Of Assistance During The Work Period:

(a) The subsistence level for a settler's family will initially be reckoned as follows: (i) Family with 2 members .. Rs. 40 P.M.; (ii) Family with 3 members .. Rs. 50 P.M.; (iii) Family with 4 members .. Rs. 57/50 P.M.; (iv) Family with 5 members .. Rs. 65 P.M.; (v) Family with more than five members .. Rs. 70 P.M.

(b) From the subsistence level of a family calculated as above, will be deducted a sum of Rs. 20 for each able male adult member of the family. The balance will be the monthly maintenance grant of the family which will be paid in advance every month.

(c) The able male adult members in each family will be provided work by the D.D.A. Each such worker will be free to earn the maximum he can and keep the entire amount. In the following three eventualities action will be taken as indicated: (i) If a worker is sick, he will, on the certificate of the Project doctor, be paid @ 65 nP per day for each

day of sickness; (ii) If a worker reports for work, but cannot be provided work by the Project, he will be paid @ Rs. 1.50 nP for each such day; (iii) If a worker chooses not to report for work though work is available, he will not be entitled to receive any payment for such day.

II. Scales of Rehabilitation Assistance:

(a) For agriculturist families, the following facilities will be provided:

(i) Land for Cultivation: (a) For families of 5 members and above = 7 acres; (b) For families of 4 members = 6 acres; (c) For families of 3 members = 5 acres; (d) For families of 2 members = 4 acres.

(ii) Homestead plot: A plot of 800 sq. yds. each.

(iii) House building loan: The cost of the village house is expected to be between Rs. 1500 and Rs. 2000.

(iv) Agricultural loan: Upto Rs. 850 for purchase of bullocks, seeds, implements etc.

(b) For non-agriculturist rural families, such as artisans, teachers, small traders, etc., the following facilities will be provided:

(i) Homestead plot: A plot of 800 sq. yds.

(ii) House building loan: The cost of the village house is expected to be between Rs. 1500 and Rs. 2000.

(iii) Small trade loans to traders and assistance for purchase of implements to artisans on the usual scale.

(iv) Land for cultivation. Two acres of agricultural land.

III. Maintenance Assistance during the Initial Period of Settlement

(a) Agriculturist families will be given maintenance assistance as follows: (i) For the first agricultural season of seven months after land has been allotted, each family will be granted maintenance subsidy equal to the subsistence level indicated in 1(a) above according to the size of the family. (ii) During the off-season of five months immediately succeeding the first agricultural season mentioned above, each family will be given assistance as during work period mentioned under 1(b) and (c) above; (iii) During the second agricultural season of seven months immediately following the off-season mentioned in (ii) above, each family will be granted maintenance subsidy at half the rates mentioned at (i) above.

(b) Non-agriculturist rural families will, for a period of eighteen months from the date of allotment of land, be provided a measure of sickness insurance in the form of payment for the days of sickness certified by a Project doctor.

Movement Of D.Ps. To Dandakaranya

The Dandakaranya Development Authority concluded its fourteenth meeting at Koraput (Orissa) on July 26. Shri S.V. Ramamurthy, Chairman of D.D.A., presided.

A programe for movement of 1200 displaced families every month from West Bengal to Dandakaranya was approved at the meeting. The movement will start from October this year.

According to the programme, these families would be sent to village sites at Paralkote and Umerkote and would initially be engaged on construction of their own houses and preparation of their own agricultural land. It was also decided that before the 'Pujas' another 500 families, who would be the first settlers in Paralkote would be sent to Dandakaranya.

Rehabilitation Work

It was explained by the Chief Administrator that out of 1800 families, who had so far arrived in Dandakaranya, 200 had already been settled and 400 were at village sites or in work centres near rehabilitation centres awaiting allotment of land as the rains are over. The remaining 1200 families would be moved in October to village sites earmarked for them in Umerkote. These families would be given fully reclaimed land. Settlers in large numbers are required in Dandakaranya to undertake various works connected with their own rehabilitation, such as contour bunding and construction of their own houses.

It was also decided that artisans, such as carpenters, masons, along with teachers, should come to Dandakaranya with incoming settler batches. Non-camp artisans and non-agriculturist artisans from camps coming to Dandakaranya would each be given a homestead plot, house building loan and two acres of land for personal cultivation. It was also decided that some 40 of the D.P. drivers and cleaners who came to Dandakaranya in first two batches would be given homestead plots and house building loans for their rehabilitation.

