

INDIAN
INFORMATION

VOL - 3

FEB - 1960

NO - 1



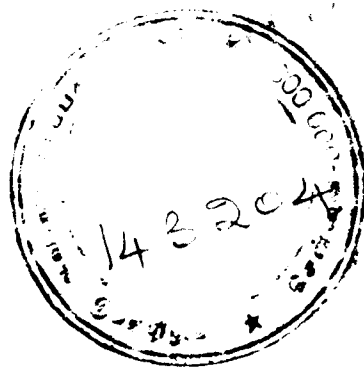
Indian Information



Vol. 3

February 1, 1960 (Magha 12, 1881)

No. 1





Dr. Vittorino Veronese, Director General of UNESCO, with the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, in New Delhi on January 15

Lt. Gen. K.M. Sheikh, Leader of the Pakistan Delegation to the Indo-Pakistan border talks, being received by the Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, at a reception given by him in honour of the Delegation in New Delhi on January 8

Mr. Alfred Krupp Von Bohlen Und Halbach, the well-known German industrialist, who is on a short visit to India, with the Union Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, in New Delhi on January 4



Indian Information

VOL. 3

February 1, 1960
Magha 12, 1981

NO. 1

Single Copy : Rs 0.40 1st 3d. 16 cents

Annual Subscription : Rs 8.00 20 sh \$ 3.00

MAIN CONTENTS

	PAGE
COLOMBO PLAN REPORT ON ECONOMIC SITUATION IN INDIA	4
INDO-PAK FINANCIAL TALKS CONCLUDE ..	7
L.D. PLANT AT ROURKELA INAUGURATED	8
BRIDGE OVER BRAHMAPUTRA IN ASSAM ..	15
AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY IN UTTAR PRADESH	15
HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT IN ASSAM ..	17
U.N. AID FOR ENGINEERING RESEARCH ..	17
MENTAL HEALTH SCHEMES IN THIRD PLAN	20
REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE TO KASHMIR D.Ps.	20
MEETING OF STATE LABOUR MINISTERS ..	22

HOME GUARDS IN STATES	23
ARMY DAY PARADE	25
INDIAN EXHIBITION IN MOMBASA ..	25

COVER : H.E. Mr. Kliment Efremovich Voroshilov, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, with the President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, and Prime Minister Nehru, on his arrival in New Delhi on January 20, 1960. Madame Yekaterina Alexeyevna Furtseva, Deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet, who is accompanying President Voroshilov is seen on the extreme right.

(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

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON INDO-PAKISTAN BORDER TALKS

An Indo-Pakistan conference at Minister level was held from January 4 to January 10, to consider settlement of disputes and expeditious demarcation of boundary on the Indo-West Pakistan border. The conference commenced in Lahore on January 4, and the concluding session took place in New Delhi from January 7. A joint communique was issued on January 11, which reads:

In pursuance of the decision taken at the India-Pakistan Minister-level Conference in October, 1959, where a number of East Pakistan-India border questions were amicably settled, a Minister-level Conference was held at Lahore, Rawalpindi and Delhi from 4th to 11th January, 1960, to discuss West Pakistan-India border questions. The Pakistan Delegation was led by Lt.-General K.M. Shaikh and the

Indian Delegation by Sardar Swaran Singh.

2. There were in all five areas of dispute in this region, viz., (1) Chak Ladheke. (2) Theh Sarja Marja. (3) Hussainiwala and (4) Suleimanke Headworks, and (5) Kutch-Sind Border. Of these, the first four disputes arose out of differences between the Governments of India and Pakistan regarding interpreta-

tion of the Radcliffe Award. These were settled in a spirit of mutual accommodation as detailed in para 3 below.

3. Pakistan gave up their claim to Chak Ladheke and India gave up their claim to the three villages of Theh Sarja Marja, Rakh Hardit Singh and Pathanke. In respect of Hussainiwala Headworks it was decided that the boundary would be the district boundary between Ferozepur and Lahore districts. A settlement was also effected in respect of Suleimanke Headworks and an agreement about the adjustment in the district boundary was arrived at.

4. Both countries agreed to collect further data in respect of the dispute regarding the Kutch-Sind boundary and discussions will be held later with a view to arriving at a settlement of this dispute.

5. Agreement was also reached in respect of the Ground Rules which would be operative on the West Pakistan-India border.

6. So far as the demarcation of the boundary between West Pakistan and Punjab (India) was concerned, it was decided that top priority should be given to this work which should be completed by the end of April, 1960. It was agreed that the return of the areas in adverse possession of either country in this sector will be completed by the 15th October, 1960.

7. With the settlement of a large number of border questions both on East Pakistan-India and West Pakistan-India borders, yet another step has been taken by the two Governments for bringing about better and amicable neighbourly relations which the two leaders, the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India, had welcomed in their meeting on 1st September, 1959.

GROUND RULES

In pursuance of the directive given to the sub-committee these ground rules were formulated by Lt. Gen. P.N. Thapar, GOC-in-C, Western Command (India) and Lt. Gen.

Bakhtiar Rana, SQA, MC, Corps Commander, Pakistan. In their deliberations they were assisted from the Pakistan side by Brig. Said-ud-Din, Director-General, West Pakistan Rangers, Brig. Tikka Khan and Mr. S.M. Koreishi, PFS, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and on the Indian side by Shri Bhagwan Singh Rosha, IPS, DIG., PAP, Brig. Gurbakhsh Singh, Shri Govardhan, IPS, IG, Rajasthan, Shri V.G. Kanetkar, IP, DIG., Bombay and Shri M.M. Sen, ICS, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Defence. The ground rules formulated in this paper are applicable to the West Pakistan/Punjab (India), West Pakistan/Rajasthan, and Pakistan/Bombay border.

2. On this border the security forces of both the countries are located at some places in close proximity to each other, and to avoid any untoward incident and resulting tension, it is necessary that pending the determination of the final boundary and the exchange of territories in adverse possession of the two Governments, the security forces of the two respective countries should observe the ground rules as laid down hereinafter.

3. On this frontier the *de facto* boundary is generally known to the security forces of both sides and the local population. In case of disputes arising in any sector, regarding the *de facto* boundary the status quo will be maintained by the local post commanders and a working boundary in the areas under dispute, should be decided upon by the officers mentioned in paragraph 4 below and jointly recorded in a descriptive manner and clearly identified on the ground.

4. This working boundary will be decided upon by the undermentioned assisted by appropriate Civil Officers:—

(i) West Pakistan/Punjab (I) Border between the Director-General, West Pakistan Rangers/rep. and the D.I.G., P.A.P., Punjab (India) rep.

(ii) West Pakistan/Rajasthan Border between the Director-General, West Pakistan Rangers/rep. and D.I.G., RAC/rep.

(iii) West Pakistan/Bombay Border between the Director-General,

West Pakistan Rangers/rep. and D.I.G., (HQ)/rep.

5. The *de facto* boundary may or may not coincide with the *de jure* international boundary and the observance of the *de facto* boundary by both sides will not commit the two Governments in any manner in respect of their *de jure* claim.

6. Neither side will have any permanent or temporary border security forces or any other armed personnel within 150 yards on either side of this *de facto* boundary and no picket/forward posts or observation posts will be established within this area.

7. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 6 above, both sides may,

(a) go right up to the *de facto* boundary in hot pursuit of an offender;

(b) send patrols within the zone specified above upto the *de facto* boundary, provided:

(i) each side will inform the other about the actual patrol beat or any changes thereto if it falls within 50 yards of the boundary;

(ii) patrols are small in numbers, i.e. not exceeding a section of one and ten;

(iii) patrols invariably move with flags; and

(iv) only personal weapons are carried by the patrols (no L.M.G.s will be carried).

(c) retain such pickets, forward posts and observation posts as are already established until the *de jure* boundary is finalised and return of territories under adverse possession takes place. A list of such posts on both sides will be exchanged by 1-2-60. New posts within the 150 yards belt on either side will only be established by mutual agreement.

8. Defensive works existing within 50 yards on either side of the *de facto* working boundary not included in the list mentioned in para 7(c) above must be destroyed or filled up by 15-3-1960 and reports to this effect will be exchanged by both sides.

9. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 6 to 8 above, in areas regarding which disputes of title are already pending with the respective

Governments for a decision the status quo inclusive of defence and security measures will be strictly maintained until such time as the *de jure* boundary is finalised and the return of territories in adverse possession of the two countries takes place.

10. It will be the duty of the border security forces on either side to prevent armed civilians entering the 300 yards stretch of the border (150 yards on either side of the working boundary).

11. Border security forces of both sides are charged with the responsibility of preventing smuggling in their respective areas. Therefore, it is incumbent upon them to arrest smugglers of any nationality, whether armed or unarmed, and to deal with them under the law of the land.

12. In the case of local population, inadvertent crossings are likely to take place, along with border. The border security forces, after satisfying themselves that the crossing was done inadvertently, shall immediately return the persons concerned to the opposite commanders at officers' level.

13. Whenever the personnel of the border forces of either country inadvertently stray across the border line information about it should be immediately conveyed to the nearest post of the other side and the personnel must be handed back without delay to their nearest post along with their arms and ammunition etc., if any, through Gazetted Officers/Upper Subordinates of both sides.

14. Bonafide governmental bodies e.g. survey parties, etc., whilst operating in the border area shall not be interfered with. The programme of such parties will be notified to both sides by the Government concerned — at least a month ahead. Such parties will report to the nearest post of their own country before starting the work.

15. Whenever any cattle are alleged to have been lifted across the border a report will be lodged with the opposite border post commander to whom the details such as the tracks of the cattle and of the criminals involved will be handed over. The Border Post Commanders concerned will acknowledge receipt of the report and then inform the near-

est Police Station in their own country who will make all efforts to recover the cattle. After recovery the cattle must be handed back immediately to the Police Officers on the opposite side.

16. Grazing of unattended cattle on the border shall be discouraged. In the case of stray cattle these will be returned immediately by the Border Post Commanders to their opposite numbers after having satisfied themselves that the cattle have in actual fact strayed from across the border.

17. The S.P.s of Border Districts will also attend where necessary the monthly border meetings for the purpose of exchange of cattle and discussing border crimes.

18. The duties of the Sub-centres/Wing Commanders/S.P.s and lower Commanders in their respective areas of responsibility shall be as under:—

(a) They will maintain close liaison with their opposite numbers.

(b) They will, by frequent visits, make themselves known to the Border Security Forces of the opposite side.

(c) They will receive all complaints regarding border violations/tension. They will immediately hold a joint enquiry not later than 24 hours of the information report. Where this is not possible due to long distances and difficulties of communications, the joint enquiry should be held as soon as possible.

(d) Where two border posts are situated in close proximity to each other and it is possible for them to communicate by flags, any commander who wishes to meet his counterpart, will wave a flag of the specifications given in paragraph 23 below and will proceed to the border unarmed without any escort to a pre-arranged place. The opposite commander or the senior officer on seeing the flag, will acknowledge the signal and proceed to the place of meeting also with a flag unarmed and without escort. The use of flags shall be introduced by 15-2-1960.

Where the posts are separated by a long distance, contact will be established in the following manner:—

A party consisting of 1 and 6 armed with their personal weapons for their own protection and carrying the appropriate flag will proceed to

the post of the other side. On arrival within 300 yards of this post, they will establish a temporary base and send forward two men unarmed with the appropriate flags to make necessary contact.

(e) Nationals of both the countries, while cultivating land upto the *de facto* boundary of the country concerned shall not be interfered with by the Border Security Forces of the other side.

(f) If a national of one country lays a fresh claim to land across the *de facto* border and takes any step in furtherance of that claim which is objected to by the other side, the two commanders will hold a joint enquiry on the spot and restrain the person from enforcing his claim until the matter is settled.

19. Where, due to the change in the course of a river, territory of one country is thrown on the other side, such change will NOT affect either the *de jure* or *de facto* position of the territory.

20. It is felt that the tension on the borders will be greatly minimised if there is close personal touch between commanders of the two border security forces and therefore the following periodic meetings are recommended:—

(a) Wing Comdrs Rangers (Pak)/S.P.s of PAP/RAC (India) Special Reserve Police, Bombay (India). Monthly at the border.

(b) Officers mentioned in para 4 above or their representatives shall also meet. These Officers will be authorised by their respective Govts. to settle the disputes on the spot as far as possible.

As required.

The military commanders shall also meet as and when the situation demands and whenever they consider it necessary.

21. If unfortunately, in spite of this, firing occurs, the other side shall refrain from replying. The local commanders will get in touch with each other by telephone and will meet with a view to bringing about a cease-fire forthwith. After every firing incident, it is necessary for both sides to carry out a joint investigation, fix responsibility and submit their respective reports for information of their higher authorities.

22. In order to maintain close liaison between the border forces of the two countries, it is essential that adequate telephone and other communications are provided at various levels.

23. All pickets and patrols on both sides will have flags of the following description:—

size	Pickets	
	Pole	Cloth
	7 feet	4 x 3 feet
Patrols		
	Pole	Cloth
	3 feet	2 x 2½ feet
Colours		
	India ... Orange	
	Pakistan ... Blue	

24. At night flags will be substituted by light signals (two red/very lights) or signal by torches as mutually arranged between the post commanders.

25. Whenever there is a joint enquiry by D.C.s or Commissioners on the two sides, the respective commanders of security forces of the areas shall also attend the meeting and submit for the information of the respective higher commanders their assessment of the situation created by the particular incident.

