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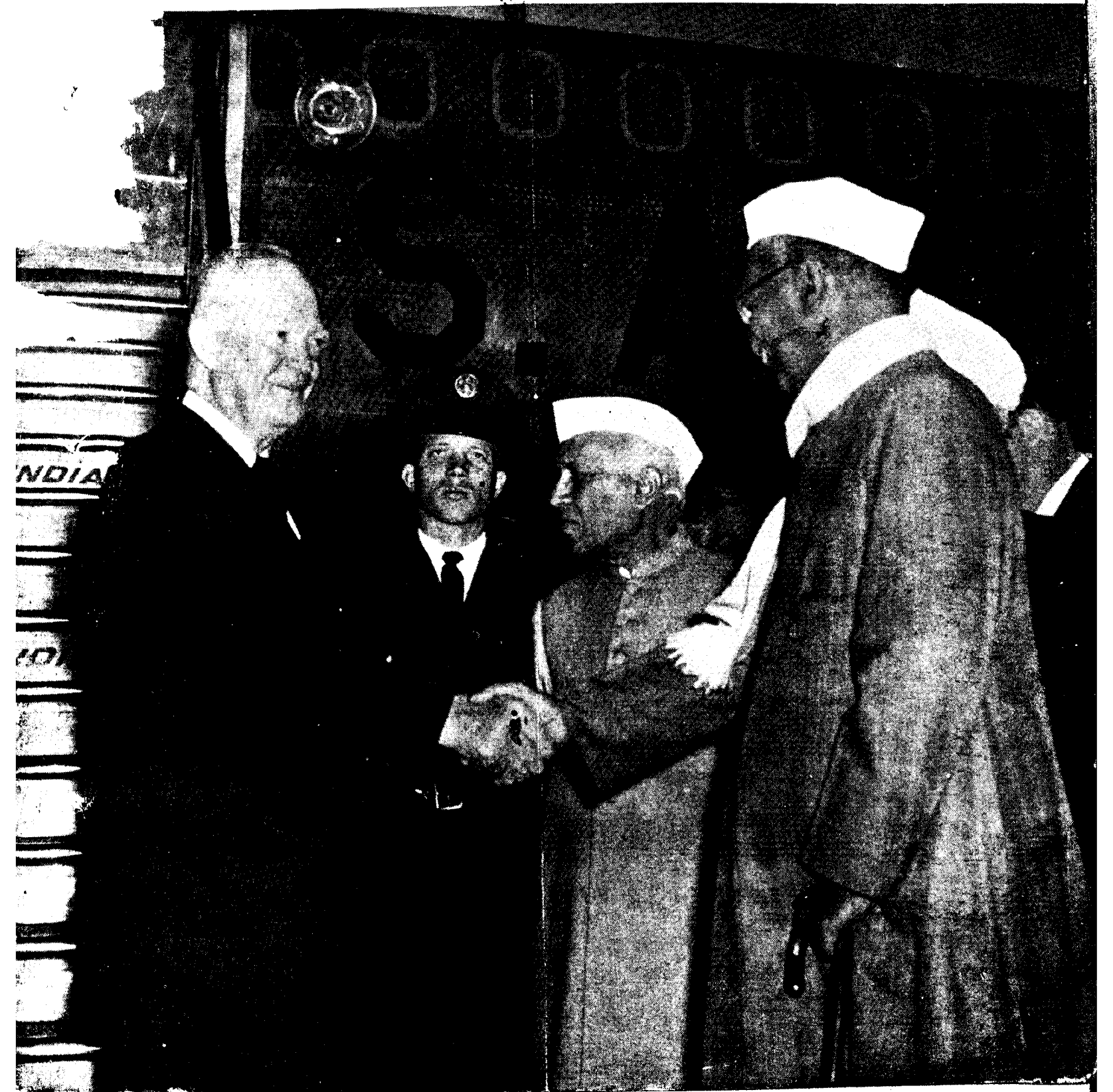
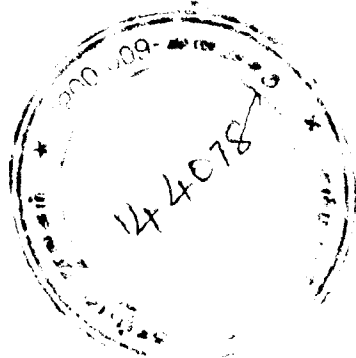
Indian Information



2

January 1, 1960 (Pausa 11, 1881)

No. 23





His Excellency Mr. Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, proceeding to the Central Hall of the Parliament House to address the Members of the two Houses of Parliament in New Delhi on December 10

President Rajendra Prasad making his contribution to the Flag Day Fund on the occasion of the Armed Forces Flag Day observed on December 7



Mr. Anceri, leader of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra greeting Prime Minister Nehru at a concert at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on December 4

Indian Information

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Single Copy : Re 0.40 1sh 3d. 16 cents

Annual Subscription : Rs 8.00 20 sh \$ 3.00

MAIN CONTENTS

	PAGE
PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT ..	822
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PAY COMMISSION ..	825
P.M.'S STATEMENTS ON INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS IN RAJYA SABHA ..	838
U.N. SEMINAR ON MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES ..	842
IMPORT POLICY FOR PAPER DURING OCTOBER 1959 TO MARCH 1960 ..	843
MEETING OF I.R.C.A. PERMANENT COMMISSION ..	847
WORLD AGRICULTURE FAIR OPENED ..	849
INDO-NEPAL AGREEMENT ON GANDAK PROJECT ..	851

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS FOR 1959 ..	852
PROGRESS OF NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES ..	854
MEETING OF CENTRAL SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD ..	856
WELFARE OF EX-SERVICEMEN ..	860

COVER : His Excellency Mr. Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, being seen off by the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, at Palam airport in New Delhi on December 14 at the end of his five-day State visit to India

(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 forms. Such items should not be treated as complete and authoritative versions.)

Political & General

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S VISIT TO INDIA

The Ministry of External Affairs has issued on December 14 the following communique on H.E. Mr. Dwight D. Eisenhower's visit to India:

At the invitation of the Government of India, the President of the United States of America paid a visit to India, lasting from December 9 to 14. President Eisenhower received on his arrival in New Delhi a warm and cordial welcome, marked by

popular enthusiasm and goodwill. Throughout his stay and wherever he went, these friendly manifestations of goodwill were repeated by millions of Delhi citizens and others who had come to Delhi to join in this welcome. During his strenuous four-day visit, President Eisenhower fulfilled a number of public engagements. He addressed Members of the Indian Parliament, received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the Uni-

versity of Delhi, participated in the inauguration of the World Agriculture Fair, attended a Civic Reception on behalf of the City of Delhi and visited rural areas near Agra.

In thus fulfilling a desire of many years, the President was deeply touched by the warmth of the welcome extended to him by the people of India, by the generous hospitality of the Government and the excellence of the arrangements made for him.

The President was impressed by the vitality of India's democratic institutions, of Parliament, press and University, and by India's strength of spirit combined with practical idealism. He saw how India, like the United States, has created national strength out of diversity, neither country boasting that theirs is the only way. He confirmed the bond of shared ideals between India and the United States, their identity of objectives, and their common quest for just and lasting peace.

President Eisenhower met the President of India, the Prime Minister and other members of the Government of India. He and the Prime Minister had intimate talks in which they reviewed the world situation and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. Among other things, the President told the Prime Minister that he was happy to report to him that all the leaders of the countries he had visited during his recent journey had expressed to him the hope that problems involving one form or another of conflict of interest or views could be solved by peaceful methods of conciliation. He said that this was true in Italy, Turkey, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The President found this heartening and in harmony with his own thinking. He did not wish in any way to minimise the importance of, or the inherent difficulties involved in, some of the problems. The spirit he found was good and forward-looking.

The Prime Minister expressed gratification and pleasure at President Eisenhower's visit to India, and thanked him for the warmth and generosity of the sentiments he had expressed. He assured the President of the whole-hearted support of India in his unrelenting efforts in the cause of world peace. India herself is dedicated to a policy of peace and has been steadfast in her conviction that differences between nations should be resolved peacefully by the method of negotiation and settlement and not by resort to force. She has consistently pursued this policy in relation to problems of

this nature affecting her and other countries. The Prime Minister gave President Eisenhower a review of the major aspects of some of these problems and of recent developments in regard to them.

The Prime Minister also referred to the great effort that India was making, through her Five Year Plans, to develop the country, both in regard to agriculture and industry, so as to raise the living standards of the people as rapidly as possible. To this great task, involving the future of 400 million people, India was devoting herself with all her strength and will.

The President and the Prime Minister expressed their deep satisfaction at the friendly and cordial relations existing between their two countries, and their firm belief that their common ideals and objectives and their quest for peace will ensure

the maintenance and development of the strong ties of friendship between the two countries.

President Eisenhower's visit to India has afforded the welcome opportunity of a meeting between the Presidents of the two countries, and for the renewal of the friendship between him and the Prime Minister of India. He was happy to meet other members of the Government, as well as men and women, young and old, in city and village, in Parliament and University, and to bring to them, personally, assurance of the genuine friendship of the people of the United States for the people of India and their sincere and continuing interest in India's welfare. To the people of India, this visit, which had been long hoped for, has given the opportunity for the demonstration of the sincere friendship, goodwill and sympathy which they feel for the people of the United States.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT

Addressing the joint session of the Parliament on December 10, President Eisenhower said:

"I bring to this nation of 400 million assurance from my own people that they feel the welfare of America is bound up with the welfare of India. America shares with India the deep desire to live in freedom, human dignity and peace with justice.

"A new and great opportunity for that sort of life has been opened up to all men by the startling achievements of men of science during recent decades. The issue placed squarely before us today is the purpose for which we use science.

"Before us we see long years of what can be a new era; mankind in each year reaping a richer harvest from the fields of earth... gaining a more sure mastery of elemental power of human benefit... sharing an expanding commerce in goods and in knowledge and wisdom... dwelling together in peace.

"But history portrays a world too

often tragically divided by misgivings and mistrust. Time and again, governments have abused the fields of earth by staining them with blood and scarring them with the weapons of war. They have used a scientific mastery over nature to win a dominance over others... even made commerce an instrument of exploitation.

"The most heartening hopeful phenomenon in the world today is that people have experienced a great awakening. They see the evils of the past as crimes against the moral law, injuring the offended as well as the victim. They recognize that only under the rule of moral law can all of us realize our deepest and noblest aspirations.

"One blunt question I put to you and to all everywhere who like myself share responsibility assigned us by our people:

"Must we continue to live with prejudices, practices and policies that will condemn our children, our

children's children, to live helplessly in the pattern of the past—awaiting possibly a time of warborne obliteration?

"We all fervently pray not. Indeed, there can be no statesmanship in any person of responsibility who does not concur in this worldwide prayer.

"Over most of the earth, men and women are determined that the conference table shall replace the propaganda mill; international exchange of knowledge shall succeed the international trade in threats and accusations; and the fertile works of peace shall supplant the frenzied race in armaments of war.

"Our hope is that we are moving into a better era. For my part, I shall do all I can, as one human working with other humans, to push toward peace; toward freedom; toward dignity and a worthy future for every man and woman and child in the world.

"If we—and especially all those occupying positions of responsibility give all that is within us to this cause, the generations that follow us will call us blessed. Should we shirk the task or pursue the ways of war—now become ways to annihilation and race suicide—there may be no generations to follow us.

"I come here representing a nation that wants not an acre of another people's land; that seeks no control of another people's government; that pursues no programme of expansion in commerce or politics or power of any sort at another people's expense. It is a nation ready to share its substance in assisting toward achievement of mankind's deep, eternal aspirations for peace and freedom.

"I come here as a friend of India, speaking for 180 million friends of India. In fulfilling a desire of many years, I pay, in person, America's tribute to the Indian people, to their culture, to their progress, and to their strength among the independent nations.

"All humanity is in debt to this land. But we Americans have, with you, a special community of interest.

"You and we from our first days have sought, by national policy,

the expansion of democracy. You and we, peopled by many strains and races speaking many tongues, worshipping in many ways, have each achieved national strength out of diversity. You and we never boast that ours is the only way. We both are conscious of our weaknesses and failings. We both seek the improvement and betterment of all our citizens by assuring that the State will serve, not master, its own people or any other people.

"Above all, our basic goals are the same.

"Ten years ago, your distinguished Prime Minister, when I was his host at Columbia University in New York, said: 'Political subjection, racial inequality, economic misery—these are the evils we have to remove if we would assure peace.'

"Our Republic, since its founding, has been committed to a relentless, ceaseless fight against those same three evils: political subjection; racial inequality; economic misery.

"Not always has America enjoyed instant success in a particular attack on them. By no means has victory been won over them and, indeed, complete victory can never be won so long as human nature is not transformed. But in my country, through almost two hundred years, our most revered leaders have exhorted us to give of our lives and our fortunes to the vanquishment of these evils. And in this effort for the good of all our people we shall not tire or desist.

"Ten years have passed since Mr. Nehru spoke his words. The pessimist might say that, not only do the three evils still infest the world—entrenched, and manifold; but that they will never lose their virulence. And the future, he might conclude, will be a repetition of the past; the world stumbling from crisis in one place to crisis in another; given no respite from anxiety and tension; forever fearful that inevitably some aggression will blaze into global war.

"Thus might the pessimist speak. And were we to examine only the record of failure and frustration we all would be compelled to agree with him.

"We Americans have known anxiety and suffering and tragedy, even in the decade just past. Tens

of thousands of our families paid a heavy price that the United Nations and the rule of law might be sustained in the Republic of Korea. In millions of our homes there has been, in each, the vacant chair of an absent son who gave some of the years of his youth that successful aggression might not come to pass. The news that, through these ten years has reached us in America, from near and distant places, has been marked by a long series of harsh alarms.

"These alarms invariably had their source in the aggressive intentions of an alien philosophy backed by great military might. Faced with this fact, we in America have felt it necessary to make clear our own determination to resist aggression through the provision of adequate armed forces. They serve, not only ourselves, but those of our friends and allies who, like us, have perceived this danger. But they so serve for defensive purposes only. In producing this strength we believe we have made a necessary contribution to a stable peace, for the present and for the future as well.

"Historically and by instinct, the United States has always repudiated and still repudiates the settlement, by force, of international issues and quarrels. Though we will do our best to provide for free world security, we continue to urge the reduction of armaments on the basis of effective reciprocal verification.

"Contrasting with some of our disappointments of the past decade, and the negative purposes of security establishments, Americans have participated, also, in triumphant works of world progress, political, technical and material. We believe these works support the concept of the dignity and freedom of man. These hearten America that the years ahead will be marked by like and greater works. And America watches, with friendly concern, the valiant efforts of other nations for a better life, particularly those who have newly achieved their independence.

"Ten years ago India had just achieved independence; wealthy in courage and determination but beset with problems of a scale and depth and number scarcely paral-

leled in modern history. Not even the most optimistic of onlookers would then have predicted the success you have enjoyed.

"Today, India speaks to the other nations of the world with greatness of conviction and is heard with greatness of respect. The near conclusion of her second five-year programme is proof that the difficulty of a problem is only the measure of its challenge to men and women of determined will. India is a triumph that offsets any world failure of the past decade; a triumph that, as men read our history a century from now, may offset them all.

"India has paced and spurred and inspired men on other continents. Let anyone take a map of the earth and place on it a flag wherever political subjection has ended, racial prejudice been reduced, economic misery at least partially relieved—in the past ten years. He will find evidence in the cluster of these flags that the ten years past may well have been the ten most fruitful in the age-old fight against the three evils.

"Because of these ten years, today our feet are set on the road leading to a better life for all men. "What blocks us that we do not move forward instantly into an era of plenty and peace.

"The answer is obvious: "We have not yet solved the problem of fear among the nations. The consequence is that not one Government can exploit the resources of its own territory solely for the good of its people.

"Governments are burdened with sterile expenditure...pre-occupied with attainment of a defensive military posture that grows less meaningful against to-day's weapon carriers.

"Much of the world is trapped in the same vicious circle. Weakness in arms often invites aggression or subversion or externally manipulated revolution. Fear inspired in others by the increasing military strength of one nation spurs them to concentrate still more of their resources of weapons and war-like measures. The arms race becomes more universal. Doubt as to the

true purpose of these weapons intensifies tension. Peoples are robbed of opportunity for their own peaceful development. The hunger for a peace of justice and goodwill inevitably become more intense.

"Controlled, universal disarmament is the imperative of our time. The demand for it by the hundreds of millions whose chief concern is the long future of themselves and their children will, I hope, become so universal and insistent that no man, no Government can withstand it.

"My nation is committed to a ceaseless search for ways through which genuine disarmament can be reached. And my Government even as I said more than six years ago in April 1953, still 'is ready to ask its people to join with all nations in devoting a substantial percentage of the savings achieved by disarmaments to a fund for world aid and reconstruction.'

"But armaments of themselves do not cause wars....wars are caused by men.

"And men are influenced by a fixation on the past, the dead past, with all its abuses of power; and its misuses of responsibility; all its futile convictions that force can solve any problem.

"In the name of humanity, can we not join in a five-year or a fifty-year plan against mistrust and mis-giving and fixation on the wrongs of the past? Can we not apply ourselves to the removal or reduction of the causes of tension that exist in the world? All these are the creations of Governments, cherished and nourished by Governments. Nations would never feel them if they were given freedom from propaganda and pressure.

"Permit me to cite two simple examples from my own experience. As President of the United States I welcomed into our Union last year a new sovereign State, Hawaii—peopled by all the races of the earth, men and women of that new State having their ancestral homes in Asia and Africa and Europe and the two Americas. Those peoples are of every creed and colour, yet they live together in neighbourly friendliness, in mutual trust, and each can

achieve his own good by helping achieve the good of all.

"Hawaii cries insistently to a divided world that all our differences of race and origin are less than the grand and indestructible unity of our common brotherhood. The world should take time to listen with attentive ear to Hawaii.

"As President of Columbia University, every year we welcomed to its campus, boys and girls from every continent, from almost every nation that flew a flag—and some tribes and colonies not yet free. In particular there still lives in my memory, because of their eagerness and enthusiasm for learning, the presence of hundreds of young people from India and China and Japan and the other Asian countries that studied among us, detached from any mutual prejudice or any fixation over past wrongs—indeed, these vices are not easily discernible among the young of any people.

"These two simple things from my own experience convince me that much of the world's fear, suspicion, prejudice, can be obliterated. Men and women everywhere need only to lift up their eyes to the heights that can be achieved together; and, ignoring what has been, push together for what can be.

"Not one wrong of years ago that still rankles; not one problem that confronts us today; not one transitory profit that might be taken from another's weakness, should distract us from the pursuit of a goal that dwarfs every problem and wrong of the past.

"We have the strength and the means and the knowledge. May God inspire us to strive for the world-wide will and the wisdom that are now our first needs.

"In this great crusade, from the history of your own nation, I know India will ever be a leader."

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PAY COMMISSION

The Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on November 30, the Report of the Commission of Enquiry on Emoluments and Conditions of Service of Central Government Employees, otherwise known as the Pay Commission, and the decisions of the Government of India thereon.

The Pay Commission, under the Chairmanship of Shri Justice Jagannadhas, Judge of the Supreme Court, was set up in August 1957 to examine the principles which should govern the structure of emoluments and conditions of service of Central Government employees; to consider and recommend what changes in the existing structure of emoluments and conditions of service of different classes of employees are desirable and feasible; and to recommend, in particular, the extent to which benefits to Central Government employees can be given in the shape of amenities and facilities. In making its recommendations, the Commission was required to take into account the historical background, the economic conditions in the country and the implications and requirements of developmental planning, as also the disparities between the emoluments of Central Government employees on the one hand and those of the employees of the State Governments, local bodies and aided institutions on the other.

The Report of the Commission is divided into five parts. Part I is introductory; Part II deals with general principles and considerations which should govern pay and conditions of service of Central Government employees, minimum remuneration, highest salaries and dearness allowance; Part III refers to pay scales recommended for various categories of Government servants, and house rent and other allowances; Part IV deals with the remaining conditions of service, like hours of work, casual leave,

holidays, leave, age of superannuation, retirement benefits and facilities and amenities relating to medical attendance, housing, educational assistance, canteens, uniforms, staff welfare, leave travel concessions and other matters like promotions, character rolls, political rights, rights of association and negotiating machinery; Part V refers to efficiency in the public service and statistical requirements and gives an estimate of the cost of the recommendations of the Commission.

The following is a summary of the main recommendations of the Commission.

PRINCIPLES OF PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The remuneration and conditions of service of Government servants are not capable of being determined by a single principle, but by a number of principles which should supplement one another, and there is no fixed order in which they are to be applied. The structure of emoluments and conditions of service should be so designed as to ensure recruitment at different levels of persons with requisite qualifications and abilities and keep them efficient. While the criterion of 'model employers', as it is commonly understood, is not suitable for determination of remuneration, the social principles and standards which Government have commended to employers generally should be taken into account. Once the demands of efficiency of the public service are satisfied, social considerations require limitation of disparities between the highest and the lowest salaries, to the minimum. With the minimum and maximum salaries having been determined on a combination of social and economic considerations, sound and equitable internal relativities constitute the most important single principle to be followed in the determination of the intermediate salaries. Even above the minimum level, Government should remunerate their employees fairly. Except in the broad sense of being an indicator of the level and

the state of the economy, the trend of national productivity cannot be accepted as a factor in itself relevant to the determination of salaries and wages of Government servants. The level of consumer prices is among the factors relevant to determination of rates of remuneration of Government servants.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF DEVELOPMENTAL PLANNING

After reviewing the economic conditions in the country, the resources available to Government and the needs to developmental planning, the Commission has observed that until the economy develops, no substantial improvement in the standard of living of the people generally, or of the great majority of Government servants is possible. Economic development under the conditions obtaining in India requires restraint in current consumption for the sake of the future. Taking the economy as a whole, the increase in consumption expenditure must be kept well below the rate of increase in national income; for this is an essential condition of adequate investment. Developmental planning does not, however, postulate a general reduction in the standard of living. A sacrifice of the current standards can be imposed on those who are well-off; and even from others, restraint in the enjoyment of the additional fruits of development can reasonably be asked for, but a great deal depends on the situation at a particular time. The general approach of the Commission is that for the lowest grades of Government servants, developmental planning should not involve a depression of their existing living standard. It is well to remember that planning has social as well as economic objectives, and that investment in human beings is not the one that is least important, or one that brings no return.

EMOLUMENTS OF CENTRAL GOVT. EMPLOYEES & THOSE OF STATE GOVTS., LOCAL BODIES, ETC.

There are notable disparities between the emoluments of employees of one State and another, and they are wider than those between the rates under some State Governments and the Central Government. Even in the same State, there are disparities between the emoluments of its own employees and those of local bodies and aided institutions. This

may not be wholly on account of the revenue position of the respective States, but due to various other relevant factors like the economy of a State, as a whole, order of priorities in regard to social objectives, etc. In the context of the constitutional structure, the issue of disparities is a highly complex one, which is not capable of being resolved in a simple way. Considering that different State Governments may attach different degrees of importance to the various social objectives, disparities should be regarded as a factor calling for restraint, but not one that would justify the denial to the Central Government employees of the minimum improvement in remuneration which may otherwise appear to be fair and reasonable.

MINIMUM REMUNERATION

The present minimum remuneration of Rs. 75 of Central Government employees compares favourably with the average minimum rate in organised private industry, and it is sufficient to attract recruits of the right type. But having regard to the price level at which minimum remuneration was fixed on the recommendation of the Varadachariar Commission, the average level of consumer price index for the year 1958, the requirements of food, clothing, housing, etc., for a family of three consumption units, within the available resources of the country, the Commission has recommended a minimum remuneration of Rs. 80 (inclusive of a dearness allowance of Rs. 10) for Central Government employees.

HIGHEST SALARIES

Keeping in view the very high salaries allowed in organised private sector to the comparable class of employees, the substantial reduction already made as the result of the Varadachariar Commission's recommendations, the erosion of the real income which has since taken place, and the necessity of a high standard of recruitment to the superior services, the Commission has not recommended a reduction of salaries at present prescribed for the highest grades.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

On the basis of the working class consumer price index (base 1949=100) and the assumption that the index is not likely to fall below 100,

the Commission has recommended that the basic salaries of lower paid employees should be fixed in terms of the requirements at an index level of 100, and no downward adjustments in the basic salaries should be made even if the index falls to 90. As the upward tendency in prices is likely to persist, dearness allowance should continue as a separate element in the remuneration of Central Government employees, but it should be limited for the present to those whose salary is not above Rs. 300 per mensem. In accordance with these considerations, the existing rates of dearness allowance (excluding interim relief of Rs. 5) upto a salary limit of Rs. 300 and the entire amount of the allowance above this limit would be merged with the basic pay in respect of all salaries upto Rs. 1,000.

Related to the consumer price index 115, dearness allowance has been recommended at the rate of Rs. 10 for salaries upto Rs. 150 and at Rs. 20 for salaries between Rs. 150 and 300, with marginal adjustment upto Rs. 320. These rates should

continue unless the index falls below 100. If during a period of 12 months the index remains on an average ten points above 115, Government should review the position and consider the question of increasing the allowance at a suitable rate. If there is a fall by the same margin, and for the same period, the position should be similarly reviewed and appropriate adjustments made. The benefit of dearness allowance should, in future upward adjustments, be extended to all employees drawing a basic pay below Rs. 400 per mensem in such a manner that the total including dearness allowance does not exceed Rs. 400. It has also been recommended that if the index continues to rise further the case of employees in the pay range of Rs. 400 to Rs. 1,000 may also be considered in the light of the various relevant circumstances at the time.

TYPICAL SCALES RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION

In the light of the general principles suggested by the Commission, the following typical scales have been recommended:

	Rs.
Supertime scales and fixed rates of pay	3000 2750 2500 2250 2000—125—2250 1800—100—2000—125—2250 2000 1800—100—2000 1800—100—1800 1300—60—1600—100—1800 1100—50—1300—60—1600—100—1800 1300—60—1600 1100—50—1400
TIME SCALES:	
Indian Foreign Service	
Senior Scale	900—50—1300—1300—60—1600—100/2—1800
Junior Scale	400—400—500—40—700—30—1000
CLASS I (NON-TECHNICAL) SERVICES	400—400—450—30—510—700—40—1100—50/2—1250
Scientific Services:	
Senior Scale	700—50—1250
Junior Scale	400—40—800—50—950
Engineering and some other Services:	
Senior Scale	700—40—1100—50/2—1250
Junior Scale	400—400—450—30—600—35—950
Medical Services:	
Senior Scale	850—45—1300—60—1400 (consolidated scale) or 875—35—850—40—1050—50—1150 plus non-practising allowance

Junior Scale	575—25—600—30—750—40—1150 (consolidated scale) or 425—25—450—30—600—35—950 plus non-practising allowance
Class II	
Standard Scale	350—25—500—30—830—35—900
Accounts Department	590—30—830—35—900
Station Superintendents (Railways)	590—30—830—35—900
Medical Services	475—25—650—30—950 (consolidated) or 325—25—500—30—800 plus non-practising allowance
Programme Executives in	
✓ All India Radio, Grade III of the Central Information Service/Stores Officers, etc.	350—25—500—30—800
Research Assistants/Technical Assistants etc.	325—15—475—20—575
Assistants in the Central Secretariat	210—10—290—15—530
Class III	
CLERICAL STAFF	
Supervisory Grade I	450—25—575
" " II	350—20—450—25—475
" " III	335—15—425
" " IV	210—10—290—15—380
Upper Division Clerk	130—5—160—8—280—10—300 130—5—160—8—280
Lower Division Clerk	110—3—131—4—175—5—180
Stenographers	320—15—530 210—10—290—15—425 150—5—160—8—280—10—300 130—5—160—8—280—10—300
SCIENTIFIC STAFF—	
Research Assistant/Scientific Assistant/Laboratory Assistant, etc.	325—15—475—20—575 210—10—290—15—425 150—5—160—8—280—10—300 (if 4 grades are retained) or 160—8—280—10—300 (if 3 grades are retained) 110—4—170—5—200 450—25—575 335—15—485 335—15—425 250—10—290—15—380 205—7—240—8—280 180—180—205—7—240—8—280 180—6—240 175—6—205—7—240 150—5—175—EB—6—205—7—240 110—4—170—5—200 110—3—131—4—175—5—180 with a special pay of Rs. 10 per mensem in some cases
ENGINEERING STAFF	
ACCOUNTS STAFF—	
S.A.S. Accountants	270—15—435—20—575
Divisional Accountants	180—10—290—15—440
REVENUE STAFF—	
Income Tax Department	
Income Tax Inspectors (Selection Grade, only if there is direct recruitment to Class II).	325—15—475—20—575

Income Tax Inspectors (Ordinary Grade)	210—10—290—EB—15—485
Notice Servers	75—1—85—2—95
CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT—	
Preventive Officers Grade I/Examiners (Selection Grade).	325—15—475—20—575
Preventive Office Grade I Examiners.....	210—10—290—EB—15—485
Preventive Officers Grade II	150—5—160—8—280—10—306
CENTRAL EXCISE DEPARTMENT—	
Deputy Superintendents	350—20—450—25—575
Inspectors (Selection Grade)	320—15—485
Inspectors (Ordinary Grade)	210—10—290—15—380
Supervisors	110—4—170—5—180
Women Searchers	130—4—170—5—225
POSTS AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT—	
Operating Staff—	
Supervisory Grades	335—15—425 210—10—290—15—320 150—5—175—6—205—7—240 110—4—170—5—225
Basic Grades	
Assistant Superintendent of Post Offices and R.M.S.	335—15—425
Inspectors of Post Offices and R.M.S.	210—10—290—15—380
Wireless Operators	270—10—290—15—350 (Selection Grade)
Repeater Station Assistants	150—5—160—8—240—EB—8—280—10—300 150—5—160—8—240—EB—8—280—10—300
Telephone Inspectors	150—5—160—8—240—EB—8—280—10—300
Line Inspectors	150—5—160—8—216
Mechanics, Cable Jointers	175—6—205—7—240 (Selection Grade) 110—3—131—4—155—EB—4—175—5—180 105—3—135—EB—4—155
Sub-Inspectors Telegraphs	135—4—155 (Selection Grade)
Head Postmen and allied categories	105—3—135
Postmen, Linemen, Mail Guard	75—1—85—EB—2—95
RAILWAYS—	
Scales of pay and main categories under each scale—	
Chief Controller	
Head Ticket Collector	
Head Travelling Ticket Examiner	
Inspector (Commercial)	450—25—575
Inspector (Loco)	
Inspector (Transportation)	
Station Superintendent/Deputy Station Supdt.	
Yard Foreman	
Yard Master	
Deputy Chief Controller	
Head Ticket Collector	
Head Travelling Ticket Examiner	
Inspector (Commercial)	
Inspector (Transportation)	
Inspector (Loco)	
Power Controller	
Station Master	
Station Superintendent/Deputy Station Supdt.	
Yard Foreman	
Yard Master	
Loco Inspector	335—15—485 (scale proposed if two existing grades Rs. 260—350 and Rs. 300—400 are grouped together).
Power Controller	

Chief Wireless Inspector Driver Grade A Head Ticket Collector Head Travelling Ticket Examiner Inspector (Commercial) Inspector (Transportation) Inspector (Loco) Power Controller Section Controller Grade I Station Master Yard Foreman Yard Master	335—15—425
Section Controller	270—10—290—15—425 (If Grades I and II are amalgamated)
Section Controller, Grade II	270—10—290—15—380
Assistant Yard Foreman Assistant Yard Master Chief/Head Booking Clerk Chief/Head Goods Clerk Chief/Head Luggage Clerk Head Signaller Head Ticket Collector Head Travelling Ticket Examiner Head Trains Clerk Inspector (Commercial) Inspector (Transportation) Station Master Yard Foreman Yard Master	250—10—290—15—380
Driver Grade B	210—10—290—15—320—EB 15—380
Assistant Inspector (Commercial) Assistant Inspector (Transportation) Assistant Station Master Assistant Yard Foreman Assistant Yard Master Chief/Head Booking Clerk Chief/Head Goods Clerk Chief/Head Luggage Clerk Conductor Driver (Licensed—Marine) Guard Grade A Head Signaller Head Trains Clerk Motorman Serang (Marine) Station Master Wireless Inspector Yard Foreman Yard Master	205 7—240—8 280
Serang (Marine)	175—6—205—7—240
Driver Grade C	150—5—160—8—240
Assistant Station Master Assistant Yard Foreman Assistant Yard Master Booking Clerk Conductor Driver (First Class Certificate—Marine) Goods Clerk Guard Grade B	150—5—175 6—205 EB—7 240
Head Signaller Head Ticket Collector Head Travelling Ticket Examiner Luggage Clerk Station Master Trains Clerk Yard Foreman Yard Master Wireless Operator	150—5—175—6—205—EB—7— 240
	130—5—160—8—200—EB—8— 250—EB—8—280

Assistant Station Master Assistant Yard Foreman Assistant Yard Master Driver (Second Class Certificate—Marine) Guard Grade C Serang (Marine)	130—4—170—EB—5—200—EB —5—225
Yard Foreman Yard Master	130—4—170—EB—5—200—EB —5—225
Travelling Ticket Examiner	130—5—175—EB—6—205—7— 212
Shunter Grade A Shunter Grade B	130—4—170—EB—5—200 130—4—158
Fireman Grade A Shunting Jamadar	125—3—131—4—155
Booking Clerk Goods Clerk Luggage Clerk Signaller	110—4—150—EB—4—170—5 —180—EB—5—200
Ticket Collector Trains Clerk	110—3—131—4—155—EB—4— 175—5—180
Cabinman Shunting Jamadar	110—3—125
Brakesman Fireman Grade B	100—3—130
	55—1—60 (for under-age employees) 70—1—80—EB—1—85 75—1—85—EB—2—89 75—1—85—EB—2—95 80—1—85—2—95 75—1—85—EB—2—95—EB—3 —110 80—1—85—2—95—EB—3—110 85—2—95—3—110 95—3—100
Class IV	
WORKSHOP STAFF:—	
Unskilled	70—1—80—EB—1—85 75—1—85—EB—2—95 75—1—85—EB—2—95—3—101 —EB—3—110 85—2—95—3—110 95—3—110
Semi-skilled and unskilled supervisory	85—2—95—3—110 85—2—95—3—110—EB—3— 128 100—3—130 100—3—130—EB—3—142 110—3—131 110—3—131—4—143 110—3—131—4—143—EB—4— 155
Skilled	110—3—131—4—143—EB—4— 171—EB—4—175—5—180 125—3—131—4—155 125—3—131—4—163—EB—4— 175—5—180 140—5—175 150—5—180 130—5—175—EB—6—205—7— 212 150—5—175—6—205 150—5—175—6—205—EB—7— 240 175—6—205—7—240 205—7—240
Highly skilled	

Subject to monetary ceilings ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 50, initial pay in the new scales should be fixed on a 'point-to-point' basis, i.e., at the point in the new scale corresponding to the point represented by the pay in the present scale.

It has been recommended that the task of fitting the workshop staff in the new pay scales should be entrusted to specially constituted bodies consisting of two experts and a central Chairman.

HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE & CITY COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE

The present classification of localities for the grant of house rent and city compensatory allowances on the basis of population should continue, but there is no justification for the existing arrangement under which gazetted officers in "A" class cities (Bombay and Calcutta) are granted these allowances at rates higher than those for non-gazetted officers. Accordingly, the following revised rates of allowances have been recommended:

	Class of cities		
	'A' (Bombay and Calcutta)	'B' (other cities with population exceeding 5 lakhs)	'C' (cities with population over 1 lakh but not over 5 lakhs)
Below Rs. 75	Rs. 10	Rs. 7.50	Rs. 5
Rs. 75 and above but below Rs. 100	15	10	7.50
Rs. 100 and above but below Rs. 200	20	15	7.50 (for those drawing pay below Rs. 150)
Rs. 200 and above	10% of pay	7½% of pay	Nil

CITY COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE

	Class of cities		
	'A'	'B'	'C'
Below Rs. 150	10% of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 7.50 and a maximum of Rs. 12.50.	5% of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 5 and a maximum of Rs. 10 for all persons drawing pay below Rs. 500 per month.	
Rs. 150 and above but below Rs. 300	8% of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 12.50 and a maximum of Rs. 17.50		
Rs. 300 and above	6% of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 75.		

Where the application of the revised rates results in reduction of the allowances being drawn at present, the reduction may be spread over three years or so. The condition of residence within the limits of the qualifying city for the purpose of house rent allowance should be abrogated for both gazetted and non-gazetted employees, and those whose place of duty, though outside, is in the proximity of a qualified city, and who, of necessity, reside within the city, may be given house rent allowance admissible in that city.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE

The rates of daily allowance and incidental expenses in connection with tours should be reviewed. The present rates of allowance for incidentals for journeys on transfer should be halved, but in lieu of the other half an employee should be allowed half a month's pay, subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 150. Retiring Government servants, under certain conditions, and those invalided from service, may be allowed travelling allowance for journey to their home towns.

TRANSPORT BETWEEN PLACE OF WORK AND RESIDENCE

No change is recommended in the present policy of not granting an allowance for travel between residence and place of work, but the grant of transport concession, in some form or other, may be considered under certain exceptional circumstances. Steps should also be taken to ease the extreme transport difficulties of employees working in big cities.

HOURS OF WORK

Working hours of office staff are on the low side and an increase would be justified, but an attempt should first be made to obtain better output within the present hours. Otherwise, weekly hours at present prescribed for various other categories of staff may continue, and uniformity in this regard is not necessary or feasible. In establishments in which industrial and non-industrial staff work together, the latter should observe the same hours of work as the former.

WEEKLY OFF

Alternate Saturdays should be full working days and full holidays for offices which observe every Saturday as half-holiday at present. No change is recommended in the present arrangement for weekly break for other employees, except that for operating staff, the weekly off should not ordinarily be less than thirty hours and should include a full night's rest. When operating staff are required to work on an off day, a compensatory break should be allowed as soon as possible within a period of 2 months.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

The number of public holidays should be reduced to 16, where they exceed that number at present; staff who do not enjoy any public holidays should be considered entitled to three National holidays, and they should be compensated by payment if they cannot be relieved of their duties on those days. No change is recommended in the existing number of holidays for workshop staff, except that it should not, in any case, exceed 16; and non-industrial staff employed in industrial establishments should have the same number of holidays as the industrial. Overtime allowance should be paid

to an eligible employee who is required to work on a public holiday.

OVERTIME ALLOWANCE

Overtime allowance should be granted, under specified conditions, only to non-gazetted staff drawing pay not exceeding Rs. 500 per mensem, but in the case of office staff it may be granted only for duty in excess of 45 minutes beyond the prescribed hours on any working day. In the case of workshop staff, for work in excess of the prescribed working hours, but not less than 48 hours a week overtime allowance should be determined by common criteria on specified general principles so as to reduce to the minimum divergencies in this respect in various establishments. In all cases, the overtime allowance should be calculated on the basis of pay and allowances, excluding house rent allowance.

CASUAL LEAVE

Casual leave for office staff should be reduced from 15 to 12 days a year. Operating and other similar staff who have either no public holidays or a restricted number of public holidays may have 15 days; and workshop and other industrial staff 7 days in a year.

OTHER KINDS OF LEAVE

The entitlement for earned leave on full pay should be determined with reference to the length of service, which in the case of office staff will vary from 1.75 days for each month of service during the first five years, to a maximum of 2.5 days for each month of service after 15 years.

For industrial staff earned leave will vary from 1 day for each month of service during the first five years to 1.75 days for each month of service after 15 years. This is in addition to 10 days sick leave on full pay and 10 days leave on half pay every year.

It has been recommended that study leave should be liberally granted, particularly to scientific, technical and administrative staff.

AGE OF SUPERANNUATION

Having regard to the age of retirement of civil servants in other countries, improvement in public

health, general decline in the death rate, improved expectancy of life of pensioners, shortage of trained manpower in the context of an expanding economy, and the employment position, the Commission has recommended that the age of superannuation should be raised to 58 years for all classes of public servants, but scientific and technical personnel may ordinarily be retained in service upto the age of 60 by grant of extension or re-employment for two years.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Temporary service when followed by permanency should count in full for pension, and additional benefit of half a year's pension may be allowed when qualifying service exceeds completed years by more than six months. The rate of death-cum-retirement gratuity should be revised so as to make the maximum amount available on completion of 30 years' qualifying service, as for pension.

Industrial staff, on being made permanent, should be brought under the standard pension scheme.

For purely temporary employees who retire or are retrenched after not less than five years continuous service, a terminal gratuity has been recommended at the rate of one-third of a month's pay for each completed year of service.

Improvements have been recommended for families of employees who die in service. In respect of temporary employees who die after completion of one year service, a gratuity varying from one month to three months' pay; and for families of quasi-permanent employees a gratuity subject to a maximum of four months' pay. In either case, death gratuity may be at the rates suggested for terminal benefits on retirement or retrenchment, if these are higher.

The Commission has also further recommended that the family of a permanent employee who dies before completing five years of qualifying service should be given a minimum gratuity equal to six months' emoluments, except in cases in which death occurs in the first year of permanent service, the minimum may be two months' emoluments. The family of a deceased employee who was a subscriber to the contributory

provident fund should be granted gratuity equal to the difference between the amount that would have been admissible had he been on pensionable establishment and Government's contribution towards his provident fund with accumulated interest.

After considering various schemes for increased provision for families of deceased Government servants, the Commission has recommended a widow's and children's pension benefit scheme, on a contributory basis, in replacement of the existing provision for survivor benefits. Under the proposed scheme, for a comparatively small contribution from his pay or surrender of a portion of gratuity, the widow of a deceased employee will get for life or till remarriage one-third of the pension he was getting at the time of his death or would have got on the day following the day of his death, and the children will get pension varying from 1/12th to 1/3rd of the pension, according to the number of children, until they are 18 years of age or during their full-time education.

It has been suggested that government may consider the question of granting some relief to persons whose pension does not exceed Rs. 200 per mensem when there is increase in the cost of living.

For officers recruited after completing the age of 28 years to posts for which research or specialised qualifications in scientific, technological or professional fields are essential, the Commission has recommended the re-introduction of the provision for adding a period not exceeding 5 years to the qualifying service for the purpose of pension.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Medical facilities should be on a contributory basis for all Central Government employees, and the pattern of medical care and treatment should, wherever there is a concentration of employees, be broadly similar to that available under the Contributory Health Service Scheme in Delhi. Industrial staff and their families should have the same facilities for medical care and treatment as non-industrial staff.

HOUSING FACILITIES

Government should have a comprehensive programme for housing

their employees. There should be a substantial expansion and acceleration of the present building programme, particularly in Bombay and Calcutta, and housing in small places where there is a large concentration of Central Government employees requires urgent attention. Till the required number of permanent houses can be constructed, an emergent programme of construction of inexpensive, temporary, accommodation may be taken up. The maximum rent recoverable from employees whose pay is below Rs. 150 per mensem should be limited to 7½ per cent. of pay. Employees who are transferred from one station to another should be given priority in housing.

Rent free residence should be provided only if duties or conditions of work are such that a higher remuneration would be granted but for this concession.

Government should encourage and assist employees to build their own houses specially on a co-operative basis.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

In the interest of Central Government employees, as well as of other floating population in the country, the growth of schools with common syllabus and media of instruction and moderate fees, should be encouraged.

The Railway schemes of setting up hostels in various linguistic areas with concessional lodging and boarding charges for children of employees in the lower pay ranges, and educational assistance to employees whose pay does not exceed Rs. 300 per mensem, to enable them to send their children to boarding schools of their choice when suitable schooling facilities do not exist at the station where they are posted, should be extended to employees of all other Departments in the same pay ranges and under similar circumstances.

UNIFORMS, PROTECTIVE CLOTHING ETC.

Uniforms, protective garments, and other accessories are intended to be essential equipment for performance of particular public duties, and they should not be regarded as fringe benefits or a sort of supplement to cash remuneration. Washing allow-

ance may be granted to those drawing basic pay not exceeding Rs. 150 per mensem.

WORKING CONDITIONS, CANTEEN FACILITIES, STAFF WELFARE

There is wide scope for improvement of working conditions, and immediate improvement is possible in various matters such as cleanliness, lighting, heating and cooling arrangements, as also office furniture and equipment. There should be a phased programme of construction of office buildings to ensure that in a few years all offices are satisfactorily housed.

There should be a comprehensive examination of rest house and retiring room facilities for operating staff. A tiffin room should be provided where the number of employees is small, and a canteen where the number of employees exceeds 50. There should be a standard minimum provision of departmental assistance to canteens, tiffin rooms, etc.

As a first step towards a co-ordinated welfare programme for the whole body of Central Government employees, there should be a central agency, or a committee drawn from different Ministries, to look after welfare activities and to maintain uniformity as far as possible. Welfare measures should be administered with as full a participation of the staff as possible, and a committee set up to make a review of the existing welfare arrangements and to make recommendations for their improvement. The present expenditure on welfare activities should be substantially increased, and the grant in different Departments should be more or less on the same scale. Staff benevolent funds should be set up by the Departments concerned on a contributory basis.

In addition to social, cultural and recreational activities, promotion of co-operative societies and schemes for relief to employees or their dependents in certain circumstances deserve special attention.

LEAVE TRAVEL CONCESSIONS

The travel concession allowed to different classes of Railway employees should be uniform, and in all cases reduced to one set of free passes and two sets of privilege ticket orders in a year.

For other employees, the basic features of the present concession should continue, but it should be extended to industrial and work-charged staff who are entitled to regular leave. Employees whose home place is not connected by rail should be allowed the concession also for journeys between the home town and the nearest railway station, and those who leave their families in their home towns may have the concession for themselves only once a year.