More Powers

Delegation of more powers by the Government of India to the Dandakaranya Development Authority and to the Chairman and the Chief Administrator of the Project for speedy execution of the resettlement and development plan was also discussed at the meeting.

The integrated plan for the tribal welfare prepared by the Chief Administrator was generally approved. This plan includes providing better communications, making arrangements for drinking water by constructing wells and tanks and establishment of vocational and training centres. The D.D.A., it was revealed, was already operating in 200 tribal villages.

The question of right of the settlers on land allotted to them was discussed and views of the State Governments were sought. The Orissa and Madhya Pradesh Governments were prepared to give occupancy rights to settlers according to their respective tenancy laws.

Welfare Of Adivasis In Dandakaranya

A New Delhi announcement of July 17 says that the Dandakaranya Development Authority has finalised on integrated plan aimed at giving specific economic benefits to Adivasis and promoting their welfare in the project area.

According to the Plan all developmental and welfare activities in settlement zones of the Dandakaranya area will be for the common benefit of the settlers as well as local inhabitants.

The total population of the project area (30,052 sq. miles) is 30.42 lakhs.

The Adivasis will be given 25% of all land reclaimed by the D.D.A. Each Adivasi family will get land for cultivation; a homestead plot of 800 sq. yards and financial assistance to build a house on this plot; and an agricultural loan of Rs. 850 for purchase of a cow, bullocks, seed, manure and implements.

Outside settlement zones also assistance will be given for the welfare of the Adivasis. First priority will be given to the provision of water and the encouragement and development of tribal agriculture. It will include provision of wells, minor irrigation sources, feeder roads etc.

Social Services

The D.D.A. will take every care to preserve the rights and privileges enjoyed by the Adivasis while trying to help displaced persons settle in the area.

The D.D.A. will implement its education schemes through the State Government authorities. Bilingual schools will be set up conforming to the general pattern of education prevailing in the respective States.

Medical outposts will be established in the Adivasi area and mobile medical units will be sent to tribal villages regularly.

The D.D.A. has appointed an Advisor for Tribal Welfare to look into the special needs of the Adivasis. In addition, people who know the local language and are familiar with local conditions will be associated with schemes for the welfare of Adivasis.

REHABILITATION FINANCE ADMINISTRATION

An announcement dated July 21 says that the Rehabilitation Finance Administration, which was established in 1948 for giving loans to displaced persons from East and West Pakistan to enable them to settle in business or industry, was placed in liquidation at the close of business on June 30, 1960. In view of this, the Administration is not authorised either to entertain fresh applications for loans after June 30 or to review applications which have been turned down earlier.

Last Date For Claim Of Compensation By D.Ps.

In a Press Note issued on July 29, the Ministry of Rehabilitation has announced that, as the Ministry is desirous of completing its work within about a year, it has, therefore, decided that no application for condonation of delay in filing either compensation applications on the basis of verified claims or rehabilitation grant applications or for the inclusion of any claim omitted from inclusion in the compensation applications already filed will be entertained after August 31, 1960.

However, in the case of claimants whose claims are still being revised under the Claims (Supplementry) Act, 1954, compensation applications will continue to be accepted, if they are filed within a period of three months from the date of announcement of the claim verification order or the revision order as the case may be.

UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES BY D.Ps

An announcement of July 25 says that the Government of India have appointed an eight member Committee, with Shri Anil K. Chanda, Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, as Chairman, to review the cases of unauthorised structures put up by displaced persons on Government lands prior to August 15, 1950.

The Committee will examine which of the structures comply with the municipal requirements and town improvement standards, and will take steps for the expeditious regularisation of such structures which fulfil the minimum requirements to be prescribed by it.

Labour & Employment

PERFORMANCE AWARD FOR EMPLOYEES

An announcement dated July 16 says that the employees of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited, which runs the State-owned D.D.T. factories at Delhi and Alwaye (Kerala State), will be paid a sum of Rs. 60,000 in recognition of their efforts to increase production in 1958-59.

This is the second occasion when Performance Award of this kind has been announced by the management of the Hindustan Insecticides. About 480 persons are employed in the two D.D.T. factories at Delhi and Alwaye.