26. Finally, we recommend —

(a) that the press on both sides should be persuaded to exercise restraint and not to publish exaggerated reports or material which is likely to inflame the feelings of the population on both sides. Should incorrect reports be published, contradictions at a governmental level should be issued at the earliest opportunity.

(b) that after the *de jure* boundary has been finalised and the return of territories in adverse possession has been effected these ground rules should be reviewed in order to bring them up-to-date.

Sd/- Lt. Gen Bakhtiar Rana,
S.Q.A., M.C.,
Corps Commander,
West Pakistan.
New Delhi,
9th January, 1960.

Sd/- Lt. Gen. P.N. Thapar,
G.O.C.-in-C.,
Western Command,
India.
New Delhi,
9th January, 1960.

Indian Information

Czech Parliamentary Delegation In India

An eleven-member Parliamentary Delegation from Czechoslovakia visited India from January 3 to 14.

The delegation was led by His Excellency Mr. Zdenek Fierlinger, President of the National Assembly of Czechoslovakia. The other members were: Mr. Pavel Tonhauser; Josef Cermak; Mr. Antonin Klecka; Mr. Jan Danis; Mr. Antonin Otradovec; Mr. Josef Safarik; Mrs. Alena Bernaskova; Dr. Zdenek Vacha; Mr. Miroslav Kubin, and Dr. Frantisek Zavodny.

Subjects Transferred To Education Ministry

A Press Communique issued by the Union Cabinet Secretariat on January 5 says that the President has issued an Order in pursuance of clause (3) of Article 77 of the Constitution of India. According to the Order, work relating to the following subjects has been transferred from the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Ministry of Education, with effect from January 4:

(a) Orphans and Orphanages (as regards administration only);

(b) Social and Moral Hygiene Programmes so far as they relate to women in moral danger, that is to say, Rescue Homes and Reception Centres, including after-care programmes, but excluding (i) the administration of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act,

1956, and (ii) the establishment and maintenance of Protective Homes;

(c) Social Welfare Schemes transferred from the Ministry of Rehabilitation to the Ministry of Home Affairs, including the administration of the Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Directorate.

Gallantry Award To Bihar Police Officer

According to an announcement of January 9, the President has awarded the Police Medal for gallantry to Shri Srinivas Singh, Reserve Sergeant Major, Daltonganj, District Palamau, Bihar, for displaying 'great courage and devotion to duty'.

According to the citation, Shri Srinivas Singh, with his party succeeded in overpowering and arresting Phetal Singh Kharwar, a resident of Bhahara village in Palamau district, who had set himself up as a petty dictator in the district and the adjacent district of Surguja by his acts of lawlessness, with his 200 followers. After an unsuccessful lathi charge and firing, Shri Srinivas Singh took his party in and surrounded the house in which Phetal Singh was hiding with his lieutenants. A room to room search was made and Phetal Singh's lieutenants, who resisted fiercely, were overpowered and arrested. Later Shri Srinivas Singh alone went into the dark room in which Phetal Singh from his vantage point struck a blow with axe at him. The Sergeant Major managed to parry and Phetal Singh was arrested.

Planning & Finance

COLOMBO PLAN REPORT ON ECONOMIC SITUATION IN INDIA

According to an announcement of January 7, the annual report of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee on the economic

and financial situation in India during 1958-59 was published recently. The report points out that there was a marked slowing

down in the rate of decline of foreign exchange reserves, and that the budgetary deficit was much smaller than in the preceding year.

The report observes that, the financial and economic policies of 1958-59 have been, by and large, the continuation of those initiated in the previous year and have sought to diminish the imbalance between resources available and the demands on them. Fiscal policy was directed towards the raising of more resources. Monetary policy aimed at preventing speculative holding of stocks, while promoting and, within limits, encouraging expansion in investment. Policies in the field of trade and foreign exchange sought to limit imports and encourage exports. A fresh assessment of internal and external resources for the Second Five Year Plan was also made during the year, and adjustments were made in the Plan outlays to bring them into line with available resources.

Altogether, the economic outlook showed a distinct improvement in the course of the year, the important contributory factors being a substantial increase in agricultural production, a smaller increase in industrial production and an enlarged flow of foreign assistance. However, the problem of quickening the pace of development without causing excessive stresses and strains in the system, both internally and externally, still remains.

PRODUCTION

The report says:

During 1957-58, there was a decline in the output of foodgrains by about 10 per cent, mainly as a result of drought in large parts of the country. In 1958-59, the crop is estimated to be larger than ever before—73.5 million tons, or 18 per cent more than in 1957-58 and 7 per cent more than the bumper harvest of 1956-57. Imports of foodgrains during the year were 3.4 million tons as compared with 3.6 million tons in 1957-58. There was also a depletion of Government stocks, which fell from 1.51 million tons at the beginning of April 1958 to 1.15 million tons at

the end of March 1959. There was thus an increase in the total availability of foodgrains, though a part of the increased supplies has probably been used to replenish stocks with the wholesale and retail trade. The output of commercial crops also improved considerably.

The index of agricultural production (year ended 30th June, 1950 = 100) was 123.6 in 1956-57 and declined to 114.6 in 1957-58. The provisional index for 1958-59 is 131, the index for foodgrains production being 128.2 and for non-foodgrains 136.6.

Industrial production, which had risen by only 1.7 per cent in 1957-58, increased rather faster during the year. The index (1951 = 100), which had risen from 135.6 in 1956-57 to 137.9 in 1957-58, rose to 141 in 1958-59.

During the year there were sizeable additions to the installed capacity in a large number of industries, such as paper, sulphuric acid, caustic soda, superphosphates, paints, matches, rayon yarn, cement, aluminium, sewing machines, electric fans, domestic refrigerators and bicycles. The expansion programme of the existing steel plants is nearing completion, and an increase in steel production of about half a million tons is expected in 1959-60.

The trends in industrial production in the early part of 1959-60 are encouraging. The indices for cotton and jute textiles are still more or less unchanged, but in both these industries the outlook has improved and the load accumulated stocks has been removed. Indications are that industrial production will increase faster in 1959-60 than in the preceding two years.

PRICES

The general index of wholesale prices (1952-53 = 100), which was 98 at the beginning of 1956-57, rose to 106 by the end of the year. The average of prices for 1957-58 was about 3 per cent higher than in the preceding year. The rise was shared by most commodity groups. The average of prices for 1958-59 was about 4 per cent higher, the rise being mainly in food articles, the index for which rose by about 8 per cent.

The level of prices was nearly 6 per cent higher at the beginning of 1959 than a year previously; but in August 1959, it was about 1 per cent higher than a year earlier. The satisfactory harvest of 1958-59 has had some impact on prices. But the failure of production to increase sufficiently to match the growing demand and the increase in wage costs in certain industries such as coal are some of the factors responsible for the rise in the level of prices of commodities other than foodgrains.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Since the beginning of the Second Plan the balance of payments has been under serious strain. On April 1, 1956, i.e., at the beginning of the Second Plan, the foreign assets of the Reserve Bank of India amounted to Rs. 7,461 million. By the end of March, 1957 they had fallen by Rs. 2,193 million to Rs. 5,268 million, in spite of the drawing of Rs. 607 million from the International Monetary Fund. By the end of March, 1958 there was a further drop of Rs. 2,598 million over the year, in spite of a further drawing of Rs. 345 million from the I.M.F. By March, 1959 they had declined to Rs. 2,131 million i.e., a decline of Rs. 539 million over the year.

The chief reason for the adverse turn in the balance of payments in the first three years of the Plan was the very large trade deficit. The deficit rose from Rs. 1,212 million in 1955-56 to Rs. 4,643 million in 1956-57 and further to Rs. 6,095 million in 1957-58. In 1958-59 the trade deficit was reduced to Rs. 4,704 million.

The movements in the trade balance are mostly due to changes in the level of imports. Total imports in 1956-57 increased by Rs. 3,381 million to Rs. 10,995 million i.e., an increase of 44 per cent. In 1957-58 imports increased further by Rs. 1,047 million, i.e. by about 10 per cent, and in 1958-59 decreased by Rs. 1,577 million, reflecting the strict check exercised since the beginning of 1957.

In regard to exports there was a setback. Earnings from exports were Rs. 6,352 million in 1956-57 and Rs. 5,947 million in 1957-58 i.e. about 6 per cent lower than in the previous year. During 1958-59 ex-

Indian Information

5

February 1, 1960

port earnings declined further by Rs. 186 million, i.e. by a little over 3 per cent. There was an increase in earnings from tea (Rs. 177 million) and cotton, raw and waste (Rs. 71 million). On the other hand, the earnings were lower from jute manufactures (Rs. 119 million), cotton manufactures (Rs. 132 million) and vegetable oils (Rs. 50 million). Earnings from manganese ore fell sharply from Rs. 294 million in 1957-58 to Rs. 132 million in 1958-59. The decline in demand in Western Europe and the United States in the earlier part of the year, keener competition from other producers in the case of cotton textiles and foreign exchange difficulties faced by some of the countries in South-East Asia were the principal causes of the reduction of export earnings. Recently, there has been some improvement in export prospects, and vigorous steps are being taken to encourage exports of traditional items and to develop new export lines. It will, however, take some time before export promotion measures make an impact on the level of export earnings.

EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

Total foreign loans and grants authorised since the beginning of April 1956 to the end of July 1959 amount to Rs. 11,092 million. Of this, Rs. 5,418 million was the authorisation since April 1958. There was also a carry-over from the First Plan of Rs. 1,934 million. Thus, by the end of July 1959, total assistance available for the Second Plan amounted to Rs. 13,026 million. This sum includes the equivalent of \$ 350 million from the International Bank and five governments, which was negotiated bilaterally in the weeks following a full discussion of India's problems on the initiative of the Bank in August 1958. Assistance utilised up to the end of March 1959 amounted to about Rs. 7,000 million, thus leaving a balance of Rs. 6,026 million. At a further meeting in March with the International Bank and the same group, it appeared that sufficient assistance would be forthcoming to give India reasonable expectations of being able to maintain the momentum of the development programme in the fourth year.

Part of this external assistance received from different countries and from the International Bank has

been made available for developments in the private sector, e.g. the IBRD loans for expansion schemes of the existing steel producers, part of the credit extended by the United States Export-Import Bank and the U.S. Development Loan Fund.

Money supply with the public, which was Rs. 23,890 million at the end of March, 1958, increased by Rs. 1,090 million in 1958-59 as compared with increases of Rs. 759 million in 1957-58 and Rs. 1,286 million in 1956-57.

EMPLOYMENT

The only regular data indicating the size of the unemployment problem are provided by the employment exchanges in the country. During the year under report, the number of exchanges increased from 197 by the end of March 1958 to 223 by the end of March 1959.

The live registers of employment-seekers through exchanges rose from 932,000 at the end of March 1958 to 1,217,000 at the end of March 1959, the increase being 285,000 as compared with 184,000 the previous year.

There have been some measures taken by the Government to popularise the exchanges, but these alone do not account for such a large increase in employment seekers. This appears to show a deterioration in the employment situation in the country. Vacancies notified to exchanges went up from 303,000 in 1957-58 to 372,000 in 1958-59. In general, employment opportunities in the economy are increasing, but this increase is not commensurate with the numbers entering the labour market.

ECONOMIC POLICY AND MEASURES

During the year the objectives of economic policy were the same as last year. The Government sought to reduce the strain on the balance of payments, to keep a check on prices, particularly prices of foodgrains, and to augment to the greatest extent possible, resources available for development by mobilising domestic resources. The Government also sought to supplement these efforts by securing additional loans and credits from abroad. The various measures taken since 1957, such as, the substantial rise in taxes, the increase in the bank rate, the pro-

gressive tightening of import controls and promotion of exports, etc., were continued during 1958-59.

The monetary policy of the Reserve Bank continued to be one of general restraint with specific encouragement to sectors requiring special assistance. The stringent restrictions on imports were continued throughout the year. An attempt was made to overcome shortages which were beginning to impede production. A higher allocation was made for raw materials for industry in order to enable essential industries to work to full capacity.

A number of steps were taken to stimulate exports. In August 1958, some 250 commodities were freed from export control. These included certain classes of textiles, linseed oil, castor oil, sugar products, drugs and medicines, leather and its manufactures, electrical instruments and appliances, and wireless instruments.

Restrictions on imports, relaxation of export controls and the continuing high level of investment in the economy tended to exert pressure on prices. The larger crop of 1958-59 helped to restrain the rise in prices; but its impact on prices of foodgrains has been somewhat less than expected. According to available information, despite the larger crop, arrivals of foodgrains in the markets have not been satisfactory. While the smaller producers appear to have sold their surpluses in the market, the large and medium producers have tended to withhold stocks and also to buy the surplus from the small producers in expectation of being able to realise high prices in later months.

The ability of the larger farmers to hold on to their crops has increased in recent years because of the higher prices they obtained for their cash crops as well as for foodgrains, and the improved credit facilities from Government and co-operatives. Steps were taken to increase the stocks available with Government through procurement in States, where production of foodgrains exceeded local needs, and through imports. Advances against foodgrains continued to be restricted, and wholesalers were required to submit periodical returns of stocks. Over 6,000 Fair Price Shops were added during 1958, making a total of 45,000 retail shops, and these distributed 3.67 million tons of foodgrains.