PROMOTION AND CHARACTER ROLLS

Merit should continue to be the criterion in making promotions at higher levels, but at lower levels, the principle of seniority-cum-fitness is appropriate. Qualifying examinations need not be adopted as a general method for promotion, except to grades in which specialised knowledge is necessary.

Revision of grade structures and complements may not be made merely for the purpose of increasing promotion opportunities. There should be a system of promotion by a special limited competitive examination to provide young officers in Class II and Class III services an additional opportunity to enter any of the Class I or Class II services to which there is direct recruitment by a competitive examination.

The present arrangement of the immediate superior writing a confidential report may continue, but the next higher officer should be required to exercise his positive and independent judgment on the remarks of the reporting officer. It should be ensured that the reporting officers write the confidential reports in accordance with the relevant instructions on the subject.

TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES, WORK-CHARGED STAFF AND CASUAL LABOUR

There appears to be no justification for the disproportionately large number of temporary employees. The permanent requirements of all categories of staff should be speedily determined. For this purpose, one or two official committees may be set up, and it should be ensured that the decisions of the Government in this regard are given effect within six months to a year.

Workcharged staff whose services are likely to be required on a permanent or semi-permanent basis, should be made permanent, or given quasi-permanent status. They should be classified into industrial and non-industrial, depending on the nature of their duties, and should have the same conditions of service as the corresponding staff.

Casual employment should be restricted to work of a purely casual nature, and for this purpose there should be a review of the existing position. The same rates of wages should be fixed for casual labour in "unscheduled employment" as are fixed for casual labour in "scheduled employments" under the Central Government, or with reference to the minimum prescribed by the respective State Governments for comparable "scheduled employments". All casual labour under the Central Government should have the benefits and safeguards provided by the Minimum Wages (Central) Rules 1950, relating to weekly holidays, working hours, night shifts and extra wages for overtime.

GOVERNMENT SERVANTS CONDUCT RULES

The provisions of the Conduct Rules which impose restrictions and prohibitions on Government servants as regards public expression of opinion, criticism of Government, acquisition and disposal of property, acceptance of gifts, and other cognate matters are reasonable, and they require no modification. Official discipline is considered essential for the reason, among others, that the Government, being answerable to the whole community for the conduct of its employees, must ensure that the employees conform to standards of conduct which the community, and the Government representing it, lay down for them.

The Commission has, however, recommended that instead of placing a general ban on public expression of views and then providing for some exceptions, as is the case at present, a general freedom of intellectual expression should be recognised, and only such specific restrictions should be imposed as are necessary to meet the requirements of the public service.

POLITICAL RIGHTS

Removal or relaxation of the existing restrictions on the exercise of

political rights by employees would not be in the public interest, or in their own interest.

RIGHT OF ASSOCIATION

Reasonable facilities should be provided for trade union activities. The rules of recognition of service associations should be conceived and recognition granted in a liberal spirit.

Membership of an unrecognised association should not, as such, be a disciplinary offence. But if such an association takes recourse to or assists in activities which if resorted to by individual Government servants would constitute a breach of a provision of the Conduct Rules, the Government servants concerned may be required to withdraw their membership on pain of disciplinary action.

The Commission is definitely of the view that it is wrong that public servants should resort to strikes or threaten to do so, and that persons entrusted with the responsibility for operating services essential to the life of the community should seek to disorganize and interrupt those services in order to promote their interests. Without amendment of the law, a change should be brought about by the employees themselves abjuring the use of the strike weapon and demonstrations, and the Government accepting a convention that they would refer to arbitration any dispute concerning certain important matters which are not settled by negotiation.

MACHINERY FOR NEGOTIATION AND SETTLEMENT

Consistently with its view that public servants should not resort to strikes or demonstrations, the Commission has recommended the setting up of a Whitley type machinery with a central joint council representing the whole body of Central Government employees, both industrial and non-industrial, for negotiation and settlement of disputes. There should also be departmental joint councils.

As a necessary complement to a joint machinery for negotiation, there should be provision for compulsory arbitration open only to recognised associations and limited to pay and allowances, weekly hours of

work and leave, of employees not above the present Class II level.

The Ministry of Labour should be closely associated with important matters concerning staff relations. It should, in particular, be associated with the proposed central joint council, and appoint the chairman of the board of arbitrators, should arbitration become necessary.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

A disciplinary enquiry should not be conducted by the immediate superior of the Government servant being proceeded against, or by an officer at whose instance the enquiry was initiated. All appeals, memorials and petitions which come to the Central Government against imposition of major penalties, like dismissal, removal from service, compulsory retirement and reduction in rank should be disposed of only in consultation with the Public Service Commission. The power to withhold appeals, memorials or petitions should be exercised by an authority higher than the one which had passed the orders against which the appeal, etc., is made.

CLASSIFICATION OF SERVICES

The present classification of services and posts into four classes—I, II, III and IV—serves no practical purpose, and it should be abolished.

The Commission has deprecated the existing practice of mentioning in official correspondence, orders, etc., the name, in an abbreviated form, of the service to which the officer belongs.

EFFICIENCY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

The Commission considers that the whole problem of efficiency and productivity in Government offices, services (Railways, Posts and Telegraphs, etc.) and workshops requires an urgent and comprehensive review. The recommendations for improvement in the rate of pay and conditions of service have been made by the Commission on the assumption that the employees will give, and the Government will take from them, a full day's work.

STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS

A special unit may be established at an early date for systematic collection of data relating to wages,

salaries and conditions of service in outside employment, and a continuous review of the data with reference to the rates of remuneration and service conditions, etc., of Central Government employees.

COST OF COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission has estimated the additional annual cost of the revised pay scales and allowances and of improvements proposed by it in respect of some of the conditions of service, amenities, etc., at approximately Rs. 40 crores, which includes Rs. 22 crores on account of revised pay and dearness allowance and Rs. 11 crores on interim relief already granted. The Commission has not been able to estimate the further substantial additional cost on account of increased retirement benefits as a result of merger of dearness allowance and consequential higher rates of pay, and other recommendations.

DATE OF EFFECT OF COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

It has been suggested that the revised scales of pay and dearness allowance may be given effect to from 1st July, 1959.

Statistical And Other Data

EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

The number of persons employed under the Central Government as on June 30, 1957, was 17,73,897. (According to revised estimates, the number of employees in the Central Government including quasi-Governmental institutions sponsored by the Centre is 20 lakhs.) The total number of Central Government employees on April 1, 1948 was 14,45,050. This shows an increase of 22.7 per cent in the 9 years that have intervened, an average annual increase of 2.5 per cent.

	As on 30-6-1957	As on 1-4-1948
Railways:	9,97,262	8,50,229
Posts and Telegraphs:	2,04,840	1,43,250
Defence		
Civilians:	2,70,912	2,94,659
Other Ministries:	3,00,556	1,56,912
Total	17,73,570*	14,45,050

Indian Information

*Of these 11,70,820 were permanent, 5,65,998 were temporary and the remaining 36,752 were non-regular. The total figure also includes 327 officers of the I.C.S., I.A.S. and I.P.S. of the Central Government.

WAGE BILL

The Wage Bill for 1957-58 was Rs. 303.86 crores made up as follows: Railways Rs. 161.62 crores, Posts and Telegraphs Rs. 35.99 crores, Defence (Civilian Staff) Rs. 39.54 crores and others Rs. 66.71 crores. The figures include the cost of pay and allowances but exclude expenditure on pensions, gratuity, Government's

Pay range	1951	%	1956	%
Upto Rs. 50	9,01,119	58.9	9,68,046	56.2
Rs. 51 to Rs. 100	4,27,034		4,92,808	
Rs. 101 to Rs. 150	96,242	39.0	1,30,042	41.3
Rs. 151 to Rs. 200	54,945		57,735	
Rs. 200 to Rs. 250	17,432		24,424	
Rs. 251 to Rs. 300	8,582		12,402	
Rs. 301 to Rs. 350	6,507		8,419	
Rs. 351 to Rs. 500	8,496	2.0	10,307	2.4
Rs. 501 to Rs. 750	4,484		5,465	
Rs. 751 to Rs. 1000	2,232		2,497	
Rs. 1001 to Rs. 1500	1,249		1,544	
Rs. 1501 to Rs. 2000	438		577	
Rs. 2001 to Rs. 3000	375	0.1	354	0.1
Above Rs. 3000	64		69	
Others	—		919	
Total	15,29,199	100.0	17,15,708	100.0

MINIMUM RATES OF PAY AND D.A.

In 1947, the minimum basic pay for Class IV Central employees was Rs. 30 plus Rs. 25 as Dearness Allowance. Total emoluments at start were Rs. 55.

In 1959, the total emoluments for this category of employees were Rs. 75 made up of Rs. 30 as basic pay and Rs. 45 as D.A. The total minimum emoluments for a matriculate clerk in 1959 is Rs. 115 in the Secretariat and other Central Government offices.

AVERAGE MONTHLY EMOLUMENTS

	Basic Pay	D.A.	Total
Class I	Rs. 892	Rs. 75	Rs. 967
Class II	Rs. 416	Rs. 75	Rs. 491
Class III	Rs. 123	Rs. 59	Rs. 187
Class IV	Rs. 36	Rs. 45	Rs. 81

Historical Background

Till nearly the end of the 19th Century, the superior services in British India were manned almost exclusively by Europeans most of whom belonged to what were known

contributions to provident funds, amenities, facilities etc. Cost of staff paid from contingencies or engaged in construction works is excluded, except that the figure for the Railways includes the cost of staff charged to works.

The first Pay Commission had recommended 156 scales of pay but the Government prescribed a larger number. At present there are, in all, 517 scales or fixed rates of pay.

As on June 30, 1956, for which figures are available, the distribution of Central Government employees by basic pay was, as follows:

as the "Covenanted Services". Public opinion was then pressing for the Indianisation of these services and not much attention was paid to the Uncovenanted or Subordinate Services.

In 1886-87, the Aitchison Commission made the recommendations in respect of both the Covenanted and the Uncovenanted Services. It suggested that, from out of the appointments till then reserved for the Imperial Civil Services, some should be transferred to Local Service called the Provincial Civil Service to be recruited in India in each province. Below the Provincial Civil Service, a lower service called the Subordinate Civil Service should be formed. The recommendations of the Commission were not given effect to in the spirit in which, or to the extent to which, they were expected to be acted upon. Circumstances compelled further consideration of these and connected questions by the Islington Commission (1912-15).

This Commission was asked to examine and report on the conditions of service, salary, leave and pension governing the I.C.S. and other Civil Services, Imperial and Provincial, the limitations that still existed in respect of the employment of non-Europeans and the working of the existing system of the division of services into Imperial and Provincial. This Commission recommended the amalgamation of the Imperial and Provincial sections into a single service. It also suggested that over and above the Sub-ordinate Services, there should be two classes in the services under the Government of India to be described as Class I and Class II. This apparently is the genesis of the present classification of the Central Services, though the nomenclature Class I and Class II seems to have come into vogue only in about 1926. Its recommendations are also mainly responsible for the system of pay scales now obtaining in India. Though, the Commission's report was signed in 1915, its consideration was deferred for the duration of World War I. Final orders were passed only during 1919-20 and in doing so, the authorities took into account the further rise in prices that had taken place between 1912 and 1920. The recommendations of the Commission did not go far enough to fulfil the expectations of those who pleaded for Indianisation of the Services for financial reasons.

Earlier, in 1908, the Meston Committee dealt with the pay and prospects of clerks in the Secretariat of the Government of India and certain other offices. This Committee made recommendations for higher salaries for first and second division clerks and Registrars and Superintendents. It emphasised that the Secretariat stood on a footing of its own, different from any other offices in India and that, it required in its clerical staff, a higher degree of intelligence, a broader outlook and a more discriminating, critical faculty than would be expected in other offices.

Between 1908 and 1928, all classes of public servants under the Central Government seem to have had their emoluments increased, in some instances more than once. The whole position was reviewed when the economic crisis of 1929-30 set in. To meet the immediate emergency, certain percentage cuts were made in

the salaries of most public servants for four years. On the suggestion of a Retrenchment Advisory Committee, the question of revision of rates of pay for future entrants was taken up. A Sub-Committee made recommendations on behalf of this Advisory Committee and they were the subject of strong criticism. A revised scale of salary was drawn up which involved a reduction of over 20 per cent in the minimum and of nearly 30 per cent in the maximum of the existing salaries. The new scales of pay proved inadequate to meet the conditions created by World War II. About the middle of 1940, the Central Government sanctioned a scheme of grain compensation allowance for the lowest paid employees. In August 1942, a scheme of dearness allowance, which replaced the grain compensation allowance scheme, came into effect. In the first instance, dearness allowance was granted only to non-gazetted employees. Later on, it was extended to gazetted officers upto certain pay limits.

Conditions of life became more and more difficult during the later years of the war but final orders were deferred till after the termination of the war. In 1946, the Central Pay Commission, presided over by Shri Justice S. Varadhachariar of the Federal Court of India, was appointed. This Commission made its report in April 1947. This Commission recommended 156 scales of pay. No information is available about the number of persons employed in the Central Government when the Varadachariar Commission made its report. Then followed Partition.

Employees drawing more than Rs. 300 per mensem have not received any increase since 1947. The Varadachariar Commission had not recommended any dearness allowance for staff whose salaries exceeded Rs. 1,000, except by way of marginal adjustment upto Rs. 1,100. Government, however, granted dearness allowance to those on salaries upto Rs. 2,000 per mensem with marginal adjustments upto Rs. 2,150 per mensem. This allowance was withdrawn in three instalments commencing from June 1, 1953.

On the recommendations of the Dearness Allowance Committee of 1952, presided over by Shri N.V. Gadgil, half the dearness allowance

payable to persons whose pay does not exceed Rs. 750 per mensem is treated, with effect from April 1, 1953, as pay for certain purposes.

The rates of dearness allowance have been revised on a number of occasions. In January 1959, Government granted an *ad hoc* increase of Rs. 10 followed by another Rs. 5 in June 1951 to all persons drawing not more than Rs. 250 per mensem. In December 1957, on an interim recommendation made by the Jagannadhas Commission, Government sanctioned, with effect from July 1, 1957, another increase of Rs. 5 per mensem to all employees drawing not more than Rs. 250 per mensem.

The Jagannadhas Commission assembled on September 9, 1957. The Commission submitted its report to Government on August 24, 1959, when an announcement to this effect was made in Parliament. The Report runs into 640 pages. There is a supplement to the report containing elaborate statistical data.

Finance Minister's Statement

While placing a statement of Government decisions on the recommendations of the Pay Commission on the Table of the Lok Sabha on November 30, the Finance Minister observed, *inter alia*:

"One of the major recommendations of the Commission is that the minimum remuneration of a Central Government employee which is at present Rs. 75 should be increased to Rs. 80 per month. Another important recommendation is to merge with the basic pay the full rates of dearness allowance as they existed prior to the grant of interim relief in 1957. A third important recommendation is to split the minimum remuneration of Rs. 80 into a basic pay of Rs. 70 related to the cost of living index of 100 for 1949 and a separate dearness allowance of Rs. 10 related to the average cost of living index for the year 1958. This rate of Rs. 10 will be applied to salaries below Rs. 150 and thereafter there will be a dearness allowance of Rs. 20 per month for salaries upto Rs. 300 per month with marginal adjustments upto a total of Rs. 320. The basic minimum pay of a Central Government employee will thus become Rs. 70 per month instead of

the present Rs. 50 (made up of a pay of Rs. 30 and a dearness pay of Rs. 20) and similarly there will be a substantial increase in pay in the higher ranges, which will count as emoluments for calculating retirement benefits. Government have accepted all these recommendations as well as some other improvements suggested by the Commission in the matter of retirement benefits. Government have also accepted with some improvements the Commission's recommendations in respect of House Rent and Compensatory Allowances in the costlier localities.

"The various improvements in pay and allowances will cost about Rs. 16 crores per annum and will have effect from the 1st November, 1959. For service rendered during the period 1st July, 1959 to 31st October, 1959, the amounts will be worked out on the basis of the revised rates of pay and allowances and credited to the provident fund accounts of the employees as an *ex gratia* contribution by Government. In addition, the increased pensionary benefits resulting from the Government's decisions will also cost a substantial amount which will be of the order of about Rs. 2 crores per annum. The additional commitments on account of pay and allowances and pensionary charges will increase progressively over a period of years and the effect on Government finances will, therefore, in the long run, be considerably more than the minimum recurring cost of Rs. 18 crores per annum.

"The House will appreciate that, in the present state of national economy, when the execution of the various development plans is of primary importance, this involves a serious burden on the available resources. It is Government's intention to take certain measures to mitigate the effect of this additional burden and to avert any possible inflationary tendencies that may result from the increase in remuneration. Government have accepted the Commission's recommendation to make subscription to a general provident fund compulsory for all employees. Those who are already required to subscribe at the higher rate of 8-1/3% of pay to a contributory or non-contributory provident fund will be required to continue to subscribe at that higher rate, and the others will be required to subscribe

at least 6% of their pay to a general provident fund. Government also intend to rationalise the existing procedures, particularly, in executive and operational agencies which are responsible for a large proportion of public expenditure. The results of the works and methods studies already carried out lead me to hope that substantial economies can be achieved which will, to some extent, keep in check the mounting costs of administration. It is expected that some of the staff will become surplus following the proposed rationalisation and simplification of procedures and improvement of existing methods. It is Government's intention that the surplus personnel should be absorbed in future vacancies and not retrenched from their existing employments."

"The Commission have recommended an increase in age of superannuation to 58 for those who are now governed by the superannuation rule of 55. In the case of categories who are eligible to serve up to the age of 60, the Commission's recommendation is to bring down the age to 58 for future recruits while allowing the existing persons to continue upto 60. The Government have carefully considered this matter and come to the conclusion that on balance it would be advisable to maintain the *status quo* and to make no changes in the existing superannuation age limits. In taking this decision, Government have been influenced by two considerations, viz.

- (1) the adverse effect which raising the retirement age would have on the employment opportunities available to educated young men and women in the immediate future on account of the continuance in service for three more years of persons who will otherwise retire from service; and
- (2) the adverse consequences of the retention of inefficient persons beyond the age of 55.

These considerations acquire added importance because of the likelihood of surplus personnel resulting from improved work-methods, since the process of their absorption will be delayed in the event of the superannuation age being raised by 3 years. It is Government's intention that grant of extension of service

should continue to be governed by the existing orders, viz., extension is to be given freely to scientific and technical personnel, but extension for the rest would be exception rather than the rule and would have to be justified strictly on grounds of public interest.

"Government have also taken a decision on the Commission's recommendation about holidays, casual leave and hours of work of staff in administrative offices of the Central Government. It is proposed to reduce the number of holidays from 23 to 16 in a year, casual leave from 15 to 12 and to make one Saturday in a month a full holiday. On the other Saturdays of the month, however, the hours of work will be the same as on other working days. With the improvements in the minimum remuneration and in retirement benefits, Government are confident that public opinion will support these small increases in working hours and join with Government in calling upon workers in all Government services for the maximum and uninterrupted output and increased production.

"In addition to the recommendations on which decisions have already been taken by Government, the Commission have made a number of other recommendations on various matters concerning the conditions of service of Central Government employees. These recommendations are being examined by Government and decisions will be taken as early as possible."

Shri Desai added that a resolution embodying the decisions of the Government was being issued separately.

Statement Showing Government's Decisions On Pay Commission's Recommendations

(Government's decisions have been given in italics).

1. With the present magnitude of unemployment and under-employment in the country and the low levels of income, the present minimum of Rs. 75, which compares favourably with the rate in organised private industry, is sufficient to attract recruits of right type. While it is necessary to keep inflationary pressures in check, a modest increase in minimum remuneration is called for in the interest of contentment of the staff. The minimum remuneration should be increased from Rs. 75

to Rs. 80 p.m.
Accepted.

2. Dearness allowance should continue as a separate element for employees whose salaries are below Rs. 300 p.m. and should be at the following rates:—

Basic pay below Rs. 150 Rs. 10
Basic pay of Rs. 150 or above but below Rs. 300 Rs. 20

There should be marginal adjustments for employees drawing a basic pay of Rs. 300 or above but upto Rs. 320.

Accepted.

3. The entire remuneration of the higher paid employees should be in the form of salary with no separate dearness allowance.

Accepted.

4. The Commission have recommended typical scales of pay for all services and posts.

These are being examined by Government and will be adopted with such modifications as may be found necessary.

5. The Government have accepted, with the following modifications in respect of 'A' class cities, the revised rates of house rent allowance, as suggested by the Pay Commission, as well as the recommendation that where application of these rates results in reduction of house rent allowance being drawn at present, the reduction will be spread over three years or so:

The rate of house rent allowance will be 15% of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 20 for the pay-range Rs. 100—499 and 12½% of pay for the pay-range of Rs. 500 to Rs. 999.

6. The condition of residence within the limits of the qualifying city for the purpose of house rent allowance should be abrogated for both gazetted and non-gazetted staff.

Accepted.

7. Employees whose place of duty, though outside, is in the proximity of a qualified city, and who, of necessity, reside within the city, may be given the house rent allowance admissible in that city.

Accepted.

8. The Government have accepted, with the following modification, in respect of class 'A' cities, the revised rates of city compensatory allowance, as suggested by the Commission, as well as the recommendation that

where the application of the proposed rates would result in reduction of the amount being drawn at present, the reduction may be spread over three years or so.

9. Working hours of office staff are on the low side and an increase would be justified, but an attempt should first be made to obtain better output within the present hours. The present 5½ day week should be replaced by alternate weeks of 3 and 6 days.

One Saturday in the month should be a full holiday, and on all the other Saturdays the normal hours of work should be observed.

10. The number of public holidays should be reduced to 16 where they exceed that number.

Accepted.

11. Casual leave should be reduced to 12 days in a year for office staff.

Accepted.

12. The age of superannuation should be 58 years for all classes of public servants including those for whom the retirement age at present is 60, but persons already in service may continue upto the age of 60 if they are at present entitled to do so.

13. Scientific and technical personnel may ordinarily be retained in service upto the age of 60 by grant of extension or re-employment for two years.

There should be no change in the existing position regarding the age of retirement and the present rules of superannuation should remain unchanged. Grant of extensions of service should continue to be governed by the existing orders, viz., extensions should be given freely to scientific and technical personnel, but extension for the rest should be an exception rather than the rule and would have to be justified strictly on grounds of public interest.

14. The rate of gratuity should be changed so as to make the maximum amount available on completion of 30 years' qualifying service.

Accepted. The rate of earning gratuity will be increased accordingly from 9/20ths of a month's emoluments to 10/20ths of a month's emoluments for each completed year of qualifying service.

15. Temporary service when followed by permanency, whether in the

same or any other post, should count in full for pension.

Accepted.

16. Leave taken out of India should count for pension to the same extent as leave taken in India.

Accepted.

17. When the total period of qualifying service exceeds completed years by more than six months, an additional benefit of half a year's pension may be allowed for the purpose of determining the quantum of pension.

Accepted subject to the following modifications:—

(1) The additional benefit will be allowed even when the total period of qualifying service exceeds completed years by exactly six months; and

(2) The benefit will also be allowed in respect of gratuity.

18. (1) Officiating, special and personal pay may continue to count in full in cases in which it so counts at present.

(2) In other cases, officiating, special and personal pay drawn during the last three years of service should be taken into account at the following scales:—

(i) Officiating pay (i.e., the difference between substantive pay and the pay actually drawn in a higher officiating appointment) or pay drawn in a non-substantive capacity should count to the extent of half in every case; and

(ii) special pay or personal pay should count (a) in full if the post to which it was attached was held in a substantive capacity, and (b) to the extent of half in all other cases, including special pays drawn in tenure posts.

(1) Personal pay will count in full if it was granted to compensate for loss in substantive pay or if the post in which it was drawn was held in a substantive capacity. In all other cases, personal pay will count to the extent of half.

(2) Officiating pay will count to the extent of half in every case.

(3) Special pay will not count in any circumstances.

19. Categories of staff who are at present required to subscribe to a provident fund at the rate of 8-1/3% of their pay or will be required to subscribe at that rate even after being brought on to the pension scheme should continue to subscribe at that rate, and all other employees should subscribe at least 6½% of pay to a general provident fund.

A scheme of compulsory subscription to the general provident fund should be introduced—the rate being 6 nP. per rupee for employees other than those who are already required to contribute at the higher rate of 8-1/3 nP. per rupee or may be required to do so under the Pay Commission's recommendations.

20. The initial pay of an employee who is brought over to the revised scale of pay should be fixed on a "point-to-point" basis, subject to the conditions: (a) that refixation should not result in a reduction of emoluments; and (b) the additional emoluments should not exceed certain specified ceiling limits.

Accepted.

21. Employees affected by the revision of scales should, irrespective of the change-over, be allowed to draw their annual increment on the dates on which they would have drawn the increment if there was no revision.

Accepted.

22. In the process of rationalisation it is unavoidable that though there is a general improvement in the rates of remuneration, there would be a few cases in which the new rate would be unfavourable to small groups of staff. The remedy in such cases is to allow the existing employees to retain their present rates of remuneration.

Accepted.

23. The revised scales of pay and dearness allowance should be given effect to from 1-7-1959.

The date of effect for pay, dearness allowance, house rent and compensatory allowances should be 1st November, 1959, but in respect of actual service rendered during the period 1st July, 1959 to 31st October, 1959, Government will make an ex-gratia contribution of a suitable amount. This amount will be worked out on the basis of the re-

vised rates of pay and allowances and credited in due course to the provident fund accounts of the employees.

Educational Qualifications For Government Services

An announcement of December 15 says that the lower level of Government Services will not be required to have a University Degree. Similarly, the Non-Clerical Central Class III Services have been exempted from the Degree qualification.

The higher level of Government Services, All India and Central Class I, will continue to have a University Degree for entry. The age limit will also remain the same. 21 to 24 years, and for the Indian Police Service 20 to 24 years.

For recruitment to Central Class III (Non-Clerical), the minimum qualification of a University Degree will not be essential. Instead, it is to be Intermediate. Senior Cambridge, Higher Secondary Certificate or equivalent. However, the age limit has been fixed at 19 to 23 years so as to enable the graduates to compete. This concession does not apply to SAS Apprentices and Divisional Accountants in the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.

CLERKS

Persons recruited to the Clerical Services (Upper Division) will be required to have only Intermediate, Senior Cambridge, Higher Secondary Certificate or equivalent qualification and not a University Degree as is the case at present. The age limit will be 18 to 21 years.

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

University Degree will continue to be essential for recruitment to Central Class II, Gazetted and Non-Gazetted, including Assistants in offices not participating in the Central Secretariat

Service Scheme. For the Gazetted category, the age limit will remain as before, 21 to 24 years, and for the Non-Gazetted, it will be from 20 to 24 years.

IMPLEMENTATION

The decisions to lower the educational qualifications and reduce the lower age limits are to be given effect to as soon as the relevant recruitment rules are formally amended. Concessions in age limits at present available to candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, displaced persons, etc. and to the departmental candidates for certain Services, will continue.

These orders do not apply to recruitment to technical, professional and specialist Services.

The qualifications, if any, prescribed at present for promotion are to be suitably revised in the light of these orders.

These decisions have been taken by the Government of India on the recommendations made by the Public Services (Qualifications for Recruitment) Committee which was set up in April 1955 under the chairmanship of Dr. Ramaswamy Mudaliar to examine how far and at what levels the possession of a University Degree was necessary for recruitment to Government Services.

CONFIRMATION OF U. D. CLERKS

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 8, Shri B.N. Datar Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, stated that orders were issued on September 1, 1959, regarding confirmation of the following categories in Grade I (Upper Division) of the Central Secretariat Clerical Service against vacancies available on May 1, 1957 and May 1, 1958: (1) Permanent Upper Division Clerks of the subordinate offices selected for induction into the Clerical Service in accordance with the Central Secretariat Clerical Service Scheme; (2) Permanent Upper Division Clerks holding supernumerary posts in the Secretariat whose liens had to be transferred to regular perma-

ment posts; (3) Permanent Grade II clerks; (4) Quasi-permanent Upper Division Clerks, and (5) Persons who could not be confirmed in Grade I at the initial constitution for want of vacancies or for other reasons.

For the purpose of confirmation, the Minister added, persons

in categories 1, 2, and 3, were not required to pass the typing test. As regards persons in categories 4 and 5, priority for confirmation was being given to those who had passed the typing test. If any vacancies remained, persons in these two categories who had not passed the typing test, would be confirmed without loss of seniority.

P.M.'S STATEMENTS ON INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS IN RAJYA SABHA

Opening a two-day debate in the Rajya Sabha on India-China relations on December 8, the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, said that it was a curious paradox that while India faced a grave danger on her borders, her policy was meeting with a large measure of success in other important centres of the world. Apart from a few lone voices, the world was moving towards efforts to end the cold war. It was true that in so far as relations with China were concerned that policy had not succeeded in the sense that these relations were not an embodiment of peace. But the fault lay with China which had done many things, adopted an expansive and aggressive attitude and entered into the Indian territory.

A big fact of the modern world was the ultimate success of India's policy of peace. India would continue to work for a peaceful settlement with China. At the same time, declared Shri Nehru, "we shall work with all our might for the strengthening of our country and its defence." He said that he was still to receive Mr. Chou En-Lai's reply to his letter of last month. He asked the country to take a long-term view of the crisis over the border. India and China could not ignore the geographical fact of their long common border. What was required was preparation to meet the contingency with all the strength and also to increase our strength. To some extent it was a military problem but ultimately it was much more. It also meant a nation in arms,

mentally and physically armed for the effort. The Five-Year Plans would have to be different. There would be austerity and hard living. It would mean blood, sweat and tears.

Reaffirming India's policy towards the neighbouring countries—Sikkim, Bhutan and Nepal—the Prime Minister said, "we have to stand by them whatever the consequences," as India had undertaken responsibilities with regard to these countries many years ago. He however pointed out that each one of these countries stood on a separate footing. He said:

"Nepal, of course, is an independent country just like India, and whatever it chooses to do in the exercise of that independence, we cannot come in the way. But, if I mentioned Nepal on the last occasion, it was because nearly nine years ago, there was a clear understanding between the Governments of Nepal and India on this point.

"There was no military alliance. It was a clear understanding which was advantageous to both and in order to remove any doubts from hon. Members' minds, I shall read out the words of that understanding. This treaty between India and Nepal, a treaty of peace and friendship, was signed on the 31st July 1950. I shall read the first two articles.

Article I states:

"That the two Governments agree to acknowledge and respect the complete sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of each other;"

Article 2 says:

"That the two Governments hereby undertake to inform each other of any serious friction or misunderstanding with any neighbouring State likely to cause any breach in the friendly relations existing between the two Governments."

"Now, apart from this Treaty—but it is an essential operative part of that—there was an exchange of letters between the two Governments in identical language, as was the custom. In these letters there is this sentence:

"Neither Government shall tolerate any threat to the security of the other by a foreign aggressor. To deal with any such threat, the two Governments shall consult with each other and devise effective counter-measures."

This was the clear understanding arrived at and therefore I thought it desirable to state that. In fact I was a little surprised that people did not know this. The words may not have been known but the position itself was pretty well known and I want to also make it perfectly clear that this understanding has nothing to do with any kind of unilateral action on our part. We cannot do it, we will not do it. We are going to take no step in regard to Nepal or in Nepal. That is for the Government of Nepal to decide but it is in mutual interest—it is stated in these letters and the treaty—for us to associate ourselves, first of all, in knowledge as to what is happening, and secondly, in the counter-measures that might have to be taken. The Prime Minister of Nepal, the other day, said something on this subject and may I say that I entirely agree with his interpretation of this position?"

Replying to the debate in the Rajya Sabha on December 9 the Prime Minister said that the Sino-Indian problem was one which could be solved only by developing the country's strength as quickly as possible. This would mean not only a speeding

up of industrial expansion but also an adjustment of governmental procedures so that quick action might be taken.

Shri Nehru added that during the last few years, the specialised war industrial apparatus in India had been developed faster than before. The situation had to be dealt with in a military sense and government proposed to give opportunities to young men to be trained in NCC, Territorial Army or other special forces that might be raised.

Regarding the suggestions that India should accept foreign aid, Shri Nehru said he did not know what India would do in a particular circumstance, but he did not want the idea to go round that her freedom was to be preserved by others. India had survived many difficulties and crises in the past, and he had no doubt that she would continue to do so in the future. He had full faith in the people.

The Prime Minister observed it was a good thing that the people of the country reacted powerfully to the border incidents, but energy and enthusiasm should be turned to constructive purposes, so that strength might be conserved for facing threats to the country's integrity. It was generally agreed that every step should be taken to protect the country's integrity and dignity. This could be done only if people were united and disciplined.

He declared that while preparing to meet any contingency, India would not forget her basic policy of working for peace in the world and on her borders. Though India was militarily and materially not strong, her voice counted in the Counsels of the world. The Prime Minister said it was not correct to say that the Government had not foreseen the border trouble. He pointed out that as early as in 1950, the Sino-Indian frontier question was discussed and government had decided to proclaim in clear terms India's borders. He also pointed out that in addition, a Committee on North and North-Eastern Border Defence had been appointed in 1951 and near-

ly all its recommendations had been accepted.

The Rajya Sabha unanimously approved Government's China policy.

Treatment Of Indian Police Party By Chinese Troops

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on December 15 the following papers relating to the treatment of the Indian police patrol party captured by the Chinese troops at Chang Chenmo Valley on October 21, 1959:

(1) Unofficial memorandum of the Chinese Government dated November 14, 1959; (2) Note of the Indian Government dated November 24, 1959; (3) Note of the Chinese Government dated November 28, 1959 and (4) Note of the Indian Government dated December 13, 1959 along with the Statement of Shri Karam Singh.

(The above memorandum, notes and statement will be published in the next issue of the Indian Information.)

Violation Of India's Air Space

Shri Saadat Ali Khan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs, disclosed in the Lok Sabha on December 8 that the Government of India have sent a note on December 5 to the Chinese Government drawing their attention to violations of India's air space. He said some unidentified aircraft flew over NEFA. They were coming from the direction of Tibet. The note sent to Peking requested the Chinese Government to take immediate steps to prevent violations of India's air space in future.

EIGHTH AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

Both Houses of Parliament have adopted the Bill to amend the Constitution to extend by ten years, reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes

in Parliament and the State Assemblies. The extension also covers the nomination of Anglo-Indians. The Lok Sabha passed the Bill on December 1 and the Rajya Sabha on December 7. Voting at all stages was in accordance with the constitutional requirement.

HOME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Winding up the debate on the Bill in the Lok Sabha on November 30, Shri G.B. Pant, Union Home Minister, referred to the measures the Government had taken during the past twelve years for all-round uplift of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Shri Pant said, "So far as education is concerned, their numbers have gone up enormously. The amount which was given by way of scholarship in 1945-46 came to about Rs. 45,000; in 1946-47 it was less than Rs. 5 lakhs; and today, it is more than Rs. 1.25 crores. Similarly, the numbers have gone up. In administrative services, so far as the superior services go, there was hardly any member of the Scheduled Castes ten years ago, but now we have got some of them; I wish there were still more. Similarly, in the other classes too, their numbers in some places have become double, and in some cases, still more.

"The same thing is true of the provision in the Plan too. In the First Plan, we provided, I think, about Rs. 28 crores for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes etc. In the present Plan, we have made a provision which is more than three times Rs. 28 crores, and it is being utilised for various purposes. Several social and economic measures have been introduced. All that has been done in order to remove the handicap from which they had been suffering, not for a year or two, but for ages. This backlog has to be cleared."

EMOTIONAL INTEGRATION

The Home Minister said that, the aim was to establish a casteless society in the country, which required a continuous effort. He believed that the extension of the period of reservation would help

the process of emotional integration of the scheduled castes. He had little doubt in saying that if we, in the existing circumstances, failed to extend this period, there would be grave discontent which would lead to frustration and would affect the process of emotional integration. We could not deny to large numbers, which represented more than 20 per cent of the population, a sense of partnership in the management of the affairs of the country. If there was no reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes, it would be extremely difficult to return even one-fourth of the number that was there in the Lok Sabha presently. This reservation gave the Scheduled Castes a sense of participation in the affairs of the country and that, by itself, helped the process of integration; they were not isolated from the rest. The sense of separatism had to be removed.

DELETION OF CLAUSE TWO FROM THE BILL

The Ministry of Home Affairs issued a Press Note on December 1 to explain the deletion of clause 2 from the Constitution (Eighth Amendment) Bill, 1959, passed by the Lok Sabha on November 30. The Note says that Articles 330 to 333 of the Constitution provide for the reservation of seats for members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and for the nomination of members of the Anglo-Indian community to the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of States.

Stating the provisions in the Articles 331, 333 and 334, the Note says that, Government felt that the reasons which weighed with the Constituent Assembly in making these special provisions had not ceased to exist. They felt that the representation of the Anglo-Indian community by the method of nomination should continue for a further period of ten years.

The Note adds, the Constitution (Eighth Amendment) Bill, 1959, was accordingly introduced and passed by the Lok Sabha.

Apart from the title clause, this Bill contained only two operative clauses. Clause 3 extended the period in Article 334 of the Constitution from ten to twenty years. Clause 2 sought to determine the number of Anglo-Indian members who might be nominated by Governors to the State Assemblies by providing that this might not exceed two in the case of West Bengal and might be only one in the case of the other States.

Referring to Article 368, the Note says that the votes cast in favour of Clause 2 of the Bill fell short of the half the total membership of the House, and, therefore, the Bill was passed with the amendment that clause 2 be deleted from the Bill.

The effect of the omission of clause 2 will be that Article 333 of the Constitution undergoes no amendment and the Governor may nominate such number of members of the Anglo-Indian community as he considers appropriate.

The essential part of the Bill is, however, contained in clause 3 which extends the present system of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the nomination of Anglo-Indian members for a further period of ten years from January 1960, the Note concludes.

Residential Permits For Foreigners

All foreigners in India who are without a residential permit at present will have to obtain such a permit on or before January 5, 1960, according to a notification issued in New Delhi on December 3.

This will, however, not apply to the Commonwealth citizens, diplomats, officials of foreign missions and members of their families. The residential permit is to be obtained from the Registration Officer having jurisdiction at the place at which the foreigner resides.

FOREIGNERS IN INDIA
The numbers of registered foreigners of different nationalities

residing in India, as on October 31, 1959, are as follows: Afghanistan—7,095; Argentine—

15; Austria—282; Belgium—513; Brazil—11; Bulgaria—27; Burma—1,728; Cambodia—35; China—11,942; Cuba—1; Czechoslovakia—259; Denmark—240; U.A.R.—153; Ethiopia—33; Finland—74; France—1,029; Germany—3,597; Holland—544; Hungary—70; Indonesia—238; Iran—4,210; Iraq—522; Israel—18; Italy—1,055; Japan—705; Jordan—8; Laos—3; Lebanon—13; Mexico—27; Mongolia—19; Norway—168; Philippines—38; Poland—156; Portugal—866; Rumania—47; Russia—2,229; Saudi Arabia—391; Spain—333; Sudan—32; Sweden—387; Switzerland—649; Thailand—395; Tibet—10,233 (as on 31-12-58); Turkey—94; U.S.A.—4,119; Vietnam—47; Yugoslavia—57; Stateless—14; Others—383; Total—55,104.

On an average, about 4,000 foreigners have been coming to India every month since October 1, 1958.

Till the end of August 1959, 46,760 foreigners had disembarked in India. This figure did not include Commonwealth and British Protectorate citizens.

The maximum number—17,829—came from America. Next came Germany with 4,327 persons, Russia with 3,201 and Burma with 2,870.

The procedure of registering the foreigners was simplified with effect from October 1, 1958. Under the new procedure foreigners are required to fill only one form viz. the Disembarkation Card. There is no registration of foreigners coming for a stay of thirty days or less.

PASSPORT RESTRICTIONS IN EAST PAKISTAN

The Deputy Minister for External Affairs, Shrimati Lakshmi Menon, made a statement in the Lok Sabha on December 15, in reply to a 'calling attention' notice on the restrictions imposed on members of the minority community in East Pakistan in respect of issue and renewal of their passports.

The statement said that the Government of India had ascertained that the Government of East Pakistan

had (i) undertaken a rigorous check of the antecedents of passport holders; (ii) directed that those applying for new India-Pakistan passports should deposit Rs. 100 before issue of the passports and those who already held a passport should deposit Rs. 100 before undertaking travel to India; and (iii) issued instructions that the members of the minority community should be asked to give detailed information about their income, taxes paid, the members of their family living outside Pakistan, remittances made, etc.

Our representatives at Dacca and Karachi, the Deputy Minister said, had taken up this matter with the Pakistan authorities concerned. The Government of East Pakistan had told our representatives that: (1) the scrutiny of antecedents of passport holders had been undertaken with a view to checking smuggling and to detecting forged passports, large numbers of which had been in circulation. (2) As regards the deposit, the Pakistan authorities had stated that deposits had been asked for to enable the East Pakistan Government in case of need, to arrange for repatriation of their nationals who had travelled to India and that larger deposits had been asked for from those applying for passport facilities to travel to countries other than India. (3) As regards the detailed information about income, taxes paid, etc., the East Pakistan authorities had stated that these enquiries were being made with a view to checking illicit transfer of funds in violation of the foreign exchange regulations. The Pakistan authorities also had informed our High Commissioner in Karachi that the measures applied to all Pakistan nationals and that there was no basis for the allegation of discrimination.

Continuing, the Deputy Minister said, that when this matter was raised informally at the last meeting of the Chief Secretaries of the Eastern zone held in Calcutta in August 1959, the East Pakistan authorities had promised to issue instructions to expedite the enquiries and relieve the hardships caused by the delay in the renewal or issue of passports. Our representatives at Dacca and Karachi were following up this matter with the authorities concerned in pursuance of this assurance.

EMIGRATION TO UNITED KINGDOM

In continuation of their Press Note of November 10 regarding the passport regulations for the emigration of Indian nationals to the United Kingdom, the Ministry of External Affairs have further announced on November 30 that it has been decided that the following categories of persons may be allowed to proceed to the United Kingdom provided they hold valid passports and even if they do not know English: (1) those proceeding via the United Kingdom to the United States of America or to Canada for permanent settlement and having in their possession valid Immigration Permits issued by the U.S. Embassy or Consulates General in India or by the Canadian High Commission in India; (2) the wives and minor children of persons mentioned at (1) on the same conditions; and (3) persons holding 'official gratis' passports which are valid and genuine.

Relief To Political Sufferers

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 1, Shri G.B. Pant, Union Home Minister, stated that more than Rs. 8 lakhs had been distributed to political sufferers in the States and Union Territories out of Home Minister's Discretionary Grant from its inception in 1955-56. The amount given out in the Union Territory of Delhi was Rs. 2.64 lakhs, in Bombay Rs. 1.11 lakhs, in Uttar Pradesh Rs. 94,000, and in Madras Rs. 71,000.

A sum of Rs. 3 lakhs is placed every year at the disposal of the Union Minister for Home Affairs for giving monetary grants at his discretion to persons who have served the nation in political, social, philanthropic and other fields. Individuals performing outstanding deeds of valour and public good and institutions which render public service are also eligible for this grant.

WORK OF S.P.E. DURING JULY-SEPTEMBER, 1959

An announcement of December 6 says that, according to July-September 1959 report issued recently by the Special Police Establishment of the Union Home Ministry, 36 firms and persons were debarred from obtaining import and export licences, as they indulged in dishonest practices. The black-listing of 25 other firms and individuals was also recommended.

The number of persons convicted by courts or departmentally punished for corrupt practices during this period was 139, including 122 Government employees.

The maximum sentence awarded was six years' jail and fines imposed totalled Rs. 2,16,400. Court convictions were secured in 48 cases, involving 27 Government servants and 17 private individuals.

Police Medals For Gallantry

An announcement dated December 5 says that the President has awarded two Police Medals for gallantry: one to Shri Ram Narain Lahri, Sub-Inspector of Police, Shivpuri District, Madhya Pradesh, and the other to Shri Ram Chander Singh, Constable, 6th Battalion, PAC, Uttar Pradesh.

These awards are given for displaying 'presence of mind, great courage and devotion to duty of a high order'.

According to the citation, Shri Ram Narain Lahri, risked his life to intrigue the notorious dacoit Pritam Gujar. Disguised as a Munim of a forest contractor from whom the dacoit expected a ransom of Rs. 4,000, Shri Ram Narain, on April 14, 1959, entered the den of the dacoit single-handed, while a gun was pointed at him, and succeeded in shooting the dacoit dead.

The citation for Shri Ram Chander Singh states that on February 12, 1957, he joined the party of the dacoit Jahan Singh

near the village Nagaria in the guise of a deserter from the army. But as the dacoit suspected him, a fight ensued; Shri Ram Chander Singh, with the help of other policemen, shot the dacoit dead and captured three other dacoits of the party.

P.M.'S NATIONAL RELIEF FUND

In a written reply to a question, Prime Minister Nehru stat-

ed in the Lok Sabha on December 10 that, after the appeal made by him on October 7 last for funds for relief to the flood-affected people in various parts of India, a sum of Rs. 6,62,742 had been received in the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund up to December 8.

During this period Rs. 2,30,581 had been sent from the Fund to west Bengal.

Planning & Finance

U. N. SEMINAR ON MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

The U.N. Seminar on Management of Public Industrial Enterprises in the ECAFE Region was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, in New Delhi on December 1.

In his inaugural speech, the Prime Minister said, 'In the present stage, the whole of South-East Asia is naturally primarily concerned with its economic development. Obviously, this requires planning, a planned approach.'