Recently, the Board of Directors decided to raise the management's contribution to the Employees' Provident Fund

from 6¼% to 8-1/3% with effect from April 1, 1960.

Production of D.D.T. in both factories has been steadily on the rise. At the Delhi factory, manufacture of formulated D.D.T. for the year ending March 1960 amounted to 1,639 tonnes, about 45 per cent higher than the previous year. The output of technical D.D.T. also registered an increase of about 14 per cent over the preceding year. At the Alwaye factory, over 2,252 tonnes of formulated D.D.T. were manufactured during 1959-60, as against 694 tonnes in the previous year. The production of technical D.D.T. in the factory also showed an increase from 826 tonnes in 1958-59 to 1,100 tonnes.

CENTRAL EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE AT DELHI

In a Press Note of July 18 the Director General of Resettlement and Employment has announced that a Central Employment Exchange has been opened at the headquarters of the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment, 18, Gurdwara Road, New Delhi.

Vacancies of posts carrying total monthly emoluments of Rs. 200 or more, and occurring in establishments in respect of which the Central Government is the appropriate Government under the Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, viz., railways, major ports, mines or oil fields, companies, corporations, etc., should be notified to the Central Employment Exchange.

Similarly vacancies, which an employer may wish to be circulated to employment exchanges outside the State or Union Territory in which his establishment is situated, should be notified to the Central Employment Exchange.

EMPLOYEES P.F. IN D.D.T. FACTORIES

A New Delhi announcement dated July 1 says that the Board of Directors of the Hindustan Insecticides, which runs the State-owned DDT factories at Delhi and Alwaye (Kerala State), has decided to raise the management's contribution to the Employees Provident Fund from 6¼% to 8-1/3%.

The increased rate of contribution will be effective from April 1, 1960. The contribution from employees will also be correspondingly raised. This will enable the workers to accumulate larger amounts in their Provident Fund and increase their savings.

The States

ASSENT FOR STATE BILLS

LAND FOR PUNJAB VILLAGE COMMUNITIES

The President has given assent to the East Punjab Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation) (Second Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1960, says an announcement of July 19.

The legislation intends to make provision for reservation of land for the benefit of village community. The State Government is also empowered to revise or rescind a scheme prepared or confirmed under the parent Act.

The State Government has been authorised under the measure for recovery of consolidation cost from the lessees of long term leases and the tenants of surplus land.

SUPPLY OF LABOUR IN ASSAM

The President has given assent to the Assam Shramik Bahini Bill, 1959, says an announcement of July 21.

The bill is aimed at enthusing the spirit of voluntary co-operation among the labourers in the State. Provision will be made for formation of associations of labourers and for their registration for better and more regular supply of labour for execution of Five Year Plan projects.

This step has become all the more necessary as supply of labour from outside the State is irregular. Besides, the local people should also be enabled to earn a good portion of the developmental expenditure incurred by the State.

PROTECTION TO TENANTS IN MADRAS

An announcement of July 28 says that the President has given assent to the Madras City Tenants' Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1960.

The legislation seeks to widen the definition of 'building' to include in its orbit both residential and non-residential buildings in Madras, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Salem and Coimbatore.

Provision has also been made in the measure for appeal against court orders fixing rent of land. Such a provision was not contained in the parent Act.

The Bill, however, will not apply to tenancies of lands owned by local authorities.

PURITY OF SEEDS AND SEEDLINGS

The President has given assent to the Rajasthan Seeds and Seedlings Bill, 1960, says an announcement of July 22.

The legislation is intended to maintain purity of seeds and seedlings and to have agricultural produce of better qualities in the State. Provision has also been made for the exclusive use of approved seeds and seedlings in areas to which the Act would be applied and for setting up an agency for sale of such seeds and seedlings.

Certain powers of control have been retained by the State Government to ensure that the provisions of the Act and the rules made under it are effectively enforced.

BETTER MANAGEMENT OF GAUSHALAS

An announcement dated July 20 says that the President has given assent to the Rajasthan Gaushala Bill, 1960, which seeks to provide for better management, control and development of Gaushalas in Rajasthan.

The provisions of the legislation are meant to increase the utility of Gaushalas in the State and to help the Government and the people improve the conditions of the cattle.