With the seasonal uptrend in exports and the external assistance authorised so far and the further assistance which is under negotiation, the outlook for the immediate future is satisfactory. The longer term problem, however, continues to be one of hastening the pace of development without causing excessive stresses and strains in the system, both internally and externally. Maximum effort to increase productivity and promote savings, a close watch on inflationary pressures and continued vigilance on the foreign exchange front, coupled with a drive to raise exports, will be necessary in the coming years.

PROSPECTS

On present indications it appears likely that the total funds invested during the Second Plan period will not generally fall short of the original estimates. However, after making allowance for changes in prices and some revision of estimates, there would be a shortfall of 15 to 20 per cent in real terms. This, in turn, will be reflected in a rate of growth of national product over the Plan period somewhat slower than that originally contemplated.

During the First Plan period investment was increased from 5 per cent of national income to about 7 per cent. There has been since then a progressive increase in net investment to a level between 10 and 11 per cent of national income. Some of the investments undertaken under the two Plans have begun to bear fruit, while several others will be completed in the near future.

While it is clear that the economy has not yet crossed the threshold into self-sustaining growth, a good beginning has been made. During the remainder of the Second Plan, continuous efforts will be needed to increase production, to promote savings, to raise exports and generally to mobilise resources and thereby provide a continuing basis for a further and significant step forward under the Third Plan.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

January 14, 1960, marked the tenth anniversary of the Colombo Plan which had its inception at a meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers

held in Colombo in January 1950. Started as a programme for promoting economic development of Commonwealth countries of South and South-East Asia, it now covers practically all the countries of the area. Highly developed countries are working in the closest unison with the countries of the region to raise the standard of living of a very large part of the world's population. Its membership embraces 20 countries.

INDO-PAK FINANCIAL TALKS CONCLUDE

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance on January 4 says that officials of the Pakistan and Indian Governments, who began final round of the discussions on the outstanding partition issues between the two countries last week, concluded their 4-day discussions on January 3. The talks were conducted throughout in an atmosphere of cordiality and co-operation.

The consideration of the various items and figures which were to enter the balance sheets of the two Central Governments and of the divided provinces was completed. The figures relating to most of the items were settled and some items, in regard to which the data available were not sufficient, were left over for settlement after the Finance Ministers of the two countries have had an opportunity of considering them. The officials also reviewed all the other major outstanding financial issues and the possible methods of resolving them.

The results of the discussions would be reported by them to their respective Governments. The whole position was expected to be reviewed at a meeting of Ministers the date and venue of which would be settled in due course.

The Pakistan delegation was led by Mr. H.A. Majid, Finance Secretary, Government of Pakistan and the Indian delegation by

Shri M.V. Rangachari, Special Secretary, Ministry of Finance.

INDO-JAPANESE AGREEMENT ON DOUBLE TAXATION

It was announced on January 5 that an Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation of Income between India and Japan was signed in New Delhi the same day by H.E. Dr. Shiroshi Nasu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to India, and Dr. B. Gopala Reddi, Union Minister for Revenue and Civil Expenditure.

The agreement requires to be ratified, after which it will become effective in India in respect of income of the previous years beginning on or after the first day of January of the year in which the exchange of instruments of ratification takes place.

The agreement follows talks between the two Governments at official level in Tokyo in October last when a draft agreement was initialised.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF TRAVANCORE BANK

By a Press Note issued on January 12, the Ministry of Finance has informed the shareholders of the Travancore Bank Limited, who are entitled to compensation in terms of the provisions contained in the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, that a notification has been issued by the Central Government under Section 13(3) of that Act, fixing January 27, 1960 as the date by which requests, if any, to have the amount of compensation referred to a Tribunal must reach the Central Government.

The requests in writing should be addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, State Banks Section, New Delhi, in the form which has already been prescribed for this purpose, vide Rule 4 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) (Compensation) Rules, 1959.

Commerce & Industry

L. D. PLANT AT ROURKELA INAUGURATED

Sardar Swaran Singh, Union Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, inaugurated the L.D. Plant at Rourkela Steel Works on January 12. The plant, which has been the first unit to produce steel in the public sector, will now produce steel by L.D. process.

The process, developed in Austria, has the advantage of lower capital and operating cost, higher rate of production and saving in space and ancillary equipment. It consists of blowing in of oxygen at supersonic speed directly on to the surface of molten pig iron.

The Rourkela plant will produce 750,000 tons of steel by the process. Another 250,000 tons will be produced by the conventional process called open hearth furnace. Of the three steel plants being set up in the public sector, the Rourkela alone will make steel by this process.

OTHER UNITS COMMISSIONED

The blooming and slabbing mill, which forms part of the Rourkela Steel Project's hot rolling mill, was commissioned on January 11, along with the second coke oven battery, the second blast furnace, three units of the by-products plant and the second generator of the power plant.

The mill, the biggest of its kind in India, has been designed to roll steel ingots upto a maximum weight of 16 tons each and ultimately produce 1.8 million tons of slabs per year. It was erected in about six months.

The first blast furnace of the one-million ton plant was commissioned in February 1959.

The construction of the plant is expected to be completed by the end of 1961. The plant will produce flat products like plates,

sheets, strips and tin plates. The three plants together will produce 6 million tons of steel by the end of the Second Plan.

PRODUCTION AT BHILAI

It was announced on January 5 that the Bhilai Steel Plant has produced 34,975 tons of pig iron during December 1959. About 25,122 tons of pig iron were despatched from Bhilai to foundries in India during the month.

The Billet Mill of the steel works, which went into commission on December 24, rolled out 1,200 tons of billets in the week. Of these, 650 tons were despatched to rolling mills in the country.

The ammonium sulphate plant, which was commissioned on December 15, manufactured 324 tons of sulphate fertilizer during the fortnight. Of this, 111 tons were despatched to Bilaspur and other districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Co-ordinating Body For Steel Works

An announcement of January 2 says that the Government of India have set up a committee to co-ordinate the work of various organisations engaged in the detailed planning of the expansions of the three steel works in the public sector.

The committee will consist of the General Managers of the three steel plants at Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur and a representative each of the Departments of Mines and Fuel and Iron and Steel of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel. The General Manager (Construction Division) of the Hindustan Steel Ltd. and the Iron and Steel Controller of Government of

India will also be members. The representative of the Department of Iron and Steel will be the convenor.

The committee has been set up to plan the economic expansion of the three steel works at Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur with a view to securing the timely production of various categories of steel for which additional demands are likely to arise during and immediately following the Third Plan.

PRODUCTION IN H.M.T. TO BE DOUBLED

An announcement made on January 8 says that the Government of India have approved a proposal of the Hindustan Machine Tools (Ltd.), Bangalore, to double its capacity from 1000 machines to 2000 machines per annum. The capital expenditure on the expansion programme will be Rs. 280 lakhs, involving foreign exchange of Rs. 115 lakhs.

HMT's production has substantially increased in the last few years. The Second Plan target had been achieved as early as 1957-58, when 402 machines valued at Rs. 1.4 crores were manufactured. This was made possible by the reorganisation and multiple shift working in the factory.

During the current year (1959-60), the production will be about 700 machines valued at Rs. 2.5 crores. It is expected to reach 1,000 machines, valued at Rs. 3.5 crores, by the end of 1960-61.

The Company has already started making profits. Even after providing for the payment of 4½ per cent as interest on the Government loan of Rs. 1.67 crores and after providing for a fair return on the share capital, it is expected that the Company will be able to finance a part of the capital cost of the expansion programme from its internal resources.

Substantial reduction has also been achieved in production costs of HMT machines. The benefit of this has been passed on to the buyers through reduction in sale prices. The sale price of 1,000 mm lathe, for example, was first brought down from Rs. 39,000 to Rs. 36,000 and then to Rs. 29,500 with effect from

June 1, 1958. The landed cost of imported machines of equivalent quality is around Rs. 40,000.

Machine Tool Plant At Heavy Electricals Ltd

The first machine tool plant was installed at the Heavy Electricals Factory in Bhopal on January 13 by Shri H.V. Pataskar, Governor of Madhya Pradesh.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri K.B. Mathur, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the project, said that, it had been decided to give up the phased programme for the factory and complete the entire project as early as possible. The factory would provide employment to 35,000 persons and about a lakh more would be connected with it in one form or the other.

Lord Chandos, Chairman of the Associated Electrical Industries of Britain, attended the function on behalf of the firm who are the consulting engineers for the factory.

Two Heavy Engineering Plants To Be Founded

A Press Note issued on January 12 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry says that, the Government of India have decided to establish a Heavy Structural Fabricating Works and a Heavy Plate and Vessel Works in the public sector. The implementation of the two projects will begin in the Second Plan period.

The capacity proposed for the Heavy Structural Fabricating Works will be 10,000 tons per annum while that of the Heavy Plate and Vessel Works will be from 10,000 to 12,000 tons per annum.

The Project Reports for the two undertakings have been prepared by a British firm of consulting engineers on the lines recommended by the U.K. Heavy Engineering Mission headed by Sir Eric Coates, which visited India in 1956 to advise the Government on the expansion of

heavy engineering capacity in the country. The Project Reports are now under examination by the Government.

Eleven New Units For Production Of Paper

According to an announcement of January 6, the Union Government have recently approved 11 new schemes for production of paper by small units in the country. The requisite licences have been granted in all the cases. Foreign exchange requirements for the implementation of these schemes amount to Rs. 22 lakhs.

Annual total production capacity of the proposed 11 units will be about 21,200 tons of paper. Of these, 3 units, will be set up in Bombay State, 3 in Uttar Pradesh, 2 in Punjab and 3 in West Bengal.

Production of paper in 1959 is estimated at 3 lakh tons, as against less than one lakh tons in 1948. By the end of the Second Plan, the production is expected to go upto 4.2 lakh tons.

Diversified Production In Public Sector

According to an announcement of January 12, the schemes for diversifying production in three Public Sector undertakings have been finalised.

The National Instruments Factory in Calcutta has undertaken the large-scale manufacture of clinical thermometers in collaboration with a Japanese firm. The Factory will produce 6 lakhs thermometers per annum by 1962-63. The cost of production will compare favourably with those imported from other countries. The National Instruments Factory will be the second unit in the country to manufacture clinical thermometers.

The Nahan Foundry, another Union Government undertaking, has initiated a scheme for manufacture of electric motors as a measure of diversification of its manufacturing activities. The Foundry will initially manufacture 1,200 motors per year which

will be increased later to 3,600 motors per annum. It has already manufactured successfully pilot models of electric motors of certain types.

The Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. at Bangalore has finalised an arrangement with an Italian firm for the manufacture of cylindrical grinding machines of 16 types. The first batch of these machines is expected to be ready by the end of 1960.

N.R.D.C. RECONSTITUTED

An announcement of January 9 says that the Government of India have reconstituted the Board of Directors of the National Research Development Corporation with effect from January 1, 1960.

The reconstituted Board consists of Prof. M.S. Thacker, Secretary, Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Chairman); Dr. D.S. Kothari, Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Defence; Shri A.V. Venkateswaran, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance; Dr. G.P. Kane and Dr. B.D. Kalelkar, Senior Industrial Advisers, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Shri T.R. Gupta, Messrs Jay Engineering Works Ltd., Calcutta; Dr. M.D. Parikh, Messrs National Rayon Corporation Ltd., Bombay; Shri Anantaramakrishnan, Messrs. Simpson and Co., Ltd., Madras and Shri B.D. Kapur, Messrs Atlas Cycles Ltd., Sonapat (Punjab).

The new Directors will hold office for a period of three years.

No Licence Required For Small Scale Industries

The Government of India have clarified the position about setting up industrial units in the small-scale sector, according to an announcement of January 3.

It is open to anybody to set up an industrial unit in the small-scale sector if workers to be employed in the unit number less than 50 in a factory using power, or less than 10 in a factory not using power. No formal permission or licence either

from the Central or State Governments is necessary in such cases.

An exception, however, has been made in regard to the setting up of rerolling mills. In this case, permission from the Iron and Steel Controller is necessary, even when units employing less than 50 people are to be established.

PRODUCTION AND MACHINERY

It has also been clarified that no licence or permission is necessary for production in small units of any article including those listed in the Schedule to the Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act. Small industrialists may, however, seek the advice of the Directors of Industries in the States in regard to the supply position of raw materials before starting new industries. Assistance from this source as well as the National Small Industries Corporation is available for procuring raw materials like steel, non-ferrous metals etc.

Protected Industries Record Progress

According to the annual review of the Tariff Commission's work for the 12 months ending September 1959, which was released on January 1, industries receiving tariff protection generally showed signs of healthy growth.

Among the capital goods industries enjoying tariff protection, textile machinery registered a significant increase in production. The output of automatic looms is expected to go up to 477 during 1959 as against only 36 in 1958. Production of ring frames may increase by 25 per cent.

At present, there are only two protected industries in this group of consumer goods, matches and plastic buttons. The output of plastic buttons increased by 34 per cent during the first nine months of 1959 as compared to corresponding period in 1958. The increase in matches was 3 per cent.

INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS

In this group 17 industries are protected. Production registered a significant rise in a large number of cases in the first nine months of 1959. Output of aluminium ingots increased by 78 per cent over 1958 production, and that of brass stripes in coil was more than double.

Calcium lactate rose by 90 per cent, black sulphur by 53 per cent, and oleic acid by 66 per cent. Hydroquinone, lead and zinc sheets marked a fall in output.

A number of new units were started in this group during this period. Three new units of caustic soda commenced production. Output of caustic soda and liquid chlorine increased by 10 and 22 per cent respectively. One more unit each started production of moulding powder and sheet glass, whose output increased by 26 and 15 per cent respectively.