Describing in details how India is progressing on the way of planned development, Shri Nehru stressed the vital role of industrialisation and modern techniques in this process. Referring to the problem of State control of the basic industries, which involves the establishment of public enterprises, he observed: 'We have to encourage and expand Public Enterprises and encourage private enterprises also in the vast domain that is left to it. Now, all public enterprises play a very important part and a growing part in India and they will go on growing. Then this question that you are going to consider becomes important—the question of management of public enterprises. Who is to manage? Well, obviously competent trained persons. Normally it is not

easy to find competent trained persons for these rather very specialised highclass jobs. You can have them from civil services and from private industry. These are the two main sources of supply. There may be others too. So far so good, but again the normal civil service approach and normal administrative service approach is not quite the same as might be called the approach required for a big industry. I mean to say, the methods of work in Governmental and civil services are naturally somewhat different. I am not talking of individuals but of certain training that they get.'

The Prime Minister concluded: 'There is a certain difference in that approach, just as there might be, let us say, in the case of national civil services and international services. You try to build up an international civil service at the United Nations in the World Health Service or F.A.O. They are nationals, of course, but they are being trained in an international way. So in a public enterprise one has to have background of thinking and training of public enterprises, not of private enterprises. That is the difference in that approach though there is no rigid line. So we have to face these problems. I have no doubt all countries have to face them and that more

and more public enterprises will grow. Therefore, it is of great importance, this training of public administration.'

P. L. 480 Loan For 17 Projects

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 14, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, confirmed that in the utilisation of earmarked P.L. 480 loan funds for financing specific schemes of economic development, the schemes had been selected by the Government of India and finalised in consultation with the U.S. authorities.

He stated that, agreements for financing 17 projects covering a total sum of Rs. 146.26 crores, had been signed. A sum of over Rs. 14.8 crores had already been received as loan in respect of the following projects: (1) Refinance Corporation, (2) Chambal Project, (3) Hirakud Project, (4) Kosi Project, (5) Kundah Hydel Project, (6) Koyna Hydel Project.

Shri Desai added that Exim Bank of the U.S.A. granted loans to U.S. business firms and their Indian affiliates from rupee funds placed by the U.S. Government at the Bank's disposal under the Cooley Amendment to the PL 480. Only one loan of Rs. 10 lakhs had so far been granted. The firms selected should be mutually acceptable to the Bank as well as to the Government of India.

New Policy Of D.L.F. Loans

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 14, Deputy Minister of Finance, Smt. Tarkeshwari Sinha, said that the U.S. Government's decision to tie up Development Loan Fund loans to purchases within that country would not affect the past loan agreements between the Government of India and the U.S. Development Loan Fund, but would affect only future loans. Since prices were generally higher in U.S.A. for various types of capital goods of interest to India, the new policy would mean that the effective aid to be

received in the form of commodities would be less, she added.

INDO-U.S. PACT

Insurance Against Nationalisation

India and the United States signed an agreement in Washington on December 7, which provides additional encouragement for investment of private American capital in business enterprises in India. This agreement amends the Convertibility and Guarantee Agreement of September 19, 1957. The amendment provides that American investors for a premium will be able to receive insurance for reimbursement in dollars by the U.S. Government of losses which may be incurred because of nationalisation.

VALUE OF INDIAN RUPEE IN HONG KONG

In reply to a short notice question in the Lok Sabha on December 4, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said that the fall in the un-official value of the Indian rupee in Hong Kong was due to the measures taken by Government to prevent the leakage of foreign exchange caused by the smuggling out of Indian currency for the purpose of smuggling in of gold etc. He added that Government did not consider it necessary to take any steps regarding fluctuations in unofficial rates for the rupee. The enormous volume of authorised foreign currency transactions was in no way affected.

The Finance Minister said that on November 23, 1959 the unofficial exchange rate in Hong Kong was reported to have been 89 Hong Kong dollars for Rs. 100. However, the official value of the rupee, which was 120 Hong Kong dollars for Rs. 100, remained unchanged and exchange at this rate was freely available for all authorised transactions.

Excise Duty Rebate

According to a Press Note issued on December 4 by the Minis-

try of Finance, the Government of India have decided that the rate of rebate of Central Excise duty in respect of vegetable non-essential oils, other than cottonseed oil, used in the manufacture of vegetable product, exported out of India will be Rs. 110 per ton of such vegetable product, as against Rs. 105.60 per ton admissible at present, with effect from December 5, 1959.

Excise Duty On Sugar In January-October 1959

Replying to a question, the Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure, Dr. B. Gopala Reddy, informed the Rajya Sabha on December 3 that the total excise duty (gross) collected on sugar, including Khand-sari sugar, during the ten months from January this year was Rs. 50,50,84,000, including Rs. 6,33,000 on Khand-sari.

STOCK EXCHANGE DIRECTORATE

Replying to a question on December 4, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said in the Lok Sabha that Government had decided to establish a Stock Exchange Directorate and the decision was in the process of implementation. The main purpose of the Directorate was to administer the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956. The Directorate would have its headquarters at Bombay and branch offices at Calcutta and Delhi.

Sale Of Tea Estates

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 1, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said that some tea estates in India had been sold by Europeans this year. During the nine months up to September, remittances amounting to Rs. 34.60 lakhs had been made to the U.K. on account of such sales.

Commerce & Industry

IMPORT POLICY FOR PAPER DURING OCTOBER 1959 TO MARCH 1960

On December 13, the Government of India announced the policy for the import of printing and lithographic material, packing and wrapping paper, paper including poster and stereo, carbons, mercury and surgical instruments during the licensing period October 1959—March 1960.

The interim policy for the import of these and a few more items during the current licensing period was announced on September 30, 1959. The interim policy for the import of fruits, dried, salted or preserved, printing paper and filter paper will now continue unchanged during the current licensing period.

PRINTING MATERIAL AND PAPER
Printing and lithographic material will be licensed to established importers on a quota of 12½ per cent

General and 12½ per cent Soft. Upto 5 per cent of the face value of quota licences can be utilised for import of spare parts of printing machinery.

Established importers of paper including poster and stereo and all coated paper, except art papers of all sorts not otherwise specified, will be granted licences on the basis of a quota of 12½ per cent. Applications for additional licences from established importers will also be considered and licences granted on a quota of 7½ per cent.

The import of packing and wrapping paper will be licensed to established importers on a quota of 7½ per cent. Actual User applications for import of special grades of such paper will also be considered.

Carbons will be licensed to established importers on a quota of cent

per cent General and cent per cent Soft.

Mercury will be licensed to established importers on a quota of 50 per cent. The basic period for the import of this item will be 1952-53 to 1957-58 only.

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS

Surgical instruments, apparatus and appliances, not made mainly of rubber and also not made mainly of glass, will be licensed to established importers on a quota of 40 per cent General and 40 per cent Soft. Applications for grant of additional licences to established importers will also be considered and licences granted on the basis of a quota of 25 per cent General and 25 per cent Soft.

The validity of licences will be for a period of six months in all cases except for the import of printing and lithographic material in which case the validity will be for nine months.

Where licences against applications made have not yet been granted, these will now be issued on the basis of enhanced quotas now announced. In cases, however, where licences on the basis of interim quotas have already been issued the importers should present those licences to the licensing authorities concerned for necessary amendments.

Import Of Paper By S.T.C.

A Press Note issued on December 4 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry states that, in order to ease the supply position of paper in the country, the State Trading Corporation will immediately arrange to import 25,000 tons of writing and printing paper from countries with which India has rupee payment arrangement. More quantity will be imported by the Corporation as and when necessary.

Since 1948, the production of paper in the country has increased to almost three times, but the development of education, industrial growth and rising standard of living have led to a phenomenal rise in the demand, and the prices have soared five times since the Paper Price Control Order was withdrawn in 1950.

In view of the mounting complaints against paper prices, the Government of India referred the question of fair prices of paper to the Tariff Commission on September 1, 1958. After full enquiry into the matter, the Commission has pointedly referred to many malpractices in the paper trade and made recommendations for rationalising the system of distribution.

The Tariff Commission has recommended fair prices which are less than the current prices.

The most acute shortage at present is in respect of printing and writing paper. The Tariff Commission estimates the demand for this category of paper at 67 per cent of the total, while the production in 1958 was only 60.8 per cent and is expected to be 60.4 per cent in 1959. The Commission has therefore recommended that the production pattern should conform to the relative demand for the different varieties of paper.

IRON ORE EXPORT IN 1958-59

An announcement made on December 13 says that India exported a record quantity of iron ore during 1958-59 (July-June). The exports amounted to 2.4 million tons, as against 2.1 million tons in the previous year, 1.6 million tons in 1955-56 and 0.3 million tons in 1951-52.

The exports, valued at Rs. 12.4 crores, were canalised through the State Trading Corporation.

Japan accounted for 1.41 million tons i.e. 58% of the exports. Czechoslovakia was the second largest buyer and has progressively increased the purchase from India from less than 3 lakh tons in 1955-56 to over 7 lakh tons in 1958-59. Large supplies are also being made to East European countries like Poland, Yugoslavia and Hungary as also to Italy and East Germany.

The S.T.C. has also achieved a measure of success in increasing the export of low grade iron ore which accounted for 16 per cent of the total exports during 1958-59.

Indian deposits of high grade iron ore have been estimated at 22,000 million tons, approximately equal to

one-fourth of the total world reserves. Besides, she has low grade ore estimated at 85,000 million tons. The present domestic requirements of iron ore are modest. Out of a total quantity of 5.8 million tons produced during 1958, the Indian steel industry consumed 4.2 million tons.

Export Of Engineering Goods

An announcement of December 12 says that export of engineering goods during the first 10 months of 1959 has shown significant rise as compared to last year. Excluding pig iron, exports amounted to Rs. 47 million, as against Rs. 32.5 million during the corresponding period in 1958. Export of electric fans has increased by 68 per cent, sewing machines by 108, diesel engines by 98 and textile machinery by 392 per cent.

In addition to the traditional markets in Asia and Africa, a regular export trade has now been established with some of the highly industrialised countries of the West like U.K. and U.S.A. The biggest single buyer of Indian sewing machines is the U.K. which takes 37 per cent of the total exports. The U.S.A., Belgium and Canada also import Indian sewing machines.

Handloom Exports To U.S.A.

Replying to a question, the Minister of Commerce, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, stated in the Lok Sabha on December 15 that export of handloom goods to U.S.A. during the first eight months of 1959 amounted to 1.12 million yards as against 0.63 million yards for the whole of the previous year. The value of exports in the current year was Rs. 24 lakhs as against Rs. 13 lakhs for the whole of 1958.

EXPORT OF COTTON TEXTILES

In reply to a question, the Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Satish Chandra, said in the Lok Sabha on December 10 that export of cotton textiles during January-

August this year amounted to 460 million yards, as against 414 million yards during the corresponding period last year.

Answering another question, he said that exports of cotton piece goods to West Asian countries during the first eight months of this year had shown a rise to 63.1 million yards against 58.9 million yards during the corresponding period in 1958.

Indo-U.K. Agreement On Export Of Textiles

Replying to a question on December 10, the Minister of Commerce, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, stated in the Lok Sabha that the ceiling of 175 million sq. yds. of textiles for imports by the United Kingdom from India, fixed under the recent agreement between the two countries, was considerably higher than the actual Indian exports to that country in the past. No definite appraisal could be made at present of the benefit likely to accrue to the Indian textile industry from this agreement.

The main features of the agreement, Shri Kanungo stated, were: (i) a ceiling of 175 million sq. yds. as the limit of imports from India for retention in U.K.; (ii) the agreement to remain in force for a period of three years from January next; (iii) the ceiling not to apply to imports subsequently re-exported; and (iv) where the total ceiling is not reached in any year, the shortfall to be carried forward to the next year.

Promotion Of Export Of Gaskets & Mixed Fabrics

According to a Press Note issued on December 8 by the Ministry of Finance, the Government of India have decided to allow drawback of Customs and Central Excise Duty paid on materials used in the manufacture of gaskets and mixed fabrics containing terylene.

PRODUCTION OF LEAD ZINC ORES

An announcement of December 11 says that, according to the

Indian Bureau of Mines, the production of lead-zinc ores in India during the period January-September, 1959, was 121,275 metric tons, showing an increase of nearly 47 per cent as compared to the production in the corresponding period of the preceding year. The recovery of lead and zinc concentrates was also substantially higher, being 4,832 metric tons and 7,271 metric tons respectively as compared to 3,828 metric tons and 5,032 metric tons in the corresponding period of the preceding year. The entire production was reported from the Zawar mines in Udaipur district of Rajasthan State.

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

The production of refined lead in India during the period was 3,028 metric tons as compared to 2,481 metric tons in the corresponding period of the preceding year, representing an increase of about 22 per cent.

Manufacture Of Metric Weights And Measures

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 9, Shri Satish Chandra, Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry, stated that about 305 factories in the country could manufacture metric weights and measures. Some of the State Governments had already licensed 106 factories for the manufacture of metric commercial weights. Other State Governments were expected to grant licences to factories in their jurisdictions shortly.

According to a survey conducted by the National Sample Survey, there are 54 million weights and one million measures in use in the country. These will have to be replaced by an equal number of metric weights and measures during the next two or three years.

MANUFACTURE OF SUGAR MACHINERY

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 2, the Union Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, said that considerable progress had been made in the manufacture of sugar mill machinery in the country. In terms of value, indigenous production had increased from Rs. 32 lakhs in 1956 to over Rs. 3 crores in 1959. During 1958-59, foreign exchange worth Rs. 64.3 lakhs was released to import component parts for the fabrication of sugar machinery.

After 1961-62, by which time the existing manufacturers were expected to achieve full production, the industry would be in a position to supply 14 complete sugar plants per annum to meet the needs of the country, excepting in regard to Turbo-Alternators and mill engines, the Minister added.

Manufacture of Printing Machines

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 14, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister of Industry, announced that a firm in Coimbatore in Madras State had designed a prototype stereo rotary printing machine, which was under test. Another firm in Titagarh had been permitted to manufacture flat bed rotary machines. The first batch of machines was likely to be completed by April 1960.

PRODUCTION OF CLINICAL THERMOMETERS

In reply to a question Shri Manubhai Shah informed the Rajya Sabha that the scheme for manufacture of clinical thermometers by the National Instruments Limited, Calcutta, a Union Government undertaking, in collaboration with a Japanese firm, had been approved. The factory would produce six lakh thermometers per annum by 1962-63.

Shri Shah added that at present only one firm was manufacturing clinical thermometers, with a capacity of 2.16 lakhs, but

its actual production during 1958 and 1959 (upto October) was 1.37 lakhs and 1.83 lakhs respectively.

Manufacture Of Electric Motors

Replying to a question, Shri Manubhai Shah said that the Nahan Foundry Limited had been granted permission to manufacture electric motors. Initially it was proposed to manufacture 1200 motors of various sizes which would increase to 3600 motors. The range of motors would be from ¼ to 20 H.P.

Protection To Non-Ferrous Metal Industry

According to a Press Note issued on December 5 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Government have accepted the Tariff Commission's main recommendation that protection granted to lead sheets other than sheets for teachests, zinc sheets, not otherwise specified, zinc strips, copper rods other than electrolytic copper rods, brass rods, copper pipes and tubes and brass pipes and tubes may be continued for a further period of three years from January 1, 1960, at the existing rates of protective duties.

The Commission has also recommended that all the units in the non-ferrous metals industry should introduce a proper system of costing without delay.

PHENOL FORMALDEHYDE MOULDING POWDER INDUSTRY

Another Press Note of the Ministry of December 8 says that the Government have accepted the Commission's main recommendation that protection granted to the phenol formaldehyde moulding powder industry may be continued at the existing duty of 35 per cent *ad valorem* up to December 31, 1962, and that the refund of duties on phenol, formaldehyde and hexamine be discontinued with immediate effect.

PROTECTION GRANTED TO INDUSTRIES WITHDRAWN

According to the Press Note of the Ministry of December 5 the Government have accepted the Tariff Commission's main recommendation that protection granted to copper and brass sheets (commercial and industrial), lead sheets for teachests and lead strips may be discontinued on the expiry of the current period of protection on December 31, 1959.

PLASTIC BUTTON INDUSTRY

The Press Note of the Ministry of December 8 says that the Government have also accepted the Commission's recommendation that protection granted to the plastic buttons industry should be discontinued after December 31, 1959.

MACHINE SCREW AND COTTON AND HAIR BELTING INDUSTRIES

In other Press Notes of December 1 and 2, the Ministry has announced that the Government have accepted the Tariff Commission's main recommendations that protection granted to the machine screw industry and the cotton and hair belting industry need not be continued beyond December 31, 1959.

The Government have also accepted the recommendation that hair and woollen yarn used exclusively for the manufacture of hair belting should continue to be exempted from payment of customs duty as at present.

The Commission has recommended that the machine screw industry should take immediate steps to improve the quality of its products.

Protection to the machine screw industry was in force since 1951. There are at present 16 units engaged in the manufacture of machine screws and eight units manufacturing socket-head screws. The total rated capacity of the industry is 3.5 million gross per annum and the production in 1958 amounted to 2.66 million gross. The current domestic demand, estimated at 3 million gross per annum, is expected to increase to 6 million gross by 1961.

Protection to the cotton and hair-belting industry was in force since

1948. There are at present nine units with a rated capacity, on single shift basis, of 1,140 tons per annum. Production in 1958 amounted to 777 tons. For the next three years domestic demand may not exceed 650 tons.

Sulphuric Acid Plant At Bhilai

According to an announcement of December 6, the sulphuric acid plant, first major chemical plant of the Bhilai Steel Works, went into commission at Bhilai on December 5.

The plant has a capacity of 12,000 tons of acid per annum. One of the biggest and most modern plants in India, it has a large number of automatic devices with a central control room which can be operated by one man alone.

The plant will be using pure sulphur to manufacture sulphuric acid which will be used in the preparation of ammonium sulphate from coke oven gases. The plant will meet the entire acid requirements of the Bhilai Steel Works and supply some quantities to the market at competitive rates.

AMMONIUM SULPHATE PLANT

The construction of the ammonium sulphate plant has also been completed and production would commence in December. Ammonium sulphate is used as a fertiliser. Orders have already been received for the supply of 1,800 tons of sulphate to the Madhya Pradesh Government. About 16,000 tons of sulphate valued at about Rs. 40 lakhs will be produced here annually.

FOREIGN AID FOR OIL EXPLORATION

Replying to a question regarding foreign aid for oil exploration, Shri K.D. Malaviya, Union Minister for Mines and Oil, stated in the Lok Sabha on December 4 that aeromagnetic survey of Rajasthan and the Indo-Gangetic Plain was arranged by the Government of Canada un-

der the Colombo Plan. Government of West Germany had offered one seismic team for carrying out investigation in the Gangetic Valley for a period of one year.

Training facilities for officers of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission had been made available in U.S.A., Canada, U.S.S.R., France, Holland, Iran and Czechoslovakia under various aid programmes and other foreign Governments scholarships.

Selling Prices Of Paper And Paper Boards

According to a Press Note issued on December 4 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Government of India have accepted the recommendations made by the Tariff Commission on the fair ex-works prices and fair selling prices of paper and paper boards. Fair ex-works prices have been worked out for 24 varieties of paper and paper boards. The revised prices will take effect from January 1, 1960.

The Commission has estimated the demand for paper and paper board excluding newsprint and straw board, during the next four years at 17,30,000 tons and has recommended that steps should be taken immediately to create capacity to meet this demand.

The Commission has suggested, amongst other things, (1) publication of a complete and exhaustive list of all types of speciality papers excluded from price control; (2) possibility of permitting long-term leases of forests to paper mills; (3) establishment of pulp manufacturing units independently of paper mills; and (4) direct supply of waste paper in bulk quantities from Government Departments to mills.

Metric System In Industries

According to an announcement dated December 13, metric system will be adopted in four more industries with effect from April

1, 1960. The industries are vanaspati, paint, biscuits and soap. The transition period when the new system will be in operation side by side with the old will be six months in the case of vanaspati and soap industries, one year for the paint industry and two years for the biscuit industry.

Eighteen industries, including jute, cotton and cotton textiles, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, engineering, heavy chemicals, cement, salt, paper and coir have already adopted metric system. The system will be adopted in the levy and collection of Customs Duties from August, 1960.

Art Silk Yarn Allocation

According to a Press Note dated December 14, the Textile Commissioner has decided that the allocation of indigenous art-silk yarn to the artsilk powerloom weaving units for the period January-March 1960 could be made on the basis of an average number of looms worked during July-September 1959 at a rate of 250 lbs per working,

authorised and reporting, powerloom. The allocation will be made only to such units as have been submitting their monthly production returns regularly in the prescribed form.

BAUXITE RESERVES

An announcement of December 1 says that, according to a recent report published by the Geological Survey of India, there is a minimum reserve of 21,000,000 tons of high grade bauxite in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The region in which the formation occurs covers approximately 140,000 square miles between latitudes 22° and 25° and longitudes 76° and 85°.

Bauxite is practically the only ore used in the production of metallic aluminium. Other important uses of bauxite are in the manufacture of aluminous chemicals, abrasives and refractories. It is also used in the manufacture of aluminous cement, in the refining of oils and smelting of iron.

The total production of bauxite in India during the year 1958 was 114,999 tons.

Communications

MEETING OF I.R.C.A. PERMANENT COMMISSION

The sixth Enlarged Meeting of the Permanent Commission of the International Railway Congress Association, was held in New Delhi from December 7 to 9. Top executives from 12 countries participated. This was the first time that the I.R.C.A. Permanent Commission met on Asian soil. The meeting discussed problems relating to the design of multi-current rolling stock.

In his address to the meeting, Mr. M. De Vos, President of the I.R.C.A. Permanent Commission, appreciated the achievements of India during the two Five Year Plans and said that Indian rail-

ways, as well as those of Japan, were the cheapest in the world. He also remarked that dieselisation or electrification could give the Indian railways powerful motors for hauling the heavily increasing volume of traffic. He said, in spite of the transfer of 7,000 miles of railway lines to Pakistan, the Indian railway system extended over 50,000 miles of which 34,000 were State-owned railways with a working staff of more than one million men.

MANUFACTURE OF LOCOMOTIVES

Addressing the meeting on December 7, the Union Railway

Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, said that since independence, determined efforts had been made to bring about self-sufficiency in the large range of equipment which a modern railway system required. He expressed the hope that during the Third Plan period manufacture of diesel and electric locomotives would be started in the country. India was already self-sufficient in regard to steel locomotives, freight wagons and other equipment. Fairly large-sized projects for the electrification of some sections of the Indian Railways, particularly the eastern region, were now being implemented. The Railway Minister said that the country's strategists had wisely recognised the key role of transportation in the economic development of the country. The number of passengers at present was about four millions daily as against the average of about 1.4 millions in 1938-39.

Indian Railways have been members of the International Railway Congress Association since 1887, two years after the Association was founded. India has been a member of the Association's Permanent Commission continuously since 1925.

Meetings Of Consultative Committees For Railways

A meeting of the Informal Consultative Committee of Parliament for the Southern Railway was held in New Delhi on December 4.

The meeting discussed a number of subjects connected with the efficiency of railways and amenities to the public. Addressing the meeting, Shri Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Railways, announced that the overall running time of the Grand Trunk Express was expected to be curtailed by one hour from next April.

ELECTRIFICATION OF STATIONS

At the meeting of the Parliamentary Informal Consultative Committee for the Central Rail-

way, held in New Delhi on December 10, it was stated that the Central Railway had already completed the electrification of 211 out of 251 stations programmed for the Second Plan period, and the balance of 40 stations would be electrified during the remaining period of the Plan.

WEST BENGAL RAIL LINE

It was disclosed at the meeting of the Parliamentary Informal Consultative Committee for the Eastern Railway held in New Delhi on December 12 that work had already begun on the first 20 miles or so of the Baraset-Hasanabad railway line in West Bengal. The Eastern Railway had acquired possession of the entire land needed for construction of this line.

NEW BHILAI STATION

The meeting of the South Eastern Railway Parliamentary Informal Consultative Committee was held on December 14. It was stated at the meeting that the construction of a new Bhilai station building on austerity standards at a cost of Rs. 14,000 had been sanctioned.

Funds were being conserved for creation of additional line capacity in preference to building works which could wait.

OTHER RAILWAYS

The meeting of the Parliamentary Informal Consultative Committees for the Western and the North-East Frontier Railways were also held in New Delhi on December 11 and 9 respectively and discussed problems connected with the comforts of the travellers.

All these meetings were presided over by the Railway Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, and were attended by the officers concerned and the Members of Parliament.

Railway Board's Meeting With General Managers

A meeting of the Railway General Managers with the Railway Board was held in New

Delhi on December 7. Addressing the meeting, the Railway Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, said that responsible railway officials should carry out surprise checks to ensure that safety devices provided in trains were in proper working order. Armed guards were being provided on certain trains, but it was not practicable to provide armed guards for all trains. He asked the General Managers to have maximum co-ordination with the State Governments to tackle this problem.

RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION MEETS RAILWAY BOARD

According to an announcement of December 5, a meeting was held in New Delhi on December 3 between the Railway Board and the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen. The meeting, held as part of the permanent negotiating machinery established on the Railways, discussed several important subjects including participation of workers in management, implementation of the outstanding recommendations of the Class IV Staff Promotion Committee, periodical transfers of railway employees, the allotment of a higher grade for colliery pilot guards on the South-Eastern Railway and the grant of a further option to railway employees in regard to pension scheme.

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION IN BIHAR

It has been announced on December 15 that the Government of India have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 77 lakhs to the Bihar Government for meeting the expenditure on power supply arrangements for railway electrification in Bihar. This is the first loan against their requirements of about Rs. 400 lakhs.

Food & Agriculture

WORLD AGRICULTURAL FAIR OPENED

Opening the World Agricultural Fair in New Delhi on December 11, the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, said *inter alia*:

"It is a matter of gratification and congratulation that it has been possible to organise this World Agriculture Fair with the object of affording to Indian farmers an opportunity to view Indian agriculture in the context of world agricultural improvements and to enable them to make a comparative assessment of the progress made in the field of agriculture and allied sciences, village industries and rural and community development activities in India.

"India is an agricultural country. We are trying to establish industries, large, small, and cottage industries, on as extensive a scale, and as fast as our resources and present capacity permit. We are hoping that we shall be making good progress and showing good results in that direction. Nevertheless India is, and will continue for a long time to come to be mainly an agricultural country. Agriculture furnishes employment to by far the largest number of persons in this country—far larger than that employed in all the other industries, organised and unorganised, put together. The value of production and wealth by means of agriculture and allied processes, is also far greater than that of any other industry, if not of all the industries put together. It also supplies an essential article for man's existence, and raw material for the manufacture of some other articles which are equally necessary for man's existence. It is, therefore, not without reason that in India agriculture, in times of old at least, was looked upon as the

best and highest of professions and occupations; and I believe agriculture has not lost that position.

"Agriculture has its problems too which are complex, difficult and numerous in this country. Although we are an agricultural country, we are not at present producing as much food as we need for our requirements, and we have to depend on countries like the United States of America to meet the deficit.

"The first and foremost question, therefore, is that of producing enough food for our requirements which are growing from day to day. This difficulty arises because, in the very nature of things, land, without which agriculture cannot be practised at all, is limited in quantity and cannot increase. Even if we bring under cultivation uncultivated portions all over the country, the total addition to the cultivated land will not be very large. Addition to the cultivable land is beset with difficulties. We already know that the proportion of land under forests and land under cultivation is not in this country favourable to further deforestation and clearing of land for cultivation purposes. Vast areas are without adequate rainfall and any other means of irrigation. Besides, such land as is available is divided into small holdings and further fragmentation is going apace....

"India, as a country, supports some 400 million people, and the population per square mile of the entire surface, including uncultivable portions, like mountains, forests, lakes and deserts, comes to more than 300 per square mile. Excluding towns and cities, there are rural areas where the population goes up to

1200 per square mile. We have also to remember that we are adding to this population at the rate of something like 4 to 5 million every year."

Continuing the President said that it was a good thing that considerable advance was being made in the method and techniques of agriculture, and with the help and assistance which the country had been fortunate in getting from foreign countries and through the use of the Extension Services and village development agencies, efforts were being made to help the Indian agriculturists to attain the maximum possible result in these respects.

"It is a patent fact," he added, "that it is not desirable for our agriculturists to remain content with their old experience, valuable though it is, but modernise our agriculture in the light of the latest scientific methods by assimilating and adapting new techniques to our requirements and resources."

U.S. PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

Speaking earlier, President Eisenhower pleaded for a worldwide war against hunger, a war which, he said, would dignify and exalt human beings. He said, the displays at the Fair proved in themselves that men now had sufficient knowledge to declare such a war. It was entirely right that the World Agricultural Fair was held in India, for this nation recognised in agriculture the fundamental occupation of man and the chief assurance of better living for its citizens.

Speaking of the American pavilion, Mr. Eisenhower said, its theme was food, family, friendship and freedom. These words summed up the daily needs, purposes, feelings and aspirations which unite the peoples of India and America. He went on to say that these four words were mightier even than arms and bombs, machines and money, and mightier than any empire that ruled in the past or threatened the future.

The World Agricultural Fair, the first to be held on an inter-

national scale, has been organised by the Bharat Krishak Samaj. There are six sectors of the Fair. In the International Sector, 14 nations and two international organisations, F.A.O. and International Federation of Agricultural Producers, have taken part. In the National Sector there are various sections connected with agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, forestry, soil conservation, wild life, agricultural marketing, machinery and fertilisers and plant protection. Seventeen States of India have participated in the States Sector. There are, moreover, Rural Industries Sector and Entertainment Sector.

The Fair covers an area of 52 lakh square feet and is the biggest exhibition planned in this country.

F.A.O. MEETING ON DAIRY PROBLEMS

Shri S.K. Patil, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, inaugurated the international meeting on dairy problems in Asia and the Far East in New Delhi on December 14.

The Conference discussed questions affecting the dairy development in the region. Among the subjects discussed were the importance of good management in dairy production, the value of grassland and fodder crops, dairy husbandry in conjunction with plantation crops, the provision of simple, hygienic equipment for the small dairy farmer, use of portable milking equipment for milk collection and processing specially in the rural areas, the problems of distribution and factors affecting consumption, the necessity for proper nutrition of the dairy cow, measures for immediate action and long-term plans, including international assistance.

Organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in co-operation with the Government of India, the meeting was attended by about 50 delegates from Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, Afghanistan, China (Formosa), India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaya, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines,

Thailand, Viet Nam, Australia and New Zealand. Representatives of the UNICEF and the International Dairy Federation also participated.

F.A.O. Plant Protection Committee Meets

The third meeting of the Plant Protection Committee for South-East Asia and Pacific Region was held in New Delhi from December 7 to 12. Shri S.K. Patil, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, inaugurated the meeting.

The Committee was set up in pursuance of the Plant Protection Agreement, approved by the F.A.O. Council in November, 1955. The meeting provided a venue for a general stock taking and discussion on the problems of plant quarantine in the countries of the region. Countries participated in the meeting were: Australia, Burma, Ceylon, Malaya, France, Indonesia, Netherlands, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the U.S.A., Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Portugal, the Philippines and Pakistan.

Radio Rural Forums On Agricultural Practices

In reply to a question regarding popularising improved methods of cultivation among the agriculturists through radio broadcasts, Dr. B.V. Keskar, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, placed a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on December 2. According to the statement, a countrywide scheme of Radio Rural Forums was launched by the All India Radio on November 17, 1959. Under this scheme special programmes on various aspects of rural life and problems with special emphasis on improved agricultural and animal husbandry practices will be broadcast at a fixed time every Tuesday evening.

The statement says, to begin with 864 Radio Rural Forums or clubs, each consisting of 15 to 20 persons, have been formed main-

ly in the Community Development Blocks in the various States. The villagers constituting the forums will listen to the broadcasts through community receivers and will have discussions among themselves on the subjects of broadcasts. Questions and other points raised during the discussions will be forwarded to the nearest A.I.R. station, which will contact the Departments concerned and broadcast replies or clarifications in the subsequent week's broadcast.

JAPANESE METHOD OF PADDY CULTIVATION

In a written reply to a question, the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Shri M.V. Krishnapa, said in the Lok Sabha on December 8 that the total area reported to have been benefited by the Japanese Method of Paddy Cultivation during the year 1958-59 was approximately 5.6 million acres. The average yield per acre was 28.88 maunds during 1957-58.

AWARD OF 'UDYAN PANDIT' FOR 1959

An announcement dated December 6 says that Shri Manohar Das, owner of the Gopalpur Orchard in Kotgarh, Himachal Pradesh, has won the award of 'Udyan Pandit' in apple growing for the year 1959. He will receive a cash prize of Rs. 5,000 besides a certificate of 'Udyan Pandit'.

To encourage growing of quality fruits in the country, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has decided to organise all-India competitions for 5 fruits—mango, apple, banana (dessert varieties), sweet orange (malta) and mandarin orange (santra). This year the competition was conducted for apples only.

The award will be presented at the next All-India Fruit Show to be held in 1960.

River Projects & Power

INDO-NEPAL AGREEMENT ON GANDAK PROJECT

An announcement of December 5 says that India and Nepal have signed an agreement on the Gandak irrigation and power project, which will confer benefits on the peoples of both countries on an equitable basis. The agreement symbolises the close partnership and co-operation between two sovereign countries—India and Nepal—in utilising the waters of the Gandak which flows through their territories.

The origin of the project can be traced to a proposal made immediately after independence by the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then Minister for Food and Agriculture in the Government of India, to the Bihar Government to investigate the possibilities of taking out canals from the Gandak for meeting the chronic food shortages in the scarcity areas of the State. Between 1948-54, investigations were carried out and the first project report prepared. Since this project was to be a joint Indo-Nepal venture, discussions with His Majesty's Government in Nepal were initiated in 1955 and after continued negotiations, a settlement has recently been reached on the project.

DETAILS OF PROJECT

The project envisages the construction of a barrage at Bhaisalotan with one end in Nepal and the other in India. The two main canals on the western and eastern banks will take off within Nepalese and Indian territories respectively and will irrigate a total area of 37 lakh acres in both the countries. There will be two power houses, on either side, each with a firm capacity of 10,000 kw.

The total cost of the project, to be wholly borne by India, is

estimated at Rs. 50.5 crores, the tentative apportionment being Rs. 39.5 crores to Bihar and Rs. 11 crores to Uttar Pradesh. It is hoped to complete the project in 10 years.

MAIN FEATURES OF AGREEMENT

Under the agreement, compensation will be paid by India and Nepal for the land acquired for the project. Similarly, India has agreed to pay royalty for quarrying materials from Nepal.

The sovereignty and territorial jurisdiction of His Majesty's Government in Nepal will remain supreme.

Nepal will have the right to draw upon for irrigation or any other purpose supplies of water from the Gandak or its tributaries so long as the water requirements of India and Nepal for irrigation or power generation on the Gandak project are not prejudicially affected by such drawals.

In the event of supplies in the river being short of the total requirements, it has been agreed that the shortages will be shared between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government on a pro-rata basis.

On completion of the project, Nepal will get, free of cost, flow irrigation for about 1.5 lakh acres. Further, water supplies for an additional area of 2 lakh acres have been reserved for future use of Nepal.

The agreement also provides for transfer of the canal system together with service roads and allied works to His Majesty's Government in Nepal. It is also open to His Majesty's Government in Nepal to take over the Western power house, free of

cost, after the full load of 10,000 kw has been developed in Nepal.

Other indirect advantage to Nepal from the Project will be improved communications as a result of construction works for the project.

The additional area assured of irrigation facilities in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh will be roughly 33 lakh acres—27 lakh acres in Bihar and 6 lakh acres in Uttar Pradesh.

The power supply from the power house on the eastern canal will be available for India. Besides, firm power not utilised by Nepal and all secondary power from the power house on the Western canal will also be available for use in Bihar.

PANCHET HILL DAM INAUGURATED

The Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, inaugurated on December 6 the "dedication to the nation" ceremony of the Rs. 19-crore Panchet Hill Dam—the fourth and the biggest of the DVC dams—and power house at Panchet in Bihar.

Located across the Damodar above its confluence with the Barakar river, the Panchet Hill Dam is a composite earthen and concrete structure of about 4½ miles in length and 134 ft. in height. The concrete section is 1,215 ft. long and 167 ft. high.

The dam spans the river Damodar having a catchment area of over 4200 sq. miles and the maximum inflow of 3,02,000 cusecs, and, along with its counterparts at Tilaiya, Konar and Maithon, it will afford greater protection against floods in the Damodar Valley. Further, it will, together with the other three dams, provide irrigation for 10,44,000 acres of kharif crops and 3,00,000 acres of rabi crops, and supply water to industries in the region.

POWER HOUSE AND RESERVOIR

The reinforced concrete power house is located on the downstream

side of the right non-spillway portion of the gravity dam. There are 15 gates, 41' x 40' in the spillway, and 10 gates, 10' x 5'-8' in under-sluices. It is the sixth in a chain of D.V.C. power houses. The installed capacity of the Panchet power house is 40,000 kw. at peak load, and its firm capacity is 34,000 kw. It will add about 171 million kwh per annum to the D.V.C. electric grid system.

The reservoir created by the Panchet Dam is 59 sq. miles in area, the maximum storage capacity being as much as 13.65 lakh acre feet of water, of which the normal storage is 3.33 lakh acre feet.

The total estimated cost of the dam and power house is Rs. 19.25 crores — Rs. 15.32 crores for the dam and Rs. 3.93 crores for hydro-electric plant and equipment.

The works relating to the Panchet Hill project were taken up in October 1952 and completed in September 1959.

POWER SUPPLY FOR ASSAM

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 11, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister for Irrigation and Power, stated that the maximum demand of power for the whole of Assam was estimated at 50,000 kw. in 1965-66 according to the load survey carried out by the Central Water and Power Commission.

The Deputy Minister further stated that the demand would be met mainly from the power available from the Umtru and Umiam (Barapani) Hydro-Electric Schemes. The combined ultimate power potential of these two schemes had been estimated at 75,000 kw at 50 per cent load factor, the initial development being limited to 36,000 kw. at 50 per cent load factor.

Indian Information

POWER DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

At the beginning of the First Plan, the installed electrical capacity of the country stood at 2.3 million Kw. To this, 1.1 million Kw. were added during the Plan period. The Second Five Year Plan seeks to raise this installed capacity by another 3.4 million Kw, and the Third Five Year Plan would raise it further.

Among the many projects which would contribute to the additional generating capacity, the main projects are the D.V.C., Hirakud, Bhakra-Nangal, Koyna, Chambal, Nagarjunasagar, Rihand and Sharavathi. Some of these have been completed; others are nearing completion; and more are being started. Besides, several other power projects like the Machkund, Moyar, Bokaro and Pathri have been brought into service in recent years.

The Government have been considering the problems of economical generation, distribution and utili-

sation of electrical power for industrial purposes and systematic load surveys are now being conducted.

Taking power to villages is a major plank in the scheme of national reconstruction.

The number of villages electrified at the beginning of the First Five Year Plan was about 3,000. Towards the close of the Plan, this number increased to about 7,000. During the Second Plan period, additional 10,000 villages are expected to be electrified.

To improve the efficiency and economy of electricity supply, several isolated power stations had to be integrated to form a grid. Integrated power systems are at present operating in a few States.

To realise further economy and help power-deficit regions from power-surplus regions, there are proposals to interlink the State power systems in some regions during the Third Plan period.



SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS FOR 1959

According to an announcement of December 5, the Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi, which met in New Delhi the same day, selected the following books for Sahitya Akademi's annual award of Rs. 5,000 each (for 1959) to the most outstanding book in each of the major Indian languages published during 1956-58:—

(1) Bengali—*Kalkatar Kachhei*, a novel by Gajendra Kumar Mitra

(2) Hindi—*Sanskriti Ke Char Adhyaya*, a survey of Indian

Culture, by Ramdhari Sinha "Dinkar"

(3) Kannada—*Yakshagana Bayalata*, a treatise on Kannada Folk Drama by K.S. Karanth

(4) Marathi—*Bharatiya Sahitya-Shastra*, a treatise on Indian Poetics, by G.T. Deshpande

(5) Punjabi—*Vadda Vela*, poems by Mohan Singh

(6) Urdu—*Urdu Drama Aur Stage*, a history of Urdu Drama and Stage, by Syed Masood Hasan Rizvi

(7) Sindhi—*Kanwar*, a biography by Tirth Vasant

No award could be given in Assamese, Gujarati, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Oriya, Tamil, Telugu, Sanskrit and English as no book published in these languages during the period was adjudged as of sufficient outstanding literary merit.

The awards will be given to authors concerned by the Prime Minister at a special function to be held in New Delhi on February 13, 1960.

Awards For Guide Books For Basic School Teachers

In a Press Note issued on December 6, the Union Ministry of Education have announced the award of the prizes to authors of guide books under the Prize Competition for Guide Books for Teachers of Basic Schools. Three prizes have been awarded in grade I (First—Rs. 1000, Second—Rs. 750, and Recognition Prize—Rs. 200), two in grade II (Recognition Prizes of Rs. 200 each), one in grade IV (Second—Rs. 850), and two in grade V (First—Rs. 1250 and Second Rs. 850).

The competition was organised during 1958-59 under a Central scheme.

Training Of Primary School Teachers

Replying to a question, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Minister of Education, laid a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on December 1 giving details of the progress made in the execution of the scheme for the country-wide training of primary school teachers with a view to providing free and compulsory primary education by the end of the Third Plan. The statement says that the administrative approval of the Government of India has been communicated to the Governments of nine States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, for the schemes provid-

ing expansion of their existing training facilities and establishment of new ones at the total cost of over Rs. 274 lakhs.

SIXTH INTER-UNIVERSITY YOUTH FESTIVAL

The Education Minister of Mysore, Shri Anna Rao Ganamukhi, inaugurated the Sixth Inter-University Youth Festival in Mysore on December 7. About 1400 students from 34 universities participated in the ten-day Festival which concluded on December 16.

Items of competition in the programme included Drama (One Act Play), Group Dance, Group Singing, Vocal Classical Music, Instrumental Classical Music, Classical Dance, Arts and Crafts, Hindi and Kannada Elocution and Symposium on subjects of general interest to the student community.

An important feature of the Festival this year was that every University was requested to send, as far as possible, a student as director of the University team participating in a particular item. This was intended to give students more opportunities for participation and managing their own affairs.

To encourage close co-operation and participation of the students with the organisation and planning of the various functions of the Festival, each University was requested to send three N.C.C. volunteers—2 boys and 1 girl—to help the central organisation in conducting the Festival.

For the first time the Youth Festival was organised entirely by a University. The entire expenditure would be, however, met by the Union Ministry of Education. The earlier five Festivals were organised by the Union Ministry of Education and were held in New Delhi.

Hobby Workshops In Universities

Placing a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha in reply to a question, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Education Minister, disclosed on December 14 that the University Grants Commission

had selected 39 colleges from 17 universities, which fulfilled the prescribed conditions, for introducing the scheme of hobby workshops.

The statement added that grants totalling Rs. 23,740 had been paid to the universities of Baroda, Saugar and Visva-Bharati for this purpose.

Social Service For Students

In reply to a question, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, stated in the Lok Sabha on December 9 that social service for students was not proposed to be made compulsory for the time being.

The Minister said, a scheme of Compulsory National Service for students, prepared by the Ministry of Education, was placed before the Education Ministers' Conference held in Delhi in August last. As suggested by the Conference, a committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. C.D. Deshmukh, was set up in September to define the nature and scope of pilot national service projects and the manner of their implementation. The report of the committee was awaited, said the Minister.

Indian Mountaineering Foundation

Replying to a question, Dr. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, stated in the Lok Sabha on December 1 that the Sponsoring Committee of the Indian Cho Oyu Expedition had decided last year to set up an Indian Mountaineering Foundation to organise, sustain and provide a base for mountaineering and associated activities.

The Minister added that the Sponsoring Committee for the Indian Mount Everest Expedition was organising an expedition to climb Mount Everest in 1960, and the Government had agreed to make a grant of about Rs. 6 lakhs of which Rs. 2,46,185 had already been released.

Indian Information

853

January 1, 1960

852

January 1, 1960

Thailand Government Fellowships

In a Press Note issued on December 12, the Ministry of Education has announced that, under the auspices of UNESCO, the Government of Thailand have offered two fellowships for study/research to Indian nationals in Thailand during the year 1960. Candidates holding fellowships will be paid 14,000 bahts per annum (Rs. 250 p.m. approximately).

FELLOWSHIPS IN NURSING

An announcement dated December 6 says that a number of fellowships are likely to be available during 1961 for training in various nursing subjects in some Commonwealth countries under the Technical Co-operation Scheme of the Colombo Plan.

Applicants must be employed under the Union or State Gov-

ernments, a local body or non-Governmental voluntary organisations, and must normally have five years' experience. Honorary workers will also be considered in case a guarantee is forthcoming that they will serve their parent institution for a minimum period of three years on return from abroad.

INDOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

According to an announcement of December 3, the eighth meeting of the Indology Committee, held in New Delhi on December 2 under the chairmanship of Shri K.A. Nilakantha Sastri, considered the details of scheme for the setting up of a Central Institute of Indology which will co-ordinate and promote research in various fields of Indology. Provision for the Institute is likely to be made in the Third Five Year Plan.

clinics, three training centres and 260 isolation beds. In the Third Plan it was proposed to add 200 T.B. clinics, 5 training centres, 500 isolation beds, seven rehabilitation work centres and 25 mobile T.B. clinics for rural areas. To produce the necessary workers for this programme, a National T.B. Institute had been established in Bangalore for training doctors, nurses, health visitors, social workers and technicians. Under the B.C.G. programme, 13 crore persons had been tested and nearly 5 crores of the vulnerable population vaccinated.

WATER AND SANITATION

As against 10 crore cases of malaria in a year some years ago, the number had already reduced to one-tenth. There would be 390 mobile malaria units, each covering a population of one million, with the help of which an intensive anti-malaria campaign would be conducted in the next three years. A provision of about Rs. 58 crores would be made in the Third Five-Year Plan for this purpose. Filariasis was being similarly dealt with through mass treatment campaign by mobile teams.