MILK SUPPLY IN DELHI

In a Press Note issued on July 23, the Ministry of Health has announced that, random samples of buffalo's milk, cow's milk and toned milk of the Delhi Milk Supply Scheme have been taken and analysed. These have been found to conform to standards laid down in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. There was no evidence of adulteration.

Defence

NEW SERVICES MEDALS INSTITUTED

An announcement of July 29 says that, designs of the six new medals for the Armed Forces — Vishisht Seva Medal, Sainya Seva Medal, Videsh Seva Medal, Sena Medal, Nau Sena Medal and Vayu Sena Medal — instituted by the Government of India on Republic Day this year, as also those of their ribbons and clasps, have now been approved by the President and the categories of Service personnel eligible for their award have been announced.

Vishisht Seva Medal

The Vishisht Seva (Distinguished Service) Medal is to be awarded to personnel of all the three Services in Classes I, II and III in recognition of distinguished service of the 'most exceptional', an 'exceptional' and a 'high' order respectively.

Class I of the medal is made of gold gilt, Class II of standard silver and Class III of bronze. Each medal has on its obverse a five-pointed star and on its reverse the Lion Capital. Its ribbon is 32 m.m. wide in gold, with one dark-blue stripe down the centre for Class I, two dark-blue stripes dividing it into three equal parts for Class II and three dark-blue stripes dividing it into four equal parts for Class III.

Sainya Seva Medal

The Sainya Seva (Services) Medal, to be awarded to personnel of all the three Services in recognition of non-operational duties under conditions of hardship and severe climate, is made of cupro-nickel, circular in shape and 35 m.m. in diameter. On its obverse is embossed an outline of the Nanda Devi peak in the background with a clump of bamboo in the foreground, while on its reverse is an Indian fort. It has a 32 m.m. wide saffron ribbon with two vertical stripes of white and dark green dividing it into three equal parts.

The three clasps to be worn with this medal are bars 32 m.m. long with the words 'Jammu and Kashmir', 'NEFA' or 'Himalaya, inscribed on them, areas to which the awards pertain.

The recipients of the Services Medal will be all ranks of the Army who have completed an aggregate of one year on the effective strength of a unit/formation located within the geographical limits of Jammu and Kashmir State or the North-East Frontier Agency or are detailed on northern border defence duties in areas to be specified by Government from time to time. In the case of the Air Force, the recipients of the medal will be aircrew and personnel of ejection crew of air despatch units who have carried out a minimum of 10 sorties or 40 hours of flying in these areas.

Videsh Seva Medal

The Videsh Seva (Overseas) Medal is to be awarded to all ranks of the Armed Forces for duties outside India — (a) on the U.N. Emergency Force or on loan to the Government of Egypt/U.A.R., (b) on the staff of the Haile Sellassie II Military Academy in Ethiopia, (c) on loan to the Government of Ghana, (d) on the staff of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Indo-China (Viet-Nam, Laos and Cambodia), (e) on loan to the Indonesian Government, (f) on loan to the Iraqi Government, (g) on the staff of the Neutral Nations' Repatriation Commission or the Indian Custodian Force in Korea, (h) on the staff of the U.N. Observer Group in the Lebanon, and (i) on the effective strength of a unit or formation employed on the construction of the Tribhuvan Rajpath and airfields in Nepal or on the work of provision of signal communication during the Nepalese elections or on the effective strength of the Indian Military Training Mission or the Indian Military Advisory Group in Nepal or on survey or transport support roles over Nepal.

The Overseas Medal is made of cupro-nickel, circular in shape and 35 m.m. in diameter. It has embossed on its obverse a warship of ancient times and on its reverse ocean waves. Its cobalt-blue ribbon has five white vertical stripes dividing it into six equal parts.

The clasps to the medal are bars 32 m.m. long with the name of the country of service inscribed on it.

All ranks of the three Services —Army, Navy and Air Force—, including the Territorial Army, the Auxiliary and Reserve Forces (when embodied), the Nursing Services and other lawfully-constituted armed forces are eligible for the grant of the above-mentioned three Armed Forces awards.

Army, Navy and Air Force Medals

The Army, Navy and Air Force medals are to be awarded in recognition of such individual acts of exceptional devotion to duty or courage as have special significance for the Service concerned. All ranks in the three Services, Auxiliary and Reserve Forces and Nursing Services are eligible for the award of the respective medals.