There was a marked recovery in the automobile industry; production of cars and jeeps increased by 35 and 42 per cent respectively in the nine months of 1959 as compared to the corresponding period last year. The increase in the case of diesel commercial vehicles was 29 per cent.

New Copper Reserves In Rajasthan

It was announced on January 14 that the exploratory mining started by the Government of India some time ago in Rajasthan has shown definite indications of economically workable reserves in the Khetri and Daribo copper belt of the State. Three zones of interest have been located in the Khetri copper belt extending over an area of 16 miles in the Jhunjhunu district. Some sections of these zones with more promising geological data have been taken up for detailed exploration. A new zone has also been brought to light in the Daribo area in the Alwar district.

Nearly 10,000 tons of copper is expected to be produced from the areas if adequate reserves are established by the Indian

Bureau of Mines, who are at present engaged in the proving work.

The present annual consumption of copper in the country is 50,000 tons and is likely to go up to 60,000 tons by 1961, and to 80,000 tons during the Third Plan period. The country produces nearly 8,000 tons from the mines in Bihar worked by the Indian Copper Corporation.

PRODUCTION OF COPPER ORE

It was announced on January 11 that, according to the Indian Bureau of Mines, the production of copper ore during January-November 1959 was 373,000 metric tons compared with 375,000 metric tons during the corresponding period of the preceding year. The entire production was reported from Singhbhum district of Bihar State.

The production of copper metal during the period was 7,465 metric tons as against 7,235 metric tons in the corresponding period of 1958.

SYMPOSIUM ON NEW REACTIVE DYESTUFFS

A Symposium on New Reactive Dyestuffs, organised by the Silk and Art Silk Mills' Research Association, was inaugurated in Bombay on January 9 by Prof. M.S. Thacker, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs and Director General, Scientific and Industrial Research.

In his address, Shri Thacker stressed the importance of co-operative research in industry. He added that the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, was taking keen interest in research activities in the industrial field and assured full co-operation and help from the Government of India to industrial associations in the private sector.

The Silk and Art Silk Mills' Research Association was started in 1950 with a management council of 2 members, including three representatives from the C.S.I.R. which has sanctioned capital grants of Rs. 15 lakhs and a recurring grant of fifty per cent of the total expendi-

HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

From ancient times each region in India built up distinctive traditions of weaving. The early evidence of the glory in Indian textiles dates back to 5000 B.C. when finest Indian Muslins were used to robe the Egyptian mummies. Indian textiles were praised by Greeks—Herodotus, Megasthenes and Pliny and others. A French art connoisseur, who visited India in the 17th century, referred to a turban, 60 cubits in length, which was so fine that one could hardly feel it on one's head. A piece of quality muslin, measuring 15 yards, could weigh only 900 grams. Some of the varieties like the Dacca muslin were described as 'Flowing Water', 'Woven Air', and 'Evening Dew'.

The industry was subjected to serious setbacks with the starting of textile mills both outside and within the country. However, the industry survived due to its inherent strength.

Today, it is the largest cottage industry, next only to agriculture, providing livelihood to nearly 20 millions in the countryside and meeting a third of the country's cloth requirement.

Early in 1953, the Government decided to rehabilitate the handloom industry by creating a 'Cess Fund'. In 1954, the necessary machinery started functioning.

The All India Handloom Board set up Designs Centres at Bombay, Madras, Banaras and Calcutta and sub-centres at Kancheepuram, Surat and Chanderi for preparing designs on the basis of the old tradition of the centre and also preparing new designs. A well planned dyeing and printing laboratory forms an essential part of each Designs Centre. The Board is implementing a programme of publicity and propaganda.

With the efforts of the Central and State Governments, over 40 per cent of weavers have been brought under the co-operative fold for supply of raw materials, technical guidance and marketing.

ture, subject to the ceiling of Rs. 5 lakhs annually for the research institute of the Association.

Relief In Customs On Incomplete Machinery

A Press Note issued on January 10 by the Ministry of Finance says that the Government of India have decided to consider *bona fide* cases for suitable relief in customs duty on incomplete sets of imported machinery.

Importers are, therefore, advised that if they have a *bona fide* case for concessional assessment on the grounds mentioned above, they may make an application, well in advance of the importation of the goods, to the Central Board of Revenue through the Development Wing of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, for necessary relief furnishing full data to prove that the imported portion of the goods forms, with the locally manufactured portion, a complete plant or machinery which, if imported wholly from abroad, would have been assessed at the machinery rate.

Under the Indian Customs Tariff, plant and machinery in general are assessable at a low statutory rate of 10 per cent *ad valorem*. Where, however, the articles imported as parts of machinery do not constitute a whole piece of machinery, they cannot be assessed as such and have of necessity to be assessed individually on merits under the appropriate items of the Tariff. Under this mode of assessment, some of the articles fail to qualify for assessment at the machinery rate and have to pay duty at higher rates.

In order to encourage manufacture of machinery and other capital goods in the country, Government have, of late, been permitting import not of complete machinery/plant but only of such portions and parts thereof as cannot be manufactured locally. It is not, however, the intention of the Government that such incomplete sets of machinery should be deprived of the benefit of the machinery rate merely because the entire machinery is not being imported.

O.G.L. IMPORTS FROM PAKISTAN

On January 1, the Government of India issued an Open General Licence for import of four items produced or processed in Pakistan. The items covered under the O.G.L. are fish, not otherwise specified; fish, salted, wet; hides and skins, raw or salted; and Kapok.

The O.G.L. will be valid up to March 31, 1960.

POLICY FOR IMPORT OF COMPLETE WATCHES

The Import Trade Control Public Notice issued on January 6, says that the Government of India have announced their policy, regarding import of watches during October 1959 to March 1960.

The Notice reads that, during the current half year, import licences for 'Parts of watches' are being granted to Established Importers of 'Watches and parts thereof' on the basis of a quota of 7½ % General and 7½ % Soft. These licences are valid for import of 'Parts of watches or complete watch movements' only.

As a result of certain representations, the position has been reviewed and it has also been decided to allow import of complete watches. Additional licences will be granted to Established Importers on the basis of a quota of 2½ % General and 2½ % Soft of half of their best year's imports. These will be valid only for import of complete watches. Import of Gold watches and/or watches with a price of more than Rs. 150 per watch will, however, not be permitted.

The basic period for watches and parts thereof has already been extended so as to include the year 1957-58.

IMPORT OF MORE COTTON FROM U.S.A.

In a Press Note issued on January 9, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced that an agreement, under PL 480, has been signed between India and the United States of America for

the import of 3 lakh bales of cotton. This quantity will be in addition to 1.20 lakh bales, which was covered by the agreement signed in November last and which has already been released for import.

Out of the 3 lakh bales, 1.80 lakh bales will be of staple length below 1-1/16", being released for licensing with immediate effect.

Zinc To Be Imported

An announcement dated January 13 says that the Government of India have arranged for the import of substantial quantities of zinc to relieve the present shortage in the country. During the next two months or so, about 10,000 tons of imported zinc will be available in the market.

Part of the imports will be effected through the State Trading Corporation of India which has already entered into arrangements with foreign suppliers. A portion of this has already been shipped and will be available in the market very shortly. The balance will arrive well before the end of March 1960.

Supplies will also be augmented through imports under the quota licences granted to Established Importers and also the licences granted to Actual Users during the current licensing period.

There has been a steep rise in the prices of zinc in the market during the last two months, almost a 50 per cent increase. The rise has been partly due to speculative activity in the market and, to some extent, to the anxiety on the part of some consumers to make sure of their supplies for the coming months.

EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL OFFICE IN RANGOON

As a measure of assistance to exporters of engineering goods, the Engineering Export Promotion Council has set up an office in Rangoon to keep contacts with Burmese importers, Chambers of Commerce, etc. A showroom has also been organised at Rangoon for displaying Indian engineering goods.

India's exports of engineering goods to Burma were valued at about Rs. 25 lakhs for the ten months ended October 1959. Among the items exported were agricultural implements, bicycles, builders' hardware, electrical accessories, electric fans, steel furniture, radio receivers, sewing machines, etc.

Six Countries Import Indian Cycles

An announcement of January 12 says that Indian cycles have been successfully introduced, on a commercial scale in six foreign countries. During the 11 months ended November 1959, as many as 2,804 complete bicycles valued at about Rs. 4.2 lakhs were exported as against only 5 bicycles during the corresponding period of 1958. The importing countries were Burma, Ceylon, Malaya, Afghanistan, Mozambique and Nigeria.

Bicycle accessories worth about Rs. 1.8 lakhs were also exported during the eleven months. An overseas market on a small scale has also been built up for Indian tricycles.

EXPORT PROMOTION MEASURES

A number of measures have been taken to build export markets for Indian cycles. An export pool scheme has been introduced to facilitate sales abroad at a price lower than the domestic price. The scheme is being operated by the Cycle Manufacturers Association of India. The railway freight for movement of cycles from factories to ports of export has been reduced by 50 per cent. Priority is also accorded for movement by rail of cycles intended for export. Steps have been taken for the supply of iron and steel on priority basis and at concessional prices to manufacturer-exporters. The import of raw materials and stores is also being permitted against definite export orders.

Centre For Silk Certification

An announcement of January 3 says that the Central Silk

Board has set up a centre at New Delhi for certification of pure silk fabrics before export in order to assist the exporters in and around Delhi.

Parties interested in availing themselves of the facilities afforded by the Government of India for allotment of imported raw silk at a concessional rate under the export promotion scheme are advised to contact the Junior Technical Silk Inspector, Certification Centre of the Central Silk Board, C/o Indian Co-operative Union, 'A' Barracks, First Floor, Janpath, New Delhi. They should also tender their pure unmixed silk fabrics for purposes of testing and issue of a certificate.

It may be noted that exporters despatching pure silk fabrics abroad without obtaining a certificate either from the above centre or from other centres functioning at Varanasi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Bangalore will not be eligible for any concession allowed under the scheme.

Artware Export Promotion Scheme

According to an announcement of January 4, the Government of India have entrusted to the All India Handicrafts Board the work relating to registration of exporters of artwares of copper and brass and zari products. The registration scheme has been introduced to render effective assistance to exporters of these products in procuring materials like copper, zinc, tissue paper, polishing materials, and gilding chemicals.

Exporters from the Northern Region (Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh) may register with the Handicrafts Exporters Association or the All India Handicrafts Board in New Delhi. Exporters from the States of Bombay, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh may apply for registration to the Indian Council of Handicraft Exporters or the regional office of the Handicrafts Board in Bombay. Applications from States of Assam, Bihar and

West Bengal should be sent to the regional office of the Handicrafts Board in Lucknow, while for the States of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Kerala and Pondicherry, the regional office of the Board in Madras will be the registering authority.

After registration, exporters may submit their applications for import licences under the Export Promotion Scheme direct to the All India Handicrafts Board, New Delhi.

Trade Talks Between India And Iran

It was announced that discussions between the Iranian trade delegation and the team of Indian officials for expanding trade between the two countries concluded in New Delhi on January 6.

The two delegations exchanged views on ways and means to ensure smooth flow of trade between the two countries and closer trade and economic relations. It was felt that there was considerable scope for expanding the trade beyond the present level in traditional items and also to new items, like sulphur, zinc, lead and copper ore, cotton, hides and skins, etc. from Iran and light engineering goods, rayon piecegoods, diesel engines, bicycles, drugs and medicines, chemicals and pharmaceuticals from India. The two delegations also discussed the question of adding a suitable Protocol to the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the Government of India and the Imperial Government of Iran.

The five-member Iranian Trade Delegation, which visited India from December 10, 1959 to January 6, 1960 was led by Mr. Agha Ali Asghar Peerzad, Adviser to the Ministry of Commerce, Government of Iran. The Indian team was led by Shri K.R.F. Khilnani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

India-Jordan Trade Arrangement

It was announced on January 14 that letters were exchanged in New Delhi the same day embodying a trade arrangement between India and Jordan. Syed Hajim Al-Tell, a member of the Trade Delegation from Jordan, signed on behalf of his Government, while Shri K.R.F. Khilnani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, signed on behalf of the Government of India.

The two Governments have agreed to take all appropriate measures to promote trade between them, particularly with regard to items mentioned in the schedules appended to the letter exchanged. The trade arrangement will be valid for an initial period of one year.

The schedule of exports from India includes, besides traditional items, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, light engineering goods, electrical goods, hardware, sports goods, plastics, etc. The schedule of imports from Jordan to India includes rock phosphates, potash, gypsum, hides and skins, wool and olive oil.

Trade Agreement with Hungary Extended

It was announced on January 13 that letters were exchanged in New Delhi the same day for validity of the Trade Agreement between India and Hungary for a further period of six months ending June 30, 1960.

Dr. G. Oblath, Leader of the Hungarian Delegation signed on behalf of his Government and Shri K.R.F. Khilnani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, on behalf of the Government of India.

The main items of export from India include iron ore, cotton waste, jute products, vegetable oils, raw wool, coffee and mica. Imports from Hungary comprise steel products, machine tools, ACSR cables and conductors, dyes and pharmaceuticals.

Foreign Trade In November 1959

In a Press Note issued on January 8, the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, announced the provisional figures of foreign trade of India by all routes, i.e., sea, air and land, on private and Government accounts during November 1959.

The figures are as follows:

Merchandise, excluding overland trade with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan: Exports — Rs. 61.26 crores, re-exports — Rs. 50 lakhs, imports — Rs. 69.99 crores. The import figures are exclusive of the value of certain consignments of Government stores awaiting adjustment and of private merchandise under reference to Customs for verification.