For leprosy, it was decided to set up peripatetic teams in the areas showing high incidence. One team was provided for every 50,000 to 60,000 population. The total number of 250 control units proposed to be set up by the end of the Third Plan would reach 2 million cases of leprosy involving an expenditure of about Rs. 17 crores. An autonomous small-pox commission was also being set up to give technical guidance and administer the programme of countrywide vaccination.

The Minister further said that the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme held a key position in the Five-Year Health Plans. Nearly one-third of the total outlay on health in the Second Plan was earmarked for this programme, which was started in 1954 with a sum of Rs. 12 crores set apart for urban and Rs. 6 crores for rural water supply schemes. The Second Plan made a provision of Rs. 91

crores. 307 urban and 228 rural schemes were in hand. Besides, 2,000 primary health centres were expected to be in position in the rural areas by the end of the Second Plan period. About 1,400 had already been opened. In the Third Plan period the number would be increased so that each of the 5,000 National Extension Service Blocks had a centre.

CURATIVE FACILITIES

Regarding curative facilities, Shri Karmarkar said, there were schemes for expansion and improvement of hospitals at district headquarters. Between 40,000 and 45,000 additional beds would have been added by the end of the Second Plan period. The services provided had been supplemented by improved diagnostic and specialist facilities, and it was planned that within the course of this and the next Plans a network of well-developed regional district public health laboratories should be in position throughout the country.

Referring to cancer, the Minister said that the Chittaranjan Cancer Research Institute at Calcutta, the Cancer Research Centre at Bombay, and the Tata Memorial Hospital were being wholly aided by Government.

The Health Minister observed that, at the end of the First Plan there were 69,000 doctors and the number would be over 80,000 by the end of the Second Plan. There were today 55 medical colleges in the country, 10 of which were opened during the last four years. The total admission capacity was now 5,000 per annum. Facilities for post-graduate medical education were also being developed in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi and in a dozen upgraded departments in selected medical colleges in various parts of the country. The Indian Council of Medical Research had forged ahead with its activities of promoting, guiding and co-ordinating research.

The training programmes for nursing had been stepped up to turn out 2,000 nurses every year

and there would be 30,000 trained nurses by 1960-61. The Third Plan proposals aimed at training 20,000 to 25,000 nurses. The other para-medical personnel was also being trained in increasing numbers. A scheme for training 50,000 dais had been undertaken.

About the problem of population control the Minister stated that, apart from the 1,500 rural and 500 urban family planning clinics provided in the Second Plan, activities in this field had touched upon research, training, education and propaganda, testing of contraceptives, etc.

Primary Health Centres

In a reply to a question on December 15, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, told the Rajya Sabha that 1,399 primary health centres were reported to have been established up to March 31, 1959, and 680 were to be opened during the year 1959-60. Against the target of 3,000 centres for the Second Five-Year Plan approximately 2,600 were likely to be established by the end of March, 1961.

Effects Of Hydrogenated Oils

In reply to a question, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on December 11 a statement on the work done under the auspices of the Indian Council of Medical Research on the effects of hydrogenated oils on consumers.

According to the statement, the effects of hydrogenated oils were studied in detail. These studies have shown that vegetable oils like groundnut oil, sesame oil and their hydrogenated products with m.p. 37°C and butter have almost the same nutritive value. Hydrogenated oils have similar digestibility as non-hydrogenated oils.

The hydrogenated oils influence the utilisation of other dietary constituents such as

calcium to the same extent as untreated vegetable oils and butter do. Moreover, butter and hydrogenated fats as sold in India are good sources of vitamin A.

The statement further observes that, short-term experiments recently conducted on human beings have indicated that, whereas butter, coconut oil and hydrogenated oils tend to increase serum cholesterol levels, vegetable and marine fish oils, rich in polyunsaturated fatty acid, lower these levels when they are high because of high fat intake. The increased level of serum cholesterol has been associated with atherosclerosis. There is evidence to show that increase of serum cholesterol levels can be brought about by a wide variety of factors. Of great current interest is the influence of certain dietary constituents like proteins and vitamins and fats.

CHOLESTEROL LEVELS

Cholesterol levels have been shown to increase with high fat diets or with fats deficient in polyunsaturated fatty acids. On the contrary, cholesterol levels tend to decrease on a low fat diet or a diet rich in polyunsaturated acids. From these experiments there can be little room for doubt that the nature of the fatty acids in diet has an effect on serum cholesterol levels.

However, the statement adds, these experiments have been of a comparatively short-term duration. Whether such manipulations can maintain such an effect for years and particularly whether the cholesterol lowering effects are beneficial for atherosclerosis or even are preventive in the context of coronary heart disease are problems still open for investigation. Moreover, much of the evidence on the relationship between diet and atherosclerosis has been indirect, equating atherosclerosis with high levels of serum cholesterol. Therefore, while it is rather premature to arrive at a definite conclusion, it can be said that it is better to consume a mixed pattern of fats like butter, hydro-



PROGRESS OF NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES

Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Union Minister of Health, broadcast a talk in the series 'Planning for Prosperity — Towards Better Health' from All India Radio, New Delhi on December 4, in which he said that infantile mortality in the country had registered a fall from 160 to less than 100 per thousand. The general mortality rate, which ranged between 20 and 25 per thousand in the last decade, had come down to 10 and 12 per thousand. The expectation of life had risen from 32 to 42.

Referring to the objectives of the national health programmes, the Minister said that the health schemes drawn up after independence were motivated by the concept of preventive approach. Prevention was not only better but far cheaper than cure. The

results were not dramatic but all the same more enduring.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

As regards communicable diseases, Shri Karmarkar stated that, the T.B. beds had increased in the last 10 years from 7,000 to nearly 25,000. Stress had been laid on preventive inoculation with B.C.G., extension of facilities for detection and treatment in early cases through T.B. clinics and domiciliary services, isolation of infective cases and physical and economic rehabilitation of the cured cases. Against the Second Plan target of 200 new T.B. clinics, upgrading of 100 existing clinics, establishment of 10 T.B. control and training centres, 400 beds for isolation and 8 rehabilitation work centres, there were in position 50

generated oils on the one hand and raw vegetable oils like sesame, groundnut, etc. on the other. This will ensure an adequate intake of calories and polyunsaturated acids in the diet.

NEW ANTIBIOTIC FOR T.B. DEVELOPED

Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, revealed in the Lok Sabha in a written reply to a question on December 8 that a new anti-biotic, claimed to have anti-tubercular properties, had been discovered as a result of research in the Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute, Delhi. It had been found to be active against tubercle bacilli in culture

even in small dilutions. This anti-biotic was also found to be active against streptomycin-resistant tubercle bacilli and against a highly resistant micro organism called 'Bacillus Pyocyanus'.

BCG VACCINE AND TUBERCULIN

In a written reply to another question Shri Karmarkar told the Lok Sabha that the total annual output of B.C.G. vaccine and Tuberculin was approximately 2,600,000 cc. and 4,500,000 cc. respectively. Meeting the country's requirements, B.C.G. vaccine and Tuberculine were also exported to Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, Malaya, Singapore and Pakistan.

Social Welfare

MEETING OF CENTRAL SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD

The Central Social Welfare Board at its meeting in New Delhi on December 14 appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. J.F. Bulsara to go into the nature of the grants-in-aid programme and to draw up a grants-in-aid code, which could be followed by both the Central and State Boards. The committee has also been requested to go into the question of organising a field counselling service, the constitution of which has been recommended by the Study Team on Social Welfare.

The need for a code has arisen since there has grown up a multiplicity of rules and principles in respect of making grants-in-aid and because the grants-in-aid programme is expected to expand considerably during the Third Plan period.

WOMEN'S PROGRAMMES

The meeting considered the question of the relationship between non-official organisations engaged in welfare activities for

women and children in Welfare Extension Projects, and the Panchayats to which, under the democratic decentralisation scheme, all village development activities would be entrusted. The Board was unanimously of the opinion that Mahila Mandals and other women's voluntary organisations would be the most suitable agencies for running the activities which came within the purview of the Welfare Extension programmes.

The Board also agreed that every effort should be made to co-ordinate the activities of other existing voluntary welfare organisations in the same area and of the Panchayats.

The Board also heard a report from the Chairman, Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh, on her recent tour of Assam, Manipur, Tripura and Naga Hills. The report pointed out that social welfare institutions, such as schools, maternity centres and craft centres, had been well established in

those areas with public contributions and enthusiastic participation of the local people.

SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRES IN DELHI

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 4, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education stated that 46 social welfare centres, including 16 sub-centres, were functioning in Delhi under the State Social Welfare Board. An expenditure of Rs. 1,72,000 had been incurred on these centres during 1958-59.

Child Welfare Allotted To Education Ministry

According to an announcement of December 5, the Government of India have decided that programmes relating to child welfare will hereafter be the administrative responsibility of the Union Ministry of Education. It will co-ordinate the activities of other Ministries and organisations engaged in child welfare work. A Co-ordinating Committee will be set up under the chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary.

Child welfare work is handled at present by a number of Union Ministries, including the Ministries of Community Development and Co-operation, Health, Home Affairs and Education.

Employment Offices for Handicapped

The National Advisory Council for the Education of the Handicapped held its fourth meeting in New Delhi on December 7 and 8 under the chairmanship of Shri R.P. Naik, Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Education, says an announcement of December 9.

The Council has recommended that every major State should have a special employment office for the physically handicapped by the end of the Third Plan period, five of which should be established by the end of the Second Plan.

The Council has suggested the appointment of four committees to deal with the reorganisation of training, the training of personnel, the facilities for the adult deaf and the education of mentally retarded children. It has also recommended expansion of educational and training facilities.

ASSISTANCE TO HANDICAPPED

An announcement dated December 3 says that the Government of India have decided to invite applications by December 31, 1959, from voluntary agencies working for the education and training of the physically and mentally handicapped for financial assistance for their schemes designed to develop specific services for the handicapped.

RELIEF TO FLOOD VICTIMS

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 4, the Home Minister, Shri G.B. Pant detailed the steps taken by the Central Government to help the States hit by the recent floods.

He said that the Indian Air Force carried out reconnaissance of flood-affected areas in West Bengal and air-dropped 5663 mds. of food supplies in the districts of Hoogly, Burdwan, Nadia, Murshidabad and Howrah. The Indian Navy units rendered medical assistance to flood victims at Surat. The expenditure on repairs and reconstruction of the Surat City wall damaged by the recent floods might be included in the Bombay Government's claim for assistance in connection with the Surat floods.

The Railway authorities agreed to allow free transport of gift consignments, building materials etc. for distribution in the flood-affected areas in Bombay.

Village Housing Projects Scheme

In reply to a question, Shri Anil K. Chanda, Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, said in the Lok Sabha on

December 10 that a sum of Rs. 250 lakhs was proposed to be spent under the Village Housing Projects Scheme during 1960-61.

Shri Chanda added that, it had recently been decided to modify the scheme to permit the State Governments to utilise part of their loan allocation under the scheme for acquisition of land in the selected villages in certain cases, and also for providing open developed plots for such members of the village community as were not in a position to repay loans for the construction of houses to the extent already provided for under the scheme to enable them to put up their huts with their own labour.

Progress Of Housing and Slum Clearance Schemes

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 9, Shri Anil K. Chanda, Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, laid on the Table of the House a statement on the progress of housing and slum clearance schemes.

According to the statement, the First Five Year Plan had made a provision of Rs. 38.5 crores for 'Housing', out of which a sum of Rs. 24.18 crores was drawn by State Governments and other agencies for the construction of houses under the Subsidised Industrial and Low-Income Group Housing Schemes. The second Plan allocated Rs. 84 crores, of which the State Governments are expected to provide Rs. 3.40 crores as their share. Up to the end 1958-59, Rs. 76 crores had been allocated to or drawn by the States. A sum of Rs. 19 crores has been allocated during the current year, thus leaving a balance of Rs. 29 crores for the last year of the Plan.

Land Acquisition For Greater Delhi

In reply to the Call Attention Notice in connection with the acquisition of 35,000 acres of land for the execution of the Master Plan for Greater Delhi, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of

Health, made a statement in the Lok Sabha on December 3.

The statement says that the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, under instructions of the Government of India, has issued a notification under section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, announcing the intention of Government to acquire land measuring 34,070 acres.

The proposed acquisition is intended for ensuring planned development of Delhi, which will also help prevent further speculation in land transactions. Plans are being prepared for development and utilisation of the land which is proposed to be utilised to meet the requirements of residential, commercial and industrial housing as well as the needs of the Government departments and local bodies. The land has not been acquired yet but only notified, and representations from any individuals or societies whose lands have been notified for acquisition and in respect of which layout building plans for construction have been approved by the competent authority, will be examined on merits, the statement adds.

It has come to the notice of Government that a large number of persons and/or firms, who have bought large tracts of land in Delhi at very low rates from agriculturists and others, have been reselling them in small plots at enormous profit without proper development, to the detriment of the interests of the community at large. The Town Planning experts have pointed out that the land prices in the periphery of the capital have gone up nearly five times during the past five years and the speculative values will still go up if not checked.

The problem of haphazard construction going on in and around Delhi and the necessity of finding adequate land for economic, civic and sanitary needs of the expanding population of the capital has also been considered in great detail by the Town Planning Organisation of the Ministry of Health.

The present housing shortage in Delhi has been estimated at 1.2 lakh units, and the annual additional requirements at 20,000 units. The

Town Planners have estimated that for the next 15 years i.e. till 1972 the requirement of land, in the interests of economic, civic and sanitary requirements of the expanding population of the capital, would be of the order of 34,000 acres which include about 25,000 acres for housing in the low and middle income groups, hospitals, schools, colleges and other necessary public amenities.

CONCESSION IN PUBLIC DUES GRANTED TO D.P.S

In a Press Note issued on December 2, the Ministry of Rehabilitation has declared that unpaid instalments on account of any property purchased on instalment basis are also public dues and as such are recoverable either from the compensation payable to the purchaser or a member of the family as defined in Rule 7 of the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Rules. The concession of remission of interest will, therefore, apply in their case also when recoveries are effected from the compensation due to the other members of the family under the Rule.

In February 1959, instructions were issued to all the Regional Settlement Commissioners that in

cases where the public dues, other than R.F.A. loans, of a non-claimant member of a family were adjusted against the compensation payable to another member of the family in accordance with the provision of the Rule 7, the interest on loans would be remitted as if the loanee were himself a claimant. This concession was extended to R.F.A. loans in a Press Note issued in June 1959 though in their case the liability for the payment of interest was to cease with effect from January 1, 1956.

It was lately represented that remission of interest was not being allowed in cases where adjustment was being made on account of the unpaid instalments of houses purchased on instalment basis.

LAND CLAIMS OF SINDHI D.P.S

According to a Press Note issued on December 8, it has been decided by the Union Rehabilitation Ministry that the revaluation of lands and tenures abandoned in Sindh by Sindhi displaced persons of Punjabi extraction will be done at the same rates by the Punjab Government as have been adopted by the Settlement Organisation of the Government of India in the matter of claims under the Displaced Persons Claims Act of 1950.

Guiding Principles For Works Committees

An announcement of December 1 says that, guiding principles, relating to functioning and constitution of works committees, were discussed at a meeting of the tripartite committee held on November 30.

The committee decided that the present provision of rotation in the post of chairman of a works committee between the representatives of workers and employers should be dropped for a period of three years as an experimental measure and the management's representative, who would take the chair, should normally be the top executive. The committee also drew up a list of subjects which, in its opinion, should fall within the normal jurisdiction of works committees.

The tripartite committee was set up last month in pursuance of a recommendation of the Indian Labour Conference held in July last.

Establishments employing 100 or more persons are required under the law to set up works committees consisting of representatives of employers and workers, when the appropriate Government so directs.

BONUS IN HINDUSTAN ANTIBIOTICS

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 15, the Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, stated that the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pimpri, a Union Government undertaking, had made *ad hoc* production incentive awards in cash to the tune of Rs. 2.43 lakhs to their workers and staff in respect of the working of the factory in 1957-58 and 1958-59.

Harijans Employed In Autonomous Bodies

An announcement of December 2 says that, according to a survey conducted recently, the statutory and semi-Government bodies have about 15 per cent of

their employees belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Over 20,000 members belonging to Scheduled Castes and 1,300 to Scheduled Tribes are employed in such bodies which numbered 95, commanding about 1,36,000 employees. This exceeds the 12.5 per cent quota of reservation by 2.3 per cent.

INQUIRY INTO ASANSOL EXPLOSION

An announcement dated December 2 says that the Govern-

ment of India have decided that a formal inquiry should be held into the causes of the accident, attended with loss of human life, on November 29, 1959, in Jamuria Bazar, near Asansol. Shri I.B.S.R. Surita, Commissioner, Burdwan Division, West Bengal, has been appointed to conduct the inquiry and Shri T.K. Lahiri, Deputy Chief Inspector of Explosives, to act as assessor.

The reorganised pattern, introduced in Delhi on December 1, 1958, has reduced the strength of Secretaries to three. The posts of Assistant Secretaries and assistants-in-charge have been abolished; instead there are Under Secretaries and superintendents, assistants, etc.

The administrative set-up of Himachal Pradesh has reduced the number of Secretaries from five to three and Under Secretaries from eight to five. Further adjustments are to be effected in the light of experience gained after its working for some time.

The question of reorganisation of the administrative set-up in Manipur and Tripura is under consideration.

INQUIRY INTO EXPLOSION IN HYDERABAD

Shri Anil K. Chanda, Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, made a statement in the Lok Sabha on December 14 in connection with an adjournment motion on the explosion that took place in Hyderabad on December 13.

The statement said that the explosion was reported by the District Magistrate as having taken place at about 8 a.m. in an old two-storeyed building as a result of which the building collapsed. The police were rushed to the spot immediately along with the fire brigade, and from the debris, five dead bodies were taken out. Of the five killed, two were women, two men and one child. Seventeen persons who were injured in the accident were rushed to the hospital.

The Commissioner of Police, who was holding the enquiry, had informed the Chief Inspector of Explosives that the injuries were not very serious. Parts of the building which were in a precarious condition were pulled down and the debris was being cleared.

According to the Commissioner of Police, a resident of the building was apparently trying to break open a fuse or detonator (usually used for exploding shells) in order to sell the metal (usually copper) in the bazar. It was surmised that probably the explosion took place as a result of friction while the metal portion was being broken open. The person alleged to have been tampering with the fuse was reported to have been killed in the explosion. A fuller report was awaited.

Industrial Exhibitions In Kerala

An announcement of December 10 says that the Social Welfare Advisory Board of Kerala has finalised arrangements for holding industrial exhibitions in nine districts in order to stimulate public co-operation. The programme which starts on December 11 is likely to continue up to the end of January 1960. The Planning Commission has sanctioned a total of Rs. 9000 as grant in aid for organising the exhibitions.

Articles produced in the project centres and those produced by voluntary organisations will be displayed in the exhibitions. Demonstrations in Ambar Charkha, soap-making, and such other cottage industries will also be conducted at the exhibitions.

SURGICAL WARD IN HINDU RAO HOSPITAL

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 10 Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said, it was proposed to add a 100-bed surgical ward to the Hindu Rao Hospital in Delhi at an estimated cost of Rs. 13.78 lakhs.

Labour & Employment

MINERS' EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

A Press Note issued on December 6 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment says that the Government of India have created a "Miners' Emergency Relief Fund" for the benefit of miners involved in accidents and their dependants.

The Fund has been created by converting the remaining part of the donations received by the Government from various quarters for the benefit of the dependants of the workers killed and disabled in the Chinakuri colliery in the Asansol sub-division

of Burdwan District on February 19, 1958. A sum of Rs. 52,660 was received as donations which was credited to the Miners' Relief Fund, operated by the Union Minister for Labour and Employment.

The Fund will be utilised for purposes such as: (i) a lump sum grant for initial expenditure; (ii) a monthly grant to particular dependants for fixed periods; (iii) scholarships to school-going children; (iv) assistance for vocational and similar training; (v) purchase of sewing machines, implements, etc. to set up the dependants in business.

The States

COMMON POLICE RESERVE FORCE

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 9, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant, Union Home Minister, stated that a scheme to constitute a pool of Common Police Reserve Force for the Northern Zone had been finalised.

The scheme provided for the pooling of an agreed quota from the existing reserves in the States and Union Territories of the zone to form a common force which would be available when required in an emergency anywhere in the zone. Arrangements would be made for the joint training of the reserve force for a short period every year by rotation in the different States. The I.G.Ps. of the States would be in charge of co-ordination of subjects relating to the common reserve force by turn, the Home Minister added.

Economy In Union Territories

According to an announcement of December 7, the administrative set-ups in the Union Territories are undergoing reorganisation to effect economy and a rational distribution of work among the various secretariat departments.

Defence

WELFARE OF EX-SERVICEMEN

Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, Union Minister of Defence, inaugurated the first two-day Ex-Servicemen Welfare Conference of Representatives of States and Central Ministries in New Delhi on December 15.

Questions relating to settlement of ex-servicemen on land, co-ordination between Post-War Reconstruction Fund and State Boards, appointment of welfare workers in districts and investigation of family pension claims, were the subjects discussed by the Conference.

In his inaugural address, the Defence Minister pointed out that there were in this land nearly three million ex-Servicemen to which about 25 to 30 thousands were being added every year. The Defence Ministry had taken upon itself the responsibility of solving this problem of the welfare and resettlement of ex-Servicemen, by trying to absorb them in various departments of national reconstruction programmes. He observed that there were several backward areas in this country where the ex-Servicemen could be resettled which in turn would greatly benefit not only the area but the settlers themselves.

Addressing the concluding session of the conference, Prime Minister Nehru emphasised the need to take advantage of the vast resources of human power available in the form of talent, experience and knowledge of the ex-Servicemen and utilise them in the many new industrial undertakings coming up in the country.

Apart from land, another avenue for employment of the ex-Servicemen, the Prime Minister indicated, was the starting of small-scale industries in rural areas.

FELLOWSHIP SCHEME IN DEFENCE RESEARCH

The advanced training/research fellowship scheme of the Defence Ministry was inaugurated in New Delhi on December 14 by Dr. D.S. Kothari, Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister.

Commencing from this year the Ministry is offering a maximum of 50 fellowships annually to holders of doctorate or master's degree in science and/or bachelor's degree in engineering/metallurgy. Nearly two dozen research fellows, out of the 40 who qualified from among a large number of applicants, have already joined the Defence Science Laboratory for training.

The value of the fellowship is Rs. 250 per month. There are also six senior fellowships of the value of Rs. 400 per month. The fellowships are tenable for one year in the first instance and extendable to two years. The fellows appointed will be imparted training in the different defence research laboratories and technical development establishments. On successful completion of fellowships, they will be considered for absorption in the R and D Organisation in two grades.

N.C.C. Cadets In Army

An announcement dated December 4 says that 16 Officers' Training Units are to be raised in the N.C.C. in the various States in the country to provide a higher standard of training to those NCC cadets who have agreed to choose a career in the Armed Forces. This decision of the Government follows the steadily increasing trend in the intake of the NCC-trained personnel into the Army. The percentage for allotment to NCC cadets' entry into the commissioned ranks of the Arms will be raised from 10 to 15.

The first O.T.U. has been raised in U.P. and preliminary selections are in progress. The Units will consist of Armoured Corps, Artillery, Engineers, Signals, Infantry, Medical, and Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.

ANNIVERSARIES IN DEFENCE SERVICES

NAVY DAY CELEBRATED

The Navy Day was observed on December 15. It has been decided to celebrate the Navy Day hereafter on December 15 and the week in which the day falls as the Navy Week.

FLAG DAY

The Armed Forces Flag Day was observed on December 7, when token and car flags were distributed to the public in return for donations which will be utilised for the alleviation of economic distress amongst ex-Servicemen and their families and for providing amenities to serving personnel of the Armed Forces. One crore token and 14 lakhs car flags had been prepared for the occasion.

A sum of Rs. 11,44,732 was collected on the 1957 Flag Day as compared to Rs. 10,17,709 in 1956.

N.C.C. DAY

The National Cadet Corps celebrated its eleventh anniversary throughout the country on December 6.

ASC ANNIVERSARY

The Army Service Corps celebrated its anniversary on December 8, 1959. All ASC units in the country and the two Training Centres at Meerut and Bangalore observed the day with ceremonial parades and other appropriate programmes.

The Army Service Corps, which came into being in 1760, has to its credit a notable record of expeditious delivery of supplies both to troops in operation and people affected by natural calamities, such as floods and earthquakes.

PASSING-OUT PARADE AT N.D.A.

The passing-out parade of cadets of the 17th course at the National Defence Academy was held at Khadakvasla, Poona, on December 5. Vice-Admiral R.D. Katari, Chief of the Naval Staff, addressed the cadets.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

DECEMBER 1 TO 15

- December 1 — The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, inaugurates in New Delhi a U.N. Seminar on Management of Public Industrial Enterprises in the ECAFE region
- 2 — The Rajya Sabha passes the Bill, adopted earlier by the Lok Sabha, providing for deterrent punishment for kidnapping minors and maiming them for begging
- 4 — The Government of India announce decision to set up a Stock Exchange Directorate with headquarters in Bombay
- The Government of India accept the recommendations of the Tariff Commission on the fair ex-works prices and fair selling prices of paper and paper boards
- 5 — India and Nepal sign in New Delhi an agreement on the Gandak irrigation and power project under which the total cost of the project, estimated at Rs. 50.5 crores, will be borne by India
- The sulphuric acid plant, the first major chemical plant of the Bhilai Steel Works, goes into production
- A cultural troupe from the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, consisting of 45 dancers and musicians, arrives in New Delhi
- 6 — The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, inaugurates the Panchet Hill Dam, the fourth and the biggest of the D.V.C. dams
- The Government of India establish a "Miners Emergency Relief Fund" for the benefit of miners involved in accidents and their dependants
- 7 — The sixth Inter-University Youth Festival opens in Mysore
- Shri Jagjivan Ram, Union Minister of Railways, inaugurates in New Delhi the sixth meeting of the Permanent Commission of the International Railway Congress Association
- The Rajya Sabha passes the Constitution (Eighth Amendment) Bill, 1959, adopted earlier by the Lok Sabha, which extends by ten years the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Parliament and State Assemblies
- Shri S.K. Patil, Union Minister of Food and Agriculture, inaugurates in New Delhi the third meeting of the F.A.O. Plant Protection Committee for South-East Asia and Pacific Region
- India and the U.S.A. sign an agreement in Washington which provides that American investors for a premium will be able to receive insurance for reimbursement in dollars by the U.S. Government of losses which may be incurred because of nationalisation
- 8 — A two-day debate on India-China relations begins in the Rajya Sabha
- 9 — H.E. Mr. Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the U.S.A., arrives in New Delhi on a five-day State visit to India
- 11 — The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, opens the World Agriculture Fair in New Delhi
- 14 — The second round of financial talks between India and Pakistan conclude in New Delhi
- A joint communique on H.E. Mr. Dwight D. Eisenhower's visit to India is issued in New Delhi
- Shri S.K. Patil, Union Minister of Food and Agriculture, inaugurates in New Delhi a F.A.O. meeting on dairy problems in Asia and the Far East
- 15 — Navy Day is observed throughout the country
- The Government of India announce decisions on the recommendations of the Public Services (Qualifications for Recruitment) Committee
- Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, Union Defence Minister, inaugurates in New Delhi the first two-day conference of representatives of States and Central Ministries on the Welfare of ex-Servicemen
- The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, submits to the Lok Sabha the notes and memoranda exchanged between the Governments of India and China and the statement of Shri Karam Singh on the treatment meted out to the Indian police party captured in Ladakh by Chinese troops

A CORRECTION

A part of the Prime Minister's speech delivered in the Lok Sabha on November 27, 1959 on India-China relations, which appeared on page 772 of Vol. II No. 22 (issue dated December 15, 1959) of "Indian Information" got unfortunately badly jumbled up during printing. The following is the reprint of that page with necessary corrections:—

America and the Soviet Union. They both worship technology and the machine. They both think that they will get more and more out of it, and perhaps they both forget that there are some other deeper aspects of human life which cannot be ultimately ignored. So this talk about International Capitalism and International Communism, repeating an old slogan, merely prevents us from thinking straight and understanding the changing world.

"An Hon. Member expressed surprise and resentment at the letter I had written to Premier Chou En-lai which was sent on the 16th November, just the day this House reassembled. Could I not have delayed that letter for two days and get the sanction of the House? I am surprised at this suggestion, as if diplomatic correspondence of any type, even of a trivial type and much more so of an important type, is going to be considered by Parliament before every letter is sent. It is impossible for us to carry on in that way. It cannot simply be done I am sorry to say so. You have to trust to some extent these people whom you appoint to do this job. If they do badly, take them out, of course. But you have to trust them. There is no other way. You cannot have these letters, communications and despatches all the time put before the House.

"That was the reason also why a number of these things were not placed before the House previously. I am accused of keeping things from the House. I did not deliberately do so. But I do not wish that before a thing was completed — the correspondence — I should put my letter and create perhaps a furore before I get a reply. One thing in which this argument or criticism may be applied was about the news regarding the Aksai Chin Road. Now, as I said, we wanted to confirm it. We sent our men there. It was only in October last year — about a year ago — that we had known that it was there and they had seen it. It was in our territory. Immediately, we wrote to Premier Chou En-lai. We could of course have immediately announc-

ed the fact. But the possible result in such cases is that there is no room for talk left. Each side becomes rigid — I do not say they are flexible now. That is not my point, but I am talking of the general practice. Each side becomes rigid; publicity is given, national feeling is roused and the other country reacts to it. Then any talk, any flexible approach, becomes impossible. I may have made a mistake, but I am merely explaining how one cannot all the time announce or publish these facts in Parliaments, the Press and the rest. But the broad principle, of course, is there that it is essential for Parliament to be kept in touch with events and there should be no secrecy; there might be delays etc. in order to achieve a certain object.

AGGRESSION ON BHUTAN OR NEPAL

"May I just say this to repeat what we have said previously that any aggression on Bhutan or Nepal would be considered by us as aggression of India. I know very well what all this involves — what I am saying. It is a very grave responsibility. But realising all this and thinking it out, we said so long ago and now I want to repeat it because not only of wider considerations but also because of considerations of India's security. If you ask, what will be done if this happens or that happens — obviously I cannot say."

ILL-TREATMENT OF INDIAN PRISONERS BY CHINESE

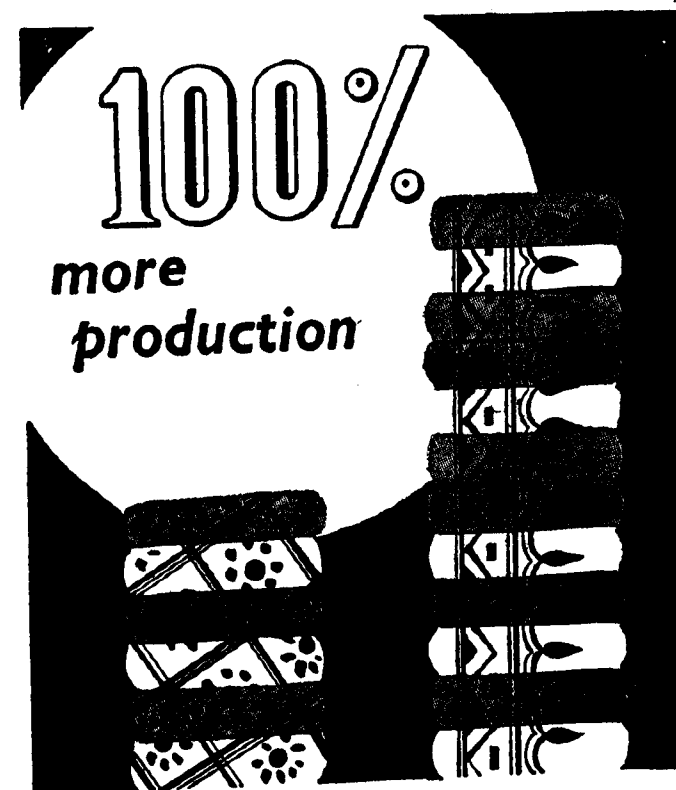
Dealing with the ill-treatment of some of the Indian prisoners by the Chinese, Shri Nehru referred to the question put by an Hon. Member whether China had signed the Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, relating to the treatment of prisoners of war, and said:

"The Convention applies to all cases of declared war or of any other armed conflict which may arise between two or more of the High Contracting Parties even if the State of war is not recognised by one of them. The Convention was also applicable to cases of

partial or total occupation of the territory of a High Contracting Party even if the said occupation meets with no armed resistance. No physical or mental torture nor any other form of coercion is to be inflicted on prisoners of war to secure from them information of any kind whatever. It applies to this. Prisoners of war who refuse to answer may not be threatened, insulted or exposed to any other unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment of any kind. Apart from the present Chinese Government accepting it, Premier Chou En-lai actually made a statement to this effect — I am not quite sure where but I think — in Geneva, recognising the Geneva Convention.

"I would again repeat that it is up to us to realise the gravity of the situation fully, because it is not only an army matter, defence matter, and all that, but it goes much further than that. It affects all of us; it affects our production; it affects all our planning; it affects the workers in the factory and the employers; it affects men in every field. All these and other demands that are made will have to be conditioned by this new position. Strikes, hartals, lock-outs and all that will have to be viewed from this point of view. Students, who, I am glad to say, have shown so much vitality over this issue will have to realise that that has to be shown in other ways also which would really help us. So, it applies to all our life.

"So far as we are concerned, I cannot function and my Government cannot function in a big way — it can function normally — when these difficulties face us if we do not have the fullest co-operation from Parliament and the people. I appeal, therefore, for that co-operation, and I promise them that we shall keep them in touch with what happens to the best of our ability. I cannot promise that every letter I send shall suddenly or certainly be placed before them, but it is impossible for us really to function with any kind of secrecy when such grave issues are at stake."



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DA 50/383

Indian Information

January 1, 1960.

Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, Defence Minister, pinning the wings on the tunic of one of the six Auxiliary Officers of the No. 51 (Delhi) Squadron of the Auxiliary Air Force at the passing-out parade in New Delhi on December 5



Members of the Pakistan financial delegation on arrival at Safdarjung airport in New Delhi on December 7



Members of the Song and Drama Ensemble from the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam with Shri Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, in New Delhi on December 6





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CRAFTSMEN AT WORK

The Indian craftsman has held, for ages, an enviable position in executing works of high aesthetic quality in wood, metal, stone and cloth. The picture shows a craftsman engraving a floral decorative design on copper ware

In South India, image-making is an ancient traditional art particularly among some families in Tanjore, Madurai and Tirunelveli. The picture shows Tanjore image-makers chiselling metal images



Indian Information



Vol. 2

January 15, 1960 (Pausa 25, 1881)

No. 24





The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, handing over a Printing Award at a ceremony held in New Delhi on December 21 for distribution of State Awards for Excellence in Printing and Designing of Books and Publications for 1959



The Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, laying the foundation stone of Gandhi Bhawan at the University of Delhi on December 17



Mr. Firmio Kojima, Leader of the Japanese Goodwill and Cultural Delegation, now on a visit to India, with Dr. B. V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, in New Delhi on December 28

Indian Information

VOL. 2

January 15, 1960
Pauze 25, 1981

NO. 24

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

Annual Subscription : Rs 8.00 20 sh \$ 3.00

MAIN CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI'S LETTER DATED DECEMBER 17, 1959 ..	869
PRIME MINISTER NEHRU'S REPLY DATED DECEMBER 21, 1959 ..	872
TREATMENT OF INDIAN POLICE PARTY BY CHINESE TROOPS ..	872
DURGAPUR STEEL WORKS INAUGURATED ..	886
FINISHED STEEL FROM BHILAI PLANT ..	887
ALL-INDIA AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS CONFERENCE ..	892
MEETING OF CENTRAL BOARD OF FISHERIES ..	897
NINTH MEETING OF CENTRAL FLOOD CONTROL BOARD ..	897

MEETING OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ..	898
WORLD CONFERENCE OF NEW EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP ..	899
NATIONAL FILARIA CONTROL PROGRAMME ..	903
WORK OF COAL MINES LABOUR WELFARE ORGANISATION ..	905

COVER : His Royal Highness, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Prime Minister of Cambodia and Mrs. Norodom Sihanouk, with Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, on their arrival in New Delhi on December 27

(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 forms. Such items should not be treated as complete and authoritative versions.)

Political & General

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT IN LOK SABHA ON INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS

Replying to a discussion on India-China relations, Shri Nehru made a statement in the Lok Sabha on December 22. Referring to the letter dated November 16 (full text of which was published in the Vol. 2 No. 22 of Indian Information) that he had sent to Premier Chou En-lai and the subsequent debate in the House on that letter, the Prime Minister said, inter alia:

"Since then we have had a reply

from Premier Chou En-lai, and I have sent a brief reply to him, to his letter.* In effect, the new points for consideration are Premier Chou En-lai's letter and my reply. On the whole, however, the debate has proceeded more or less on the same lines as previously, though referen-

*The texts of Premier Chou En-lai's letter of December 17 and Prime Minister Nehru's reply dated December 21, 1959 thereto have been published elsewhere in this issue.

ces have, no doubt, been made to Premier Chou En-lai's letter.

"Now, let us be clear about certain basic factors, so that they need not be thought to be in doubt. We are committed, from every point of view, to defend our country, to preserve its integrity, to preserve its honour and self-respect. That is not a matter for argument, I thought. Opinions may differ as to how to do it. That is a different matter. But the basic thing is clear, and in doing that, in the ultimate analysis, almost

any price has to be paid. One cannot proceed on the basis of barter, haggling and the tactics of the market-place, where a nation's honour and self-respect are concerned. That is clear. But when you come to the next step about what one should do, much has been argued about negotiation or war or something in between. I said the other day that if you really stop negotiations, the alternative is something which is either war or leading up to war, or, of course, it may be just sitting tight and doing nothing, which seems to me a very feeble way of meeting the situation."

Shri Nehru referred to what an hon. Member considered many intermediate or middle stages, such as South Africa or Portugal, and said:

"Well, I would hardly have thought those instances helped this argument. In spite of all that has happened in South Africa, every year, we have put forward the proposal to negotiate with them in the United Nations, and it has been passed there by a considerable majority. It is South Africa that has refused to negotiate, the word may not be right, anyhow, to talk about these matters, which have created so much trouble there.

"In regard to Portugal, we have always been willing to talk to Portugal: naturally, the talk has to be about the basic matters, not about some superficial matters. So, these examples are not very helpful."

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

Referring to the suggestions to impose economic sanctions and to take the punitive police action, as made by some hon. Members, the Prime Minister observed:

"I do not see how economic sanctions have the slightest effect on anybody in the present situation. We have very very little trade with China. We had some trade with Tibet which has dwindled chiefly because of Chinese activities on the other side. We may consider further as to whether we should continue it or stop it or take another step in the economic sphere. That is a matter for consideration. One may do that, but it has no real effect on the situation. It is obvious.

PUNITIVE POLICE ACTION

As for the idea of a police action, I am rather surprised that the hon.

Member who, he himself has reminded us, has been a gallant soldier, should put forward this idea of a police action. What exactly it means in this context is not clear to me. You can have a police action against some very very weak adversary where the police — the whole meaning is that the police can function there and get results — can get results. Whether the police is represented by some little army or not, essentially it is a police action against a larger force of police, if you like to call it, or whatever it is. It is a misnomer. Let us not confuse ourselves."

LOCAL WAR

Regarding the observation made by a few hon. Members that in case war broke out, it would be a "local war", the Prime Minister said:

"Yes, it may be, of course. But anyone studying the question in the context of wars today — possibility of wars — knows very well that local wars do not take place, are not likely to take place, between two great countries without developing into big wars and the big wars without developing possibly — not certainly — into a world war. I am merely trying to clarify these matters so that we may indulge in clear thinking. Merely in our resentment saying, as an hon. Member said that we must do this here, we must take Tibet or Tibet must be this — all that may be a pleasant thought, but it has no relation to reality.

"Here are two countries, both strong in their respective ways, both huge, both — I say — incapable of being defeated by the other. It is quite absurd to imagine for anyone in China or elsewhere that China, however powerful she may be, is going to ultimately defeat India in case of war. I do not accept that, and I think China knows that too. It is equally absurd to imagine that India is going to defeat China in a great war....

"First of all, for some things a country pays — it does not count the cost. If its honour, self-respect and freedom are involved, no cost is too great. It is better to perish in the attempt than to submit or surrender. That is the basis of our thinking, and I hope, of this House and our people.

"Having said that, it does not mean that we should give up think-

ing in regard to the steps that we take in order to justify whatever our position may be. If we have to think of problems of war we have very much to think of what the views of experts may be....

"Normally, when one talks about war or even police action one does so after logically thinking as to what those steps should be one after the other. What is more important and what every General has to think is this. A General has to forget himself for a while and think that he is the enemy's General and what he will do. Then he should devise his policy. That is the way to think. One cannot imagine any General who has any experience at all imagining that he has a clear field and the other fellow is a fool and he will run away before him. That does not happen in war or in any circumstances like this. Everyone thinks about these matters in the strictest practical way. In addition to that he may think in an idealistic way. I hope we think in both ways, idealistic and practical. But if you give up one of them it will be unfortunate. But if you give up both idealism and practicality then where are we? There is no anchorage to hold on to.

"As I said, apart from strong expression of opinion, etc., broadly speaking, I believe that there is a very large unanimity of opinion in this House on this issue. It may be expressed differently with greater emphasis or less emphasis. There is a large unanimity of opinion about this matter, even though some people may differ here and there about the steps to be taken, the timing of it."

LADAKH AND NEFA

Referring to the apprehension expressed by an hon. Member that time might run against India and the Chinese authorities might consolidate their position in those areas and "colonise them", Shri Nehru said that it was "not a particularly easy matter to colonise" or, as another hon. Member had observed, "to industrialise those territories." To the information given by an hon. Member that the Chinese had "three-ton trucks in the Kongka Pass," the Prime Minister said:

"That is not colonising. I do not know what modern science may not do in future. I cannot say. I am

merely referring to the present, that for the last 2000 or 3000 years nobody has succeeded in that in Ladakh. I am talking about Ladakh for the moment because there are different areas. At the present moment, in all this wide area, I think, possibly one or two tiny villages or a few huts are there. Otherwise, there is no inhabitant.

"In summer some shepherds come to graze their sheep and they walk away in winter. We are now — I need not remind hon. Members — in winter. It is exceedingly difficult except for some daring explorers or that type of persons to function with ease in those territories. Nobody lives there. I do not deny the possibility of, with great effort creating conditions for people to live there. They live there not by producing anything there because the territory is not that way — for thousands of years it has been like that. If it is going to be changed by scientific effort, that will take a very considerable time. It does not change suddenly like this....

"Take the NEFA area. I think that we have done a rather good piece of work in the NEFA area, an area in which the British failed to do anything at all for decades and decades. They just failed completely. We have done a good piece of work not only in spreading our administration there but in communications, in schools, hospitals, agriculture, etc. among the people who are very difficult to handle. That was done and that no doubt will continue....

"Now, I repeat that whether we talk about negotiation or whatever else we may talk about, it is clear, and I thought there would be no doubt in any hon. Member's mind, that any kind of further step that the Chinese may take will obviously be resisted wherever it may be — that is obvious — to the best of our ability....

"As a matter of fact, that has been our policy — whether it was fully and properly implemented or not is a different matter. That policy has not changed. And, as a matter of fact, in NEFA, of course, apart from that very tiny enclave of about three or four miles, Longju, it is because of our strength there and our determination to resist that we have prevented their entry into

NEFA except, as I said, in Longju. In all these areas, whether it is the border, Uttar Pradesh or Himachal Pradesh or Punjab, we have prevented their entry and we will prevent it.

PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT

"Now the real question is that difficulties have arisen in regard to this fairly large area in eastern Ladakh which, as I said, apart from the Aksai Chin area, which they have entered mostly during the last summer. It may be said, rightly, that we should have been in a position to prevent that. It is a difficult task, but it may be that if we had directed all our attention to it previously it might have been done. I do not wish to argue that point. Anyhow, here is this present position and this present position can be resolved basically in two ways: one is by an attempt at negotiation yielding some kind of fruitful results, a peaceful settlement, and the other is by compulsion and coercion which may be less than war or war itself. Any attempt at compulsion or coercion is really — in these circumstances economic sanctions do not count — if not war call it police action if you like, that is, the use of armed people. Now, when hon. Members refer to this, no doubt they have to bear in mind that there are armed people on the other side too. It is not a one-way traffic. Therefore, if one has to take that, principles apart, one has to do so in favourable circumstances when one thinks that it is likely to yield substantial results. One does not do this merely in a huff or because one is angry. That may lead to something the opposite of what one desires.

"Therefore, while one tries to settle it always by negotiation one, at the same time, strengthens oneself to deal with any situation that might arise or has arisen. These are normal platitudes — the House will forgive me for repeating them, but I want a little clear thinking on this issue. We follow both these policies. We tried to negotiate because that is not only right but inevitable and I would submit that no country in the wide world would not negotiate, does not matter how much they are opposed to each other. If they are dead opposed to each other, even then they talk. We have had in recent months or may be in the last year

very serious incidents between powerful countries like the Soviet Union and the United States of America — shooting down bombers, aircraft, etc. Well, they have talked about it. They have not declared war. They have talked about it; settled it and sometimes not settled it; it is still there unsettled. Sometimes they have given compensation, or whatever it is. But countries, whatever the situation may be, always negotiate. It is an inevitable thing in international affairs. Otherwise, there will be a complete law of the jungle. You may say that one party is functioning as if it was the law of the jungle. It may be. It is deplorable and one should naturally do what one can to stop that. But one negotiates even then. Negotiation always carries weight if there is strength behind it. A weak country or a weak person cannot negotiate at all. Therefore, strength is an essential factor. The building up of strength, the addition to your strength, is obvious. It has to be done.