These Army, Navy and Air Force Medals, all made of standard silver and 35 m.m. in diameter, have each a fixed ring attached to a metal strip, 3 m.m. wide, ornamented with Asoka leaves.

The Sena (Army) Medal is circular in shape, and has embossed on its obverse a bayonet and on its reverse an armed sentry.

The Nau Sena (Navy) Medal is pentangular in shape with curved sides, and has embossed on its obverse the Naval emblem which has the shape of an ancient Indian ship and on its reverse a trident within a circlet of rope.

The Vayu Sena (Air Force) Medal has the shape of a four-pointed star, and has embossed on its obverse the Lion Capital encircled by a garland of leaves and on its reverse a representation of a Himalayan Eagle.

The ribbons of the Army Medal are in red and of the Navy Medal in Navy blue, with a thin silver-grey stripe running down the centre of each. The ribbon of the Air Force Medal is in alternate stripes of saffron and silver-grey running diagonally from right to left.

TABLEAUX DESIGNS

An announcement of July 29 says that the Ministry of Defence has extended the last date of receipt of entries for the prize competition of tableaux designs, to be presented in the 1961 Republic Day Cultural Pageant, from July 30 to August 21.

Prizes of Rs. 1,000 and 250 will be awarded for the designs adjudged first and second respectively, while additional prizes of Rs. 50 may also be given.

SECOND INFANTRY CONFERENCE

The Second Annual Infantry Conference commenced in Mhow on July 26 to discuss problems related to Infantry soldiers, who form the main bulk of the Army.

Brig. Rajendra Singh, Director of Infantry, Army Headquarters, inaugurated the three-day conference. It made a comparative study of the Infantry in other armies of the world with a view to drawing useful lessons. It was attended by senior Infantry Officers, the Directors of Military Training and Military Intelligence, Army Hq., Infantry Batallion Commanders and Officers Commanding Territorial Army Batallions.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

JULY 16 To 30

July 16 — The strike launched on July 11 by certain sections of Central Government employees is called off unconditionally

17 — Prime Minister Nehru leaves New Delhi on a three-day tour of the disturbed areas of Assam

20 — Subscription lists for the two Central loans, floated on July 18, are closed as the notified amount was fully subscribed

— The co-axial cable manufacturing plant at the Hindustan Cables Limited, Rupnarainpur, goes into production

— The Government of India set up a seven-member National Committee for Oceanic Research

24 — King Mahendra and the Queen of Nepal leave New Delhi for Darjeeling on their way back to Kathmandu from a foreign tour

— President Rajendra Prasad arrives in Hyderabad on a 12-day visit to Andhra Pradesh

— An 18-member delegation of representatives of the Naga People's Convention arrives in New Delhi for talks with the Government of India on the future of the Naga areas

25 — A two-day session of the Customs and Central Excise Advisory Council opens in New Delhi

26 — An agreement, for the import of films from the U.K., is signed in New Delhi between the Government of India and the Rank Films of U.K.

— A delegation of Indian Ministers of Agriculture, headed by Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, Union Minister of Agriculture, leaves New Delhi for study of agriculture in the U.S.S.R.

— The Government of India reconstitute the Coir Board

28 — The Reserve Bank of India announce the issue of loans by 12 States, amounting to Rs. 75 crores, to be subscribed between August 29 and September 3

29 — India signs an agreement with the U.S.A. in New Delhi for the import of additional four lakh bales of cotton under P.L. 480

— An agreement is signed in New Delhi under which the World Bank gives a loan equivalent to $70 million for the improvement and expansion of Indian Railways

— A two-day conference of State Social Welfare Ministers begins in New Delhi

30 — A credit agreement is signed in Berne between India and Switzerland, providing for the purchase of Swiss capital goods of the value of Rs. 10.9 crores