Treasure: Exports (including re-exports) of currency notes — Rs. 89 lakhs; gold-negligible; and current coins (excluding gold coins)-negligible. Imports of currency notes — Rs. 37 lakhs; gold — Rs. 11 lakhs; current coins (excluding gold coins)—negligible.

Balance of Trade: Subject to the limitation in import figures mentioned above, the total value of exports (including re-exports) of merchandise and gold fell short of imports by Rs. 8.34 crores, as against by Rs. 5.37 crores in the previous month and by Rs. 19.12 crores in November 1958. During the eleven months of 1959 the exports fell short of imports by Rs. 244.34 crores.

BAN ON FORWARD TRADING IN VANASPATI

A Press Note issued on January 7 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry says that, the Government of India have decided to ban forward trading in vanaspati or vegetable oil product, as defined in clause 2(e) of the Vegetable Oil Products Control Order, 1947, with immediate effect.

Outstanding contracts entered into on or before January 7, 1960 will be cleared at the rates prevailing at the close of business of January 7.

CEILING FOR LONG STAPLE COTTON RAISED

According to a Press Note issued on January 14 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Government of India have decided to refix with immediate effect the ceilings for long staple cotton of staple length 1-1/32" and above.

It has been the Government's policy to encourage increased production of such long staple variety. The ceilings originally fixed were higher than the international prices. World prices of such staple have since gone up appreciably and Government consider that in the interest of production of such cotton, it is desirable to secure for the grower at least a share of the increase in the international prices.

RELEASE OF SUGAR FOR SALE

According to a Press Note issued on January 4 by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Government of India have decided to release 1.75 lakh tons of sugar. There will be no release for free sale from the factories in Uttar Pradesh, North Bihar and Punjab except a small quantity which will be released to each factory for sale to its employees.

Allotments of sugar to Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Madras, Kerala, Bombay State, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Tripura, from factories in the controlled region, will be made only to the nominees of the State Governments. In the case of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, allotments will be made direct to the State Governments or to their nominees. In the case of West Bengal, allotments in the districts and also for Calcutta will be made to nominees of the State Government. Allotments to Delhi will continue to be made on the existing basis.

Allotments will be made at prices fixed under Notification No. GSR 1188/Ess. Com/Sugar dated October 25, 1959. The controlled ex-factory price for U.P. and North Bihar factories is Rs.

37.85 per maund and for factories in Punjab Rs. 38.35 per maund for ISS D-29 grade with the prescribed price differentials for other grades. The fixed f.o.r. destination prices in respect of allotments made to Kanpur and Calcutta will be Rs. 38.60 and Rs. 39.85 per maund respectively for sugar of ISS D-29 grade.

GLOSSARY OF TEXTILE TERMS

According to an announcement dated January 10, the Indian Standards Institution has published a standard glossary of textile terms (IS: 232-1958) prescribing definitions of terms commonly used in the cotton, wool, jute and silk industries.

Commodity Prices For November 1959

A Press Note issued on January 2 by the Economic Adviser to the Government of India says, wholesale prices, as measured by the official index (with the year ended March 1953 as 100), went down by 0.8 per cent to 118.3 during the month of November 1959 as compared with 119.3 for October 1959. The index was, however, higher by 3.8 per cent when compared with 114.0 for November 1958.

During the month under review Food Articles receded by 2 per cent to 121.5 and Industrial Raw Materials by 0.1 per cent to 122.5, while Tobacco advanced by 3.5 per cent to 103.4, Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants by 0.1 per cent to 116.4 and Manufactures by 0.5 per cent to 111.6.

FOOD ARTICLES

Lower prices of all the cereals, except *bajra* which exhibited a slight rise, brought down the index for Cereals by 3 per cent to 106.2. The index for cereals was lower by 3.9 per cent when compared with that a year ago. Prices of gram and masur witnessed a decline while prices of *arhar*, *mung* and *urad* showed advances and the index for Pulses stood at 94.2 as compared with 94.3 in the previous month. Fruits and vegetables declined by 2.1 per cent to 124.1 as a re-

sult of a fall in prices of oranges, bananas and cashewnuts despite an increase in the prices of potatoes and onions. The sub-group index for Milk and Ghee recorded a decline of 7.5 per cent to 111.7 as prices of both of them witnessed decreases during the month. The index for Edible Oils drifted down by 1.5 per cent to 127.6 owing to a decline in the prices of groundnut oil and gingelly oil notwithstanding an advance in the prices of mustard oil and coconut oil. A fall in the prices of fish and meat was responsible for bringing down the index for Fish, Eggs and Meat by 0.4 per cent to 111.4 although the price of eggs witnessed a rise. The sub-group index for Sugar and Gur rose by 0.9 per cent to 160.5 due to an upward revision in the ex-factory controlled price of sugar during the last week of October; the prices of Gur, however, showed a fall. An increase in the prices of tea, black pepper, chillies, cloves, cardamoms, betelnuts and salt pushed up the index for Other Food Articles by 2.2 per cent to 178.1; the prices of coffee and turmeric, however, came down.

The index for Tobacco went up by 3.5 per cent to 103.4 due to an increase in the price of raw tobacco.

Higher prices of castor oil raised the index for the group of Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants by 0.1 per cent to 116.4.

INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS

The index for Fibres moved up by 2.3 per cent to 111.7 due to an increase in the prices of raw cotton, raw jute and raw hemp despite a fall in the prices of raw wool and raw silk. Prices of groundnuts, gingellyseed and cottonseed registered a fall while those of linseed, castorseed, rapeseed and copra exhibited increases and the sub-group index for Oilseeds went down by 3.5 per cent to 130.7. The index for Minerals came down by 3 per cent to 95.2 due to a fall in the price of manganese ore. An advance in the prices of raw hides, raw skins, tanning materials, lac and sugarcane (the minimum prices of sugarcane were revised upwards by the

Government during the last week of October 1959) raised the sub-group index for Other Industrial Raw Materials by 3.1 per cent to 129.5 although the prices of bamboos showed a fall.

A rise of 1.4 per cent to 116 in the index for Intermediate Products was caused by an increase in the prices of linseed oil, leather, cotton yarn, rayon yarn and zinc despite a decline in the prices of coir yarn, brass, copper, tin and lead.

FINISHED PRODUCTS

The index for Textiles recorded a rise of 0.8 per cent to 106.9 owing to an increase in the prices of cotton manufactures (+ 0.9 per cent to 116.1), jute manufactures (+ 0.2 per cent to 90.2) and silk and rayon manufactures (+ 1.4 per cent to 93.1). Among cotton manufactures, mill-made

cloth displayed a further rise while handloom cloth stood stationary at its earlier month's level. The sub-group index for Metal Products stood at 144.6 as compared with 144.5 for the previous month. Lower prices of general chemicals, paints and soap caused a fall of 0.7 per cent to 106.5 in the sub-group index for Chemicals. The index for Oilcakes receded by 0.9 per cent to 148. An increase in the prices of cycles raised the index for Machinery and Transport Equipment by 0.1 per cent to 106. A decline in the prices of bricks and tiles was offset by an increase in the prices of glass and the index for Other Finished Products stood unchanged at its last month's level of 13.6. On the whole, the index for Finished Products advanced by 0.4 per cent to 110.9 during the month under review.

Communications

BRIDGE OVER BRAHMAPUTRA IN ASSAM

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, laid the foundation stone of a rail and road bridge over the Brahmaputra at Pandu in Assam on January 10. The bridge, which will cost Rs. 10 crores, is expected to be completed in 1962.

Speaking at the ceremony Shri Nehru said, the bridge, when completed, would be a great link between the northern and southern parts of Assam and with the whole of India. The construction of the project would improve the communications system in the area and with it the economic life and prosperity of Assam would be ensured.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Railway Minister, Shri Jagjiwan Ram, said, the Central Government were giving attention to the development of rail communications in Assam. It was for this purpose that a sepa-

rate railway zone had been created in the Pandu area. The Minister announced that the railway workshop at Dibrugarh would be expanded at a cost of Rs. 25 lakhs. Another workshop would be established soon.

Transport Advisory Committee Meeting

The second meeting of the Road and Inland Water Transport Advisory Committee was held in New Delhi on January 6. Speaking at the meeting, Shri Raj Bahadur, Minister of State in the Union Ministry of Transport and Communications, announced that, final decisions on the recommendations of the Masani Committee on re-organisation of road transport administration in the States would be taken after the meeting of the Transport Development Council

to be held in New Delhi in February.

FREIGHT CONCESSION FOR MORE COMMODITIES

An announcement of January 12 says that to help in the drive to stimulate exports, the Railway Board has approved concessional freight rates for some more commodities from certain stations to specified ports. These commodities are electric motors, cotton and hair belting, grinding wheels, machine screws, automobile hand tyre inflators, bare copper conductors (ACSR and AAC), ply-wood tea chests and sheet glass.

The concessional freight, which has already become effective, is given in the form of 50 per cent rebate on normal tariff rates by goods trains.

Concessions have earlier been given in the case of a number of other commodities.

India-USSR Radio Teletype Link

An announcement of January 1 says that a direct radio teletype link between New Delhi and Moscow for the exchange of meteorological information was inaugurated the same day.

India will collect observations made every three hours at about 200 stations in South Asia over an area extending from Arabia to Burma. This will include observation of conditions on the surface of earth as well as observations taken in the upper air with the help of pilot balloons, radiosondes and radio-wind instruments. The USSR in its turn will send similar observations taken 8 times a day over a network of 250 stations.

This link has been established in pursuance of a recommendation of the World Meteorological Organisation for establishing a network of 5 centres for a round-the-clock exchange of meteorological data over the northern hemisphere. Located at New York, Frankfurt, Moscow, New Delhi and Tokyo, each of these centres has to collect data over a large part of the globe and pass it on by radio teletype links to the next

centre. Thus within a few hours each centre would have data pertaining to the entire northern hemisphere.

The establishment of the link between India and the USSR is to be followed by a similar link between New Delhi and Tokyo for completing the northern hemispherical chain.

The establishment of such links will provide vitally needed scientific data for service to international aviation, shipping, agriculture and other interests. With the coming of jet age the need for such exchanges of weather data over vast distances has become particularly imperative.

Food & Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY IN UTTAR PRADESH

It was announced on January 6 that the Government of India had approved an expenditure of Rs. 1.90 crores for the establishment of an Agricultural University at Rudrapur in Uttar Pradesh.

To be set up by the State Government on the model of the Land Grant Colleges of U.S.A., the University will aim at developing rural leadership and competence. The 16,000-acre Tarai State Farm will be attached to it for use as a laboratory for research and experiment.

The University, which will be the first of its kind in the country, will have besides a science block, three constituent colleges—an agricultural college, a college of animal husbandry and veterinary sciences and a college of agricultural engineering and allied subjects on the basis of an 'integrated system of teaching', with a capacity to train 325 candidates per year—25 per cent of the seats being specifically reserved for students from outside the State.

The establishment of 'rural universities' was originally suggested in 1948 by the University Education Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, which visualised a 'rural university' as "a ring of small, resident under-graduate colleges with specialised and University facilities in the Centre". The Joint Indo-American Team set up by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in 1954 further recommend-

ed the establishment of such universities and made concrete proposals in this connection. The 'rural university' as recommended by the Team and Dean H.W. Hannah of the University of Illinois, who subsequently prepared a blue-print, closely resembles the Land Grant Colleges in the U.S.A. which have contributed significantly to the development of agriculture in America.

CENTRAL LABORATORY FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

It was announced on January 13 that the Government of India had sanctioned the construction of a Central Laboratory in Nagpur for testing the quality and purity of agricultural commodities at a cost of Rs. 9 lakhs.

The laboratory, which will be under the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, is being set up on the recommendations of the Planning Commission to intensify the grading of agricultural produce. Provision has also been made for 8 regional laboratories at Kanpur, Amritsar, Rajkot, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Guntur and Cochin.

DESIGNS FOR 'RASHTRA KALASH'

According to an announcement of January 2 the Directorate of Extension of the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture has invited designs for a silver 'Rashtra Kalash', or a National Cup, which should bear on it a suitable motif connected with crop

production. A prize of Rs. 500 will be awarded to the best design selected.

The competition, for which there is no entry fee, is open to all and any number of entries may be sent by an artist. The last date for submission of entries is January 10. The prize-winning entry will become the property of the Directorate of Extension.

The 'Rashtra Kalash', filled with grain, is for presentation to the State which produces the highest yield in the crop campaigns.

Edible Oil From Rice Bran

The Central Food Technological Research Institute has developed a process for the recovery of high-grade edible oil from rice bran obtained from mills and hand-pounding. Bran forms about 6 to 13 per cent of rice with an oil content of 10 to 22 per cent.

The cost of production of rice bran oil is estimated at 50 nP per lb. The oil is recovered by solvent extraction using industrial alcohol, a bye-product of the Indian sugar industry. It is rich in vitamins and is suitable both as a cooking and salad oil. It can also be hydrogenated to produce vanaspathi.

In addition to the high-grade edible oil, bye-products obtained are edible sugar and rice wax. The sugar contains mainly sucrose and glucose and also some vitamin 'B'. Rice wax is suitable for polishes and other industrial uses.

The extracted rice bran is richer in protein and keeps better in storage than the other rice bran. It is also a better feed for cattle.