"Then, hon. Members might ask, 'What will you do if your negotiation does not yield results?' I cannot, and it would not be right for me now, to lay down what one does; but, as I said, in any event, we have to build up strength to meet such contingencies at a suitable moment. For us to say, as some hon. Members hinted at, that 'Do not talk to them; do not negotiate' is a thing which, I would venture to say, will not be understood by any country in the wide world.

"An hon. Member seems to think that this is the fault of our publicity. Countries gather information, and their foreign offices, even if we are at fault, do keep themselves informed about these matters. They are interested in a matter of this kind. It has excited world-wide interest naturally because of the possibilities in it; because of the potentialities of big scale trouble in it. Every country has watched it, studied it; we have helped them to study it and all that. If those countries do not immediately accept, let us say, it is not necessarily true that we are at fault....

TRADITIONAL BORDER

"There is so much said about the McMahon line and we have strongly stressed our case. I have not a sha-

dow of doubt in my mind that not only the McMahon line is right from our point of view, but I would go further and say that before the McMahon line was made, the McMahon line itself was the laying down of something that existed before it; that is justification of the traditional border there. It is not the McMahon line that created the border. It is only after a conflict it was laid down. That is so. Take Ladakh. The history of Ladakh, the present history of Ladakh goes back to 1842 when after war between the ruler of Ladakh, Maharajah Gulab Singh, and the ruler of Tibet, both being feudatories of others — the ruler of Tibet being the feudatory of the Emperor of China and the ruler of Ladakh being the feudatory of the ruler of Punjab at that time — the war between them ended ultimately in the victory of Gulab Singh's forces, and that resulted in a treaty, acknowledging that Ladakh was part of Kashmir State territory. Later this area, this boundary, was not demarcated on the ground, but laid down in maps by some English surveyors.

"Now I can understand some dispute being raised about some country here and there. Of course, it is not marked, and its territory is not inhabited. There is no administration, no payment of tax, no proofs — the only proof is travellers' accounts — the normal thing that has been understood by people who pass that way, and maps; these are the two or three ways of proving these things. So that, the question may arise about minor points here and there, but the major point is the basic boundary of Ladakh which was laid down 112 years ago, not today. It is not marked there; it is marked in maps.

"Now, some maps differ. There is no doubt about it. Maps differ, travellers' accounts differ and travellers' books differ, and all these matters can be argued about. One cannot say that we will not talk about these matters. But the basic thing is not about these border troubles, but this rather massive infiltration into Ladakh which has chiefly taken place, to the best of my knowledge, during the last summer, apart from the Aksai Chin area.

"The argument — if it is raised — that 'we are here and we have taken possession of this territory; there-

fore, it is ours' of course, is an utterly wrong argument. The sovereignty of a country does not change because somebody comes and sits in a corner of it. It is obvious it cannot. No country has an army spread out all along its borders to protect it from people coming in. Anybody can come in, but the sovereignty of that country remains over that territory, even though some people may sit on a little part of it.

"Therefore, if I may say so the basic point today is not, I submit, that we should not negotiate; let us consider that, because one has always to negotiate, and to say that negotiations will not bear fruit, if I may say so, has no relevance in this matter. Even if it did not bear fruit, even then you will have to negotiate, because that is a way of procedure. The moment you refuse to do so, you are wrong before the world, and the world will think you are afraid of negotiation; you are afraid of that. They will not accept your word for it — you are afraid of talking to the other parties; that is the impression created. But the negotiation has some value only if it is backed by strength....

"In the final analysis, it comes to this that we must build up our strength and, as I have said previously — I think on the last occasion — this is not a matter which we can dispose of by a discussion. It may take a few months or a year or more.

"Whatever the issue of this is, the issue of this matter may come or may not come in a few months or so, I do not know, but what I am saying is that the situation that has arisen on our borders is of such historical significance from a long-term point of view. India and China, these two great countries, for the first time face each other on a long border which is a live border, and even if we are friends, even then, we have a live and dangerous border, if we are not friends, then it is worse. Therefore, this tremendous historical development is taking place in Asia affecting not only India and China, but all the countries of Asia, necessitating, quite apart from other developments, the building up of our strength. Then we can consider using it whenever it is necessary.

"Building up of our strength means certainly defence forces and

the defence apparatus, but remember that defence means today industrial strength; it is industry that gives real strength. So, while we keep our Army etc., as strong as we can make it and as well-equipped as possible, the real basis, the real strength, will come from rapid industrialisation.

"We come back really not only to industrialisation; it means better agriculture, better industry, in order to meet these crises, because it is only then that countries become strong. That is how other countries are strong today. The so-called Great Powers or the middling Powers are strong because they have become a modernised State, because they take advantage of the modern methods which increase their production, give them strength, all kind of things. Therefore, the basic thing is that we become a modern State, not remain in a backward condition economically and socially.

"These are the basic things that we have to face, and this is a challenge to the country, not a challenge in the present of course which we have to meet, but much more so a challenge for the future, because ultimately unless proper balances are created in Asia, all our wishes may not lead us to what we want to have.

"Therefore, I would beg this House to look at this matter from this wider point of view as well as from the immediate danger point of view, and to consider it not a party matter, but a national issue of far-reaching consequences."

STATEMENT IN RAJYA SABHA

In reply to a discussion on Sino-Indian relations in the Rajya Sabha on December 22, Prime Minister Nehru said that although the Chinese Premier's letter was a re-affirmation of Chinese claims, he welcomed the strong desire expressed in it to meet and discuss the border question. Whatever the reasons for such a meeting, he welcomed it. He, however, could not understand how Mr. Chou En-lai expected the meeting to take place in a third country in four or five days' time.

Shri Nehru said two revolutions of utterly different types,

the Chinese revolution and the Indian revolution, had come into conflict; that was a major fact of history. That was a problem which could not be dealt with merely by anger or petulance. But what could be done was to prepare for it, backed by strength and the people's will.

Replying to an hon. Member who had asked how long India would have to wait until the question was settled peacefully, Shri Nehru said this would be necessary so long as circumstances required it. They were going to be tested in every way and the testing would continue for years to come. A situation like the present one could not be dealt with by delivering an

ultimatum to China or China giving an ultimatum to India.

He also referred to the keen desire on the part of the United States and the Soviet Union to find a way of peace for nations and the proposed summit meeting. He said by far the most hopeful sign that the world had seen in the last ten years was this meeting of people who had been rivals and who were now trying to come together to find a way out. That way out would apply to the whole world, directly or indirectly.

The Prime Minister thanked the members for their expression of confidence in Government's policy.

PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI'S LETTER DATED DECEMBER 17, 1959

The following is the text of Mr. Chou En-lai's letter of December 17 to Mr. Nehru as released by the Chinese Embassy in Delhi:

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of November 16, 1959. Although the Indian Government's opinions regarding the prevention of border clashes are still a certain distance away from the Chinese Government's proposal of November 7 and part of them obviously lack fairness, it is heartening that in your letter you have indicated the desire of trying to avoid all border clashes and to settle the boundary disputes between the two countries by peaceful methods.

The Chinese Government's proposal of November 7 for the withdrawal of the armed forces of the two countries 20 kilometers respectively along the entire border is aimed at thoroughly eliminating the risk of border clashes not wholly foreseeable, completely changing the present tense situation on the border where the two countries are facing each other in arms, and creating a favourable atmosphere of mutual confidence between the two countries. These aims are unattainable by other provisional measures. Furthermore, the adoption of this

measure pending the delimitation of the boundary will in no way prejudice the advancing by each side of its claims when negotiations for the settlement of the boundary question take place. Therefore, the Chinese Government still earnestly hopes that we can reach agreement on such a measure for the sake of friendship between our two countries in the past and for hundreds of years to come. As to how far the armed forces of each country should withdraw, the Chinese Government is entirely willing to decide on a distance which will be deemed appropriate by both sides through consultation with the Indian Government.

Pending the above-mentioned agreement, the Chinese Government, in a conciliatory spirit and out of the desire to move toward the withdrawal of armed forces along the entire border, is prepared to agree first to reach a partial solution by applying the proposal you have made in your letter for the non-stationing of the armed forces of both sides at Longju to the other disputed places on the border as well.

In the eastern sector of the Sino-Indian border, armed Indian personnel once occupied Longju and are now still in occupation of Khinze-

mane. In the western sector of the Sino-Indian border, armed Indian personnel are up to now in occupation of Shipki Pass, Parigas, Sang, Tsungsha, Pulingsumdo, Chuva, Chuje, Sangcha and Laphthal.

Most of these places (which definitely belong to China), were occupied successively by armed Indian personnel after the signing of the 1954 Agreement on Trade and Inter-course between the Tibet region of China and India in which China and India for the first time put forward the Five Principles of peaceful co-existence. Among them Pulingsumdo is one of the ten places which the Chinese Government agreed to open as markets for trade in the Ari area of the Tibet region of China as specified in Article 2 Section 2 of the 1954 Agreement. Now since the Indian Government holds a different opinion on the ownership of these places, the Chinese Government proposes that no armed personnel of either side be stationed at any of them.

Pending a further agreement between the two sides, the Chinese Government also welcomes the Indian Government's proposal for the frontier outposts of the two sides to stop sending out patrols. The Chinese Government has, in fact, instructed the Chinese frontier guards to stop sending out patrols from all their outposts on the Sino-Indian border after the Kongka Pass incident. Now that the Indian side has also taken the same step, this is of course a happy progress in safeguarding the tranquillity of the border between the two countries. But the Chinese Government would like to ask for clarification on one point, that is: The proposal to stop patrolling should apply to the entire Sino-Indian border, and no different measure should be adopted in the sector of the border between China and India's Ladakh.

The Chinese Government is very much perplexed by the fact that Your Excellency put forward a separate proposal for the prevention of clashes in the sector of the border between China and India's Ladakh. The Chinese Government deems it necessary to point out the following:

(1) There is no reason to treat this sector of the border as a special case. The line up to which each side exercises actual control in this

sector is very clear, just as it is in the other sectors of the Sino-Indian border. As a matter of fact, the Chinese map published in 1956, to which Your Excellency referred, correctly shows the traditional boundary between the two countries in this sector. Except for the Parigang area by the Shangatsangpu River India has not occupied any Chinese territory east of this section of the traditional boundary.

(2) This proposal of Your Excellency's represents a big step backward from the principle agreed upon earlier by the two countries of maintaining for the time being the state actually existing on the border. To demand a great change in this state as a pre-condition for the elimination of border clashes is not to diminish but to widen the dispute.

(3) Your Excellency's proposal is unfair. Your Excellency proposes that in this sector Chinese personnel withdraw to the east of the boundary as shown on Indian maps and Indian personnel withdraw to the west of the boundary as shown on Chinese maps. This proposal may appear "equitable" to those who are ignorant about the truth. But even the most anti-Chinese part of the Indian Press pointed out immediately that, under this proposal, India's "concession" would only be theoretical, because, to begin with, the area concerned does not belong to India and India has no personnel there to withdraw, while China would have to withdraw from a territory of above 33,000 square kilometers, which has long belonged to it, its military personnel guarding the frontiers and its civil administrative personnel of the Hotien County, the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region, and of Rudok Dzong in the Ari area of the Tibet Autonomous Region respectively.

(4) This area has long been under Chinese jurisdiction and is of great importance to China. Since the Ching Dynasty, this area has been the traffic artery linking up the vast regions of Sinkiang and western Tibet. As far back as in the latter half of 1950, it was along the traditional route in this area that units of the Chinese People's Liberation Army entered the Ari area of Tibet from Sinkiang to guard the frontiers. In the nine years since then, they have been making regular and busy

use of this route to bring supplies. On the basis of this route, the motor-road over 1,200 kilometers long from Yehcheng in south-western Sinkiang to Gartok in south-western Tibet was built by Chinese frontier guard units together with more than 3,000 civilian builders working under extremely difficult natural conditions from March 1956 to October 1957, cutting across high mountains, throwing bridges and building culverts. For up to eight or nine years since the peaceful liberation of Sinkiang and Tibet when units of the Chinese People's Liberation Army began to be stationed in and patrol this area till September 1958 when the intrusion of the area by armed Indian personnel occurred, so many activities were carried out by the Chinese side in this area under its jurisdiction, and yet the Indian side was utterly unaware of them. This is eloquent proof that this area has indeed always been under Chinese jurisdiction and not under Indian jurisdiction. Now the Indian Government asserts that this area has all along been under Indian jurisdiction. This is absolutely unconvincing.

If the Indian Government, after being acquainted with the above viewpoints of the Chinese Government, should still insist that its demand in regard to this area is proper, then the Chinese Government would like to know whether the Indian Government is prepared to apply the same principle equally to the eastern sector of the border, that is to say, to require both the Chinese and Indian sides to withdraw all their personnel from the area between the so-called McMahon Line and the eastern section of the Sino-Indian boundary as shown on Chinese maps (and on Indian maps, too during a long period of time). The Chinese Government has not up to now made any demand in regard to the area south of the so-called McMahon Line as a pre-condition or interim measure, and what I find difficult to understand is why the Indian Government should demand that the Chinese side withdraw one-sidedly from its western frontier area.

Your Excellency and the Indian Government have repeatedly referred to the historical data concerning the Sino-Indian boundary as pro-

duced by the Indian side. The Chinese side had meant to give its detailed reply to Your Excellency's letter of September 28 and the Note of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs of November 4 in the forthcoming talks between the Prime Ministers of the two countries, and thought it more appropriate to do so. Since the talks between the two Prime Ministers have not yet taken place, however, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs will give a reply in the near future.

I do not wish to go here into the details of the matter. I would only point out again the simple fact that, according to objective history, the entire boundary between our two countries has indeed never been delimited, and it is impossible to deny this. I have noticed that the Indian side has, in its account of the boundary between the two countries, purposely left out many obvious basic facts. For example, it does not mention the fact that on the official maps compiled by the Survey of India in the past, up to the 1938 edition, the delineation of the eastern section of the Sino-Indian boundary still corresponded to that on Chinese maps, while the western section of the Sino-Indian boundary was not drawn at all; even in its 1950, 1951 and 1952 editions published after the founding of the People's Republic of China, both the eastern and western sections of the Sino-Indian boundary, though incorrectly drawn, were clearly indicated as undelimited. The Chinese Government cannot see on what ground the Indian Government began suddenly in recent years to change the undelimited boundary in both the eastern and western sectors on its maps into delimited boundary. I have made a detailed study of the heap of data cited in Your Excellency's letter of September 28, still I cannot find any satisfactory answer.

The Chinese Government has pointed out many times that the boundary between China and India is very long and has never been delimited by the two Governments, that there are discrepancies between the maps of the two countries, and that therefore it is natural that the two countries should hold different opinions regarding the boundary. A reasonable settlement of this outstanding historical issue should not

be difficult at all to achieve provided it is sought through friendly consultations.

The People's Republic of China is a socialist country of the working people, where the exploiting classes and pro-imperialist forces who attempted to profit by outward expansion and provocations against other countries have long lost for good their footing for carrying out their activities. The People's Republic of China is consistently faithful to the Five Principles of peaceful coexistence; it absolutely does not allow itself to take an attitude of big-nation chauvinism towards other countries, let alone encroach one inch upon foreign territory. Further, China has such a vast expanse of territory, more than half of which, moreover, is sparsely populated and will take great efforts to develop. It would be extremely ludicrous to think that such a country would still want to seek trouble in some desolate areas of a neighbouring country.

Therefore, although there are some undelimited sections in the boundaries between China and some of its neighbouring countries in South Asia (whether they are big or small, friendly or unfriendly towards China), China has not taken and will never take advantage of this situation to make any change in the state actually existing on the border by resorting to unilateral action. China is moreover prepared, even after the settlement of the outstanding boundary issues, to work in unison and co-operation with all its neighbouring countries for the creation of a most peaceful, secure and friendly boundary.

Your Excellency is aware that the so-called McMahon Line in the eastern sector of the Sino-Indian border has never been recognized by past Chinese Governments, nor by the Government of the People's Republic of China, yet the Government of the People's Republic of China has strictly abided by its statement of absolutely not allowing its armed personnel to cross this line in waiting for a friendly settlement of the boundary question. It is quite obvious that China, which has not even stepped into the vast area south of the so-called McMahon Line which, not long ago, was still under the jurisdiction of the local government of the Tibet region of China (part

of the area up to 1951), would of course not think of stepping onto Indian territory at any place along the western sector of the Sino-Indian border. The Chinese military and civil administrative personnel over there, just as in other areas along the border, are only stationed on and guarding their own territory.

However, the Indian Government has not only taken an unreasonable attitude of refusing to discuss the eastern sector of the border, but also laid territorial claim to an area in the western sector of the border which has never been under Indian rule. This has indeed greatly surprised the Chinese Government and people. In the interest of upholding Sino-Indian friendship, the Chinese Government has always exercised the utmost self-restraint in the hope of settling these disputes with the Indian Government through friendly negotiation. Even after armed Indian personnel intruded into Chinese territory and provoked successively the incidents in the areas south of Migyitun and south of the Kongka Pass, the Chinese Government still maintained a conciliatory spirit, avoided aggravation of the situation and dealt in a friendly manner with the armed Indian personnel captured in the Kongka Pass incident. Yet the Indian side, disregarding the objective facts, arbitrarily asserted that both incidents were provoked by China, that China maltreated the captured Indian personnel, and even unscrupulously abused China as aggressor, imperialist etc. I must say that both our people and Government feel extreme regret at such a serious state of affairs.

Your Excellency expressed welcome to my November 7 proposal for the holding of talks between the Prime Ministers of the two countries. Here indeed lies the hope for a turn for the better in the relations between the two countries. Although there are differences of opinion between our two countries on the boundary question, I believe that this in no way hinders the holding of talks between the two Prime Ministers; on the contrary, it precisely requires its early realization so as to reach first some agreements of principles as a guidance to concrete discussions and settlement of the boundary question by the two sides. Without such a guidance,

there is a danger that concrete discussions of the boundary question by the two sides may bog down in endless and fruitless debates.

I therefore make the concrete proposal that the two Prime Ministers begin talks on December 26. If you wish to suggest any other date, I am also willing to give it consideration. As to the site of the talks, if you agree, any place in China can be chosen, because there are in China no activities hostile to Sino-Indian friendship and you will be welcomed and respected by our people as a distinguished guest of the Chinese Government. Should you find it inconvenient for you to hold talks in China, Rangoon can be fixed as the site of the talks, subject to the consent of the Burmese Government.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister: Both our countries are still very backward economically and culturally. We urgently need to engross ourselves in long-term, peaceful construction at home so as to free ourselves step by step from the present state of backwardness. We have no need to create tension between our two friendly nations or between us and any other country, thus dissipating and diverting our peoples' attention from domestic matters.

The peoples of our two countries and the overwhelming majority of the people of the world are inspired by the fact that the world situation is developing in a direction favourable to peace. But unfortunately there are still not a few influential groups in the world who obstinately oppose this trend; they are trying to poison the international atmosphere, continuing the cold war and creating tension to place barriers in the way of East-West talks; they are slandering the peace policy of the socialist countries and inciting discord between the Asian-African countries, so that they may profit thereby. At present they are obviously exerting their utmost to sow discord between China and India. Under these circumstances, the speedy holding of talks between the two Prime Ministers is our unshirkable responsibility not only to our two peoples but also to world peace.

With high respects,

CHOU EN-LAI, Premier of the People's Republic of China.

PRIME MINISTER NEHRU'S REPLY DATED DECEMBER 21, 1959

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of December 17 the text of which our Ambassador in Peking has telegraphed to us. I deeply regret that you have not accepted the very reasonable proposals contained in my letter of 16th November. They were intended to secure an immediate lessening of tension along the Sino-Indian border by eliminating any risk of border clashes and to create the necessary atmosphere for a peaceful settlement of the border problem.

Your present letter once again reiterate claims to extensive areas which by history, by custom or by agreement have long been integral parts of India. I am particularly sorry to find that you have based your claim on recent intrusion by Chinese personnel into parts of Indian territory. It is these intrusions which have brought about the present situation and created apprehensions. You have not sent any reply to my letter of September 26 to you and our note of November 4 in which some salient facts bearing on the situation had been mentioned.

I only wish to say that I cannot accept your allegation that Indian forces have occupied any part of Chinese territory, or committed aggression at Kongka Pass or at Longju where our established check-post was attacked by Chinese troops.

Your letter also speaks of the 'friendly manner' in which Indian personnel who were captured in the Chang Chenmo valley were treated. Shri Karam Singh whom you returned to us has made his statement of the treatment that he and his colleagues received while they were prisoners in the custody of the Chinese border forces. This statement will show you the deplorable treatment to which the Indian prisoners were subjected by the Chinese forces.

Your Excellency has suggested that you and I should meet on December 26 so as to reach an agreement on the principles which are presumably to guide the officials on both sides in the discussion of details. As I informed you in my letter of November 16 and earlier, I

am always ready to meet and discuss with your Excellency the outstanding differences between our countries and explore the avenues of settlement. How can we, Mr. Prime Minister, reach an agreement on principles when there is such complete disagreement about the facts? I would, therefore, prefer to wait for your promised reply to my letter of September 26 and our note of November 4, before we discuss what should be the next step. I wish to add that it is entirely impossible for me to proceed to Rangoon or any other place within the next few days.

I would not like to end this letter to you without referring to the sentiments which you have expressed in your last paragraph. I am in entire agreement with you that the

principal concern of our two countries should be "with the programme of long-term peaceful construction to lift ourselves from our present state of backwardness", to which you have referred. I equally agree with you that we should not be parties to the increasing of tension between our two countries or in the world. India has welcomed the fact that there is some lowering of world tensions and that "the world situation is developing in a direction favourable to peace". It is for this last reason, even apart from the imperative need to improve the relations between our two countries, that in spite of all recent events I have continually stressed the need for a peaceful settlement of our problems.

With kind regards,

I am,
Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) JAWAHARLAL NEHRU.

TREATMENT OF INDIAN POLICE PARTY BY CHINESE TROOPS

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on December 15 the following papers relating to the treatment meted out to the Indian police patrol party captured by the Chinese troops at Chang Chenmo Valley on October 21, 1959:

- (1) Unofficial memorandum of the Chinese Government, November 14, 1959.
- (2) Note of the Indian Government, November 24, 1959.
- (3) Note of the Chinese Government, November 28, 1959.
- (4) Note of the Indian Government, December 13, 1959 along with Statement of Shri Karam Singh.

Unofficial Memorandum presented by Vice Minister Chang Han-fu to the Indian Ambassador in Peking on November 14, 1959

The following are the main facts about the border incident of October 20th and 21st in the area south of Kongka pass as admitted by the

Deputy Commander of the Indian forces, Karam Singh, and the other eight Indian soldiers, Mohd. Khalil, Sonam Dorje, Rulia Ram, Tsering Nalbu, Gur Bahadur, Abdul Majid, Rudarman, Shiv Dayal who were detained or captured in the incident. These main points fully confirm the account of this border incident given by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its memorandum of 22nd October, its note of 24th October and its statement of 26th October.

2. The Indian Military personnel involved belonged to the Indian Tibetan Boundary Force under the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs. They were led by Commander S.P. Tyagi and Deputy Commander Karam Singh. They started from Leh towards the end of September for Tsogtsalu, Kiam and Shamal Lungpe and the North East of Kongka pass to set up check-posts there and arrived at Kiam on 19th October. They had never been to the place before where the present clash occurred at south of Kongka pass.

3. On 20th October Mohd Khalil, Sonam Dorje and a guide called

Chadan were sent from Kiam to the area south of Kongka pass. Khalil and Dorje were each issued a rifle, ten rounds and a field glass. They admitted that they were sent for the purpose of reconnoitring the conditions of Chinese troops within Chinese territory. At 1300 hours that afternoon they were discovered by three patrolling Chinese Frontier Guards. The Chinese Frontier Guards shouted to them and waved to them to go away. The Indians failed to do so and were then detained.

4. On 21st October Tyagi and Karam Singh took more than 60 Indian troops to the area south of Kongka pass to search for the three missing armed Indian personnel. Before starting Tyagi expressed he had a mind to fight against Chinese troops. The Indian Military personnel carried with them four Bren guns and about 50 rifles as well as two or three Sten guns and 25 hand grenades.

5. When the Indian Military personnel approached a hill in the area south of Kongka pass they discovered six Chinese soldiers on the hill. Tyagi ordered Karam Singh to take 30 men to surround and capture the Chinese soldiers. They saw one or two Chinese soldiers waving their hands for them to go away. Instead of going away they pressed forward.

6. Then Indian soldier Ali Raza fired first. Another Indian soldier Manohar Lal caught a horse of the Chinese Frontier Guards. Thereafter fire was exchanged.

7. The Chinese soldiers were equipped with no mortar and other artillery. They were armed with rifles, tommy guns, light machine-guns and hand grenades.

8. The nine Indian Military personnel were killed while they were attacking up hill target but the detained and captured Indian Military personnel admitted that they had been given good treatment by the Chinese officers and soldiers during their detention.

Note handed over to the Chinese Embassy in India on November 24, 1959

The Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India present their compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and

have the honour to refer to the note which the Ministry handed to the Embassy on November 4, 1959,* in regard of the incident in the Chang Chenmo Valley. A first hand account of the incident, received from the second in command of the Indian police patrol party, was attached to that note. The Government of India have since received further accounts of the incident from the Indian personnel who had been captured by the Chinese forces on October 20 and 21 and released after several reminders on November 14. These accounts corroborate the earlier reports which had been given by the members of the Indian police patrol party who had returned to the base after the clash.

2. The Government of India would also like to refer to a constable named Makhan Lal who remains still unaccounted for. According to the statement of Shri Karam Singh, he and constable Rudarman were made by the Chinese forces after the clash on October 21 to carry Makhan Lal, who had sustained injuries, for a distance of 2 miles. They were then made to leave behind Makhan Lal on a river bank. What happened subsequently to him is not known to any of the released personnel. The Government of India would like to have any further information which the Chinese authorities might have about Makhan Lal.

3. The Government of India are surprised and shocked to hear of the treatment to which the Indian prisoners were subjected by their captors. The prisoners were kept in torn tents in bitterly cold weather and without any bedding for four days. As a result of this, the leader of the party, Shri Karam Singh, and three constables were severely frost-bitten. One of the prisoners, Constable Abdul Majid, who had a bullet wound on his back, received no medical attention until the fourth day. Besides, the prisoners were subjected to continuous interrogation from the time of their arrest till the time of their release. They were asked under threats and pressure to make statements to the effect that the Indian party had gone forward knowingly into Chinese territory

*The note was published on page 725 of the issue No. 21 of Vol. II (December 1, 1959) of Indian Information.

The Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India present their compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and

and that they had sent two constables and a porter the previous day to carry out espionage there. The Government of India have no knowledge of the statements which the prisoners are supposed to have made to the Chinese authorities, but, obviously, statements made under such circumstances cannot be regarded as voluntary.

4. The Government of India protest strongly against the deplorable treatment to which the Indian personnel were subjected while in Chinese custody. Under article 17 of the Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, relating to the treatment of prisoners of war, a prisoner of war is only bound to give his surname, first names and rank, date of birth and army regimental, personal or serial number, or failing this, equivalent information. No physical or mental torture, nor any other form of coercion, may be inflicted on prisoners of war to secure from them information of any kind whatever. Prisoners of war who refuse to answer may not be threatened, insulted or exposed to unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment of any kind. Whether or not the Geneva Convention applies to the Indian personnel taken prisoners by the Chinese forces on October 21, it is obvious that they should not have been subjected to treatment worse than that to which prisoners of war are entitled. It is most regrettable that the Chinese authorities should have subjected the Indian prisoners to interrogation, threats and harsh treatment in order to compel them to make statements desired by their captors.

The Ministry of External Affairs take this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China the assurances of their highest consideration.

Note handed over to the Embassy of India in Peking on November 28, 1959

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Indian Embassy in China and, with reference to the note delivered on November 24, 1959 to the Chinese Embassy in India by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, has the honour to reply as follows:

In its memorandum of October 22, its note of October 24 and its state-

ment of October 26, the Chinese Government gave detailed and incontestably correct accounts of the border incident which occurred at the Kongka Pass on October 20 and 21, 1959. The facts admitted by the captured Indian military personnel are in agreement with the accounts given by the Chinese Government. On November 14, the Chinese Government handed over to the Indian Embassy in China a written material setting out the facts admitted by the captured Indian military personnel and drew the attention of the Indian Government to it. It is proved by the material that the report of the second-in-command of the Indian police patrol party attached to the Indian Government's note of November 4 is completely inconsistent with the facts.

Out of traditional Sino-Indian friendship and humanitarian considerations, the Chinese Government on the third day after the Kongka Pass incident already took the initiative in notifying the Indian Government that it was prepared to let the Indian side take back the captured Indian military personnel and the bodies of the Indian soldiers. The Chinese Government is gratified that they were handed over to the Indian side smoothly on November 14. However, the Chinese Government cannot but be surprised that at a time when the Kongka Pass incident is drawing to a close and the two Governments are actively exploring avenues to eliminate border clashes the Indian Government should create a side issue by leveling a groundless charge and even lodging a strong protest against the Chinese Government on the pretext of so-called "deplorable treatment" of the captured Indian personnel. The Chinese Government categorically rejects this protest of the Indian Government.

Throughout the period of their custody the Indian military personnel were given friendly and generous treatment by the Chinese frontier guards. The Kongka Pass area was difficult of access and hard to get supplies, yet the Chinese frontier guards did their utmost to look after them in various ways. A few of the captured Indian personnel got frost-bitten. That was because their own outfits were very thin. As soon as the Chinese frontier guards ob-

tained supplies, they issued to them cotton-padded suits, felt boots, beddings and articles of daily use, and gave them necessary medical treatment. In respect of board and lodging, they were treated in no way inferior to the Chinese frontier guards themselves. They were quartered in warm underground rooms or in complete new tents. The assertion that they were kept in torn tents is a pure fabrication. The Indian Government's statement in its note that Abdul Majid had a bullet wound in his back and went without medical attention for four days is also inconsistent with the facts. Majid never indicated that he was wounded or ill. As a matter of fact, his movements showed that he was whole and sound. The captured Indian military personnel all expressed more than once during the period of their custody that they were well treated. When they were handed over to the Indian side to be taken back, they all expressed warm thanks.

It is normal that the Chinese frontier guards conducted necessary interrogation of the captured Indian personnel to make clear the facts about the armed Indian personnel's trespass and provocation, as this was their duty. The captured Indian personnel were finally interrogated once again; this was only because there were important discrepancies between the report attached to the Indian Government's note of November 4 received by the Chinese Government and the facts as told by the captured personnel, and it was necessary to check it up with them. It is also merely for this reason that their handing back was postponed several days. The interrogations of them by the Chinese frontier guards were always made in a free and unrestrained atmosphere; so-called pressure or threats was completely out of the question. The Indian Government's allegation in its note that the Chinese frontier guards subjected the captured personnel to threats and pressure in the interrogations and gave them harsh treatment is an utterly unwarranted charge.

The Indian Government in its note expressed the hope of receiving any information which the Chinese side might have about an Indian military personnel who was unaccounted for. On November 13 when the repre-

sentatives of the frontier guards of the two sides discussed on the border at the Kongka Pass the concrete steps of handing over the captured Indian military personnel and the bodies, the Indian representative also made the request that the Chinese frontier guards search for the body of that Indian military personnel for the Indian side. The Chinese representative agreed then to make a further search. The Chinese frontier guards made an active search at and about the spot of the incident but still found nothing. It could be affirmed that this Indian military personnel was not on Chinese territory. The following day the Chinese representative informed the Indian representative of the result of the search, and expressed the hope that the Indian side might search on its own territory. The Indian representative agreed to this.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Indian Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note handed over to the Chinese Embassy in India on December 13, 1959

1. The Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India present their compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and have the honour to refer to the note of the 28th November presented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China to the Ambassador of India in Peking. The Government of India have now received full details from the released Indian police personnel as to the incident at Kongka Pass and the subsequent treatment to which the Indian personnel were subjected while in Chinese custody. These details confirm the account of the incident contained in the earlier notes. The statements of the released prisoners entirely contradict the assertion in the Chinese note that the Indian personnel were given friendly and generous treatment by the Chinese frontier guards. On the contrary the treatment which the Indian prisoners received was most harsh and inhuman and opposed to all canons of civilised behaviour. A text of the statement made by Shri Karam Singh, who was the leader of the Indian police party, is attached to this note. This statement is cor-

roborated in substance by other members of the Indian party.

2. It will be seen from Shri Karam Singh's statement that the Indian prisoners were denied adequate food and shelter. It also appears that Shri Karam Singh was subjected to interrogation on 12 days for a total period of nearly 70 hours. Under threats and prolonged interrogation, he was made to subscribe to certain statements which his captors wanted him to make. He was further made to repeat similar statements on subsequent occasions so that these statements could be tape-recorded. Attempts were made by the Chinese frontier guards to re-enact the incident at Kongka Pass with the forced participation of the Indian prisoners with a view to taking photographs which could be used presumably as evidence in support of the Chinese version of the incident. Similarly, photographs of the prisoners arranged in various poses were taken presumably to show that the prisoners enjoyed certain facilities and amenities while in Chinese custody. The Government of India must state that no credence whatsoever can be given to any statement made by Shri Karam Singh or any other Indian prisoner in these circumstances. The certificates of good treatment which the prisoners might have given their captors at the time of release are equally valueless.

3. The Government of India are also surprised at the statement in the Chinese Government's note that Constable Abdul Majid was "whole and sound and never indicated that he was ill". In fact, Constable Abdul Majid received a bullet injury in the encounter and even now he has a splinter in his back. No medical attention was given to him for the first few days, and terrified at the treatment to which the arrested personnel were being subjected, he did not ask for medical care.

4. The note of the Chinese Government suggests that they are unaware of the whereabouts of Constable Makhan Lal, who still remains unaccounted for. It will be seen from the statement of Shri Karam Singh that Constable Makhan Lal had received abdominal injury and was helped by him and Constable Rudarman to walk a distance of nearly two miles. He was then left

by the Chang Chenmo river in the custody of two Chinese soldiers as ordered by the Chinese escort. It is extraordinary that the Chinese authorities should now profess ignorance as to the whereabouts of Constable Makhan Lal. The Government of India would request that enquiry be made of the Chinese frontier guards once again as to the circumstances in which Constable Makhan Lal was left behind on the Chang Chenmo river on the 21st October and what happened to him subsequently.

5. The Government of India once again record their emphatic protest against the deplorable treatment to which the Indian personnel were subjected while in the custody of the Chinese soldiers. This treatment which the Indian personnel received was much worse than that to which even prisoners of war are entitled under the Geneva Convention of 12th August, 1949. It is obvious that the reports which the Chinese Government have received from their frontier guards, both about the incident and about the subsequent treatment of the Indian personnel, are entirely unrelated to facts. The Government of India would urge that adequate action be taken against the persons responsible for subjecting the helpless Indian prisoners to such inhuman treatment.

6. The Ministry of External Affairs take the opportunity of extending to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China the assurances of their highest consideration.

STATEMENT OF SHRI KARAM SINGH

1. I reached Hot Springs on the 19th October, 1959. On the 20th morning, two parties of two constables each and the third of two constables and a porter were sent out to reconnoitre the area. Two parties returned but the third one, consisting of Constables Khalil and Sonam Dorje and Porter Chettan failed to do so. The same evening search parties were sent out to look for them but they returned without any success.

2. Next morning (21-10-59), I decided to go out and search for the men myself. Shri Tyagi also accom-

panied me. We left with a party of about 20 men, including a section and some personnel of the ITB Force. We left instructions for the main party to follow on foot.

3. After I had gone about five miles to the east of Hot Springs, I noticed hoof marks which appeared to be those of the Chinese horses. We followed these hoof prints for a few hundred yards. We also observed the area through binoculars but we noticed nothing of special interest. After the main party had joined us, we advanced further into the plain which was overlooked by a hill. The hoof prints appeared to be running along the right of this hill. I, therefore, decided that I would, with about 20 men, follow them to find out whether there were any Chinese intruders in the vicinity. I told Tyagi to wait with the main party until I returned and to keep a look out for any signs of the Chinese; if he saw any, he was to demand the return of our missing members and to ask them to leave Indian territory.

4. I, along with Jemadar Rulia Ram, Hd. Constable Man Singh, Hd. Constable Babu Wadkar and Constables Abdul Majid, Gur Bahadur, etc., followed the hoof prints which went along a track skirting the hill on our left. As we did not apprehend any danger, we were not marching in any order but were moving in twos and threes. I was not even carrying a weapon. When I had covered about six to seven hundred yards, and had almost passed the hill on the left, one of my constables noticed some movement in front along a nullah and shouted "Chini, Chini". I looked at all sides but before I could spot anything in front, I noticed on my left a Chinese soldier on the hill shouting something and waving his hands upwards as if he was asking us to raise our hands and surrender. I shouted back at the top of my voice that it was our area. Instead of receiving any answer, we were fired upon both from the front as well as from the hill top. We were taken by complete surprise and so all the members of the party made for such cover as was available and returned the fire. Some retreated towards the hill on the right. Jemadar Rulia Ram, Constables Abdul Majid, Ali Raza, Gur Bahadur, Beg Raj and Norbu

Lama ran with me and we took shelter behind a mound. Some of the others ran towards the hill on the left but were struck down with bullets and hand-grenades. Our firing was ineffective as we had inadequate cover and the Chinese were in a favourable position. After some time I ordered those who were near me to discontinue firing as their firing was having no effect and the ammunition was being wasted.

5. The Chinese continued to fire on us almost incessantly. We could also hear firing on the other side of the hill. Constable Ali Raza made a bid to get away in the afternoon and although he was fired upon, was able to escape. The Chinese used LMGs, rifles, tommy guns and hand-grenades. At about 5 P.M., firing from the front increased in intensity and a few Bren gun bursts were fired at us from our right and Constables Beg Raj and Norbu Lama were killed. Realising the overwhelming superiority in numbers of the Chinese soldiers and their fire power, I thought that it was futile to resist any further and, therefore, decided to surrender. We raised a white handkerchief after which the Chinese stopped firing and asked us to drop our weapons and advance towards them with our hands raised. I, accompanied by Jemadar Rulia Ram, Constables Abdul Majid and Gur Bahadur surrendered to the Chinese. Later, Constables Shiv Dayal, Rudarman and Tsering Norbu, who were apparently lying concealed elsewhere, also surrendered and we were all herded together.

6. When we were being searched etc., I looked around and I thought there were about 30 Chinese soldiers in position on the hill. The soldiers that were on the side of the nullah were no longer visible to me. After our search, we were sent to Konka Pass with an escort of 11 Chinese soldiers.

7. From the place of the encounter, five of us were made to carry the dead-body of a Chinese soldier who had been killed. Constable Rudarman and I were asked to help Constable Makhan Lal, who had been injured seriously in the abdomen. His condition was really very bad. We carried him for two miles, where the Chinese soldiers ordered us to leave him on the bank of the Chang Chenmo river. Two of the Chinese

soldiers stayed back near Makhan Lal and nine escorted us to our destination. From this place, I and constable Rudarman were made to carry heavy loads. We were completely exhausted and were finding it extremely difficult to walk with this heavy load but we were repeatedly prodded by rifle butts to move on. We reached the Chinese Konka La Post (above 16,000 ft.) at about 2 A.M. on the 22nd of October, 1959. We were all put together in a pit, 6 feet deep, 7 feet wide and 15 feet long, normally used for storing vegetables. It was covered with a tarpaulin which left several openings through which ice-cold breeze penetrated. We had to spend the night on the frozen ground without any covering. No water for drinking was provided nor were we permitted to ease ourselves during the night and the following day. The sentries adopted a menacing attitude.

8. On the morning of October 23rd, all of us were taken out of the pit for the first time and taken to a place about two miles towards Lanak La. We remained there the whole day and returned to the pit at night. We do not know why we were kept away from the camp that day. During the day, I was merely asked through an interpreter to write out the names of the captured persons but I expressed my inability to do so for want of spectacles. I told the Chinese officer to take down the names, which he did.

9. On the evening of 24th, I was again taken out in a truck to a distance of about one mile, where the dead bodies had been laid out and I was asked to identify them. As I could not identify all of them, I suggested that some Constables may be called to help me in identification. They brought me to the camp and asked me to select a couple of constables. We went back along with two constables Shiv Dayal and Gur Bahadur and identified the bodies. After this, we rejoined the others in the pit.

10. For the first 3/4 days, we were given only dry bread to eat. The intensity of the cold and our conditions of living were more than sufficient torture to demoralise us. By then I and three constables were suffering from frost bite and our repeated requests for medical attention and hot water were disregarded.

11. At about 4 A.M. on the 25th of October, 1959, I was called by two Chinese officers and taken for interrogation. I was removed to a tent about 50 yards away, where five Chinese officers, including an interpreter, interrogated me. One of them, at the very outset, threatened that I was a P.O.W. and that I could be shot dead any moment. He also warned me that they did not want any arguments or discussions. They asked me to write out my statement, to which I pleaded my inability as I did not have my spectacles with me. At first, they asked me to narrate the entire incident. As soon as I came to the point that firing was opened by the Chinese, their senior officer present became wild and shouted back that it was incorrect, and that I must confess that the Indians fired first. I refused to accept this despite repeated and constant threats that I would be shot dead. Ultimately, they made me to say that I could not judge at that time as to who fired first.

12. They asked me to admit that Indian soldiers seized Chinese horses, which were standing near the foot of the hill towards Chang Chenmo river. As I was on the other side of the hill, I told them that I had not seen anybody taking away the horses. Despite this, it was recorded that my men had disclosed to me that some Indian constables had taken away the Chinese horses.

13. Utmost pressure was used to extort from me that Tyagi and I knew beforehand that the place, where the incident took place, was within Chinese territory. I told them that I could not make that statement because that place was miles within Indian territory but they continued to assert that it was Chinese territory and was in Chinese occupation. In this connection, it was finally recorded that "I have now come to know that the area, where the encounter had taken place, is under Chinese occupation."

14. The Chinese wanted me to acknowledge that no member of the ITB force had ever visited that particular area. I told them that only in June this year, an ITB patrol had gone upto Kong Ka pass and stayed there for a day or so. They wanted to know if I myself had ever visited Kong Ka La and when I said that I had not, after a considerable discussion, they recorded—"I and

my men (who were prisoners with me), had never visited this area." I insisted that they should also write that I camped several times at Hot Springs and had toured the adjoining areas, but they did not agree to include this.

15. As regards the objective of our patrol, they wanted me to admit that we intruded into their territory to attack and capture the Chinese as well as to establish a checkpost. I stated that we had no such intention. In any case, it was our territory and the question of intrusion into the Chinese territory did not arise. On this assertion, they threatened me, but I stuck to the position that we were in Indian territory and were out looking out for the missing men. They then said that when fire was opened on us Tyagi and the main party were on the left of the hill and were advancing further in order to surround it. I told them that I could not see anything on the other side of the hill, and, therefore, there was hardly any point in obtaining a statement to this effect from me. As far as I remember, they finally recorded that though Tyagi did not tell me anything, it might be that it was his intention to send us from the right side and himself proceed on the left side in order to surround the hill and capture the Chinese.

16. The Chinese were emphatic that I should admit that they had gesticulated to us from the hill to go back. I told the senior Chinese officer, through the interpreter, that my party was advancing in small groups following the hoof marks and that the forward group with me had noticed some Chinese in front. Whereas it was quite correct that for a moment I noticed some gesticulations from a Chinese on the hill to my left, no time was given by the Chinese soldiers to understand and to respond to the gesticulations. In fact, I had, at the top of my voice, shouted that it was our area. The answer to this was firing from in front and the hill to the left and rear. The Chinese officer lost his temper on this and said I was a cunning liar and threatened to take out his pistol and shoot me. I tried to argue that if their intention was to ask us to go back then they should also have allowed the patrol party to return and not have captured

them. I told them that, in fact, the Chinese soldier was gesturing to us to raise up our hands and surrender and that is why I had shouted back that it was our area to which the reply was a hail of bullets. In the statement, however, the Chinese recorded that one of the Chinese soldiers on the hillock had waved his hand indicating that we should go back and not adopt a hostile attitude.

17. I was asked to admit that our action was against the spirit of 'Panch Sheel'. I told them that it was they who had opened fire on us; it was they who had violated the principles. Ultimately, they recorded that "the incident was against the spirit of 'Panch Sheel'".

18. When they asked me my rank, I told them that I was a Deputy Superintendent of Police and was the second-in-Command of the I.T.B. Force. Shri Tyagi was the Commander of the I.T.B. Force. I had already decided to conceal the fact that I was the leader of the party to avoid interrogation about the police and Army dispositions and I had warned those captured with me to refer to me as the Deputy Commander. The total number of men in the party that had left Hot Springs in the morning was about 60 and this was recorded.

19. This interrogation lasted from 4 A.M. to about 4 P.M., with short breaks for meals, etc. By this time, I was almost frozen and mentally and physically exhausted because of cold, persistent interrogation, intimidation, threats and angry shoutings, and the lack of sleep. In this condition I was compelled to sign the statement recorded by the Chinese. At the end of this interrogation, the Chinese then brought all the other captured personnel before me and read out the statement, sentence by sentence. I was asked to translate each sentence in Hindustani. All the captured personnel were asked to append their signatures on the back of the statement and several photographs were taken.

20. After this interrogation, I was separated and put in a tent where insufficient bedding was provided. The tent had a big opening at the top round the central pole to act as a chimney but as there was no fire in my tent, this hole made the tent unbearably cold.

21. My interrogation was continued in my tent on the 26th from 0730 hours to 1700 hours. I was also told that my interrogation would continue the next day and until it was concluded, I would not be provided with a proper bedding.