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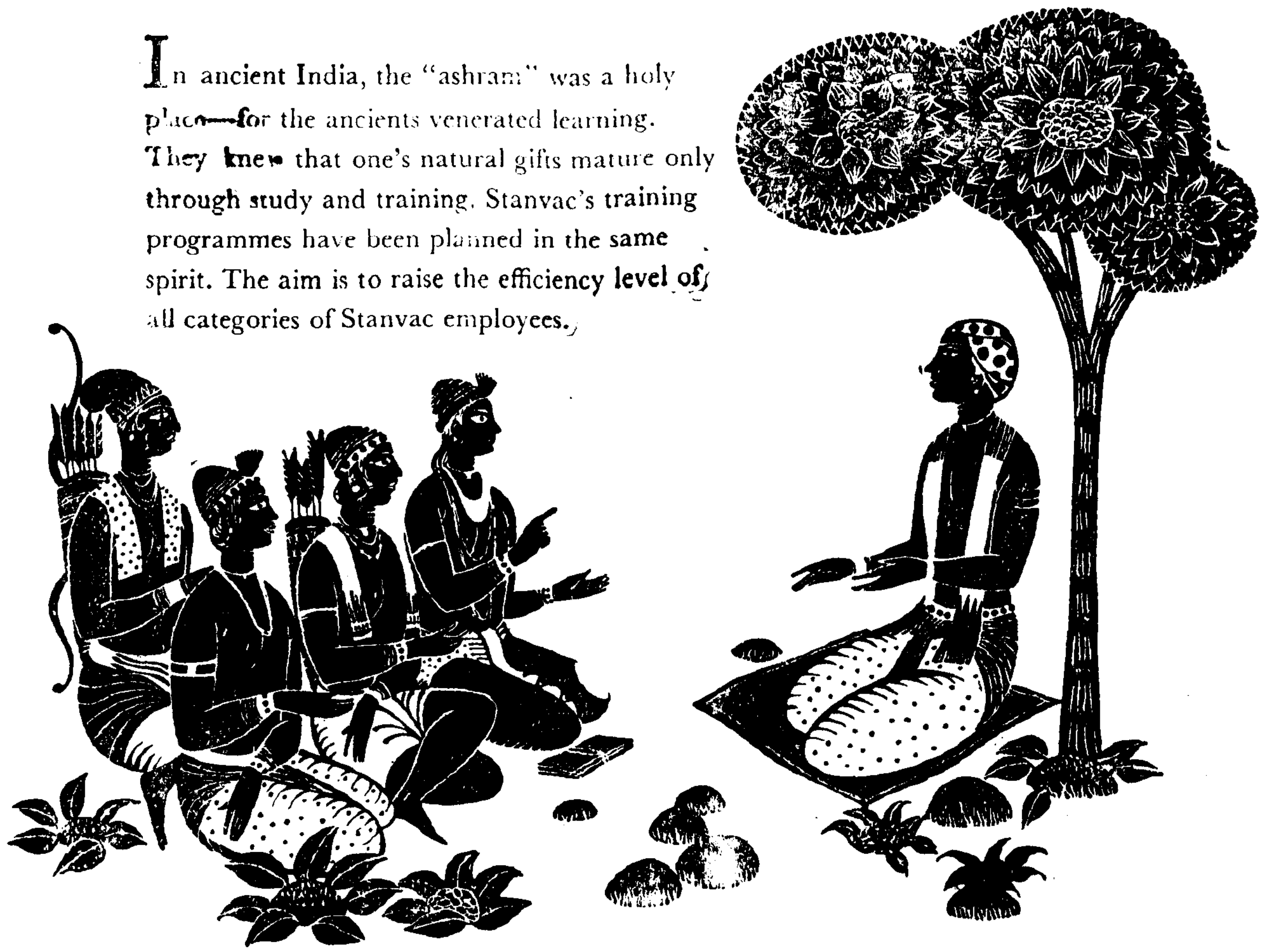
In ancient India, the "ashram" was a holy place—for the ancients venerated learning. They knew that one's natural gifts mature only through study and training. Stanvac's training programmes have been planned in the same spirit. The aim is to raise the efficiency level of all categories of Stanvac employees.



In 1959, Stanvac expended more than 48,500 man-hours to train employees in 30 subjects, ranging from basic courses in Business Management to advance courses in highly specialised phases of marketing, and technical branches of refining and exploration. Last year, as many as 18 Indian employees were sent overseas, for advanced training, while 22 employees received assistance for higher studies.