Rice Price Control In Assam

An announcement of January 3 says that the Government of India have promulgated the Rice and Paddy (Assam) Price Control Order, 1960, which super-

sedes a similar order so far in force in the State of Assam.

The new Order, which came into effect from January 1, 1960, lays down the maximum and minimum prices for sale of paddy and maximum ex-mill prices for the sale of rice in the three zones of the State. It also brings

under its purview the various grades of winter and autumn varieties of rice and paddy; previously only the winter coarse grades of rice and paddy were covered. Thus, the new Order will enable the Assam Government to procure rice and paddy both of winter and autumn varieties.

established Electricity Boards, and Orissa would follow in 1960.

The conference studied the draft Bill prepared by the Union Ministry of Irrigation and Power for amending the Indian Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, and reviewed the working of the Boards in their respective States.

On the question of repayment of capital cost of projects transferred to the State Electricity Boards when they were formed, it was generally felt by the Chairmen of State Boards that the loans should be treated as equity capital. Similarly, the Boards should be required to pay interest only on other loans, including those for rural electrification. This would help the Boards to expand their activities and promote development of power production in the States.

It was further agreed that the rates for supply of electricity distributed by the Boards should, as far as possible, be uniform in the entire State.

LOAN FOR RAJASTHAN CANAL PROJECT

An announcement dated January 15 says that the Government of India have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 3.58 crores to the Rajasthan Government for the Rajasthan canal project during the current financial year. This brings the total loans sanctioned for the project to Rs. 5.83 crores.

The first stage of the project, which will be perhaps the biggest and largest irrigation canal in the world, is expected to be completed by March 1962.

River Projects & Power

HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT IN ASSAM

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, inaugurated the construction work of the Barapani Hydro-electric Project in Assam on January 9.

The project — the biggest in the State — envisages construction of a dam across the river Umiyam at a place 2½ miles downstream of the Barapani bridge on the Gauhati-Shillong road.

The dam, about 210 ft. in height above the bed level and having a gross storage capacity of 1.2 lakh acre ft., will be situated about 54 miles from Gauhati and 9 miles from Shillong.

POWER POTENTIAL

The initial installed capacity of the power station will be 27,000 kw, comprising three generating units each of 9,000 kw. A fourth unit of the same capacity will be added later on.

It is also possible to develop two more sites for power generation at heads of 250 ft. and 600 ft. respectively between Barapani and the existing Umtru stations. This will raise the total power potential of Barapani and other stations in the Umtru valley to about 75,000 kw.

The electricity generated at the Barapani project will meet the anticipated demands of about 11,000 kw. of industries proposed to be set up in Gauhati, Cherapunji, Tinsukia-Makund areas of Assam. The

other districts, which will also receive the power, are Kamrup, Nowgong and Khasi and Jaintia hills, Dharang and Goalpara.

The cost of the scheme is estimated at over Rs. 7 crores. A provision of Rs. 89.5 lakhs has been made in the Second Plan of Assam.

The first phase of the project is expected to be completed in 1963-64.

Meeting Of Chairmen Of State Electricity Boards

A two-day conference of Chairmen of State Electricity Boards concluded in New Delhi on January 9. Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, presided over the meetings. He noted that all the States, except Orissa, had

Education & Culture

U. N. AID FOR ENGINEERING RESEARCH

Agreements on operational plans were signed in New Delhi on January 15 for the establishment of the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute at Durgapur and two Power

Engineering Research Organizations in the assistance of the U.N. Special Project Fund through UNESCO acting as the Executing Agency. The dollar cost amounting to \$620,200 will be

met by the Special Fund and the rupee cost, the equivalent of \$5,851,550 by the Government of India. Implementation of the projects will start shortly.

The agreements were signed by Shri N.C. Sen Gupta, I.C.S., Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Mr. James Keen, Resident Representative, U.N. Technical Assistance Board and Dr. Vittorino Veronese, Director General of UNESCO.

Under the agreements, UNESCO will provide for the Durgapur Institute three experts over a period of three years, four 2-year fellowships and equipment worth \$475,000, the dollar cost of all these will be \$691,400.

Under another agreement, UNESCO will provide for the Bhopal and Bangalore Organisations two experts, one for 3 years in Bangalore and the other for 2 years in Bhopal, three 2-year fellowships for Bangalore and five 2-year fellowships for Bhopal. Equipment for Bhopal will be worth \$1,460,000 and for Bangalore \$295,000. The total cost of all these will be \$1,928,800. The fellowships are intended to enable members of the technical staff of these organisations to obtain further training abroad.

At the signing of the agreements, the Director General of UNESCO, Dr. Veronese, said that the aid which had been channelled through UNESCO to India's economic and social development programmes at the rate of some \$700,000 annually during the last four years would be a little more than doubled to about \$1,500,000 annually in the next four years.

These three projects will be the first that will be implemented with assistance through the U.N. Special Funds.

The plans of operation now approved form part of a Standard Agreement signed on October 20, 1959, between the Fund and the Government of India. Similar plans of operation are awaiting approval in respect of four more projects — an Industrial Instructors' Training Institute to be set up near Calcutta and three Regional Labour Institutes to be set up in Calcutta, Kanpur and Madras.

The U.N. Special Fund was created under a United Nations Resolution in October 1958 for large-scale technical assistance to projects designed to have immediate impact on economic and social development of underdeveloped and semi-developed countries.

Export Of Antiquities

A Press Note issued on January 15 by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs says that persons desirous of exporting antiquities should, as stipulated under the Antiquities (Export Control) Act, 1947, apply to the Director General of Archaeology on the prescribed application form giving a full description of the article, object or thing proposed to be exported. It should also be declared whether such export is for the purpose of finding a suitable purchaser abroad.

There will be no difficulty imposed by Government in the export of art objects either for sale or permanent retention abroad so long as the antiquities are not of great importance and the procedure to be followed for both temporary and permanent export will remain the same.

Under the Act, no person can export any antiquity except under the authority of a licence granted by the Central Government. From time to time enquiries are received by the Government of India as to the manner to be adopted by persons intending to export antiquities to countries outside India for sale abroad or for finding a suitable purchaser.

Conference Of State Information Directors

The three-day conference of State Directors of Information concluded in New Delhi on January 13. The principal object of the meeting was the co-ordination of the publicity programmes and policies of different States and the Central Government. There was a discussion and exchange of ideas on the intensification of Plan publicity work during the remaining

portion of the Second Plan and preparation for publicity during the Third Plan.

Establishment of Information Centres at the State headquarters and other important places, exchange of drama scripts between the States and the Song and Drama Division of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, continuation and extension of the 'Help the Plan — Help Yourself' campaign, expansion of Radio Rural Forums to more villages even outside blocks, were some of the other important proposals adopted by the conference.

The conference felt that there was need for evaluating the impact of the different medias at present employed by the Central and State Publicity Organisations to carry the message of the Plan and to enthuse participation by the people in it.

It generally supported the recommendations of the Study Team on the Information and Community Centres for the appointment of Publicity Extension Officers in the Development Blocks. It was pointed out that the Radio Rural Forums had become quite popular with the villagers. There were 1,000 Forums in operation in different States. It was suggested that the Directors may supplement the Forum programmes by distribution of audio visual material.

Indian Films Earn Foreign Exchange

An announcement of January 7 says that India has now become a net earner of foreign exchange in respect of cinema films.

During the first nine months of 1959, earnings on account of exported films amounted to more than a crore of rupees, and payments made on imported films amounted to less than Rs. 80 lakhs. In 1958, the respective figures were Rs. 96 lakhs and Rs. 32 lakhs. While imports of foreign films are mostly on rental basis, exports of Indian films are both on rental and out-right sale basis.

Indian films are now exported to more than 60 countries, including traditional importers viz., U.K., U.S.S.R., France, U.S.A. and Canada.

EXPORT PROMOTION

On the recommendations of the Export Promotion Committee for Films, it has been decided to encourage production of pictures in cinemascope and facilitate the import of sub-titling machines. The Committee has also undertaken a survey of foreign markets for Indian films. Regional Committees have been set up at port towns of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras for advising exporters. Facilities for sub-titling of films in all foreign languages are now available in the country. Provision has also been made in the current import policy for import of raw films against export of motion pictures. Exporters are allowed to import raw films equal to 2 per cent of the F.O.B. value of exports of feature films.

FILM EXPORT PROMOTION COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Export Promotion Committee for Films was held in New Delhi on January 9, under the chairmanship of Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting. In his address, the Minister disclosed that the total foreign earnings from Indian films for the nine months from January to September 1959 were Rs. 1.23 crores as against the sum of Rs. 1.13 crores for the whole of the year 1958.

The Committee approved the proposal to organise Indian Film Festivals at Ankara (Turkey), D'Jakarta (Indonesia) and Singapore. The Ankara Festival will be of 16 mm films and it is proposed to hold it early next month. The D'Jakarta Festival, where seven feature films are expected to be shown may be held some time in February 1960. The Singapore Festival will take place some time later. Special Indian delegations are also expected to attend these Festivals.

India will also participate in the Afro-Asian Festival to be held in Cairo shortly.

Market surveys from most of the important countries revealed that Indian pictures are very popular in the Philippines, Singapore, Middle East and Africa.

Competition For Books For Neo-literates

According to an announcement dated January 12, the Union Ministry of Education has invited books and manuscripts for the seventh prize competition for the best books for neo-literates in all Indian languages.

The books, not more than 48 pages each, and manuscripts may be submitted in any Indian language and may deal with any subject, provided it is useful and helpful to neo-literate adults in their economic, social or cultural life. The last date for the receipt of books or manuscripts is April 30, 1960.

About 40 prizes — five prizes of Rs. 1,000 each and about 35 of Rs. 500 each will be awarded to the authors of best books. Government will buy 1500 copies of every prize-winning book for distribution in Community Development Blocks. Besides, any book adjudged of sufficient merit will be approved and brought to the notice of various State Governments for use in the Community Project Areas and elsewhere, in their educational institutions and libraries.

COPYRIGHT ACT APPLIED TO CZECH WORKS

An announcement of January 6 says that, the Government of India have extended the operation of the Copyright Act, 1957 to works of Czechoslovakia, consequent on the accession by that country to the Universal Copyright Convention.

CZECH SCHOLARSHIP

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs on January 10 says that a candidate has been

awarded a scholarship for study in Puppetry in Czechoslovakia under an offer from the Czechoslovak Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO during the year 1959-60.

The scholarship is administered by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

BEIT MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIPS

In a Press Note issued on January 10, the Ministry of Health has declared that the Beit Memorial fellowships are available to Indian nationals to promote the advancement by research of medical and allied sciences in their relation to medicine.

The next election of Junior Fellows for the award of the fellowships will be in May, 1960. Junior Fellowships have successive values of £900, £950 and £1,000 for three years. Superannuation benefits are provided and the successful candidates will be required to contribute five per cent of the annual stipend while the Trust will make a contribution of 10 per cent.

Applications from candidates should be submitted before March 1, 1960.

NATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

In a Press Note issued on January 4, the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs announced the names of 27 candidates selected by the Government of India for the award of National Research Fellowships, 8 in Chemistry, 5 in Physics, 4 in Geology and Geophysics, 3 each in Botany, Zoology and Engineering, and 1 in Mathematics.

Each Fellow will receive a monthly stipend of Rs. 400 and a grant of Rs. 1,000 per year for any special apparatus required for his work. The duration of the Fellowships is three years extendable upto five years in special cases.

The National Research Fellowships have been instituted by the Central Government to encourage brilliant young scholars of the highest possi-

ble standard and promise to do research in science or technology at any recognised University or research institute. Selections are made on All-India Basis and the

awards represent the best form of recognition which is available to scholars of merit and offer them opportunities for making significant contribution to scientific knowledge.

Health

MENTAL HEALTH SCHEMES IN THIRD PLAN

According to an announcement of January 4, the Union Ministry of Health has circulated a note to the States on schemes pertaining to mental health in the Third Five-Year Plan. The Ministry has advised them that a cell for mental health should be established in the Directorates of Health, in the States where it is possible to get suitable personnel.

The note says that for properly planned mental health programmes an assessment of the size and nature of the problem in each area is necessary. A survey may be undertaken on the incidence of mental disease and mental deficiency in random sample populations in cities and rural areas. Another survey may be carried out five or ten years later to determine whether there has been any increase in incidence of insanity.

A study of emotional and personality problems of children, including their incidence and causes has also been suggested, as well as a survey of the incidence of suicide in various areas. Emphasis should also be laid on research in the various social psychiatric problems.

NECESSARY MEASURES

With regard to measures to be taken in the field of mental health in the Third Five-Year Plan, the Ministry has suggested the establishment of preventive or social psychiatric mental health agencies and institutions, such as child guidance clinics, premarital counselling, marriage guidance clinics, mental health services in schools and colleges

and public education in mental health.

Training in psychiatry not only for the superintendents but all or most of the medical officers working in mental hospitals, establishment of psychiatric units in departments in teaching general hospitals and other general hospitals, starting of institutions for mental defectives, at least one in each State and of institutions for patients with severe degrees of mental deficiency have also been urged.

Regarding the training programme, the note says that adequate psychiatric and mental health education of medical undergraduates, encouragement of larger number of psychiatrists through stipends in universities and arrangements for studies at a number of hospitals where feasible, are necessary.

Training in mental health should be planned for teachers or trainers of public health personnel or public health doctors, nurses, health visitors, including workers in urban and rural areas, and maternal and child health centre personnel. Refresh-

er courses for general practitioners and specialists in psychosomatic medicine should also be organised.