22. On this day I was made to sign the following statement, as far as I can remember:

"Tyagi returned after having a meeting with Mr. Sharma in New Delhi on the 22nd September, 1959. I returned from Srinagar on the 24th September, 1959. Tyagi informed me that a decision had been taken to establish check-posts at Tsogtsalu, Kayam (Hot Springs) and Shamul Lungpa. We left Leh for patrolling the border area and for establishing check-posts at these places. Tyagi left Leh on 27th September, 1959 while I started on the 29th September, 1959. Tyagi had about 40 men with him. Three constables accompanied me, I reached Phobrang on the 4th October. Tyagi arrived on the 5th of October, 1959. Tyagi started from Phobrang for Tsogtsalu on the 7th October. I left Phobrang on the 14th October and arrived at Tsogtsalu on the 16th October, 1959. A check-post was established at Tsogtsalu and we left for Kayam. We established a check-post at Kayam and we had to establish one at Shamul Lungpa. On 20th October, 1959, our two men missed. On the morning of 21st October, 1959, Tyagi took 60 men and reached the hill (battle field). When we were at a distance of about 400 yards from the hill, some Chinese were seen. Tyagi ordered me to take some men on the back side of the hill and to surround the Chinese and himself went in front. There were some 30 men with me and about the same number with Tyagi. We surrounded the hill. A Chinese was seen waving his hand so as to say 'go away do not adopt hostile attitude.' I have heard from my men that the Indian soldiers fired first. Some Indian soldiers took away the horses of the Chinese."

23. I protested that as regards firing, none of my men had told me that Indians fired first but they rejected the plea and said that they had obtained confessions to that

effect from other captured personnel. When requested to confront them with me, I was told that as I was a prisoner I had no such right. Similarly, I pointed out that the story of surrounding the hill etc. was also not correct but to no avail.

24. My interrogation started next day (27-10-59) at about 0800 hrs. and it lasted for about three hours. The entire period was devoted to ascertaining from me the details of the ITB organisation.

25. My interrogation was resumed at 0800 hrs. on the 28th October, 1959, in my tent by three Chinese, two of them were officers and the third an interpreter. The interrogation lasted five hours and was confined to ascertaining the details of the check-posts.

26. Information was also obtained from me in regard to the strength of the check-posts, arms and their functions and was duly noted down in their own language.

27. The same afternoon, all of us were taken to the Chang Chenmo river where the dead bodies had been laid out. We were asked to remove their uniforms and wrap a muslin cloth in accordance with Indian custom. At our request hot water was supplied to give a bath to the dead bodies. A number of photographs were taken while we were busy in this operation.

28. In the evening, they issued us the following items of clothing:

- (i) Cotton-padded coat, (ii) Cotton-padded pant, (iii) Cotton-padded caps, (iv) Namda Gum boots.

I did not take these because items offered to me did not fit. Either on this day or the next a doctor examined my feet which had swollen up and administered an injection. Photographs were taken.

29. On 29th morning at about 0900 hrs. the interpreter came to my tent and delivered some sweets as a gesture of goodwill. After sometime, a new face together with the previous officers and the interpreter came to me. This time, two Stenographers had also been brought to take down my statement. This officer introduced himself as Commander of the Tibetan area. His questions were confined to details regarding our check-posts and their strength. I repeated the details as

given on the previous day. He also enquired about the strength of the army. The Chinese disclosed to me, for the first time, that the Foreign Ministries of both the countries were in correspondence with each other about us (captured persons). The interrogation lasted for about 2 hours. I was not made to sign any statement.

30. At about 1300 hours on the same day (29-10-59), I was taken out of my tent together with Constable Shiv Dayal and escorted by three Chinese soldiers to the scene of the incident in a truck. The New officer, who had examined me in the morning, occupied the front seat of the truck and four other officers sat with us in the rear. After reaching the place, I was made to stand, even though it caused me intense pain, near the base of the hill on the Hot Springs side and was ordered to point with my hand towards the hill and a photograph was taken, (as if I was pointing towards the Chinese who were on the top of the hill). I was then taken to the base of a small mound behind which we had taken shelter when fire was opened on us. Constable Shiv Dayal was asked to take a lying position about 50 paces away from me towards the hill. I was given a handkerchief and asked to wave it as if to give a signal to the men to open fire. A snap was then taken. Constable Shiv Dayal was then taken to the place where one of the killed ponies were lying and another photograph was taken together with the dead pony. Then, the senior officer drew a sketch of the hillock and the adjoining area showing positions of the Indian and the Chinese soldiers at the time of the encounter according to the Chinese version and got the same signed by me and Constable Shiv Dayal. Photographs were also taken of a few Chinese soldiers gesticulating from the hill. Late in the evening we returned to the camp.

31. My interrogation was resumed on October 30 morning at about 0800 hrs. and it lasted upto 1300 hrs. They questioned me again about the strength of each post. They also obtained my signature on a statement to the effect that the post at Hanley was established in June this year.

32. On November 1, interrogation started in the morning as usual. The

senior officer had by then gone away. The other Chinese officers and the interpreter pursued the interrogation. I was asked how we could claim this area when we had never visited it. I told them that I had myself gone beyond Lingzi Thang with about 10 persons in 1957 and upto Shamul Lungpa in 1958 where we had established a checkpost which remained there throughout the summer and was withdrawn during the winter. They asked me if we had set up any boundary pillar at Shamul Lungpa or Lingzi Thang and I told them that we had not done so because our boundaries extended hundreds of miles further. The interrogation lasted for about 5/6 hours. The following statement was briefly recorded and signed by me:—

"In 1957, I visited Lingzi Thang with 10 men and stayed there for a few days. In 1958, I visited Shamul Lungpa, where we stayed for four months. On this occasion also there were about 10 men with me. We did not construct any huts at any place nor did we construct any boundary pillar at these places."

The Chinese said that Phobrang was our last post, and that we had no right to cross Marsimik La because the entire area beyond the pass was a part of Sinkiang and that this could be verified even from the older residents of Ladakh. I told them that our claims were based on authentic documents and, therefore, our maps were correct. They disposed of my argument by saying that our claims were based on demarcation by the British, who had usurped a lot of territory of Sinkiang and Tibet. They ridiculed our maps and said that these could be drawn by anybody while sitting at home. It was on this day that I was repeatedly asked about my maps and documents. I told them that I did not bring any such papers with me because I was well conversant with the area. The Chinese showed great anger during this discussion.

33. On the morning of November 2 at about 1000 hrs., all the captured persons were brought to my tent. The interpreter then asked them in my presence whether it was a fact that all the dead had received bullet injuries in front which indicated that they were wounded while advancing towards the Chinese. To this,

they replied in the affirmative. They said that they had wrapped up the bodies themselves and had actually seen the wounds. I was asked to attest their statement. I resisted, but was made to sign the following:—

"All of our men had received wounds in the front during the battle which indicated that they were wounded while advancing towards the Chinese."

34. Afterwards those who had bathed the dead bodies disclosed to me at the first possible opportunity that in fact the injuries sustained by our men were on the front, back and sides and some had had parts of their heads blown off.

35. The same afternoon we all were taken out in the sun and made to sit in a semi-circle. Two water-melons were cut and distributed amongst us and a photograph was taken.

36. On November 3, the Chinese asked me to sign the following statement:—

"Chinese troops were armed with rifles, tommy guns, LMGs and hand-grenades only. No heavy artillery or mortars were used by them during the battle."

I appended my signature as automatic weapons and hand-grenades had been used against my party and I was not aware whether any mortar had been used.

37. There was no further interrogation. In the afternoon we were taken out in the sun and given a lecture on the Sino-Indian friendship. On this occasion, I was pointed out to a new person dressed as a Chinese soldier. This person replied in the negative after looking at me. Later, this man was heard conversing in Ladakhi and remained at the camp throughout our stay there.

38. On the morning of November 4, interrogation started at about 0800 hours. Only the interpreter examined me. He insisted that I should record in my own hand-writing the main points of the statement I had already signed. I pleaded I could not do so without my spectacles, but when he urged me again and again, I told him that as I was a prisoner they could force me to do anything, but it was not fair in view of their professed friendship for India. Ultimately, I scribbled down the follow-

ing prepared statement which the interpreter had brought with him:—

"On 20-10-59, two of our men missed. Tyagi took about 60 men with him. I accompanied him. When we were at a distance of about 400 yards from the battle field a few Chinese were seen. Tyagi ordered me to take some men on the back of the hill. He himself proceeded to the front. We surrounded the hill. I have heard from my men that Indian soldiers fired first. Some horses of the Chinese were taken away by Indian soldiers. I have nothing but to thank the Chinese officers and soldiers for the kind treatment that they had given us. Medical facilities were provided to us and we were neither beaten nor coerced."

39. The same afternoon I was again interrogated by the Chinese Officers and the interpreter. They brought a statement for my signature which included a sentence that on the 21st October, 1959, when we left our camp, Tyagi had disclosed that he was determined to fight the Chinese. I refused to sign it. They then took me down to a nullah threatening me on the way that they would dispose of me there. They threatened that I and my men were guilty of having killed their Second-in-Command and, therefore, it would be quite legal for them to shoot me. When I did not yield, he compromised to change the wording "Tyagi might have had an idea to fight the Chinese". It was extremely cold in the nullah. I was almost dying with pain in my feet and so I agreed to sign the amended statement which was as follows:—

"On 20-10-59, two of our men missed. Tyagi took 60 men with him with heavy arms including four Bren guns, four Sten guns, about 50 rifles and hand-grenades. I also accompanied him. Tyagi might have had a mind to fight against the Chinese. We surrounded the hill where a few Chinese were seen. According to our men, Indian soldiers fired first. According to Shiv Dayal, Constable, it was Manohar Lal, Constable, who took away the Chinese horses."

40. After that I was taken back to my tent and I was given a quilt. But in spite of this quilt the cold in the tent, where I had been kept since

October 25, was so intense that I requested that I should be sent to the pit and this was conceded.

41. Right from the 25th October, 1959, pressure was brought to bear on me daily to confirm that Constable Mohd Khalil and his companions had been sent to Chinese territory for spying and that our object was to establish a check-post in Chinese territory. After the first two or three days, they dropped the question of the check-post and said that I might confess to the espionage mission. I told them that this was not a fact but that the patrol had been sent out to ascertain whether there were any Chinese patrols on Indian territory. They told me that they had already obtained a confession to this effect from Constable Mohd Khalil and all that they needed from me was confirmation. I did not have to sign any statement to this effect.

42. On the same day, the Chinese Officer drew a sketch of the encounter on the same lines as was done by their senior officer on October 29th, but on a bigger scale. After completing the sketch, signatures of all of us were obtained. My photograph was taken as I was signing.

43. On the afternoon of November 5, I was again taken out for interrogation which lasted three hours. Particulars of my service after partition were ascertained. On this day, the interrogator addressed me as the famous man of Ladakh.

44. On November 6, they took us all to the Chang Chenmo river. I sat on the bank of it and the others were asked to stroll along the river in a leisurely manner. The escort was kept away and a movie picture was taken in order to show that we had freedom of movement.

45. On the morning of November 7, we were again taken to the bank of the river where a Chinese Officer using a Ladakhi interpreter and Constable Shiv Dayal as Hindi interpreter, gave a lecture on communism, condemning landlordism and capitalism. A rosy picture was painted of the communist regime. During the same lecture, it was prominently brought out that even now when India was a free country, the British and the Americans owned a number of industrial concerns and that there were still a number of Indian capitalists and landlords. The lecturer said that he hoped that

India would get rid of these evils and prosper on the lines of China.

46. In the evening (November 7), I was taken out from the pit to a tent and informed that Constable Abdul Majid had confessed that the first shot was fired by Constable Ali Raza of our force. I refuted this and said that Constable Abdul Majid be called to state this in my presence. Consequently, Abdul Majid was summoned and when questioned in my presence, he said what he had actually stated, that Constable Ali Raza had fired back long after the Chinese had opened fire. On this, the Chinese Officer got enraged and threatened to thrash Abdul Majid. He lost his nerve and admitted that Ali Raza had fired first. I was then forced to sign the following statement:—

"Constable Abdul Majid had stated that it was Constable Ali Raza who fired first. I believe that his statement is correct."

Then Constable Shiv Dayal was brought before me and was asked to confirm his statement that the Chinese horses had been taken away by Constable Manohar Lal. Shiv Dayal insisted what he had not said so rather he had stated that he saw Constable Manohar Lal touching a Chinese horse. On this, the Hindi interpreter was sent for, who also confirmed the statement of Constable Shiv Dayal. Therefore I refused to sign the prepared statement in possession of the Chinese interpreter which was that according to Shiv Dayal, Constable Manohar Lal had taken away the Chinese horses. Instead, I signed a statement as follows:—

"According to Constable Shiv Dayal, Manohar Lal, Constable of the ITB Force, was seen touching a Chinese horse. I believe what he states is correct."

47. Another lecture on Communist indoctrination was given on the morning of November 8.

48. At about 6 P.M., I was segregated from my companions and taken to a tent nearly 50 yards away. They then disclosed to me that the Government of India in their note to the Chinese Government had admitted that I was the Officer Commanding of the ITB Force. As I had from the very beginning given myself out as the Deputy Commander, I tried to

modify the statement by giving the following explanations:—

(a) That I was Deputy Superintendent of Police and so was Shri Tyagi. In his absence, I was always called as Officer Commanding.

(b) My promotion was due and it was possible that my Government may have promoted me since.

I was not made to sign any statement in this regard.

49. After this I was returned to the pit and Jem. Rulia Ram and Constable Shiv Dayal were taken to the tent for further interrogation about my exact designation. Jem. Rulia Ram on return informed me that the Chinese tried to argue with them that I was older than Tyagi in age and so how was it that Tyagi was senior in rank to me. They maintained that I was the second-in-command.

50. In the afternoon of November 9, we were informed that another senior officer had arrived and that we would be produced before him to make our statements.

51. It was either on November 9th or on the 10th morning that at about 0800 hours the Chinese took away Jem. Rulia Ram, Constables Shiv Dayal, Abdul Majid and Mohd Khalil informing them that they were to be released. In fact, they were not being released but were taken to the place of incident where a number of snaps and a cine film were taken to show that the Indian party had attacked the Chinese. They also took along the dead body of the Chinese soldier in a coffin and it was used during the filming.

52. At about 8 p.m. on November 10th, I was again taken out of the pit and escorted to a tent by two Chinese sentries who threatened to shoot me. Only one mattress was provided. My interrogation was immediately begun by one officer and an interpreter. They repeatedly threatened me to accept that I had sent the patrol into Chinese territory for spying but I refused to agree. They kept on interrogating me the whole night through; and as I was given insufficient bedding, I was in great agony from the cold and pain in my feet.

53. At about 0700 hours, I was compelled to write out the following myself:—

"I and Tyagi started for patrolling of the border for establishing check-posts at Tsogtsalu, Hot Springs (Kayam) and Shamal Lungpa on 29th and 27th September, 1959. We established a check-post at Tsogtsalu and arrived at Hot Springs where also we established a check-post. On the morning of 29th, our two men missed. Tyagi took about 60 men, 4 Bren guns, about 50 rifles, 4 Sten guns and hand-grenades. I accompanied him. Tyagi may have had a mind to fight against the Chinese. (They wanted me to write that Tyagi was determined to fight but I did not agree). I went to the back of the hill. We surrounded the Chinese. A Chinese was seen waving his hand so as to say 'Go away; do not adopt hostile attitude'. According to Constable Abdul Majid it was Constable Ali Raza who fired first. According to Constable Shiv Dayal, Constable Manohar Lal was seen touching a Chinese horse. Chinese troops used only rifles, Sten guns, LMGs and hand-grenades during the fight. They did not use any heavy artillery or mortars. ITB Force knows that area north, south and east of Kongka Pass is a part of China. I and my men had never visited this area (battle-field) before."

54. The interrogation was continued till about 11.00 hours when I was made to add the following paragraph to my statement:—

"I and my men have been given good treatment by the Chinese Officer and soldiers. I will never do anything which is against the five principles of the Sino-Indian Agreement any more nor I will enter Chinese territory again."

55. Before concluding, I was told that my statement would be tape-recorded some time that day and that I must answer questions exactly as in the statement written out by me. I was feeling very depressed and did not refuse to comply.

56. In the evening at about 1600 hours, a new face, reported to be their senior officer, came into my

ent together with the interpreter. He also brought a doctor along who dressed my frost-bitten feet and movie and still pictures were taken. After this, a tape recorder was brought in my tent and the following conversation was recorded:—

Q. Give brief details of the incident.

A. On the morning of 20th, a few of our horses were found missing and we sent two Constables and a Coolie in search. They did not return. On the morning of 21st, Tyagi and I started for their search with about 60 men. We had four Bren guns, three or four Sten guns, about 50 rifles and hand-grenades.

Q. What was Tyagi's intention?

A. He did not express his intention to me although inference could be drawn that he may have had an intention to fight.

Q. Who fired first?

A. According to Constable Abdul Majid, Constable Ali Raza fired first.

Q. Do you know some Chinese horses were taken away by the Indian soldiers?

A. According to Constable Shiv Dayal, Constable Manohar Lal was seen touching a Chinese horse.

Q. Did the Chinese use any heavy artillery or mortar?

A. Chinese soldiers had rifles, tommy guns, Bren guns and hand-grenades. No heavy artillery or mortars were used by them.

Q. Did you and your soldiers surround the Chinese soldiers?

A. Yes.

Q. What did the Chinese do when they were surrounded?

A. The Chinese soldier was seen waving his hand.

57. At this stage, I was told that further questioning would be done the next day.

58. On the night between November 11 and 12, all my companions were taken out one by one from the pit for tape-recording their statements. Before they were actually taken, each one of them was properly tutored and warned that he must

stick to the statement that had already been signed.

59. After my statement had been tape-recorded, I was returned to the pit on the 11th evening and proper bedding was provided.

60. There was nothing of particular interest the next day.

61. On November 13, at about 1500 hours, we were all taken out of the pit. All of us were given a small towel each, sweets and cigarettes in the presence of a senior officer. Both movie and still pictures were taken. Then we were taken to another tent where a meeting was held. A tape-recorder had been fixed in this tent. The senior officer said that we would be released the next day but before that he wanted to hear our ideas and views, especially about the incident. I was asked to speak first in Hindustani. When asked about the incident, I said, 'One cannot clasp with one hand alone and there is no fight without mistakes on both sides. Both sides should be careful in future'.

62. After that Rulia Ram and Shiv Dayal spoke briefly. There was nothing of interest in Rulia Ram's speech. Constable Shiv Dayal said, if the Chinese had not captured their men, this encounter would not have taken place as they had no plan to come in this direction. At this stage, as the Chinese felt that in my presence the men were not making statements to their liking, I was asked to go back to my pit and rest there. On the 13th evening, I was persuaded to accept the Namda boots which I did.

63. On the morning of November 14, we were woken up at 0400 hrs. and asked to get ready. A meal was served at 0430 hours. We were informed that we would be released at 1000 hours, Peking time. We were taken in trucks to the place of handing over. The dead bodies and our arms and ammunition were also taken.

SWEDISH PREMIER VISITS INDIA

The Prime Minister of Sweden, His Excellency Mr. Tage Erlander, arrived in New Delhi on December 18 on a 12-day visit to India. During his stay in New Delhi, the Swedish Prime Minister called on the President,

the Vice-President and the Prime Minister.

Leaving Delhi on December 21, the Swedish Prime Minister visited Jaipur, Agra, Madras, Cochin, Madurai, Bangalore, Mysore, Bhubaneshwar, Cuttack, Jamshedpur and Bombay. In the course of his tour, he saw places of historical and cultural interest, industrial plants, institutions of higher education and research. He left on December 30.

A State banquet was held in honour of H.E. Mr. Tage Erlander and his wife at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on December 19. Welcoming the honourable guests at the banquet, Prime Minister Nehru said 'We have worked together in many fields, and we have tried to learn many things from your country's example and the way you have built up special democracy in that country. I hope the time may come when we might also take some pride and pleasure in advancing much more along that line. In that process I am sure we can learn much from you and we propose to do so. And one thing also which has struck us is that, in spite of your high standards, in spite of the many things you have achieved in agriculture and industry, yet, in a sense, if I may say so without disrespect, you are a simple people, not pompous as some of us are, dignified and there is certain graciousness about the life of your people which is not always evident in the world today. For all this and for your own self, Sir, who has been such a builder-up of modern Sweden, we welcome you.'

AVOIDANCE OF VIOLENCE

Replying to the toast, H.E. Mr. Tage Erlander, said: 'We do, indeed, follow your national developments with keen interest and warm sympathy. The first is that we are aware of the important role which India has to play owing to her key position in world affairs. We find that your approach to international problems, be it inside or outside the United Nations, often coincides with our own. As your relative weight and influence is much greater than ours, it is only natural that we study your

words and actions with particular interest. The second reason, is our knowing that what you do under your five-year plans — that great experiment of speedy economic development, social welfare and democracy in action — may well be one of the most significant contributions to a happy and peaceful evolution in the whole of Asia. And there are features of those plans which will have an inspiring effect on political developments in many other countries.

'Just because we feel this kinship with your ideals and your strivings, I think I have the right, and also the duty, to share with you some of our thoughts, hopes and misgivings in the face of the great problems that beset the modern world.'

Pondering over the present political situation in the world, he said, 'The security of the world rests on the modern version of the old concept of the balance of power. This modern version, the nuclear equilibrium, is unstable and precarious. If it is to be preserved at all and, even more, if it is to develop into an order where we may really live free from fear, two conditions have to be fulfilled. One is that we all consciously strive to look objectively and with goodwill at each other. Nations can't afford any longer to misunderstand each other....'

The second condition I am thinking of is that any use of armed force to settle international conflicts must be avoided. No spark should be allowed in a powder house. Political pressure and military incidents can easily lead to consequences which are neither foreseen, nor desired by any party. War no longer solves any problems. If we carry this painfully acquired knowledge with us into the future, then we may face even the nuclear age with confidence....'

'I am happy to know that the Indian people, by instinct and by cold reasoning, share our conviction about the need for an international order based on peaceful co-operation and the avoidance of violence. It is my

sincere hope that the future trend of events, both in the West and in the East, will reflect these principles in a growing measure. Some recent developments in the world, but by no means all developments, seem to indicate that this hope is not entirely without foundation....'

FAREWELL MESSAGE

In a farewell message broadcast from All India Radio on December 31, H.E. Mr. Tage Erlander said, 'I have visited many parts of India and I have seen many monuments of a glorious past, but I have also seen what you are doing in the present for building the future of India. I leave India deeply impressed by the determination and enthusiasm of all the people I have met, to raise the material and spiritual standard by democratic means....'

On the eve of his departure from Bombay to Sweden, the Prime Minister of Sweden sent a message to the Indian Prime Minister in which he said, 'We have travelled from Delhi in the north to Trivandrum in the south; we have visited the thousand years old temples in Orissa and the Atomic Reactor in Bombay. Everywhere we have been received with extreme kindness and genuine hospitality. In my talks with the people we met, I have been impressed by their realistic insight into your country's special problems and their enthusiastic determination to solve them by means of creative democracy. It is my sincere hope that this visit will contribute to a further deepening of the understanding between our peoples which is a good basis also for increased co-operation in the economic field.'

Cambodian Premier's Visit

The Prime Minister of Cambodia, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, arrived in Delhi on December 27. The next day he left for Calcutta from where he proceeded to Cambodia on December 30.

Prince Sihanouk was accompanied by his wife and daughter. They visited the World Agriculture Fair on December 27. Prime Minister Nehru gave a dinner party in their honour the same evening.

On arrival at Safdarjang airport in New Delhi, H.R.H. Norodom Sihanouk made a statement in which he said, 'My visit here has no particular purpose: no problem has ever divided our two countries which are bound by a community of ideals and thought. My coming to India is a somewhat traditional contact between peoples whose countries have maintained the oldest and (always) best relations.'

Describing his recent visit to the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia and referring to the situation in Cambodia he said, 'Turning now to the regrettable Indian-Chinese dispute, I will reaffirm my country's sympathy towards India and our admiration for the wise and peaceful attitude of Prime Minister Nehru and his Government. We pray Heaven that this painful problem be solved in fairness and honour, and that our two great friends, India and China, be able to settle their differences quickly and once for all.'

Visit Of British Minister Of State

The British Minister of State for Commonwealth Relations, Mr. C.J.M. Alport, who represented the British Government at the inauguration of the first blast furnace of the Durgapur Steel Works, arrived in New Delhi on December 31 from Calcutta on a three-day visit.

In Delhi, Mr. Alport stayed at Rashtrapati Bhavan. He left for Bombay on January 3. He was to visit Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Madras before returning home.

Japanese Goodwill Delegation

A 13-member Japanese Goodwill Delegation, led by Mr. Fumio Kojima, arrived in India

on December 22. The Delegation was sponsored by *Yomiuri Shimbun*, a Japanese newspaper, with the object of strengthening friendly ties between India and Japan.

Nepalese Parliamentary Delegation

A Nepalese Parliamentary Delegation arrived in Delhi on December 16, on a three weeks' visit to India.

The Delegation, which consists of 23 Members of the Parliament of Nepal including the Speaker of the Lower House and the Chairman of the Upper House, stayed in Delhi for a week.

Speaking at a dinner given by him in New Delhi on December 23 in honour of the Delegation, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President, said, 'we have had great historical relations, both in the past and in the present. We have now adopted similar parliamentary institutions. We have been working within the framework of democracy. And six months ago, you had an elected Parliament, of which you happened to be the honoured Speaker. Through these democratic institutions, we wish to bring about the development of our countries.'

'We cannot have an efficient democracy unless it is also a social and economic democracy. It is only by raising the standards of our common people that we can call ourselves truly democratic. Courageous creative leadership, moral leadership much more than even political leadership — that is what we need if we have to raise the morale of our people, and through that morale, develop the strength of our people also.'

He concluded, 'I have no doubt that your visit to our country will strengthen those bonds of friendship which already prevail and we will continue to be friends in the future also.'

SHRI UPADHYAYA'S REPLY

Replying to the toast, the Hon'ble Shri Krishna Prasad Upadhyaya, Speaker, Pratinidhi Sabha, Nepal, said, 'I agree with

Your Excellency that the bonds of friendship between our two countries and peoples are really very ancient and I am sure that it will be continued and grow and prosper in future.'

Nepali Students' Delegation

A 14-member student delegation from Nepal visited India in December last at the invitation of the Union Government. It arrived in the country on November 30 and visited Patna, Calcutta, Vishakapatnam, Madras, Mysore, Bangalore, Bombay, Agra, Mathura, Delhi and Varanasi. During their stay in Mysore, the students attended the Inter-University Youth Festival.

Nepalese Excluded From Registration In India

The Indian Embassy in Nepal issued a Press Note on December 20, in connection with the recent amendment to the Foreigners' Registration Order, issued on December 4, 1959 by the Government of India. The Embassy states that nationals of Nepal and some Commonwealth countries are excluded from the operation of the amendment of the Foreigners' Registration Order, 1948, which entails immediate registration of foreigners resident in India.

Pakistan Red Cross Funds

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 21, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, laid on the Table of the House a statement regarding the payment of funds to the Pakistan Red Cross Society from the Indian Red Cross Society and its allied funds.

The Minister said, 'It having been agreed that in the absence of a reciprocal agreement between India and Pakistan about capital transfers, the amount due to the Pakistan Red Cross Society on account of their share of the capital fund should be de-

posited in a blocked non-resident account, securities of the face value of Rs. 46,44,900 were accordingly transferred to the blocked non-resident account of the Pakistan Red Cross Society with the State Bank of India, New Delhi. Remittance facility of interest earned was also allowed by the Ministry of Finance and as such a sum of Rs. 7,72,328 being interest earned on their share of securities up to December 31, 1958, was remitted to them on October 13, 1959. The share of their cash balance of the capital amounting to Rs. 5,29,066 is under transfer to their blocked non-resident account.'

The division of the funds of the Indian Red Cross Society and its allied funds between India and Pakistan were made in accordance with the decision arrived at a joint meeting of the representatives of the Indian and Pakistan Red Cross Societies held on April 22, 1948.

Government Holidays For 1960

The Government of India announced on December 26 that the holidays for the Central Government employees in Delhi and Simla have been reduced from 23 to 16, as recommended by the Central Pay Commission. The holidays curtailed are: Bank Holiday (January 1); Shivratri (February 25); Holi (March 12); Baisakhi (April 13); Id-ul-Zuha (June 5); Dussehra (September 28), and Diwali (October 21).

The new list of holidays for 1960 is as follows:

Republic Day January 26 (Magh 6); Holi March 13 (Phalgun 23); Id-ul-Fitr March 29 (Chaitra 9); Ram Naumi April 5 (Chaitra 16); Good Friday April 15 (Chaitra 26); Buddha Purnima May 11 (Vaisakh 21); Muharram July 5 (Asadha 14); Janma Ashtmi August 14 (Shravana 23); Independence Day August 15 (Shravana 24); Milad-un-Nabi September 4 (Bhadra 13); Dussehra September 29 and 30 (Ashvina 7 and 8); Mahatma Gandhi's birthday October 2 (Ashvina 10); Diwali October 20 (Ashvina 28); Guru Nanak's birthday November 3 (Kartika 12);

Christmas Day December 25 (Pausa 4).

In addition to the sixteen closed days, each employee will be permitted to avail himself of any two holidays to be chosen by him out of the following restricted holidays. This applies to all the Central Government offices, wherever they may be located.

Guru Govind Singh's birthday January 5 (Pausa 15); Guru Ravi Das's birthday February 12 (Magh 23); Shivratri February 25 (Phalgun 6); Holi March 12 (Phalgun 22); Juma-Tul-Vida March 25 (Chaitra 5); Lord Mahavira's birthday April 9 (Chaitra 20); Baisakhi April 13 (Chaitra 24); Id-ul-Zuha June 5 (Jyaishta 15); Dussehra September 23 (Asvina 6); Diwali October 21 (Asvina 29); Guru Govind Singh's birthday December 24 (Pausa 3).

As regards the Central Government offices located outside Delhi and Simla, the actual holidays to be observed can be suitably varied according to the festivals of local importance provided the total number of holidays does not exceed sixteen in a year.

WORKING HOURS ON SATURDAYS

An announcement of December 23 says that the civil offices of the Government of India will observe the same working hours on Saturdays as on the week days from January 1, 1960. The offices will, however, remain closed on the last Saturday in each month.

U.P.S.C. REPORT FOR 1958-59

The Annual Report of the Union Public Service Commission for the year 1958-59 was placed in Parliament on December 17. According to the Report, there was no case in which the advice of the Commission had not been accepted by the Government during the year.

It is the practice of the U.P.S.C. to watch the progress of the selected candidates by obtaining, from the Ministries concerned, assessment reports on the performance of the candidates over

a period of two years. The Report points out that on the basis of a sample analysis of the reports obtained from the Ministries during the year 1958, the performance of 94.5 per cent of the candidates was found to be thoroughly satisfactory, and 1.1 per cent was unsatisfactory. The remaining 4.4 per cent were of a mixed character.

Out of the recruitment made for 2,114 posts during the year, suitable candidates were not available for 72 posts, particularly those requiring teaching experience.

During the year 22 retired army officers had been recommended for appointment to civil posts.

The Commission gave its advice in 351 out of 366 cases of re-employment of retiring officers.

There were 684 cases in which the Commission agreed to provisional arrangements being made by the Ministries, pending recruitment through the Commission. In 467 cases, the Commission advised on the suitability of officers recommended by the Ministries for continued retention in, or appointment to, temporary posts. Advice was also given on 123 cases of transfer from one service to another.

DISCIPLINARY CASES

Out of the 154 disciplinary cases, the Commission's advice was communicated to Government in 126 cases, of which Government had passed orders on 95.

On a request from the Ministry of Education, the Commission conducted the selection of candidates for the award of 12 Government of India overseas scholarships to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes for studies abroad in various subjects especially engineering, technology, science, medicine, etc.

ONLY TWO CHANCES AT COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS

According to an announcement of December 24, a candidate appearing at an open competitive recruitment examination will have only two chances from

August 1960. The restriction will, however, not apply to candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Displaced Persons, etc., and to the departmental candidates for certain Services, as well as in the case of recruitment to technical, professional and specialist Services.

The Public Services (Qualifications for Recruitment) Committee had recommended that 'the mental qualities as also the personality can best be tested in one or at the most two examinations.' Success in the third or subsequent attempt did not necessarily reflect the innate qualities of the candidate.

Annual Report Of O. & M. Division

According to the 5th Annual Report of the Organisation and Methods Division of the Cabinet Secretariat, placed in Parliament on December 18 measures for speedy and efficient disposal of work were intensified in different Ministries and Departments of the Government of India during 1958-59.

Some of the organisations which made a notable progress during the year, the Report observes, were the Department of Company Law Administration, the Department of Iron and Steel, the Ministry of Rehabilitation and the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation. The Directorate-General of Posts and Telegraphs also showed improvement.

During the year, a standard syllabus for certain common aspects of the training of Lower Division Clerks was evolved by the Division in consultation with the Secretariat Training School. Nearly 1,900 Clerks were trained by the various Ministries and Offices as against 1,151 in the previous year. Selected Section Officers were also trained in the technique of work study.

The O. and M. Division also implemented certain measures for effecting economy in pursuance of the decisions taken by the Central Economy Board.

The O. and M. Division functions mainly through the internal O. and M. cells in different Ministries and Departments. The number of such units went up from 60 to 66 during the year. The O. and M. work is carried on through joint meetings to discuss problems of common interest, meetings within individual Ministries and Offices, and inspections, case studies, etc.

NEW MEMBER OF PLANNING COMMISSION

Shri A.N. Khosla has been appointed a Member of the Planning Commission and has assumed charge, says a Press Note issued on December 19 by the Planning Commission.

NEW C. AND A-G. APPOINTED

A Press Communique issued from the Rashtrapati Bhawan on December 30 says that, the President has been pleased to appoint Shri Arun Kumar Roy to be the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in succession to Shri Asoka Kumar Chanda when the latter vacates his office.

Police Radio Officers' Conference

A conference of Police Radio Officers from all the States in the Union was held in New Delhi from December 21 to 23. Ninth in the series, the conference exchanged information regarding the latest developments, technical as well as administrative, and activities of the Directorate of Co-ordination (Police Wireless) and the various Police Radio organizations in the country.

Besides coping with normal 'law and order' traffic, the Police Wireless Services have, in emergencies, often given to meet national calamities such as floods, cyclones, famine and locust depredations, and have played a dominant role in detecting the law-breakers in States.

All States' Police Radio organizations are being rapidly expanded to meet the increased demand of the police executive forces. A new police radio grid

is being developed in Naga Hills — Tuensang Area.

IMPLEMENTATION OF IMMORAL TRAFFIC ACT

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 16, the Deputy Home Minister, Shri-mati Violet Alva, stated that for implementation of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, Special Police officers had been appointed in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Kerala, Madras, Mysore, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh. The matter was under consideration of the remaining four State Governments and the Administration of Tripura.

Planning & Finance

SMALL LOANS TO STATES

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha, Deputy Minister of Finance, said on December 16 that the following amounts had been released to various States as miscellaneous development loan assistance during 1958-59 for construction of distributaries: Andhra Pradesh—Rs. 44.40 lakhs, Bihar—Rs. 15 lakhs, Bombay—Rs. 20 lakhs, Madhya Pradesh—Rs. 4 lakhs, Orissa—Rs. 65 lakhs, Kerala—Rs. 23 lakhs, Rajasthan—Rs. 15 lakhs, Uttar Pradesh—Rs. 38 lakhs and Mysore—Rs. 60 lakhs.

Small Savings Collections

During question hour in the Lok Sabha on December 17, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said that net collections in the Small Savings Scheme for 1958-59 amounted to Rs. 79.70 crores, as against Rs. 70.75 crores in 1956-57 and Rs. 61.64 crores in 1957-58. The provisional figure

NEW BILLS PASSED

The Rajya Sabha approved the following bills, as passed earlier by the Lok Sabha, during December 1959:

(1) The Mines (Amendment) Bill which seeks to tighten up safety regulations in mines and provides for enhanced punishment for repeated violation of rules. (2) The Special Excise Duty on Sugar Bill, (3) the Additional Dues to Excise and Customs on Mineral Oils Bill and (4) the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill.

Winter Session Of Parliament Ends

The Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha adjourned *sine die* on December 22 after the five-week winter session.

for the period from April to October 1959, was Rs. 31.64 crores.

The Minister added that during the last three years collections were the highest in Bombay.

CAPITAL ISSUES

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 17, Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha, Deputy Minister of Finance, stated that, during the years 1957, 1958, and upto December 14, 1959, 18, out of a total of 882 consents given for capital issue, involved issue at a premium. No rigid set of principles or criteria had been laid down for sanctioning capital issue at a premium. Each case was decided on merits.

Foreign Exchange Releases

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 22, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, gave the following figures of foreign exchange released to businessmen, students and others during 1957, 1958 and during the

first nine months of the calendar year 1959.

	(Rupees in lakhs)		
	1957	1958	Jan.-Sept., 1959
Businessmen	87	91	96.55
Students	310	349	311.84
Others (excluding official travel, business and education)	295	274	298.32

The Finance Minister also said that the bulk of the foreign exchange released to official delegations was made through the Missions in the shape of daily allowances and part of salary drawn abroad.

Remittances By Foreign Companies

In reply to a question on December 16 the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, informed the Rajya Saha that the remittances of profits and dividends of branches of foreign firms and companies and foreign controlled Indian Joint Stock Companies engaged in trading activities in India, amounted to Rs. 482.6 lakhs in 1958-59 as against Rs. 400.5 lakhs and Rs. 278.9 lakhs for 1957-58 and 1956-57 respectively.

Giving countrywise details, the Minister said that Rs. 345.5 lakhs were remitted to U.K. and Rs. 130.5 lakhs to U.S.A. in 1958-59.

Detention Of Chinese Dollars At Kalimpong

Answering a question on December 21, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha, confirmed in the Rajya Sabha that the Government of India had received representations from the Sikkim Beopari Sangh, Gangtok, regarding detention, by the Kalimpong Land Customs Office, of 25,000 Chinese dollars (silver) belonging to the General Stores of Yatuns, Kalimpong, on November 6, 1959.

The Deputy Minister said that a licence had been granted to the above firm by the Reserve Bank of India, Calcutta, to import the said silver dollars, but had been subsequently cancelled.

Smuggling Of Gold

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 22 the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha, stated that the objects and aims, contemplated in introducing special rupee Reserve Bank currency notes for circulation in West Asia, had been achieved in inhibiting the flow of smuggled gold from traditional sources.

She added that smuggling of gold into India was also financed by other means than the export of Indian notes to the areas in

which special Indian currency had been issued. Such smuggling was, however, very difficult and there was no reason to believe that it had increased recently to any significant extent.

Replying to another question, the Deputy Minister said that the decrease in the smuggling of gold in the country, it was believed, was one of the factors responsible for the rise in internal price of gold since October 1958. There was no set pattern of smuggling activities across the country's land borders. The smugglers changed their *modus operandi* and the nature of smuggled articles according to circumstances.

Commerce & Industry

DURGAPUR STEEL WORKS INAUGURATED

Commissioning the first blast furnace, the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad inaugurated the production at the Durgapur Steel Works on December 29.

In his inaugural address the President said that with the completion of the three plants at Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur in course of time, India hoped not only to meet the internal requirements of steel but also to be able to lay aside a part of the output for export. It may be said that the foundations of India's industrialisation had been laid truly and firmly.

RUHR OF INDIA

Referring to the benefits accruing from the plant, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said, if, by virtue of its mineral wealth and proximity to Calcutta, this region deserved to be called the Ruhr of India, Durgapur was without doubt in the heart of this region. The location of the steel works there was perhaps the biggest single event to give impetus to the industrialisation of this area.

Another good feature of the undertaking, which had employed some 35,000 workers including

some 350 British engineers, was that some 350 Indian technicians were being trained in the United Kingdom for manning different sections of the plant on completion.

The President thanked the British Consortium — Indian Steel Works Construction Company Ltd. (ISCON) comprising within it the largest engineering companies that have built up the British modern steel industry and the experts and technologists of the United Kingdom who have been responsible for planning and erecting the Durgapur Steel Works and complimented the Indian workers, who have collaborated with them.

He thankfully mentioned that the British Government, had taken active interest in giving concrete shape to this symbol of collaboration between the two countries in the industrialisation of India.

SURPLUS PRODUCTION

In his address Sardar Swaran Singh, Union Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel, observed that the present Durgapur steel plant was designed for massive expansion

and was confident that it could play its proper role in the fulfilment of the production target of 10 million tons by 1965.

He disclosed that over 400,000 tons of pig iron had been produced during the year 1959, with the result that not only were the country's requirements complied with but considerable quantities were also exported.

He further stated that Durgapur was already becoming the centre of an impressive complex of industries. The Bengal Government coke oven plant, the new factory for the manufacture of coal mining equipment, the Wickes Babcock factory for the manufacture of boilers and steam machinery, all these were at the beginnings of a large process of industrial growth.

On the invitation of the Government of India, the Minister of State for Commonwealth Relations, Mr. C.J.M. Alport, represented the U.K. Government at the opening ceremony. Speaking at the function, he said that the Durgapur steel plant represented a splendid example of commonwealth co-operation but more especially it was a symbol of the close relationship between Britain and India. On behalf of the Consortium of British firms, Sir Cyril Jones said the Organisation was willing to help India in any expansion of the Durgapur plant during the Third Plan.

Shri Boothalingam, Secretary, Union Steel Ministry, said that Government were thinking of doubling the production of the three steel plants in the public sector during the Third Plan period and a new plant would be set up at Bokaro. He said the cost of producing steel in India was the lowest except perhaps in Australia.

THE PLANT

In 1955 under the Technical Cooperation Scheme of the Colombo Plan, a Technical Mission under the leadership of Sir Eric Coates, (who also was present at the opening ceremony) was appointed to advise the Government of India on the establishment of a new iron and steel works in India. The mission visited India in April 1955 and in its report

published in July 1955 recommended the establishment of an integrated iron and steel works with a capacity of one million ingot tons at Durgapur in West Bengal.

The contract for the setting up of the Durgapur Steel Plant was signed between the Government of India and a Consortium of British firms on October 31, 1956. The construction is expected to be completed in 1961.

Besides the production of one million tons of ingot steel per annum, the plant will produce 350,000 tons of pig iron and various by-products such as ammonium sulphate, benzene, toluene, xylene, solvent naphtha, naphthalene, road tar and wood preserving creosote. There will also be a sleeper bar plant for the production of sleepers.

The finished steel products from the plant will include joints, channels, light rails, rounds, bearing plates, fish-plates and piling bars from the medium section mill and rounds, squares, flats and angles from the Morgan Continuous Merchant Mill.

Durgapur is the third steel plant to be commissioned in the public sector, the other two — Rourkela and Bhilai — have already started producing steel. All the three will contribute jointly three million tons annually by the end of the Second Plan towards the achievement of the target of six million tons. The remaining three million tons will be produced by the Tatas, IISCO and the Bhadravati Steelworks in Mysore.

Finished Steel From Bhilai Plant

The second blast furnace of the Bhilai Steel Works was commissioned on December 27.

The billet mill was inaugurated by Sardar Swaran Singh, Union Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel, on December 24. Mr. N.A. Skachkov, Chairman of the State Committee for Economic Relations, who arrived in India on December 15, as leader of the seven-man team from U.S.S.R., was present along with members of the delegation.

Finished steel in saleable form started rolling out of Bhilai after the commissioning of the billet mill.

The blooming mill of the steelworks was commissioned on November 7 last. The blooms will now be further rolled into billets which is a commercial item of steel and for which there is a large demand in the country. Bhilai Project has already received orders for more than two lakh tons of billets from various re-rolling mills in the country.

MR. KHRUSHCHEV'S MESSAGE

On the occasion of the inauguration of the billet mill, Prime Minister Nehru received a letter dated December 22 from the Soviet Prime Minister, Mr. Nikita Khrushchev, which reads, *inter alia*:

"With a feeling of great joy the Soviet people have learned that the builders of the Bhilai Plant have gained a new victory of labour and have put into operation the second open-hearth furnace, a blooming mill and a continuous billet rolling mill, having completed thereby the construction of the whole metallurgical enterprise. From this memorable day on, the plant will start producing for the country rolled steel, which is so necessary for her economy."

"With great satisfaction we have also received the report that new units will be put into operations at the plant within the next few days: the second coke oven battery and the second blast furnace, which will at once permit to considerably increase the production of pig iron and steel...."

"We also note with pleasure the fact that an atmosphere of friendly joint work of the Indian and Soviet specialists has developed at the Bhilai Steel Project and that in the process of the construction there grow and perfect themselves Indian national cadres of qualified specialists who will make their worthy contribution to the construction and operation of future industrial enterprises of their home industry. We are confident that in the course of further Soviet-Indian economic and technical co-operation the spirit of creation and

business co-operation born at the Bhilai construction will assume an all-round development...."

PRIME MINISTER NEHRU'S REPLY

In his reply dated December 25, Prime Minister Nehru said, "I have received your message of the 22nd December about the Bhilai Plant with pleasure and I thank you for it. The day when the Bhilai Plant will start producing rolled steel is indeed a memorable day for us. The success of this great undertaking is not only a landmark in India's industrial progress, but is also a symbol of the co-operation of Soviet and Indian specialists which we welcome so much. We look forward with confidence to further Soviet-Indian economic and technical co-operation in the great task we have undertaken of building up a new India...."

SMALL PIG IRON PLANTS

In answer to a question, Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, told the Rajya Sabha on December 16 that the Government of India had licensed 8 parties for putting up small pig iron plants in the private sector. Of these, 3 were to be located in Bombay, 3 in Madras and one each in Orissa and West Bengal.