Moreover, Stanvac training programmes are not designed for employees only. To enlarge the trained personnel pool—a matter of national importance—Stanvac extends its training facilities to key groups outside the organisation. In pursuance of this policy, Stanvac provides training to Government-sponsored personnel. The number of such people trained in 1959 totalled 40.

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Dr. B. Gopala Reddi, Minister of Economic Affairs, addressing the meeting of the Customs and Central Excise Advisory Council in New Delhi on July 25

A delegation of State Ministers of Agriculture, led by Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, Union Minister of Agriculture, leaving Delhi for Moscow on a study tour of the U.S.S.R.

Dr. H. J. Bhabha receiving on July 25 the degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) of the London University from the Queen Mother, Chancellor of the University

Regd
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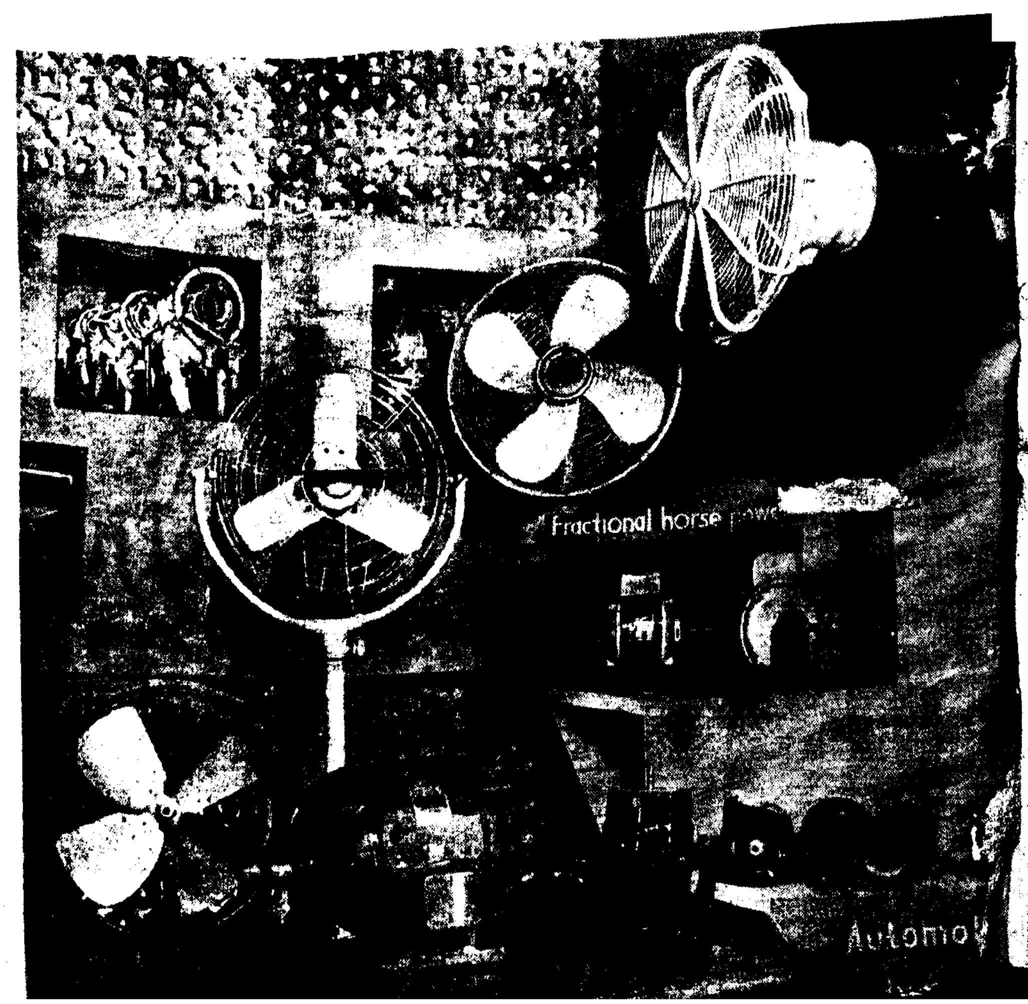

India's exports touched a new high in 1959-60, the total export earnings amounting to Rs. 641 crores. The picture above shows some latest specimens of Indian cotton fabrics which are exported to countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. The picture on the right shows engineering goods, such as fans, electric motors and automobile dynamos, the export of which has been steadily increasing