The note lays stress on preventive measures than on curative facilities.

It has been estimated that the number of insane persons in India who need institutionalisation in mental hospitals is about 1.5 million with another 1.5 million approximately insane. The number of mental hospital beds totals less than 15,000. There are about 100 qualified psychiatrists and another about 1000 who are not qualified but have acquired some experience of work in mental hospitals.

TERM OF PHARMACOPOEIA COMMITTEE EXTENDED

An announcement of January 2 says that the Government of India have extended the term of the Indian Pharmacopoeia Committee for a further period of one year.

The committee was constituted in November 1948, for the purpose of preparing the Indian Pharmacopoeia. Many drugs are being used in the country which, although not included in the British Pharmacopoeia, are of sufficient medicinal value to justify their inclusion in an official pharmacopoeia.

In 1955, a decision was taken that the committee should be a permanent body and should also be charged with the responsibility of keeping the Indian Pharmacopoeia up to date. Dr. B. Mukerjee, Director of the Central Drugs Research Institute in Lucknow, is the chairman of the committee.

Social Welfare

REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE TO KASHMIR D.P.S.

A Press Note issued on January 10 by the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation says that in view of the great losses suffered by the Kashmir displaced persons

who cannot be compensated for their immovable properties left behind in the Pakistan held areas of Kashmir, the Government of India, after consultations with

the Kashmir Government, have decided to give the following rehabilitation assistance to such persons:

- Families settled on agricultural lands will be given relief in the form of complete remission of loans, where such loans are Rs. 1,000 or less. Families which have received loans less than Rs. 1,000 will be given the balance in cash.
- Agricultural families settled on land who have received no loans will be made an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 1,000 in cash.
- In the case of families settled elsewhere than on land, an *ex-gratia* payment will be made at the rate of Rs. 3,500 per family, minus public dues, which will include any unpaid instalments of loans and interest thereon, arrears of rent, cost of allottable property etc.

The *ex-gratia* grant will be payable, in the case of urban families, only to such families whose present income is Rs. 150 p.m. or less. Where the income is more, relief will be limited to the remission of any sum due from the family in the shape of unpaid loans and interest upto a maximum of Rs. 3,500.

Payment in all cases will be subject to the condition that satisfactory proof of identity and migration across the cease-fire line is forthcoming. Payment will be made through Special Officers appointed by the Government of India under the administrative control of the Chief Settlement Commissioner.

Persons who had to leave the Pakistan-held areas of Jammu and Kashmir State after the Pakistan aggression were first settled in camps at Yol, Nagrota and Hoshiarpur and then dispersed to other parts of the country. These persons have been pressing the Government for compensation of immovable property abandoned by them in the Pakistan-held areas. It has not

been found possible to accept claims from these persons in regard to immovable property, because the Pakistan-held Kashmir areas are a part of India and the Evacuee Property Law as such does not apply to them.

Waqf Properties In Punjab

In a Press Note issued on January 11, the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation says that, as the Ministry is winding up its activities in the Western region, it has been decided that the work relating to evacuee Muslim religious and charitable trust properties in the Punjab should be transferred to the Punjab Government. The State Government will place these properties under the charge of the Deputy Commissioners, who have been appointed as *ex-officio* Deputy Custodians of Evacuee Property, until such time as a Muslim Waqf Board is set up in the State.

It has also been decided that the residual work of Waqf properties in the Punjab, in so far as the Central Government is concerned, should be transferred from the Ministry of Rehabilitation to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

After the partition of the country, certain properties belonging to Muslim evacuee trusts of a religious or charitable nature which had been abandoned by their trustees were taken over by the Custodians of Evacuee Property. In 1956, Government took special powers by amending the relevant provision of the Evacuee Property Act to appoint fresh trustees of such properties. As a result, about 650 properties in the States of Bombay, Uttar Pradesh, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Kerala, Bihar, Orissa, Delhi and Rajasthan have been released in favour of the State Waqf Boards, Sunni Majlis-e-Auqaf, or other representative bodies.

In Punjab nearly 80 mosques have been released and new Mutwallis appointed in the urban areas of Jullundur, Ludhiana, Ambala, Karnal, Rohtak, Simla, Amritsar and Maler-mota. But there is still a large number of evacuee trust properties which have not yet been released,

because suitable Mutwallis are not available from amongst the local population to take charge of the properties.

Land Allotted To Harijans In 1958-59

It was announced on January 4 that more than 62 lakh acres of land had been allotted in 1958-59 to landless agriculturists belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes. The land came from various sources, such as the waste land vesting in the States and the Bhoodan land.

Besides the Union Territories of Manipur and Tripura, the States which furnished the information, though not complete, were: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Bombay, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal. Bombay led all the States with about 39 lakh acres of allotment.

Apart from the help that the Backward Classes get for development of agriculture from the general programme, they get assistance out of the funds earmarked under the Backward Classes sector. Under this head, for example, about Rs. 78 lakhs were estimated to have been spent during 1958-59. The allocation for the Centrally-sponsored schemes came to nearly Rs. 40 lakhs.

The Second Plan has allocated a total amount of about Rs. 91 crores for the welfare of Backward Classes, of which Rs. 47 crores are for Scheduled Tribes and scheduled areas, Rs. 27.5 crores for Scheduled Castes, about Rs. 4 crores for former criminal tribes, Rs. 9.7 crores for other Backward Classes and Rs. 2.9 crores for administration, etc. These amounts are intended for programmes specially designed to assist Backward Classes in addition to measures of general development in each State.

Progress Of Village Housing Scheme

According to an announcement of January 7, work under the Village Housing Projects Scheme

me of the Union Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply is now in progress in 10 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Bombay, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

About 1,900 villages have been selected in these States and loan-assistance to the tune of Rs. 68 lakhs has been sanctioned to villagers who intend to rebuild their houses. More than 800 houses have been completed and the construction of another 900 is in progress. The response to this scheme is encouraging particularly in Mysore, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.

The scheme envisages the grant of loans to the extent of 50 per cent of the cost of construction subject to a maximum loan of Rs. 1,500 per house. Villages in Community Development Blocks are selected by State Governments. Reconstruction is carried out in accordance with the layout plans and improved designs prepared by the Rural Housing Cells set up in each State for this purpose.

The scheme aims at improving housing condition in the villages on the basis of aided self-help, along with provision of amenities like roads, drains and protected water supply.

Labour & Employment

MEETING OF STATE LABOUR MINISTERS

The 16th session of the Labour Ministers' Conference was held in New Delhi on January 3 and 4, 1960. The Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda, presided.

In his presidential address, Shri G.L. Nanda said, an analysis of the experience gained so far of the working of the Code of Discipline in Industry, since its inception in the middle of 1958,

Indian Information

BRIDGE FOR KUMBHA MELA

An announcement of January 12 says that, Indian Army engineers have constructed a 3,000-foot long Bailey bridge across the Ganga at Allahabad to facilitate easy flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic during the Ardh Kumbh Mela which, it is anticipated, will attract over five million pilgrims from all over the country. The bridge, which is a class-40 design and capable of meeting heavy traffic, was thrown open to the public on January 10.

The work of construction, known in the Army as Operation KIMA, was launched on December 16. The bridge is situated about 1,000 yards upstream from the 'Sangam' (confluence of the sacred Ganga and Yamuna). The main floating portion of the bridge is about 1,700 feet long.

The Ardh Kumbh Mela begins on January 13 and will last up to February 6. Pilgrims in their thousands are already congregating to have a dip at the 'Sangam'. The Purna Kumbh Mela is celebrated every 12 years, the last one having been held in 1954. According to legends the confluence of the Ganga and Yamuna at Allahabad is a hallowed spot where the gods who were carrying the nectar after the churning of the ocean halted for some time.

clearly revealed that visible, though very modest, gains had already been obtained and the possibilities of further good flowing from this system of relations were immense. An obvious criterion was to compare the situation in terms of man-days lost. During the second half of 1957 and first half of 1958 the man-days lost were 35 and 47 lakhs respectively, while in

the second half of 1958 and the next half year they were 31 and 30 lakhs respectively. During the first four months of the last half year, the loss of man-days amounted to 16 lakhs.

The machinery for implementation of the code was being built up gradually and had started functioning only very recently in several States. Avoidance of stoppages of work was one of the objectives of the Code. It also aimed at eliminating go-slow tactics and recourse to intimidation and coercion and other provocative and unfair practices.

He pointed out that the essence of the Code lay not in the penalties which might be imposed but in the stress on the elimination of root causes of the present troubles, the growth of a sense of responsibility as well as the basic self-interest of all the parties in the successful operation of the Code. However, the Code did not set aside or take the place of the laws which were in force.

Shri Nanda observed that the breakdown of peace and conditions of unrest in any part or place in the country were bound to have wide repercussions. The Central Government were, therefore, endeavouring to evolve a uniform approach and a common basis for action.

Referring to the application of labour laws to undertakings in the public sector, the Minister said that the labour laws which set the minimum standards in respect of conditions of work and employment in the private sector should also apply fully to the public sector. The State should be a model employer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Conference reviewed the working of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme and recommended that, under the Third Plan, the Scheme should be extended to all areas with an insurable population of 500 and above.

Regarding the Code of Discipline, the Conference agreed that independent workers' and employers' organisations should be made to accept the Code through persuasion. If persuasive at-

tempts failed, they might be denied the benefits of recognition and of the adjudication machinery. In each State, a whole-time senior officer should be entrusted with the work of implementation of the Code as well as of labour enactments, awards, etc. and suitable machinery should be set up to ensure proper implementation of the Code.

Meeting Of Standing Labour Committee

The Standing Labour Committee concluded its 2-day deliberations in New Delhi on January 6, after a preliminary exchange of views on the draft proposals relating to labour policy and programme for inclusion in the Third Plan.

The Committee discussed at length matters relating to industrial relations, trade unionism, labour-management participation, uniform application of labour laws to undertakings in public and private sectors, rationalisation and wages. It was agreed that the Committee should meet again in the second week of February to draw up concrete proposals on labour policy and programme.

The States

HOME GUARDS IN STATES

An announcement of January 6 says that according to the replies received from the various State Governments, most of the States are in the process of forming voluntary corps of Home Guards to meet calamities like floods, epidemics, fires, earthquakes, etc.

The Punjab Government have informed that a statutory voluntary organisation, set up under the existing legislation, the Punjab National Volunteer Corps Act, 1947, will start functioning within the next two months.

Indian Information

WAGE BOARDS

The Standing Labour Committee recommended that the proposal to put Wage Boards on a statutory footing should be postponed. This would be in keeping with the general approach of encouraging voluntary arrangements for fixation of wages, etc. It was agreed that unanimous decisions of Wage Boards should be implemented by the parties. If, however, there was delay in implementing even unanimous decisions, Government should take steps to give effect to them statutorily.

The Union Labour Minister, Shri G.L. Nanda, presided over the session. In his address on January 5, Shri Nanda said that both because of the exigencies of defence and the massive effort for a quickened pace of economic growth in the next few years, the Third Plan would have to be thought of in terms of hard work and self-denial rather than any large gains for individuals or groups. He suggested, however, that the limited concept of participation by labour in management, which had been introduced through Joint Councils, should extend and apply to all industrial units of a substantial size during the Third Plan period.

Rajasthan has prepared a draft Rajasthan Home Guards Bill. Orissa has also formulated a comprehensive scheme. Jammu and Kashmir has accepted the formation of the organisation in principle. The States of Andhra Pradesh and Mysore already have such a nucleus, though with a different nomenclature. U.P. has an organisation called the Rakhsha Dal. Bombay has the Home Guards organisation, and the State's Act has been extended to the Union Territory of Delhi.

The request for setting up such an organisation was made by the Union Home Ministry in last July.

ANNUAL PLAN FOR STATES

NEFA

According to an announcement of January 14, an outlay of Rs. 164.9 lakhs has been decided upon for the annual plan of the NEFA Administration for 1960-61, the last year of the Second Five Year Plan.

The biggest share in the annual allocation goes to social services Rs. 62.9 lakhs including Rs. 22.9 lakhs on education. The educational programme includes the establishment of a model school for bright children. The allocation for transport is Rs. 48 lakhs and for agricultural programmes Rs. 22.6 lakhs. Other main items are: Community Development Rs. 13.3 lakhs; power, Rs. 9.7 lakhs; village and small scale industries—Rs. 3 lakhs and miscellaneous programmes, Rs. 4.3 lakhs.

The Second Plan provision for the portion now in the North East Frontier Agency is Rs. 509.0 lakhs. The expenditure during the first four years is likely to be Rs. 295.2 lakhs.

ANDHRA PRADESH

An announcement of January 15 says that the total outlay of the annual Plan of Andhra Pradesh for 1960-61 will be Rs. 43 crores.

Irrigation and power get the biggest share in the allocations—Rs. 16.6 crores, of which Rs. 10 crores is earmarked for the Nagarjunasagar projects.

Other main allocations are: social welfare, agricultural programmes — Rs. 8.3 crores; community development — Rs. 4.5 crores; industries — Rs. 2.7 crores; and road transport Rs. 1.7 crores.

The Second Plan outlay for Andhra Pradesh is about Rs. 174 crores. The actuals for the first three years of the Second Plan and anticipated expenditure for 1959-60 total about Rs. 131 crores.

PUNJAB

An announcement of January 10 says that the total outlay of

February 1, 1960

the annual Plan of Punjab for 1960-61 will be Rs. 35.8 crores.