The Minister added that one plant at Coimbatore and another at Barbil (Orissa State) had already gone into production.

HEAVY ELECTRICALS FACTORY

According to the Third Annual Report of the Heavy Electricals Ltd. for 1958-59, published on December 25, the Union Government have decided to speed up the second and third phases of construction in the Heavy Electricals Factory at Bhopal, a Public Sector undertaking.

Towards the end of 1957-58, the Government had, due to foreign exchange difficulties, decided to phase the company's manufacturing programmes in three stages and only the first phase was to be taken up immediately. The Report has now emphasised the urgent necessity for early

implementation of the second and third phases for doubling the factory's output, and for its further expansion upto the optimum limit.

PRODUCTION TO COMMENCE

To meet the increased production target, the number of apprentices in the training will be doubled and the training period curtailed from 24 to 18 months. As on September 15, 1959, 1,746 persons were undergoing training in the factory, besides 138 in the U.K.

The report observes that production would soon be started with the manufacture of switch-gears in the training workshop. It was also expected to commence the manufacture of transformers from June, 1960 and of traction equipment early in 1961.

Rolls Royce Engines To Be Produced In India

According to an announcement dated December 31, Shrimati Vijayalakshmi Pandit, High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom, signed on December 30, on behalf of the Government of India, an agreement with the Rolls Royce, Limited, whereby the Rolls Royce dart engines will be produced under licence in India.

The engines will be installed in AVRO 748 transport aircraft, which will be manufactured in India. The dart prop-jet is well established in India and enjoys high reputation. Indian Air Force has been operating two vickers 'viscounts' since 1955 and the Indian Airlines Corporation has a fleet of dart-powered viscounts since 1957.

PRODUCTION OF SULPHUR

The Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, informed the Lok Sabha while answering a question on December 18 that it had been decided to undertake the manufacture of sulphur from pyrites in the country.

This decision had been taken on the basis of a report submitted by the Indian Bureau of

INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

Industrial Estates are developed on planned sites for small industries. The entire cost is advanced as loans by the Central Government to State Governments, who acquire and develop land, construct roads and put up factory buildings.

The allocation for the scheme was recently enhanced from Rs. 10 crores to Rs. 15 crores during the Second Plan period.

So far, 31 Estates have been fully established and 65 are under construction at a total cost of Rs. 11 crores, covering 3,600 factories and providing employment to 50,000 people. Of these 20 are in rural areas and 9 in Pilot Community Project areas. The Okhla Industrial Estate at New Delhi is the biggest and is intended to be a model for other Estates.

The Estates have been set up with a two-fold objective. They seek to remove small industrial units from crowded urban areas and, secondly, they aim at providing small units with factory space at concessional rent with common facilities. They also stimulate a co-operative spirit among small industrialists.

Mines which indicated that sufficient reserves of pyrites were available at Amjor in Bihar State.

A Norwegian firm had developed a process for producing sulphur from pyrites and an expert from the firm had visited the sites of the deposits to work out detailed report on the mining of the ores.

The annual consumption of sulphur in the country at present was estimated to be about 1.1 lakh tons, which was wholly met by imports, Shri Shah added.

PRODUCTION OF CHROMITE

It was announced on December 20 that, according to the Indian Bureau of Mines the total production of chromite during

January-September 1959 was 65,563 metric tons as against 48,824 metric tons during the corresponding period of the preceding year. Orissa State was the leading producer with an output of 59,906 metric tons.

National Small Industries Corporation

The Annual Administration Report for 1958-59 of the National Small Industries Corporation, published on December 24, shows that Government purchase of stores from the small-scale units registered a four-fold rise during the year compared to the previous year. The Corporation secured Union Government orders worth Rs. 2.5 crores in favour of small-scale manufacturers as against those worth Rs. 62 lakhs in the previous year.

The Report points out that, during the year, 11 more items were added to the 'Reserved List' of stores raising the total to 27 items. The Railway Board had agreed to introduce similar scheme for purchases from the small-scale sector.

MACHINERY ON HIRE-PURCHASE

Under the hire-purchase scheme introduced by the Corporation early in 1956, the Report says, 1,256 machines, valued at Rs. 1 crore, were supplied to the small-scale units during the year, thus accruing to the small industrialists an increase of Rs. 80 lakhs per annum in the production. The Corporation is making attempts to arrange indigenous manufacture of certain types of machines which are now being imported.

During the year, the Corporation exported shoes valued at Rs. 37 lakhs to Russia, Poland and East Germany. A prototype production-cum-training centre is being set up at Okhla near Delhi as well as at Rajkot, and two more centres, at Calcutta and Guindy (Madras), are in the stage of negotiations with the Governments of Japan and France.

Indian Information

Registration Of Small Scale Industries

An announcement made on December 23 says that, in order to co-ordinate the development of small industries with large-scale industries, the Government of India have decided to collect statistics of employment and production in the small-scale sector. For this purpose, the small-scale units in the country have been requested to furnish necessary details and register themselves with Directors of Industries and Directors of the Small Industries Services Institutes in the States.

HANDICRAFTS DESIGNS COMPETITION

The All India Handicrafts Board announced on December 24 a National Design Competition in order to encourage original designs in carpets, metalware and wood-work. In each group, there will be two classes (a) designs on paper and (b) actual designs. Four prizes of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 750, Rs. 500, and Rs. 250 will be given for each class in the three crafts.

The entries are to be sent to the Board in New Delhi by March 15, 1960.

LOCATION OF DRUG PROJECTS

On December 22 the Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, laid a statement on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament regarding the location of the five drug projects as well as the project for the manufacture of basic chemicals and intermediates. The Statement reveals that, after considering the report submitted recently by the Drugs Projects Location Committee, the Government have provisionally decided to set up these projects at the following places: (1) Antibiotics — at Rishikesh in Uttar Pradesh; (2) Synthetic Drugs — at Sanatnagar (Hyderabad) in Andhra Pradesh; (3) Surgical Instruments — near about Madras City in Madras State; (4) Photo-

chemicals — at a suitable site in Kerala; (5) Glandular Products (two units) — at modernised slaughter houses in Bombay and Calcutta; (6) Basic Chemicals and Intermediates — at Apta Kharpada near Panvel in Bombay State.

The final selection of actual sites will be determined in consultation with the Soviet technical experts in the case of first five projects and with the West German firm of Bayers technical experts in the case of Basic Chemicals and Intermediates project.

DRUG FARMS

The Government of India have further provisionally decided to establish drug farms in the following regions for growing specific medicinal plants in each region: (i) Jammu and Kashmir, (ii) Darjeeling area in West Bengal, (iii) Kerala, (iv) Nilgiris in Madras, (v) Chakrata Hills in Uttar Pradesh, and (vi) Rongpo Hills area in Assam.

A committee of technical experts will be set up shortly to recommend specific plants to be cultivated at these regional farms and to indicate the possible supplies of medicinal raw materials from them.

PRODUCTION OF SALICYL-ALDEHYDE

An announcement of December 18 says that the Central Electro-Chemical Research Institute, has developed a process for the electrolytic production of salicylaldehyde which is used extensively in the perfumery industry, also as a fungicide, larvicide, ultraviolet stabiliser for polystyrene and as an important dye-intermediate.

BITUMINOUS EMULSIONS DEVELOPED

According to an announcement of December 25, a process has been developed at the Railway Testing and Research Centre, Chittaranjan, for obtaining stable bituminous emulsions from all types of bitumens including those ordinarily considered non-emulsifiable. Ingredients used in the new process are bitumen,

cashewnut, shell liquid, bentonite and phosphoric acid. The emulsions possess good storage and transport stability and show good tolerance for asbestos powder, mica, vermiculite and sodium dichromate.

NEW BUILDING MATERIAL

An announcement of December 25 says that a new type of building material has been developed by the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee, as a result of which cement and steel requirements are reduced by about half. Known as precast doubly curved shell element, it will bring about a saving of 25 per cent in cost, 49 per cent in cement and 46 per cent in steel. It can be utilised for roofs, floors and panel-walls. Its use will benefit the low-cost housing programme.

TALKS ON INDO-U.S. TRADE RELATIONS

In a talk between Mr. Frederick H. Mueller, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, Minister of Commerce, and Shri Satish Chandra, Deputy Minister, on December 17, there was an exchange of views on improving trade relations between India and U.S.A. The question of restrictions imposed by India, along with other countries of the Sterling area, on import from dollar areas was discussed. Mr. Mueller expressed his gratification at the decision of the Government of India to abolish these restrictions for which orders were under issue, and hoped that this would greatly improve the trade between the two countries.

Regarding import of machinery from the United States, Mr. Mueller was informed that India's requirements of machinery were growing but in some fields American prices were not competitive. The U.S. Commerce Secretary pointed out that if quality and performance were taken into account, American prices were competitive and as-

sured the Minister for Commerce and Industry that free competition amongst U.S. exporters would ensure that Indian purchases were effected at most economical prices.

The question of increasing Indian exports to the United States was also discussed. The U.S. Secretary expressed interest in promoting the import of hand-products from developing countries such as India.

In regard to manganese ore, the view was expressed that the U.S. steel industry would continue to draw a large portion of its requirement from India. It was hoped that, as a result of the developments which are taking place in the two countries, it should be possible for Indo-American trade to expand in future.

Mr. Frederick H. Mueller arrived in New Delhi on December 17 on a three-day goodwill visit. He left on December 19.

India-G. D. R. Trade Arrangement

Letters were exchanged in New Delhi on December 18 between Mr. Evich Renneisen leader of the trade delegation of the Government of German Democratic Republic, and Shri K.R.F. Khilnani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, embodying a trade and payment arrangement between the two countries. The new arrangement will be valid for a period of three years from January 1, 1960. The current trade arrangement was entered into in October 1956 and later amended by a supplementary arrangement in November 1958.

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

India will export, besides traditional items like iron and manganese ore, tea, coffee, spices, cashewnut, textiles and ready-made garments, jute manufac-

tures, laminated jute bags, coir products, handicraft, sports goods, canned fruit and fruit products, shoes, woollen and silken fabrics, plywood and refrigerators.

Exports of German Democratic Republic to India will mainly consist of machinery items like textile machinery with automatic looms, printing machinery, machine tools, complete installations and plants, raw films, precision and optical instruments, fertilisers, etc. Under the new arrangement the volume of trade between the two countries will increase considerably.

IMPORTS FROM DOLLAR AREA

An Import Trade Control Public Notice, issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on December 18, permits importers to utilise for import from the dollar area the full value of the licences held by them for importing items other than capital goods from the soft currency area as a whole. As a result, imports from the dollar area will now be placed on par with imports from the soft currency area.

Imports of capital goods of more than small value will continue to need regulation with due regard to the availability of foreign exchange for purchases in various countries. The validity of import licences for such goods will, therefore, be restricted to the country or countries specified thereon.

Import-Export Trade By Indian Banks

In reply to a question on December 17 Shri Morarji Desai said in the Lok Sabha that the value of imports (estimated on the basis of a sample analysis) and of exports financed by Indian banks in 1958 was Rs. 220.6 crores and Rs. 201.4 crores respectively. The figures for 1957 were Rs. 325.6 crores of imports and Rs. 204.5 crores of exports.

EXPORT OF SALT TO JAPAN

Replying to a question on December 17 the Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, told the Rajya Sabha that, under an agreement signed between the State Trading Corporation and the Japanese importers, 4.5 lakh tons of Indian salt would be exported to Japan during the period January 1960 to March 1961 at a selling price of 20 Sh. per long ton F.O.B. (trimmed). In addition, 1.3 lakh tons of salt would be exported by Indian shippers.

Shri Shah added that about 10 lakh tons would be the annual surplus of salt which could be exported.

REBATE OF EXCISE DUTY ON COTTON NAPKINS

According to a Press Note of December 19 issued by the Ministry of Finance, the Government of India have decided to extend the procedure under rule 191-A of the Central Excise Rules, 1944, for export out of India of articles under claim for rebate of duty on the excisable goods used in their manufacture, to cotton napkins as well. It is already applicable to ready-made apparel, tents, sugar products, cotton bags, umbrellas, chaddars, pillow cases, table covers and several other articles.

It has also been decided to permit the manufacture in bond of cotton napkins for the purpose of export, under the rule 191-B.

SMUGGLING OF WATCHES NEAR THE GOA BORDER

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 17, the Deputy Finance Minister, Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha, said that, according to the information available with the Government, smuggling of watches was going on near Goa border from Daman to Bombay. During the first ten months of 1959, watches valued at Rs. 69,800 had been seized.

The Deputy Minister detailed the various measures taken from

time to time to deal with the smuggling. The measures included increased vigilance and patrolling along the sea coast and the land border, imposition of more deterrent penalties, etc.

CEMENT PACKING CHARGES

A Press Note issued on December 26 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry says, the charges for packing one ton cement (20 bags) in New D.W. Heavy Cees quality Gunny bags for the next quarter commencing from January 1, 1960 work out to Rs. 12 and 09 nP.

On March 27, 1954, the Government of India announced that packing charges for cement would be fixed every quarter on the basis of the average of the maximum and minimum market price for packing material, during each week of the immediately preceding nine months, plus Rs. 1.25 per ton to cover incidental charges. Packing charges for the current quarter were fixed at Rs. 11.65 nP. per ton for new D.W. Heavy Cees quality Gunny bags.

Fifth I.S.I. Convention

The fifth Indian Standards Convention was inaugurated in Hyderabad on December 28 by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Sanjeeva Reddy. Over 600 delegates, including representatives from two foreign countries — Lebanon and Japan — participated in the discussions.

Besides discussing methods of effective implementation of the I.S.I. standards, the Convention covered a number of other connected problems such as preparation of standards in terms of metric system, progress of certification scheme for small industries' products, standardisation vis-a-vis productivity, etc.

Progress Of I.S.I. In 1958-59

An announcement of December 23 says that, according to the Annual Report of the Indian Standards Institution for 1958-59, voluntary implementation of Indian Standards by manufacturers and consumers has shown a marked progress.

The Report states that number of standards published and under print by the Institution has reached the total of 1219, including 196 published during the year under review. The Institution received 191 proposals for formulating new Indian Standards.

As a result of the discussions at the Fourth Indian Standards Convention held during the year, a Women's Advisory Committee was set up to advise the Institution in regard to the formulation and implementation of standards for consumer goods. The Consumers' Association of India, was another result of the deliberations.

INQUIRY INTO MEWAR TEXTILE MILLS

A Press Note issued on December 21 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry says that the Government of India have, in exercise of their powers under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri G.D. Somani, M.P., to inquire into the affairs of the Mewar Textile Mills Ltd., Bhilwara (Rajasthan). The other members of the Committee are Sarvashri M.S. Ramnath and S.M. Yousuf.

INQUIRY INTO AN AHMEDABAD CONCERN

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on December 25 says that the Government of India have, in exercise of their powers under Section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, set up a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Madan Mohan Mangaldas to inquire into the affairs of Messrs. Hutheesingh Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Ahmedabad, Bombay State. The other members of the Committee are Sarvashri Thomas De Sa and S.M. Yousuf.

Communications

NEW MONITORING STATION

The International Monitoring Station of the Government of India was inaugurated on December 19, at Ghatorial, about 10 miles from Delhi by Dr. Subbarayan, Union Minister for Transport and Communications.

The Monitoring Station, which conforms to international standards, will be a major step forward in wireless planning and co-ordination.

Expansion Of Integral Coach Factory

The Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, confirmed in the Lok Sabha during question hour on December 16 that the scheme for the expansion of the Integral Coach Factory, Perambur, had been finalised.

Giving the details of the scheme, the Deputy Minister said that second shift working had been introduced at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 89.44 lakhs. A permanent furnishing unit had been provided for interior furnishing of the shells, at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.7 crores.

TOOLS AND PLANT DEPOT AT MANMAD

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 21, the Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, confirmed that Government proposed to set up a tools and plant depot in Manmad on the Central Railway. About Rs. 4.35 lakhs had been sanctioned for civil engineering portion of the work and about Rs. 9.33 lakhs for machinery and plant. The structural engineering portion of the work would start shortly.

RLY. ELECTRIFICATION IN WEST BENGAL

An announcement of December 28 says that the Government of India have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 48 lakhs to the West Bengal Government for meeting the expenditure on power supply arrangements for railway electrification in the State. This is the first loan against their requirement of about Rs. 320 lakhs.

LOSS ON BRANCH LINE OF S.R.

The Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri S.V. Ramaswamy, said, in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 16, that Government had incurred a loss of approximately Rs. 76,000, without taking into account interest charges from April 1 to September 30, 1959 on the Bodinayakkanur-Madurai branch line of the Southern Railway.

The Deputy Minister also outlined the steps that had been taken or were under consideration to reduce the loss and increase the earnings.

INCOME FROM SALE OF PLATFORM TICKETS

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 21, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Deputy Minister of Railways said that total collections from the sale of platform tickets at 10 nP from July 1 to October 31, 1959 were Rs. 12,31,268 as against Rs. 8,33,637 collected in the corresponding period in 1958.

SHIFTING OF A BUILDING

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 21, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Deputy Minister of Railways, said that the water-hut at Khalilpur railway station, on the Northern Railway near Rewari, was bodily shifted by the Executive Engineer and his staff. As far as Railways were concerned, this was the first achievement of its kind.

Food & Agriculture

ALL-INDIA AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS CONFERENCE

The All-India Agricultural Economics Conference was held in Baroda on December 25. Dr. S.R. Sen, Joint Secretary to the Planning Commission, presided.

VITAL ROLE OF AGRICULTURE

In his presidential address, Dr. Sen pointed out that the development of agriculture could help in the development of our economy from the stagnant to the progressive stage in three ways: by increasing the gross national produce; by supplying the physical surplus required by the other sectors of the economy in the shape of food and raw materials; and by providing the

economic surplus which constituted the material basis for economic development. He stressed that, for economic development, mere increase in production was not enough; it must be accompanied by an increase in surplus and thereby an investment at a compound rate which should be well above the rate of increase in population. In more advanced stages of economic development, the bulk of the surplus required might come from the industrial sector. But in an economy like ours, where nearly half of the national income still was coming from agriculture, a large part of the surplus requir-

d for economic development could have to come from agriculture until a stage was reached when industry was able to contribute a major portion of the national income.

An under-developed agricultural economy could provide a large unexploited potential—which could produce the requisite surplus with relatively low investment and in a comparatively short time. But in practice it was often found that there were a number of serious inhibiting factors which tended to hold up agricultural development at its very stage. In fact, it was one of the characteristic features of an under-developed economy that its agriculture reached some sort of a *quasi-equilibrium* at a low level of productivity from which it was extremely difficult to raise it. Not only did the patterns of investment, enterprise and techniques tend to become closely integrated with this low level of productivity but the species of crops and animals were also bound to evolve in such a manner as to suit only that low level of productivity. If any attempt was made to lift any part of this mesh of *inter-locking vicious circles*, there was usually such a pull downwards from the other gains in the mesh that any sustained progress became almost impossible.

In the ultimate analysis an increase in agricultural productivity could come mainly in three ways: larger investment for building up the infra-structure of the agricultural economy; more intensive use of traditional techniques and introduction of improved techniques. The first as a rather costly and also a slow process; the second might yield some improvement in a short period but it had a limited value. Only the adoption of improved techniques could open up a never-expanding horizon.

Dr. Sen pointed out that during the British days *laissez faire* and geographical specialisation in agricultural production were practised without, however, any appreciable change in the tech-

niques of production or the efficiency of the operations. The Second World War and the Partition compelled the country to sacrifice some of the advantages of the geographical division of labour, with a consequent fall in agricultural production. The upward trend initiated by the five-year plans had shown that Indian agriculture was no longer stagnant. But the progress had been in spurts and the country could not claim to have yet achieved a definite transformation from a stage of chronic stagnancy to that of sustained growth.

STRATEGIC STIMULATION

Coming to the principle and details of the strategy that should be adopted for the development of the Indian agriculture, Dr. Sen rejected *laissez-faire*, because it had been given a long trial and had failed, and collectivization, because it was not in accord with the Indian ideals of democracy and might accentuate the problem of rural unemployment, at least in the initial period, with the low land-man ratio in India. Therefore, the basic approach had necessarily to be a suitable form of strategic stimulation, viz., a big push given by the State supplemented by certain strategic pulls through deliberate planning for a limited amount of "unbalanced development" of both agriculture and industry.

But the "decks" had to be cleared for action first. The adoption of an appropriate land policy, credit policy and marketing and price policy was an essential part of such clearing of the "decks". Such policies had already been recommended in the First and Second Plans, but the implementation had been held up due to hesitancy in regard to certain minor details. These difficulties had to be settled quickly and the policies effectively implemented as early as possible. He emphasized, "Unless our farmers are fully protected against exploitation by landlords, provided with an agrarian structure which is conducive to efficiency, supplied with credit which is adequate enough

for adopting all the new techniques and for making all the investments that are needed for achieving a higher level of production and also assured that if they take the risk of stepping up their investment, prices will not be allowed to fall to unremunerative levels, even the best of technical and administrative programmes for agricultural development will not produce the desired result."

EFFICIENT EXTENSION SERVICE

Dr. Sen placed the greatest emphasis on a strong and efficient organization for providing an intensive agricultural research and extension service and ensuring adequate supply of fertilizers, pesticides, improved seeds, livestock, modern agricultural implements and irrigation. The extension staff at present was too thin in coverage and too superficial in quality, especially in the context of the present poor level of development of people's organizations in the rural areas. While an extension agent covered 500 to 600 farmers in Japan, 400 in Holland and only 200 in Scotland, in India he was asked to look after as many as 1,200 farmers. Dr. Sen observed that 85 to 90 per cent of the recent increase in production in China was due to technical services and supplies and only 10 to 15 per cent due to the particular form of farm organization which they had introduced. If, on account of paucity of funds or shortage of personnel, it was not found immediately possible to cover the entire country any more intensively than was being done in the present community project areas, the least that should be done was to supplement it in selected areas or on a peripatetic basis with a special "task force" of agricultural extension workers which had been recently recommended by a number of eminent experts.

"It is, however, no use," Dr. Sen emphasized, "for the extension worker to ask the farmers to follow improved practices or to work more intensively unless requisite supplies of fertilizers, pesticides, farm machinery etc. are available and the farmers

have adequate credit for securing these supplies. If the farmers in a particular area appear to be not working intensively enough, very often the reason is that at the low level of productivity which is the inevitable consequence of traditional techniques followed by them and the lack of supplies, the additional yield that they can get from additional work of a most back-breaking kind is so meagre that for them it is not really worth while to put in any additional effort. It is a common experience that when a new technique like the use of chemical fertilizers is introduced which is more productive and less onerous, then a farmer gets interested not only in working more intensively but also in an all-round improvement in his operations and increasing his marketed surplus."

IRRIGATION

Coming to irrigation, he felt that there was an undue preference for major irrigation projects. Modern dry farming techniques and introduction of drought-resisting crops could increase the output substantially in large areas of the country even on the basis of the existing moisture. In other areas, attention should shift to the optimum use of the available supply of water rather than on schemes for the provision of new major irrigation sources.

FUNCTIONAL SPECIALIZATION

Dr. Sen advocated a bold policy of geographical as well as functional specialization both in agriculture and industry. Rejecting the demand for regional self-sufficiency in foodgrains, he said: "Our programme for agricultural development has to be built not around self-sufficiency in foodgrains in different regions but around the best crop rotation for each of these regions from the technical as also the economic point of view. Moreover, crop production should be taken up everywhere on a commercial basis. Even where foodgrains are grown, they should be grown as far as practicable as cash crop rather than as more subsistence crop. Until we are

able to bring our crop production fully into the nexus of exchange, we shall never be able to put our agriculture on a modern and scientific basis nor to increase the much needed marketed surplus."

MEDIATING INDUSTRIAL LADDER

Citing several instances of differential rates of development, Dr. Sen pressed the case for developing a complex of industries and diversifying our rural economy in such a manner as would help accelerate agricultural development. Between industry and agriculture there should be some sort of a ladder of which the different steps are within easy reach of one another. "For instance, if we decide to develop a steel industry, we should also arrange to set up subsidiary industries which will produce agricultural implements and machinery from that steel and use all the techniques of salesmanship not only to make these implements available to the agriculturist but also to make him interested in using them. It is only through the ladder of a series of efficient medium of small industries between large-scale industry and agriculture supplemented by adequate transport and marketing facilities, that the stimulating influence of industrialisation can become really effective."

Elucidating this point further, he said that Chhota Nagpur had recently witnessed a very substantial development of heavy industries but production remained stagnant because no industrial "ladder" seemed to have been developed which could bring step by step the steel, fertilizers and pesticides produced in this area to the small farmer. The introduction of power, both electrical and diesel, in rural areas was stressed by Dr. Sen as a very powerful force for providing this linkage between industry and agriculture. He illustrated this point by contrasting the poor rate of development in Eastern U.P. with the rapid rate in Eastern Punjab where electricity had been made available to rural

areas and in the Kaira district of Gujarat where diesel engines had been introduced in the villages. Above all, the inculcation of a desire for a higher standard of living in the farmers could stimulate higher production. The progress made by the farmers of Eastern Punjab illustrated Toynbee's well-known thesis of challenge and response. In their former homes in Western Punjab, now in Pakistan, they had known a higher standard of living and since their present area of cultivation was smaller they not only put in more effort, but tried out new techniques in order to produce from a smaller holding the income which would enable them to maintain their standard of living.

Dr. Sen also felt that, in this context, the organization of an efficient hire-purchase (or instalment credit) system, preferably through co-operative societies, would prove to be of considerable help. The arrangement could cover not only producer goods but also durable consumer goods. It would stimulate production and expand the marketed surplus, specially in those areas which were still in the stage of backward subsistence economy.

There were three broad facts that confronted India today: an accelerated increase in population, a growing disparity between the rate of growth and that of not only western countries but also of some of the neighbours of India and the urgent need to complete the take-off within the next decade if we are to pass over the "period of trouble," that was likely to overcome us otherwise.

Committee For Research On Arid Land

According to an announcement of December 20, the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture have set up, with immediate effect, a National Co-operating Committee to organise research in arid and semi-arid regions of India and to collect information on arid zone research in the country

and abroad and make it available to other countries through the UNESCO.

The Union Minister for Agriculture is the chairman of the committee and its other members include: Secretary, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture; Prof. M.S. Thacker, Secretary, Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs; Agricultural Commissioner; Inspector-General of Forests; Member (Planning and Investigation), Central Water and Power Commission; Director-General of Observatories; and Dr. L.A. Ramdas, Assistant Director, National Physical Laboratory. The Secretary of the Soil Conservation Board will act as Secretary of the Committee.

The setting-up of such a committee was suggested by the UNESCO and also by the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

Research In Agriculture And Animal Husbandry

The Governing Body of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, at a meeting held in New Delhi on December 30, approved a scheme for providing suitable facilities to retired scientists of established reputation to enable them to continue scientific research in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry and allied sciences. A large number of research schemes in agriculture and animal husbandry for implementation during the next two or three years were also approved.

THIRD PLAN OUTLAY

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh, Union Minister of Agriculture, said that the Second Joint Indo-American Team, which was set up by the Government of India to review the work of agricultural education, research and extension, had completed its work and its final recommendations were now being drafted.

Reviewing the work of the I.C.A.R., the Minister said that

several schemes were currently in operation for research on diseases of cattle, poultry, sheep and goats. The Council had assisted the States in prescribing improved methods of dairy farm management, herd recording and registration. A national breeding policy for cattle and sheep had also been drawn up and research laboratories set up to effect improvement of sheep and goats.

Dr. Deshmukh said that the Third Plan envisaged an outlay of Rs. 80 crores on the animal husbandry schemes as against Rs. 36 crores provided in the Second Plan.

Producing over a million tons of fish per year, India ranks eighth among the fishing nations of the world. The fishing industry provides employment to 4.21 lakh persons and contributes Rs. 28 crores to the national exchequer, besides earning a sizable amount of foreign exchange.

Meeting Of Central Tobacco Committee

Shri S.K. Patil, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, inaugurated the 22nd meeting of the Indian Central Tobacco Committee which was held at Anand (Bombay State) on December 23, under the chairmanship of Dr. J.S. Patel, Agricultural Commissioner to the Government of India and President of the Committee. A programme of tobacco development was discussed at the meeting.

According to the programme, the tobacco research centres in India are expected to produce by the end of the Second Five Year Plan about 16,000 pounds of improved seeds annually for distribution to tobacco growers. This quantity would cover an area of about two lakh acres or about 20 per cent of the total acreage under tobacco. The object of this programme is to improve the quality of Indian tobacco so as to enable it to compete successfully with foreign tobacco in international markets

and retain its present hold on the foreign markets. It can also help in expanding tobacco exports on a larger scale. Tobacco earns foreign exchange of the order of Rs. 14 to 15 crores annually and brings in an income of about Rs. 50 crores annually by way of excise duty. It is a source of regular income to the cultivators and at the same time gives employment to about 16 lakh growers and 9 lakh curers. India ranks third, after the U.S.A. and China, among the tobacco growing countries of the world. Of the various States growing tobacco, Andhra Pradesh stands first followed by Bombay, Mysore and Madras. The other tobacco producing States are Bihar, U.P., West Bengal and Assam.

SEA ISLAND COTTON

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 16, Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, Minister for Agriculture, stated that the total acreage under cultivation with Sea Island cotton during 1958-59 was 1,049 acres, and the average yield per acre was 252 lbs. of kapas. During 1959-60, an area of 3955 acres (3055 acres in Kerala State and 900 acres in Mysore State) had been sown with the Sea Island variety.

PRODUCTION OF JUTE IN 1959-60

The All India Final Estimate of Jute for 1959-60, released on December 23 by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, places the area and production of jute at 17.07 lakh acres and 45.48 lakh bales, as compared with the previous year's Partially Revised Estimates of 18.11 lakh acres and 51.52 lakh bales.

Eastern Rice Zone Formed

It has been notified in the Gazette of India Extraordinary of December 21 by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture that the Government of India have de-

cided, with the consent of the State Governments, to form a rice zone of Orissa and West Bengal States. The formation of the zone will help in stabilising the prices of rice in West Bengal at a suitable level and will also enable the cultivators of Orissa to get higher prices for their produce. Rice will now move freely in the zone.

In order to ensure that the prices of rice do not rise unduly in Orissa, it has been decided to continue distribution of rice from Government stocks in Calcutta and also to maintain a reserve stock in Orissa which would be distributed in those areas where the prices might rise.

RICE (U. P.) PRICE CONTROL ORDER

The Government of India issued on December 23 a Rice (Uttar Pradesh) Price Control Order, 1959, superseding the order in force in thirty districts of Uttar Pradesh. The new order, which is applicable to 32 districts, adding Lucknow and Allahabad districts to the earlier list, fixes the maximum controlled prices for Grade I, Grade I Special and Grade V rice. As regards the other varieties the prices hitherto in force remain unaltered. The Government of U.P. are procuring rice in these districts by a system of levy.

By another notification published the same day, movement of paddy has been prohibited from the districts of Lucknow and Allahabad, besides districts already listed. In order to afford facilities to the residents of Bara Banki to mill their paddy in Lucknow, the movement of paddy between these two districts has, however, been permitted.

Expert Committee For Livestock

An announcement of December 17 says that the Government of India have appointed an expert committee to review and evaluate the livestock development work done under the All-

India Key Village Scheme. The committee will assess the utility and economics of the various programmes and recommend policies regarding cattle develop-

ment and dairying in the Third Five-Year Plan.

Shri L. Sahai, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, will be the chairman of the committee.

MEETING OF CENTRAL BOARD OF FISHERIES

Shri S.K. Patil, Union Minister of Food and Agriculture, inaugurated the first meeting of the Central Board of Fisheries in New Delhi on December 29.

Addressing the meeting, Shri Patil pointed out that in the First Five Year Plan a provision of Rs. 5.14 crores was made for the development of fisheries; in the Second Plan this amount was more than doubled. A sum of Rs. 45 crores had been tentatively provided in the Third Plan. This would make possible an additional production of 8 lakh tons, bringing the country's total fish output to 20 lakh tons by 1966.

Shri Patil said that India earned Rs. 6 crores of foreign exchange in 1958 by the export of fish. The Government had decided to encourage Indian investors to secure participation of foreign capital in establishing fishing companies and fish processing industries.

BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board made several recommendations for the development of inland and marine fisheries in the country and to promote export of larger quantities of fish and fish products. It also recommended that adequate financial assistance should be given to fishermen, co-operatives, fishing industry and trade.

For the development of mechanized fishing, the Board recommended early provision of facilities for training and supply of mechanised boats and fishing requisites as well as port facilities for berthing and handling of power fishing vessels. Adequate credit facilities and relaxation of foreign exchange for marine diesel engines and fishing gear, should also be given. The fishing vessels should be exempted from the payment

of duty on fuel oils and fishing twines.

Regarding the need for increased production of fish seed, the Board recommended that the State Departments of Fisheries should take urgent steps for conservation of brood fish, fish spawn and fry and organize more fish seed supply centres both from natural sources and by induced breeding methods. High priority should be given to the construction of adequate number of nurseries.

To meet the increasing need for technical personnel in the Third and successive Plans, it recommended that the State Fisheries Departments and the fishing industry should take full advantage of the training facilities which would be provided at the proposed Central Institute and other training centres organised by the Central and State Governments. Immediate steps should also be taken for organizing the training of fisheries operatives.

PROMOTION OF EXPORT

For promoting the export of fish and fisheries products, the Board recommended that designs should be developed for suitable fishing vessels and increased facilities provided for the import of fishing gear and vessels, packing material and the components of plants for cold storage, freezing and canning. The Custom authorities should give high priority to the clearance of frozen fish products and advantageous freight rates should be secured for shipment of fishery products from the country. The grant of rebate on import duty for the packing material should be expedited. The rules prescribed by the Export Promotion Directorate may be relaxed to enable the fish

FISHERIES IN INDIA

Along the extensive coastline of 3,535 miles, over 73,000 fishing craft, engaging nearly a million fishermen, ply day and night. The output for inland fishing is about one-third of the country's total production.

Though the industry received some fillip in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign in 1944, the development of fisheries on a scientific basis was started only after independence. Some of the more important steps taken in this direction were the setting up of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Station at Mandapam, the Central Inland Fisheries Research Station at Calcutta and the Central Deep-Sea Fishing Station in Bombay in 1947.

At the end of the First Plan fish production recorded a rise of 10 per cent from 10 lakh metric tons in 1951 to 11 lakh metric tons in 1955-56. The Second Plan has earmarked Rs. 12 crores, envisaging a 33 per cent increase in production, and the target has been fixed at 14.5 lakh metric tons.

The Committee set up by Government in 1958 has suggested the establishment of a Fisheries Training Institute at Cochin and a separate sub-centre in the Kausalya-Ganga area of Bhubaneswar (Orissa).

processors to handle a part of the catches for internal consumption. For maintaining high quality of export products, it was considered necessary to institute strict quality control of the products and to set up analytical laboratories in important ports.

It also recommended that the State Governments should not impose, and in cases where they exist, withdraw sales and purchase taxes, and that the export cess on prawns should be kept in abeyance until such time as the industry is firmly established. Suitable subsidies should be granted for diesel oil, cans, packing material and the canning oil.

SPECIAL STAMP ON WORLD AGRICULTURE FAIR

The special postage stamp of 15 nP denomination was issued by the Posts and Telegraphs Department on December 30 to commemorate the World Agriculture Fair. The stamp depicts, as its central theme, a peasant ploughing a field, using a common Indian plough with a pair

of bullocks. In the left hand top corner is the Globe with India highlighted, and in the right hand top corner is a motif showing wheat and maize corns. The words 'First Agriculture Fair New Delhi' appear in white letters at the right hand top side, and the words 'India Postage' have been printed at bottom left horizontal in the size 3.91 cms x 2.90 cms.

River Projects & Power

PLANNED APPROACH TO FLOOD CONTROL

The ninth annual meeting of the Central Flood Control Board was held in New Delhi on December 28 under the chairmanship of the Union Minister of Irrigation and Power, Hafiz Mohd. Ibrahim. In his presidential address, he disclosed that it had been decided to transfer flood control to the State sector from the Third Plan onwards. He, therefore, asked State Governments to ensure a planned approach to flood control problems by drawing up comprehensive plans for each river basin, and taking up only those schemes which fitted in with the overall master plan.

The Minister further said that flood protection works constructed so far had, by and large, withstood the onslaught of floods this year, though there had been some damage to a few works in those States which were badly hit. He expressed gratification at the setting up of committees by State Governments, wherever necessary, to go into the alleged failure of flood control works and trusted that the recommendations of these committees, when they were made, would be pursued vigorously.

MASTER PLAN

In the course of the discussions at the meeting, it was stated that flood control schemes,

which would have to be continued in the Third Plan period, was likely to be of the order of about Rs. 10 crores.

The revised allocation for flood control measures in the Second Plan was Rs. 56 crores, of which Rs. 642.62 lakhs was allocated for 1959-60.

The Deputy Minister for Irrigation and Power assured the State Ministers that their demands for increased allocation would be examined in consultation with the Planning Commission.

The Board was also informed that Vol. II of the report of the High Level Committee on Floods would be circulated to the State Governments shortly, and that this would help in speedy formulation of schemes to be included in the master plan for flood control in each State.

The Board emphasised the necessity for promoting legislation for levy of flood cess, so that the State Governments could augment their resources for development activities.

Specialised Training At Multi-Purpose Projects

An announcement of December 23 says that, 253 trainees have so far been given specialis-

ed practical training in various phases of construction work at multi-purpose projects and 80 trainees are undergoing training in 1959-60.

Two technical centres, each providing for 40 candidates from engineering personnel, are functioning at the Kotah Barrage in Rajasthan and the Nagarjunasagar Project in Andhra Pradesh. The Technical Co-operation Mission of the U.S.A. has supplied most of the equipment along with four American instructors, for running the two Centres.

The centre at Kotah started functioning in November 1955, and that at Nagarjunasagar project in June 1956. The one-year course commences at Kotah on December 1 and at Nagarjunasagar on July 1 every year.

Kosi Project

In a written reply to a question, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, told the Lok Sabha on December 16 that the revised estimate for the Kosi Project stood at Rs. 44.76 crores, and that the entire cost of the project would be borne by the Bihar Government.

Multi-Purpose Project In Orissa

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 22, the Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, said that the Government of Orissa had submitted the project report on Bhimkund, a multi-purpose project on the Vaitarani river, for scrutiny, and had requested the Planning Commission for its inclusion in the Third Five-Year Plan. The question of execution of the project would arise only after it was finally cleared by the Technical Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Power and Flood Projects, and approved by the Planning Commission for execution.

Cauvery Waters For Mysore And Madras

In a written reply to a question regarding the sharing of the Cauvery waters by the Mysore and Madras Governments, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, stated in the Lok Sabha on December 16 that out of the three schemes for the river waters, the Mettur Canal was the first one and had since been completed. The two other schemes, namely, the Kattalai Bed Regulator and the Pullumbady, were included in the Second Plan on the assurance given by the Madras Government that the schemes would utilise only the surplus waters of the Cauvery.

Control of Floods In Mahananda Basin

According to an announcement of December 27, the Ganga-Brahmaputra River Commissions, at a joint meeting held in New Delhi recently, have decided to set up a committee to devise methods for control of floods in the Mahananda basin in Bihar. It was also decided to study the designs of earth-fill and rock-fill dams, proposed to be located in seismic zones in the country.

The Commissions further reviewed the progress of surveys, investigations and collection of rainfall data conducted by Cen-

tral and State agencies. It was felt that a single agency should compile data, and periodically inspect raingauges in a State.

Desilting Of Tanks In Madras State

An announcement of December 24 says that the Minor Irrigation Projects Team of the Committee on Plan Projects, Government of India, has recommended a programme to reclaim considerable culturable lands through desilting of tanks in the Madras State. Every acre thus recovered would result in production of a ton of foodgrain annually.

The Team has emphasised the need for urgent restoration of tanks to their original capacity and has laid down broad principles for the selection of tanks. It has been suggested that rain-fed tanks should be selected and the fore-shore lands should be mostly cultivable *peramboke* (government-owned) lands so that they can be assigned for cultivation immediately.

Other recommendations of the Team include the entrusting of the tank repair work to the village panchayats wherever they exist, grouping of repairable tanks within reasonable distance to be given out to firms wherever necessary, and provision of adequate waste weir capacities or all new tanks.

Community Development

MEETING OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Central Committee for Community Development met in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister on December 16.

The Committee considered the main observations of the U.N. Evaluation Mission which has suggested greater attention on

consolidation than on expansion of the C.D. programme. It emphasised that the Union Ministry should lay down firm conditions which must be fulfilled by the local people before the area was brought under the programme. Keeping the village clean, membership and

participation in the capital of village co-operative, were one of the simple norms suggested in this respect. The extension Block should not be treated as a matter of routine Stage-I Block. The upgrade must depend on its performance.

The role of the primary school teacher in planning and implementation of development programmes was also discussed at the meeting. It was pointed out that in view of his relatively higher intellectual attainments, the village teacher was most fitted to take up leadership of the village community.

The Committee reiterated its earlier views that it was not desirable for Ministers or Deputy

Ministers to work as chairmen or office-bearers of co-operative institutions.

TRAINING IN C.D. WORK

In a statement laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha in reply to a question on December 21, Dr. K.L. Shrivastava, Minister of Education, said that, teachers and students from 30 universities had been given assistance during the last two years to study and work in the field of Community Development under the Ford Foundation Scheme of Assistance to University Teachers and Students. The number of successful apprentices exceeded 3,000 and the grants paid totalled Rs. 4,47,000.

ble process of change coming over a vast section of humanity, which, in a sense, had remained more or less unchanging, static. This was a very big problem.

TWO APPROACHES

"All this multitude of problems", Shri Nehru observed, "can only be dealt with satisfactorily, in so far as an individual is concerned, by individual approaches and more or less individual or small group approaches which you are doing. But then the only thing that strikes me is how we can spread these approaches to a vast population through trained teachers. Teachers train groups and groups train other groups...."

"Ultimately one has to approach these matters naturally in two ways and the best way, of course, is the individual being influenced through educational methods as well as through other functions of societies, as far as one can. The other way is the social structure changing so as to help in producing a better individual...."

"Both these, the environmental approach and the approach of the individual to the individual, or group to group, have to be individual, or group to group, have to be followed, pursued side by side in order to get good results on a fairly wide scale," he concluded.

GENERAL DISCUSSIONS

Over 500 distinguished foreign and Indian educationists attended the conference and discussed methods of how to impart education to the child which would be less competitive, more creative and less purely intellectual.

The deliberations at the conference centred round the theme 'The Teacher and his Work — East and West'. The theme had been divided into six main topics: the Gandhian contribution, school inspection and in-service education; education in home and school for full responsible living; the place of science in modern education; and the contribution of arts in modern education.

Education & Culture

WORLD CONFERENCE OF NEW EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated the Tenth World Conference of the New Education Fellowship in New Delhi on December 28.

In his inaugural speech, the Prime Minister said, 'The fact is that here we are in a world where an organisation like the New Education Fellowship is looking rather deep into the springs of human action and thought and tries to direct it in a friendly, affectionate way, in a particular direction or co-operative endeavour and mutual understanding, while at the same time all kinds of forces are functioning in this world which condition people in a different direction.'

Shri Nehru observed that the ultimate relationship in education was between the teacher and the pupil which had been recognised as one of the highest forms of relationship in the cultural traditions of India. He believed that the New Education

Fellowship was trying to develop this relationship by the group system.

Referring to the problem of educating the masses, the Prime Minister said that one could not easily change millions and millions of people in the mass way. That had to come by much more regular approaches which education was supposed to afford. Being treated well, they responded to it easily. But life treated them harshly and conditioned them because the life they had to live was a harsh and hard one. So really it was not a limited question, but covered the whole range of life, when life itself was changing in two ways; in one way because we were, in the economic sense or the social sense, one of the under-developed countries, and secondly, a change was coming all over the world at a tremendous pace by technological or scientific discoveries, which was changing everything. So there was a dou-

The Conference was to conclude on January 6, 1960.

Connected with the Conference, a ten-day training seminar was held in New Delhi from December 16. The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. C.D. Deshmukh, Chairman of the University Grants Commission.

Addressing the New Education Fellowship Training Seminar on December 18, Dr. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, observed that the rate of progress in the field of technical education in India had been most spectacular since independence.

The annual admissions in engineering colleges, which were about 3,000 in 1947-48 had increased to over 11,000 in 1959, and the number was expected to reach about 13,000 by 1961. Admissions to the polytechnics, which were less than 4,000 had exceeded 20,000 in 1959 and might reach 25,000 by 1961. In the field of research and post-graduate studies, over 500 students were now doing research work in several institutions all over the country, while there were practically no facilities in 1947-48.

Dr. Kabir briefly described the all-round progress in education in the country, at various stages, namely, elementary, secondary and university. In 1947-48, only 15 million children in the age group 6-11 were in schools, while by the end of 1955-56 their number was 30 million and according to the revised target the ideal of universal education for this age group was expected to be reached by perhaps 1965-66. At the secondary stage the number of children in 1947-48 was three million and today it was about eight million. At the university stage the number of students was 2.5 lakhs in 1947-48, and today it was about a million. The literacy percentage was about 14 or 15 per cent in 1947-48 and today it was probably about 40.

The Seminar was held in connection with tenth World Conference, which opened in New Delhi on December 28.

Scientific Research In Third Plan

The meeting of the Planning Commission's Panel of Scientists was inaugurated in New Delhi on December 29 by Shri V.T. Krishnamachari, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. In his address, Shri Krishnamachari emphasised that industrial development should have its roots in the country. He said that early steps should be taken to set up units for design and research in the basic industries and attract able scientists and technologists to this work. He also endorsed the suggestion made by the Planning Commission's Working Group on Scientific Research for the Third Plan that a Science Commission should be set up to examine the question of teaching of science from the basic to the advanced stage.