Of the total outlay, irrigation and power get the biggest allocation, Rs. 15.6 crores, including Rs. 10.5 crores for Bhakra-Nangal. Other main allocations are: Social services Rs. 7.8 crores; agriculture Rs. 4.7 crores; community development Rs. 2.2 crores; transport and communications Rs. 2 crores; and miscellaneous programmes Rs. 1.9 crores.

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR

It was announced on January 3 that the annual Plan outlay of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for 1960-61 would be of the order of Rs. 167.92 lakhs.

Representatives of the Administration of the Islands discussed recently with the Planning Commission details about the programmes for the final year of the Second Plan. Transport and communications receive the biggest share in the allocation, about Rs. 64 lakhs, of which Rs. 32 lakhs have been provided for inland water transport and Rs. 31.5 lakhs for roads.

The next biggest allocation is for Agricultural Programmes, Rs. 57.3 lakhs, of which land re-settlement and colonisation get about Rs. 31 lakhs. Since the inception of the colonisation scheme in the Islands in 1953 and upto 1959-60, it is estimated that about 6,500 acres of land would be cleared and about 1,300 families settled and one 20-bed hospital, 7 dispensaries and 20 primary schools started. Among the important programmes are opening forest roads, acquisition of portable saw mills, development of two demonstration plantations at Car Nicobar and Katchal, and supply of free plant protection services to the planters to check the menace of pests and diseases in the existing coconut plantations.

The other allocations are: social services Rs. 33 lakhs; community development Rs. 5.5 lakhs; village and small industries Rs. 4.6 lakhs; and power Rs. 3 lakhs.

Indian Information

NYAYA PANCHAYATS IN DELHI

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 16, Shri B.S. Murthy, Deputy Minister for Community Development and Co-operation said that 22 Circle Panchayats, which would also perform judicial functions, had been established, and were expected to start functioning throughout the Union Territory of Delhi by the end of December. Arrangements had been made for the training of the Panchas. The training, he added, would be imparted by experienced Sub-Judges, Magistrates and Revenue Officers in judicial work for a period of one week.

Middle Income Housing Loans In Delhi

An announcement of January 14 says that the Government of India have sanctioned the allocation of a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs to the Delhi Administration for this financial year for grant of house-building loans, under the Middle Income Group Housing Scheme, to persons in the income range of Rs. 6000 to 12,000 per annum. The loan carries an interest of 5½ per cent and is recoverable in 25 annual equated instalments of principal and interest.

According to the rules framed under the scheme for Delhi no loan will be granted to an individual who already owns a house anywhere in the country either in his own name or in the name of the husband/wife/minor children/dependents, and/or has applied for or obtained a house-building loan under any other Government or semi-Government scheme.

OTHER CONDITIONS

The amount of the loan is determined on the basis of 80 per cent of the estimated cost of construction and 80 per cent of the cost of developed land, provided the total of both does not exceed Rs. 20,000. The loan is made available in three instalments according to the progress of construction. Repayment of the loan begins after one year from the date on which the first

instalment was advanced. The construction of the house has to be completed within one year from the date of the drawal of the first instalment, in accordance with the specifications designs, estimates and layouts approved by Government.

Boundary Between Andhra & Madras

According to an announcement of December 30 the Andhra Pradesh and Madras (Alteration of Boundaries) Act, 1959, will come into force from April 1, 1960. The Act provides for alteration of boundaries of the States of Andhra Pradesh and Madras and for matters connected therewith.

ASSENT FOR BIHAR BILL

An announcement of December 18 says that the President has given assent to the Bihar Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 1959. The legislation seeks to extend for two years the Bihar Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1949, which is due to expire on January 3, 1960.

ASSENT FOR WEST BENGAL BILL

It was announced on December 24 that the President had given assent to the West Bengal Wild Life Preservation Bill, 1959. The legislation replaces the Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, 1912, which was found ineffective for preservation of wild life in the State.

ASSENT FOR BOMBAY BILL

According to an announcement of January 5, the President has given assent to the Saurashtra Rent Control (Amendment) Bill, 1959, which seeks to extend the Saurashtra Rent Control Act, 1951, till December 31, 1960.

Since the reorganisation of States, different laws have prevailed in different areas in the State. The question of having a uniform legislation is under the consideration of the Government. As the new measure is not likely to be finalised immediately, the present legislation has been promoted.

Defence

ARMY DAY PARADE

The 7th Annual Army Day Parade was held in Delhi on January 15. Gen. K.S. Thimayya, Chief of the Army Staff, took the salute at the march-past of over 3,000 officers and men from all Arms and Services of the Army, who are collected in Delhi for the Republic Day Parade.

The Parade gives an opportunity for the head of the Army to see representative contingents from all its branches. The observance of this Day also gives an occasion to draw the attention of the people of India to the work, the loyalty and steadfastness of the Army, which is the largest national building organisation in the country. The day is observed on January 15 every year.

The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who is also the Supreme Commander of the Armed

Forces, sent the following message to Gen. K.S. Thimayya, Chief of the Army Staff, on the occasion of the Army Day.

'I send my greetings and best of wishes to the Officers and Men of the Indian Army. Our Army has endeared itself to the people and inspires their affection and confidence. For you there could be nothing more rewarding and for the country nothing more gratifying. Let me tell you that the high regard in which our Armed Forces are held by the people cuts across all differences or alignments which generally characterise public opinion in a democratic country.'

In his message, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, Union Defence Minister, said, 'The country is confident and proud of the courage and the determination of our officers and men in all ranks. It is equally aware that the Armed Forces are conscious of their role as members of the Defence Forces of an independent country and that the security and honour of our motherland calls from them for the highest degree of fortitude and dedication.'

They are entitled to expect the confidence and affection which the Government and the people have for them in abundant measure. This year, more particularly, we think of the men and officers in the far-off inhospitable terrain of the border of our long frontier, where they stand guard defending the integrity of our motherland and our heritage of freedom.'

NAVY'S NEW FRIGATE

INS TRISHUL, the Indian Navy's new anti-submarine Frigate, was commissioned into the Indian Navy on January 13, at a ceremony held in the United Kingdom.

INS TRISHUL is the first frigate of her type to be acquired by the Indian Navy and she has been equipped with specialised modern anti-submarine equipment. The ship will carry out extensive trials and on completion of a period of workup in the waters around the U.K., she will join the Indian Fleet. It will have a complement of about 230.

India & The World

INDIAN EXHIBITION IN MOMBASA

According to an announcement of January 2, an 'India Makes It' exhibition was recently held in Mombasa in South Africa. The exhibition proved extremely popular and continued to draw capacity crowds throughout. On the opening day a number of orders for Indian electric fans and sewing machines were booked. A large number of trade inquiries was also received in regard to items like cycles, stainless steel utensils, machine cutting tools, hospital equipment, etc.

The exhibition is now touring round the other South African towns of Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Nairn.

Indian Information

Books For Mandalay University

It was announced in New Delhi on January 14 that, India's Ambassador to Burma, Shri Lalji Mehrotra, presented a selection of 152 books on India to the Honourable U Lun Baw, Deputy Prime Minister of Burma and Chancellor of the Mandalay University, on the occasion of the first convocation of the University on January 12. The books relate to Indian history, philosophy, arts, literature and economic affairs. They will now form part of the Mandalay University Library.

Indian Press Delegation To Burma

According to an announcement of January 12, a seven-member

Indian Press Delegation reached Rangoon on January 10 on a fortnight's goodwill visit to Burma at the invitation of the Burmese Government.

AMBASSADOR CHAGLA PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

It was announced in New Delhi on January 13 that, India's Ambassador to the United States of America, Shri M.C. Chagla, presented his credentials to President Dorticos of Cuba, on January 12.

NEW CZECH ENVOY

It was announced in New Delhi on January 14 that, Dr. Ladislav Simovic, Ambassador-designate of Czechoslovakia, presented his credentials to the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan the same day.

February 1, 1960

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

JANUARY 1 TO 15

- January 1 — The Government of India promulgate the Rice and Paddy (Assam) Price Control Order, 1960
- 2 — The Government of India set up a committee to co-ordinate the work of various organisations engaged in detailed planning of the expansion of the three steel works in the public sector
- 3 — The final round of financial talks on the outstanding partition issues between India and Pakistan concludes in New Delhi
 - Prime Minister Nehru inaugurates the 47th session of the Indian Science Congress at Bombay
 - The sixteenth session of the Labour Ministers' Conference begins in New Delhi
 - An eleven-member Parliamentary Delegation from Czechoslovakia arrives in Bombay on a 12-day visit to India
 - A six-member delegation of educationists from the U.S.S.R. arrives in New Delhi on a 3-week visit to India
- 4 — Talks for the renewal of Trade and Payments Agreement between India and Yugoslavia begin in New Delhi
- 5 — India and Japan sign an Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation on Income
 - Field Marshal Montgomery arrives on a 4-day visit to New Delhi
- 6 — A seven-member delegation of lawyers and judges from the U.S.S.R. arrives in New Delhi on a 2-week visit to India
- The Third Test between India and Australia ends in a draw in Bombay
- Discussions between the Iranian trade delegation and the team of Indian officials for expanding trade between the two countries conclude in New Delhi
- 9 — Prime Minister Nehru inaugurates the construction work of the Barapani Hydro-Electric Project in Assam
 - India signs an agreement with the U.S.A. for the import of additional 3 lakh bales of cotton under PL 480
- 10 — Prime Minister Nehru lays the foundation stone of a Rs. 10-crore rail and road bridge over the Brahmaputra at Pandu in Assam
- 11 — A joint communique is issued after the Indo-Pakistan border talks at Ministers' level held in Lahore and New Delhi from January 4 to 10
 - The blooming and slabbing mill of the Rourkela Steel Works is inaugurated, along with the second coke oven battery, the second blast furnace, three units of the by-products plant and the second generator
 - A two-week International Conference of Agricultural Extension Workers, jointly organised by the U.S. Technical Co-operation Mission and the Government of India, is inaugurated in New Delhi
 - A three-day Conference of the State Directors of Information begins in New Delhi
 - The Mohan Bagan Club of Calcutta wins the Durand Football Final, beating the Mohammedan Sporting Club of Calcutta in New Delhi
- 12 — The L.D. plant, designed to produce 7.5 lakh tons of steel annually by L.D. process, is commissioned at the Rourkela Steel Works
- 13 — Letters are exchanged in New Delhi extending the Trade Agreement between India and Hungary for six months ending June 30, 1960
 - The first machine-tool plant is installed at the Heavy Electrical Factory in Bhopal
 - INS Trishul, a new anti-submarine frigate of the Indian Navy, is commissioned at a ceremony in the U.K.
 - Dr. Vittorino Veronesi, Director General of UNESCO, arrives in New Delhi on his first official visit to India
- 14 — A Trade Arrangement between India and Jordan for an initial period of one year is signed in New Delhi
- 15 — Operational plans are signed in New Delhi for the establishment of three engineering research institutes in India with the assistance of the U.N. Special Fund
 - The Army Day is observed in Delhi

Edited and published by the Director, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Delhi-8, and printed at the Zodiac Press, Tilak Marg, Delhi-8.

LET US DELIVER LETTERS • QUICKER

Khadilkar,
24 Road,
Bombay 24

GIVE POSTAL
ZONE NUMBER
IN ADDRESS

Most large towns have been divided into postal delivery zones.

By decentralising detailed sorting and reducing the distance to be covered by a postman before he starts his beat, the zonal system seeks to speed up the delivery of mail.

Postal articles carrying 'zone number' in the address are sent directly to the delivery post office serving that area.

Absence of this number reduces the speed of sorting and increases the chances of delay. If you live in a town divided into postal zones, tell your correspondents to add the zone number to your address.

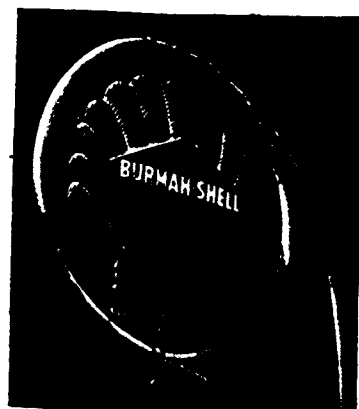


HELP US SERVE YOU BETTER

POSTS & TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

DA 59/34

Courtesy Speed Efficiency



**that's
Burmah-Shell Service!**

Mr. C.J.M. Alport, British Minister of State for Commonwealth Relations, being greeted by the residents of Shamaspur, a village near Delhi covered by the Community Development Programme, when he visited the village on January 3



Shri K.R.F. Khilnani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, shaking hands with Mr. Abdul Wkhal al-Ajali (left), Leader of the Jordanian Trade Delegation, after they signed a Trade Agreement on behalf of India and Jordan in New Delhi on January 14



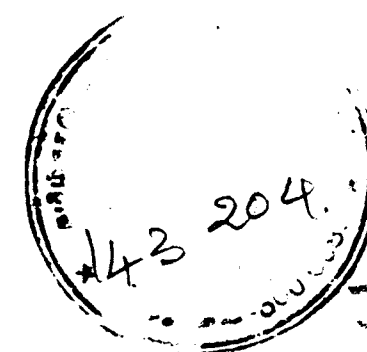
Members of the delegation of educationists from the USSR on a 3-week visit to India, being shown round the National Museum in New Delhi on January 3





The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, laying the foundation stone on January 10 of the Brahmaputra Bridge which will connect Pandu and Amingaon in Assam

Regd. No.
D-940



JK
DEC 11
1967