Reviewing the work done so far, Shri Krishnamachari referred to two of the important recommendations made at the last meeting of the Panel on which action has been taken. The Planning Commission had set up a Scientific Instruments Committee to prepare a comprehensive list of scientific instruments and to suggest measures for achieving self-sufficiency in the manufacture of scientific instruments and equipment in the country. Action for implementing the recommendations of this Committee have already been started by the concerned Ministries.

The second recommendation related to a 15-year programme of establishing low temperature carbonisation plants for the production of domestic fuel (soft coke) from non-coking coal and recovery of by-products.

Shri Krishnamachari also referred to some of the important results obtained in our laboratories during the last three years, particularly the successful production of stainless steel and optical glass. He also mentioned the intensive survey carried out for mineral resources and the discovery of new oil fields in Assam and other areas.

There was a general discussion on the different items in the agenda which included the Report of the Working Group on Scientific Research for the Third Five Year Plan, the Memorandum on the Programme of Scientific Research proposed to be carried out during the Third Plan period, Science Education and Rapid Utilisation of Results of Research. A strong plea was made for liberal support of scientific research in universities. A Committee was appointed to look into the question of the establishment of a National Laboratory for Antibiotics.

The Panel of Scientists has been set up by the Planning Commission to advise and assist the Commission in co-ordinating programmes of research in national laboratories, universities and other institutions with the requirements of national planning. It includes thirty top ranking scientists.

Work Of National Research Development Corp.

According to the Fifth Annual Report of the National Research Development Corporation for the year 1958-59, 56 inventions were reported for development by 20 research institutions during the year, bringing the total number of inventions to 503. Five processes went into production and 24 licences were negotiated as against 17 in the preceding year.

The Report states that, regarding development of Indian inventions in foreign countries, arrangements for the exploitation of some inventions have been finalised with the Research Corporation, New York, and with a prominent West German firm.

WORK OF INSTITUTES

During the year, schemes sponsored by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research contributed 9 inventions, followed by the National Chemical Laboratory, Poona, (7); National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi (6); Central Fuel Research Institute, Jealgora (5); and four each by

the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur; Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore and Shri Ram Institute for Industrial Research, Delhi. Five new applications for patenting inventions in India were also filed.

B.H.U. AYURVEDIC COLLEGE

Answering a question, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Minister of Education, told the Rajya Sabha on December 21 that the Academic Council of the Banaras Hindu University had accepted, in principle, that the University Ayurvedic College be converted into a College of Medical Sciences and had set up an ad hoc Committee to work out the details. The Government had, however, no scheme for converting the Ayurvedic College into a full-fledged Medical College.

U. G. C. FELLOWSHIPS

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 21, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Minister of Education laid a statement on the Table of the House, regarding the award of Fellowships by the University Grants Commission for the year 1959-60. According to the statement 43 Fellowships had been awarded, of which 26 were Post-Doctoral (Junior) Fellowships of Rs. 300 p.m. each and 17 were Senior Research Fellowships of Rs. 500 p.m. each. State-wise, the awards were as follows: Andhra Pradesh — 5; Bombay — 3; Madras — 5; Mysore — 12; Punjab — 2; U.P. — 5; West Bengal — 6; and Centrally administered areas, including Delhi — 5.

The statement adds that the fellowships were awarded on the basis of merit and qualifications of the candidates and the nature of the research project.

WEST GERMAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Another Press Note of December 23 issued by the Ministry says that two candidates have been selected for the award of the remaining two out of the 50 scholarships offered by the Government of the Federal Republic

of Germany to Indian nationals for practical training in West Germany in 1959-60. The names of the other 48 candidates selected were announced on November 25. The above two candidates are for Mechanical Engineering.

UNION TERRITORIES SCHOLARSHIPS

A Press Note issued on December 24 by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs says that, four candidates have been selected for the award of scholarships under the 'Union Territories Scholarships Scheme 1959-60' for post-graduate study/research in Chemistry and Medicine abroad. Of these, two candidates are from Delhi and one each from Tripura and Manipur.

These scholarships are administered by the Ministry.

First Gandhi Bhawan In Delhi University

Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation stone of a Gandhi Bhawan at the Delhi University on December 17. This is the first institution of its kind to be established in an Indian University.

Under a programme jointly sponsored by the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi and University Grants Commission, Gandhi Bhawans are to be set up in universities to promote and facilitate the study of Gandhiji's ideals and his way of life through the study of Gandhian literature, discussions and constructive work in the university campus. Initially, the construction of Gandhi Bhawans is to be undertaken in seven universities — Delhi, Kerala, Allahabad, Patna, Punjab, Nagpur and Rajasthan.

The total cost of the building at Delhi University, is estimated at Rs. 1,60,000.

Tipu Sultan Museum At Srirangapattana

Dr. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, opened the Tipu Sultan Museum at

Darya Daulat Bagh, Srirangapattana in Mysore on December 25.

The Museum, housed in Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace, contains the dresses, paintings and other relics of the former Mysore ruler which throw much light on his life. These contemporary relics also depict Tipu Sultan's military campaigns as well as his achievements as an administrator.

This Museum is one of the several museums set up in different parts of the country by the Union Department of Archaeology. Each museum deals with a particular period of Indian history.

The Government of India have recently undertaken the reorganisation and development of museums on modern scientific lines. Grants, totalling Rs. 10 lakhs, have been made available so far, in the current year, to 10 State Governments and private organisations for this purpose. The Centre, which has made such substantial allocations for the first time, has not insisted on matching contributions either by the State Governments or private bodies.

The Union Department of Archaeology has agreed to proposals that site or local museums should be established at Rupar, Vaisali, Ratnagiri, Konarak, Srirangapattana, Halebid, Hampi, Lothal and Nagarjunakonda. The foundation stones of the Museums at Nagarjunasagar and Lothal have already been laid.

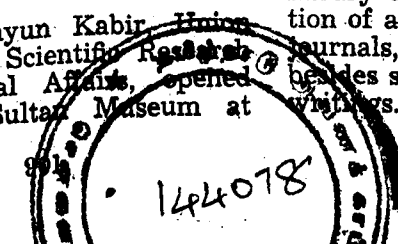
During the coming year, Government envisage a programme of site museums which would house objects discovered at the site and local museums which would concern themselves with objects connected with local history.

LATE SIR JADUNATH SARKAR'S LIBRARY

An announcement dated December 19 says that the heirs of the late Sir Jadunath Sarkar have made over his personal library as a gift to the National Library, Calcutta.

The late Sir Jadunath Sarkar's library consists of a rich collection of about 2500 items—books, journals, rare manuscripts, etc. besides some of his unpublished writings.

January 15, 1960



Appeal For I.N.A. Records

In a Press Note issued on December 27 by the National Archives of India, the Historical Records Commission makes an appeal to all those who may be in possession of any material relating to the activities of the Indian National Army and its leader, Shri Subhas Chandra Bose, to make a gift of it to the nation and forward it to the National Archives of India. If for any reason it is not considered possible to make an outright gift of the material it is hoped that at least microfilm copies of them would be allowed to be taken by the National Archives of India.

The Board of Editors of the History of Freedom Movement in India and the Union Ministry of Defence have already made valuable collections of source material connected with Shri Bose's Movement. It is, however, believed that a vast amount of such material which is in the possession of private persons in India and abroad in the form of pamphlets, books and letters exchanged with I.N.A. Officers, etc. published by the I.N.A., has not yet come to light.

MAULANA AZAD'S MAUSOLEUM

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 18, Shri Anil K. Chanda, Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, said that the work on the park round the mausoleum of Maulana Azad in Delhi had almost finished. The total expenditure incurred on it was Rs. 1,35,000.

INDIAN BIBLIOGRAPHY

An announcement of December 30 says that the Indian National Bibliography, 1958, which is an authoritative bibliographical record of current Indian publications, has been published by the Central Reference Library of the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

The Bibliography, first of its kind in India, consists of two

parts: the first part dealing with general publications and the second with Indian official publications as issued by the Union and State Governments and by quasi-government bodies. It contains, in Roman script, a list of Indian publications in the 13 recognised Indian languages and English.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

In a written reply to a question, Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting stated in the Lok Sabha on December 18 that sales of the publications published by the Publications Division had made a striking increase both in volume and value.

The sales, which were valued at Rs. 2.5 lakhs in 1952-53, passed the million rupee mark in 1955-56 and, steadily increasing, passed the two million rupee mark in 1958-59. This year they were expected to fetch more than Rs. 21 lakhs. The Publications Division was one of the most important publishing concerns in the country judged by the quality and value of its books sold and distributed, the Minister observed.

State Awards For Printing & Designing

The President Dr. Rajendra Prasad, distributed State Awards for excellence in printing and designing of books and other publications to the winners in the fifth competition held by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The function was held in New Delhi on December 21.

In his address the President said that he was glad to know that this annual competition was becoming popular year by year. He, however, pointed out that school text books did not appear to have benefited from the technical improvement in the quality of printing to the same extent as general books and some other

reading matter. He suggested that some scheme may be devised by which the winner printers and publishers may be given precedence for undertaking the production of text books.

In his speech Dr. B.V. Keskar, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, disclosed that more than 6,000 entries had been received this year and all the best presses in the country had participated in the competition. He noted with satisfaction that the State Awards had proved a great stimulus for a healthy and pleasant rivalry among the printing establishments for better production.

Selected entries were displayed on an exhibition inaugurated by the President after the award ceremony.

The awards were first instituted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in 1955 in recognition of the progress made by the printing industry and graphic arts, and as a measure of further encouragement to them.

There are 25 different categories open for the competition. Each category carries three prizes, generally one each for the printer and the publisher except in certain cases where the awards are made to the designer or advertiser. The first and second prizes are in the form of copper plaques — *Tamrapatra* — and the third is a Certificate of Merit.

State Awards For Films

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on December 1, says that in addition to the Awards given in previous years, the State Awards for Films now include a President's Gold Medal and a cash prize of Rs. 4,000 for the producer and Rs. 1,000 for the director for the best educational film and a President's Silver Medal for the best filmstrip. The second and third best entries in these categories will be awarded All-India Certificate of Merit.

Selection for Awards will be made in March, 1960.

Only Indian films and filmstrips (i.e., produced in India by Indian producers) will be eligible for entry which is restricted to films certified for public exhibition during 1959 and to filmstrips produced during the same year. In the case of educational films, entry is restricted to films in 16 mm gauge. Films which exceed 8,000 ft. will not be eligible as children's films in 35 mm (3,200 ft. in 16 mm).

A film which is a dubbed version, a retake or an adaptation of another film will not be eligible for consideration. A film will be eligible for entry in only one of the four categories viz., feature, documentary, children's or educational films. A feature film winning an All-India Award will not be eligible for a Regional Award.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

The State Awards for Films provide for the President's Gold Medals for the best feature, documentary and educational films and the President's Silver Medals for the best feature film in each Indian language and the best filmstrip. The Prime Minister's Gold Medal is awarded to the best children's film. Certificates of Merit are awarded to the second and third films in each of the categories mentioned above. In addition, a cash prize of Rs. 20,000 is given to the producers of the films winning the President's Gold Medal as the best feature film and the Prime Minister's Gold Medal as the best Children's film, their directors receiving a cash prize of Rs. 5,000 each. The producer and director of the films adjudged second in these two categories are awarded cash prizes half in value of those given for the pictures adjudged first. In the case of documentary film adjudged best, the producer and the director will receive Rs. 4,000 and Rs. 1,000 respectively, while the producer and the director of documentary film adjudged second will receive Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 500 respectively.

DOCUMENTARY FILM SHOWS

A festival of documentary films produced by the Films Division was organised by the

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in New Delhi from December 25 to January 7, 1960. Inaugurating the festival, Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, announced that government proposed to arrange documentary film shows every day in all important cities of the country. Arrangements for these shows, of one hour duration each, would be made shortly in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The Films Division of the Ministry produced over 110 documentaries every year, he added.

INDIAN WRESTLERS' VICTORY IN CEYLON

According to an announcement of December 26, officials of the Wrestling Federation of India called on Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia, Deputy Defence Minister, who is the President of the Federation, that morning and handed over to him the Ceylon's Governor General's Challenge Cup which the Indian Wrestling Team recently won in Colombo.

The Wrestling Federation of India had for the first time been to Ceylon to participate in the Indo-Ceylon Wrestling Meet and also to contest for the Governor General's Challenge Cup, instituted recently at Colombo. The team won the first test on Nov-

ember 29, and finally contested for the Ceylon Governor General's Challenge Cup on December 6.

TRAINING IN ROCK-CLIMBING IN BOMBAY

According to an announcement of December 23, four courses of instruction in climbing and trekking were inaugurated in Bombay by Col. Gyan Singh, Principal of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling.

The H.M.I., which is the premier institution of its kind in India, has lent the services of three Sherpa instructors to teach the rudiments of rock-climbing to young men and women of Bombay city in the Parsik Hills of the Western Ghats. The courses, each of four days' duration with 24 participants, are to be conducted from a convenient base camp about two hours' train journey from Bombay, and will continue up to January 9, 1960. A special course for women has also enrolled the full quota of 24.

It is the first occasion that a mountaineering course is being held outside Darjeeling to provide an opportunity to young men and women to learn the basic principles of mountaineering. It is proposed to organise similar courses in other suitable parts of the country.



NATIONAL FILARIA CONTROL PROGRAMME

An announcement of December 27 says that about 43.75 lakhs of population have been covered by mass therapy under the National Filaria Control Programme. Mass therapy has been in progress under one or more units in all the States participating in the programme.

A population of over 22 millions has been covered by sample surveys. Teams from the Malaria Institute of India were

deputed to carry out surveys in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Assam, Pondicherry and the Laccadive Islands. The surveys have revealed a number of new filarial foci. It has also been found that banerofian filariasis is not confined, as hitherto believed, to urban areas only but is endemic in many rural parts also, and that the population at risk may exceed 40 million and not 25 million as previously estimated.

The programme came into operation in 1955 with the signing of the Indo-US Agreement in March that year. Its objectives are to assess the extent of the problem in the country and to institute pilot measures for the control of the disease in various States. The programme was phased so that during the remaining period of the First Five-Year Plan extensive surveys could be carried out and pilot control measures initiated. The operations were planned to be extended gradually during the Second Plan to protect the entire population at risk. The target of setting up 78 control units has now been reduced to 46 units.

Under the programme, the Union Government makes available drugs, larvicides, vehicles and spraying equipment. The State Governments meet the operational costs.

To meet the requirements of trained personnel to man the units, a branch of the Malaria Institute of India was opened at Ernakulam in Kerala in August 1955. So far 70 medical officers and 136 inspectors have been trained there.

Central Council Of Ayurvedic Research

The first meeting of the Central Council of Ayurvedic Research was held in New Delhi on December 18 under the chairmanship of Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Union Minister of Health. After discussions, the Council appointed a sub-committee to recommend measures to improve the present system of education in Ayurvedic colleges and establish a Central Council of Indian Medicine for this purpose.

The Council discussed problems relating to fundamental, applied and clinical research as well as methods of research. Sub-committees were appointed to work out the detailed aspects of these problems.

The Council, which is the successor of the Ayurvedic Advisory Committee, was appointed recently on the recommendation of the Udupa Committee, which had suggested that simultaneous research should be carried on in all categories and that the Council should discuss and suggest

measures to ensure uniformity in research methods.

Outlining the task before the Council, Shri D.P. Karmarkar said that the first thing that should be done was to agree on a common description of ailments.

To draw up a compendium of common remedies peculiar to various areas in the country was also a basic task. He suggested that the Council should have its own institution to undertake research projects. It should also include in its work the production of standard text books on Ayurveda. There should be a Central Medical Library. He requested the Council to furnish the names of Ayurvedic books which should be kept in such a Central Library.

Social Welfare

MEETING OF INDIAN CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK

The Eleventh National Session of the Indian Conference of Social Work was held at Hyderabad from December 27 to 31. Addressing the conference Shrimati Violet Alva, Union Deputy Home Minister, said that if public opinion was the prime factor to implement our earnest hopes and desires in the field of social defence, then public opinion and legislation must go hand in hand.

In this context she referred to a number of socio-economic problems including labour welfare, untouchability, welfare of children, immoral traffic in women, control of population etc.

SEMINAR ON URBAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Along with the Conference a seminar on urban community development was held from December 24 to 30.

The seminar discussed the problems facing urban communities for finding out the ways and means of harnessing the indi-

Mass X-Ray Of Govt. Servants

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 22, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Union Minister of Health, said that the Government of India had approved a scheme for the mass X-Ray for T.B. of all Central Government servants in Delhi and New Delhi. The survey would be conducted by the New Delhi T.B. Centre. The scheme was expected to be launched shortly and would remain in force until all Government servants had been X-rayed.

A similar scheme was launched in 1953-54 and a number of T.B. cases were detected among Government servants.

vidual and collective resources of the community for an urban community development programme. The subjects included planning of towns and physical development and re-development of cities, housing and minimum civic amenities, community organisation and urban development and pilot schemes for urban community development.

Research In Social Welfare

In a written reply to a question, the Education Minister, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, stated in the Rajya Sabha on December 16 that 14 universities, including Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Andhra, Annamalai, Baroda, Gauhati, Kerala, Lucknow, Madras, Patna, Poona, Utkal and Visva-Bharati, had taken up schemes for research in social tensions. The Poona, Agra, Visva-Bharati, Madras, Annamalai, Baroda, Patna, Rajasthan,

PROGRESS OF FAMILY PLANNING

India's population growth has accelerated in the last few decades. Since the 1921 census the three successive decades recorded increases of 11.0, 13.5 and 14.1 per cent respectively. The population was expected to increase from 360 millions in 1951 to 520 millions in 1981, unless the rate of growth was checked by family planning.

A family planning programme was launched in the later part of the First Five-Year Plan, as part of Government of India's policy for population control. The four important activities under the programme are service, training, education and research.

In the First Five-Year Plan a sum of Rs. 65 lakhs was allocated. During this period 21 rural and 126 urban clinics were established. A provision of Rs. 497 lakhs has been made in the Second Plan, envisaging 500 clinics in urban areas, each serving a population of 50,000 and 2,000 clinics in rural areas each serving a population of 66,000.

Up to October 1959, 1,000 family planning clinics have been established, 691 in rural and 309 in the urban areas. About 48 lakh persons have been educated in family planning methods through various media and 12 lakhs have been given advice. Sterilisation operations were conducted in 7,823 cases in 1956; 12,599 in 1957; 23,659 in 1958 and 16,414 during January-October 1959. Besides, 2,589 persons were trained.

The Union Ministry of Health has constituted a Demographic Advisory Committee to advise on research and studies in inter-relationship between economic, social and population changes on the reproduction pattern, attitudes and motivation affecting the size of the family. A provision of Rs. 30 lakhs has been made in the Second Plan for demographic training and research. A Demographic Training and Research Centre has been established in Bombay. Three demographic centres have also been set up at the Delhi, Calcutta, and Trivandrum.

Utkal and Saugar universities had introduced the schemes for research in social welfare and the Agra, Madras and Baroda had completed the schemes, while the Annamalai, Bihar, Gujarat and Patna universities had introduced schemes for research in labour welfare.

The Aligarh, Agra (Digambar Jain College, Baraut), Punjab and Nagpur universities proposed to introduce schemes for research in social welfare, the Minister added.

Housing Loans By L.I.C.

Replying to a question on December 16 the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha, informed the Rajya Sabha that a scheme for grant of loans to individual policy-holders for building houses had been drawn

up and was under examination of the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

As regards the scheme of loans on mortgages which would be advanced both to policy holders as well as others, the Deputy Minister said that such loans would be granted on the security of properties situated in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

The Deputy Minister said, the maximum term of a loan was 15 years and the amount of loan would not exceed 50 per cent of the value of the property subject to a minimum of Rs. 25,000 and a maximum of Rs. 5 lakhs. The rate of interest would be 7 per cent per annum.

REPORT BY COMMISSIONER OF SCHEDULED CASTES

The annual report by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1958-59 was presented to both Houses of Parliament on December 22. In the report, the Commissioner has recommended that first preference should be given to members of the Scheduled Castes in the allotment of agricultural lands. Land is the only means by which the Scheduled Caste people can free themselves from the yoke of the superior classes, he adds. About the extension of constitutional reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by another ten years, the Commissioner has expressed the hope that, within this period, untouchability will disappear and they might not need further reservations.

PILOT CENTRE FOR VASECTOMY

In a written reply to a question, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, told the Lok Sabha on December 21 that sanction had been given to the opening of a pilot centre for vasectomy operations and training of doctors in the technique in the Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi.

Labour & Employment

WORK OF COAL MINES LABOUR WELFARE ORGANISATION IN 1958-59.

An announcement of December 17 says that according to the report on the activities of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund published recently, the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Organisation provided increased hospital facilities to mine work-

ers, housing grants and loans, and scholarships for their children during the year 1958-59.

Under the Fund's first scheme of construction of an experimental township, 2,153 houses were constructed during the year. Applications for construction of 4,037 houses under the subsidy-cum-loan scheme were sanctioned, of which 1,804 were reported as completed. Under the new housing scheme, 10,879 houses had been allotted by the Coal Mines Labour Housing Board at the end of the year.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

The beds in the Central Hospital, Dhanbad, and the Central Hospital, Asansol, were increased to 250. The construction of two 100-bed T.B. blocks as adjuncts to the two Hospitals was also commenced. Workers in the coalfields of Bihar and West Bengal, who could not get admission in the T.B. clinics, were brought under a pilot scheme of domiciliary treatment under which free treatment and a grant-in-aid for special diet up to a maximum of Rs. 50 per month were given to 300 patients. The additional 10-bed ward at the Tetulmary Leprosy Hospital began functioning in August. There were in all 46 beds for treatment of leprosy.

A scheme of financial assistance was introduced during the year to provide added incentive to colliery owners to improve the dispensaries, and Rs. 60,000 were sanctioned as loans.

Sons and daughters of colliery employees receive a grant of Rs. 20 per month for higher general education and Rs. 30 for higher technical education under the Fund's scheme of scholarships. During the year, the number of scholarships was raised from 50 to 75 for general education and for technical education the number was 22. Besides, 50 stipends were sanctioned to sons and daughters of colliery employees undergoing training at the Industrial Training Institute at Bhuli.

Under the scheme for grant of financial assistance to the

widows and the school-going children of workers involved in fatal accidents, a sum of Rs. 35,340 was sanctioned during the year for payment to 142 widows and 7 children. Widows and female dependents of the victims of the Chinakuri accident (February 1958) were given training in tailoring at a special centre opened for them.

The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947, under which the Organisation has been set up, seeks to formulate and implement measures for promoting the welfare of labour employed in the coal mining industry. An amount of Rs. 173.83 lakhs is expected to be credited to the Fund during the year 1958-59 through levy of excise duty at 37.5 nP. per ton on coal and coke despatched from the collieries. This amount represents an increase of about Rs. 22.6 lakhs over the total sum realised during the previous year.

Report On Calcutta Dock Labour Scheme

An announcement of December 19 says that the single-member Inquiry Committee, which reviewed the working of the Calcutta Dock Workers Scheme, has submitted its report. The Committee has recommended the suspension of the Administrative body of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board which 'has persistently flouted the authority of the Board and again and again behaved in an unconstitutional manner.' The functions of the Body, it is recommended, should be taken over by the Deputy Chairman who would constitute the Administrative Board under the Scheme.

The Committee has noted in its report that, while the Board's record in welfare work has been extremely poor, the Administrative Body has been very tardy in implementing the Board's decisions. Its collection of levy and accounts have been in arrears and it has failed to control the workers' register — an essential pre-requisite for the successful operation of the

Scheme. Reviewing the operation of the Scheme at Calcutta, the Committee has made repeated references to the successful working of the Scheme at Bombay.

The Dock Labour Board, which the Committee describes as 'the symbol as well as the instrument of unity among the three' (labour, employers and Government) is to continue. However, the Scheme may be amended to provide for the suspension of the Board, in extreme necessity. Among other recommendations, the Committee has suggested the winding up of the Listing Committee and entrusting the listing work to the Deputy Chairman.

The single-member Committee consisting of Shri R.L. Mehta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, was appointed by the Government of India in May last to review the working of the Calcutta Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Scheme, 1956 and to examine, in particular, the complaints received from different quarters about the administration of the Scheme which had provided for the establishment of a tripartite Dock Labour Board with an Administrative Body under it to execute the decisions of the Board and conduct day to day administration. The Scheme also divided workers into two categories, viz., monthly workers and reserve pool workers and laid down the payment of guaranteed minimum wages for at least 12 days in a month and attendance allowance of Re. 1 per day on days on which workers attended office but were not allotted work.

NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

Replying to a question on December 17, Shri Abid Ali, Deputy Minister for Labour, told the Rajya Sabha that the increase in non-agricultural employment in the first three years of the Second Plan was of the order of 3 millions, according to an estimate by the Planning Commission. The estimate for the remaining period of the Plan is 3.5 millions.

Defence

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A. A. FORCE

The Central Advisory Committee for the Auxiliary Air Force met in New Delhi on December 18 under the chairmanship of the Defence Minister, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon. The Committee discussed at length the various organisational matters relating to the Force and exchanged views on the ways and means to stimulate interest among the people to volunteer in ever increasing numbers to join the ranks of the citizens' Air Force.

While reviewing the progress made by the A.A.F. during the year, the Committee was informed that an auxiliary squadron each at Bhubaneswar and Chandigarh had been formed, raising the total strength of the A.A.F. to seven squadrons. As part of its future plan, it was contemplated to raise eight more auxiliary squadrons so that each State in the country would eventually have at least one squadron.

It was stated that jet training flights had already been formed in the No. 51 (Delhi), No. 53 (Madras) and No. 55 (Bengal) Squadrons, while the No. 52 (Bombay) Squadron would soon have it.

This was the second meeting of the Committee since its formation two years ago.

IAF Aircrew Pass Out At Jodhpur

A combined passing out parade of flight cadets of the 77th pilots' and 17th navigators' courses and of the 13th NCO Signallers' course held at the Air Force Flying College was held at Jodhpur on December 19. Colonel

Balwant Singh, Commissioner of Jodhpur, took the salute.

Amongst those who passed out from the navigators' course were two officers of the Indonesian Air Force. It was the first occasion in the history of the Flying College that all its flight cadets who had completed their basic training six months earlier, successfully completed their intermediate flying training and thus passed out as a full course.

Cadet Sgt. A.S. Kullar was adjudged the best all-round pupil pilot and awarded the Balbir Sharma trophy for the best all-round flight cadet in the pilots' course. Cadet Sgt. N.L. Nangia received the Sanghi trophy for the best flight cadet passing out from the navigators' course. Cpl. D.S. Parmar was awarded the Berar trophy for the best all-round signaller.

NCC AIR WING CAMPS

An eight-day combined zonal training camp was held in Delhi from December 14 to 21 for nearly 1,000 cadets of the Junior Division of the NCC Air Wing.

Forty-eight schools from Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh had sent their air cadets to participate in the Camp. Delhi alone was represented by 800 cadets from 20 schools.

The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal S. Mukerjee, inspected the camp on December 17 when ceremonial parade was held in his honour.

This was the first time that combined zonal training camps for the Junior Division of NCC Air Wing were organised at Delhi, Calcutta, and Hyderabad, thus covering all the States in the country.

2nd Grenadiers Return From Gaza

The 2nd Battalion, the Grenadiers Regiment, which has returned to India after successful completion of service with the United Nations Emergency Force in the Gaza Strip, passed through Delhi on December 22 to its destination in the Punjab.

Gen. Gen. K.S. Thimayya, Chief of the Army Staff, met the officers and men of the battalion commanded by Lt.-Col. Amar Singh Cheema at the New Delhi Railway Station.

The 2nd Battalion, the Grenadiers Regiment, originally raised in Calicut in 1796, has an enviable record of service to its credit. As early as 1802 the battalion had served in Egypt and won the distinction of 'Sphinx' with the word Egypt on its colours. It also fought with distinction in many battles in World Wars I and II.

In the third turnover of the Indian Contingent in the Gaza Strip, the 2nd Grenadiers was recently relieved by the 4th Battalion, the Kumaon Regiment.

ATHLETIC MEET

Annual Athletic meet of Delhi and Rajasthan Area of the Defence Services was held in New Delhi from December 24 to 26.

A.F. RECORD IN DISCUS THROW

An announcement of December 30 says that, a new Air Force record in discus throw was set at the 12th inter-Area athletics meet which concluded at the Air Force Flying College at Jodhpur the same day.

Leading Aircraftsman Sidhu, who established this new Air Force record, threw the discus to a distance of 115 feet 4 inches, beating the earlier record held by Corporal Almeida (112.75 ft.).

Three contingents from Bangalore, Madras and Jalahali areas of the Air Force Training Command participated in the athletic meet.

India & The World

CZECH AMBASSADOR TO INDIA

According to a Press Note issued by the Union Ministry of External Affairs on December 12, Dr. Ladislav Simovic has been appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czechoslovak Republic in India, in place of Ing. Jiri Nosek who has been recalled.

High Commissioner To Ghana

A Press Note issued on January 7 by Ministry of External Affairs says that, Shri Khub Chand, Ambassador of India in Rome, has been appointed as High Commissioner for India in Ghana and concurrently as Commissioner for India in Nigeria.

He is expected to assume charge of his assignment in March, 1960. Legation In Jordon Raised To Embassy

It was announced in New Delhi on January 11 that, Ambassador Chopra presented credentials to King Hussein of Jordon at a ceremony on January 10. With the presentation of credentials, the Indian Legation in Jordon was raised to the status of an Embassy.

Consulate-General At Berlin

An announcement of December 24 says that the Government of India have raised the status of the Consulate of India at Berlin to that of a Consulate-General. Shri A.R. Sethi is in charge of the Consulate-General.

SWEDISH NAVAL SHIP

HMS ALVSNABBEN, the training ship of the Royal Swedish Navy visited India from December 30, 1959 to January 11, 1960. During this period, the ALVSNABBEN first called at Madras from December 30, 1959 to January 3 and at Calcutta from January 7 to 11, 1960.

CORRECTION

Indian Information Vol. II No. 23 (issue dated January 1, 1960), page 836: Please add the following paragraph after line 5 of column 2:—

"The rate of compensatory allowance for the pay range Rs. 150 and above will be 8% of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 12.50 and a maximum of Rs. 75."

The omission is very much regretted.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

DECEMBER 16 TO 31

- December 16 — A Nepalese Parliamentary Delegation arrives in New Delhi on a 3-week visit to India
- Australia wins the First Test Match against India in New Delhi
- 17 — Prime Minister Nehru lays the foundation stone of a Gandhi Bhawan in Delhi University, the first in the series of Gandhi Bhawans to be founded in other Universities
- The Rajya Sabha passes the Bill, as adopted by the Lok Sabha, declaring the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, to be of national importance
- The Seventh All-India Leprosy Workers Conference begins in Bombay
- Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, former Governor of Madhya Pradesh, passes away in Hyderabad
- Mr. Frederick H. Mueller, Secretary of Commerce to the Government of the United States of America, arrives in New Delhi
- 18 — H.E. Mr. Tage Erlander, Prime Minister of Sweden, arrives in New Delhi on a 12-day visit to India
- India and East Germany sign a new trade arrangement for a period of three years from January 1, 1960
- The first meeting of the Central Council of Ayurvedic Research is held in New Delhi
- All India Family Planning Day is observed
- Bombay retains the National Women's Hockey championship by beating Punjab in the finals at Lucknow
- 19 — An International Monitoring Station for radio-communications is opened near New Delhi
- The report of the single-member Inquiry Committee on the Calcutta Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Scheme, 1958, is released in New Delhi
- 20 — Rourkela tonnage oxygen plant, the biggest in the country, is commissioned into service
- 21 — President Rajendra Prasad gives away State awards for excellence in printing and designing of books and other publications to the winners of the fifth competition
- The Government of India announce decision to form a rice zone comprising Orissa and West Bengal
- 22 — The winter session of Parliament concludes
- 24 — The billet mill of the Bhilai Steel Works is commissioned
- India wins the Second Test Match against Australia at Kanpur
- 25 — The All-India Agricultural Economics Conference begins at Baroda
- Prof. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, inaugurates the Tipu Sultan Museum at Shrirangapattana
- 27 — The second blast furnace of the Bhilai Steel Works is commissioned
- H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Prime Minister of Cambodia, arrives in New Delhi on a 3-day visit
- 28 — Prime Minister Nehru inaugurates the Tenth World Conference on New Education Fellowship in New Delhi
- 29 — President Rajendra Prasad inaugurates the first blast furnace of the Durgapur Steel Plant
- The Central Board of Fisheries holds its first meeting in New Delhi
- 31 — The final round of financial talks between India and Pakistan begins in New Delhi

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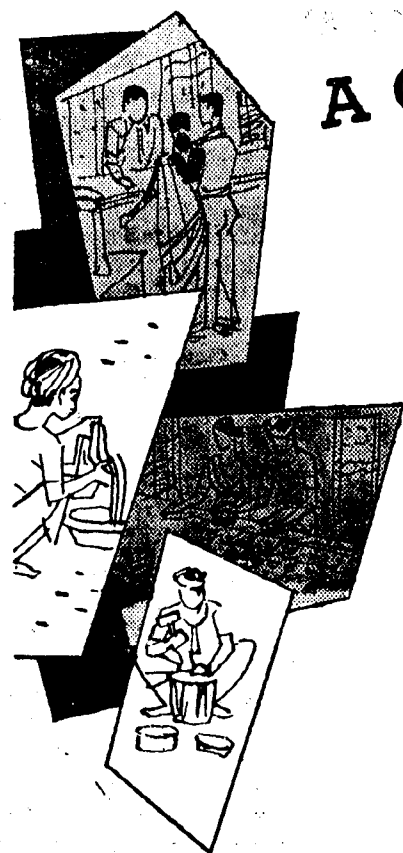
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NATIONAL SAVINGS ORGANIZATION

The Prime Minister of Sweden, His Excellency Mr. Tage Erlander, and Mrs. Erlander, who arrived in New Delhi on December 18 on a 12-day State visit to India, being shown round the Loni Community Development Block near New Delhi



The six-member Delegation from Soviet Union, led by the Chairman of the State Committee for Economic Relations, Mr. Skachkov, having talks with the members of the Planning Commission in New Delhi on December 19



Mr. Frederick H. Mueller, Secretary of Commerce, United States of America, with Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, in New Delhi on December 17

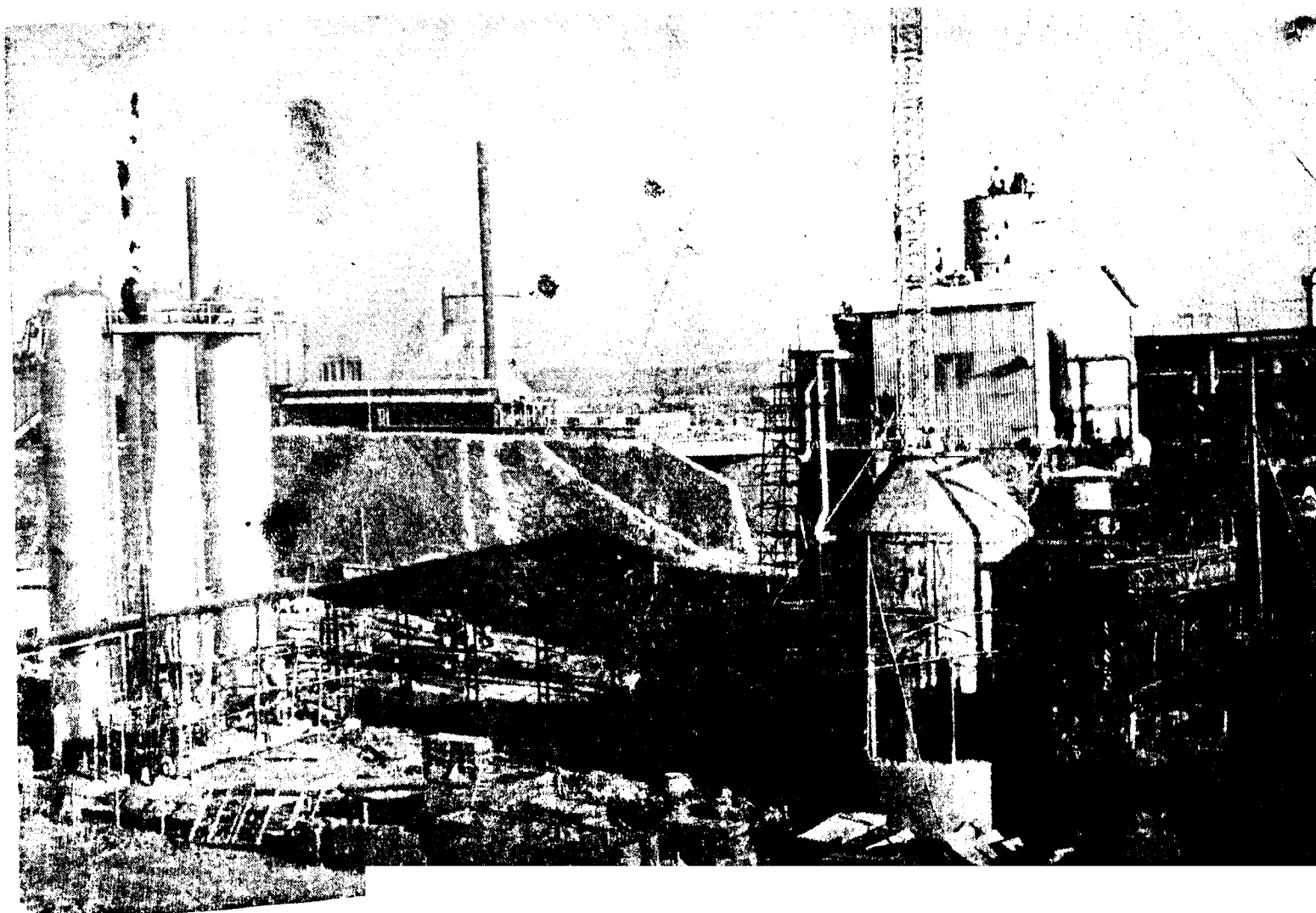


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The Defence Minister, Shri V. K. Krishna Menon, along with Lt. Gen. P. N. Thappar, G. O. C.-in-C, Western Command, and Lt. Gen. L. P. Sen, Chief of the General Staff, Army H. Q. at Chushul in Eastern Ladakh which the Defence Minister visited on December 27

Rourkela Tonnage Oxygen Plant, the biggest in the country, which was commissioned into service on December 20



Vol. 3

15 January, 1950 (25 Pausa, 1882)

No. 24





H.E. Mr. Ato Getahun Tesemma, Ambassador-designate of Ethiopia, presenting his credentials to the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, at Rashtrapati Bhavan on December 27



An agreement being signed in New Delhi on December 23 for a credit of Rs. 6.67 crores from the U.K. to India



Some recipients of the National Awards for Teachers with the Union Education Minister, Dr. K.L. Shrimani, after the ceremony at which 71 teachers all over the country were presented the awards in New Delhi on December 21

Indian Information

VOL. 3

January 15, 1961
Pausa 25, 1882

NO. 24

Single Copy : Re 0.50 1sh 3d. 16 cents

Annual Subscription Rs. : 10.00 20 sh \$ 3.00

MAIN CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
VISIT TO INDIA BY PRIME MINISTER OF CEYLON ..	829	REPORT ON SECOND AGRICULTURAL LABOUR ENQUIRY ..	848
AGREEMENT ON BRITISH CREDIT OF Rs. 6.67 CRORES ..	832	NATIONAL TRIBUNAL AWARD ON P.T.I. DISPUTE ..	850
MEETING OF IRON AND STEEL COUNCIL ..	833	SETTING UP OF BONUS COMMISSION ..	850
NEW UNITS OF BHILAI PROJECT ..	834	AMENDMENT OF PROVIDENT FUND ACT ..	850
TRADE ARRANGEMENT WITH RUMANIA ..	836	COVER : The Prime Minister of Ceylon, H.E. Mrs. Sirimavo Bandarnaike, and her two daughters were received by the Prime Minister Nehru on their arrival at Safdarjang airport in New Delhi on December 29. H.E. Mrs. Bandarnaike paid an unofficial visit to India on a pilgrimage of Buddhist holy places in this country.	
MEASURES FOR REDUCTION IN CLOTH PRICES ..	837		
PROVISIONS OF COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) ACT ..	839		
ANNUAL REPORT ON INDIAN STANDARDS ..	840		
INCREASED AMENITIES ON RAILWAYS ..	841		
DEVELOPMENT OF FORESTRY ..	841		
PRODUCTION OF PROTECTIVE FOODS ..	842		
NATIONAL AWARDS TO TEACHERS ..	843		
CONFERENCE OF STATE MINISTERS FOR HOUSING ..	844		
INTER-STATE WAKF CONFERENCE ..	846		

(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

VISIT TO INDIA BY PRIME MINISTER OF CEYLON

The Prime Minister of Ceylon, H.E. Mrs. Sirimavo Bandarnaike, arrived in New Delhi from Agra on December 29, during the course of her pilgrimage to Buddhist holy places in India.

Speaking at a banquet in honour of the Hon'ble Mrs. Bandarnaike at Rashtrapati Bhavan on December 30, the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, said:

"Our bonds (between India and Ceylon) go back to remote ages past and they have their foundations so deep that even when we argue about matters, even when

we have some small problems of our own, nothing really takes away from that close association based on past history, a great similarity of culture, tradition, the message of the Buddha and geography. We have had some problems of our own which we have discussed and which we will, no doubt, discuss and solve, but the nature of the problems is something quite different from the other and more difficult controversies that rage in the world, and behind it all is something which is very precious: that is, an amount of goodwill

between the two countries which is really very great so that whatever petty controversies we may have from time to time, they can never lead us astray. So you are welcome here as a pilgrim, as also as a Prime Minister."

Concluding, Shri Nehru said, "You have come here, Madam, on a pilgrimage to the places which have been sanctified in the past by Buddha's presence and his teaching. Perhaps if people paid a little more heed to that teaching, we might find the true path more easily, the path of peace, tolerance and friendly co-operation."

In her reply, Mrs. Bandarnaike said, "I need scarcely speak of the close ethnical and age-long cultural ties which exist between our two countries despite the problems which an unfortunate past has bequeathed us. I have every hope that we shall ere long solve these problems with mutual understanding and goodwill which happily

exist in an abundant measure between our two countries."

The Prime Minister of Ceylon left for Colombo from Bombay on January 5, 1961.

SEIZURE OF CHINESE LITERATURE

Replying to a question on December 20, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, stated in the Lok Sabha that the Customs Department in Calcutta had issued 400 show cause notices to various persons on account of Chinese literature and had seized many periodicals and literature.

Shri Desai added that 232 cases had been adjudicated, the banned publication being confiscated in each case. Twenty-four 'show cause' notices had been withdrawn and there were 144 cases under adjudication as on the 15th of December, 1960.

He also listed 4 banned publications which had been received in Calcutta by post. The publications were: (1) 'China Reconstructs', March 1960 (2) 'Peking Review' No. 37 of September 16, 1959 (3) Documents on the Sino-Indian Boundary Question in English, and (4) Documents on the Sino-Indian Boundary Question in Hindi.

FOREIGNERS DEPORTED

Shri G.B. Pant, Union Home Minister, disclosed in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 21 that, in the last three years, 21 foreigners had been deported from India for undesirable activities. They were Afghan—1; Americans—2; Chinese (including Tibetans)—3; Danish—1; French—2; Iranians—4; Portuguese—4; Saudi Arabian—1; Tribal Pathan—1; West German—1; and Yugoslavian—1.

'SLAVERY' IN N.E.F.A.

In reply to a Calling Attention Notice regarding 'the reported prevalence of slavery in the North East Frontier Agency', Prime Minister Nehru made a statement in the Lok Sabha on December 21. The statement reveals that slavery in the NEFA is a heritage from the past, when inter-village and inter-

tribal feuds were very common. The Government of India are a contracting party to the Slavery Convention of 1926. Its provisions were applied to NEFA in 1938. It was agreed that positive steps should be taken, as soon as possible, to bring about progressively the disappearance of slavery in every form. Our Constitution does not permit slavery. Government have been exerting all efforts to eradicate this evil. Where necessary, compensation in cash has been paid to liberate slaves from their masters. The Political Officers are authorised to pay up to Rs. 500 for the emancipation of an individual slave.

During 1950 and 1959, some 160 slaves have been liberated through Government efforts. There are a few hundred more slaves left in NEFA.

During a conference of the senior officers of the NEFA Administration in October 1960, a decision was taken to take even more energetic steps for the liberation of the small number of slaves still left in NEFA.

AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICES

Cash awards were given to 22 officers of the Directorate of Co-ordination (Police Wireless) in New Delhi, on December 17, by the Director, Brig. H. Chukerbuti, in recognition of their outstanding services during the recent Central Government employees' strike and the emergency in Manipur Administration.

In appreciation of their good services, the Central Government have donated Rs. 2,000 to the Benevolent Fund of the Directorate.

The Police Radio officers from all States met in New Delhi on December 20 and 21 to exchange information on the latest developments, technical as well as administrative, of the police wireless and radio organisations.

GALLANTRY AWARDS

The President has awarded the Police Medal for gallantry to three police officers from Orissa, according to the Gazette of India published on December 24. The officers are: Shri Gopinath Bisoi, Sub-Inspector of Police (officiating), Orissa; Shri

Balaram Senapati and Shri Mahamad Hossain Khan, both constables in Balasore District, Orissa.

On February 28 this year, the three police officers with their party encountered at personal risk a gang of armed dacoits in a village while the gang was plundering a house.

The President's Police and Fire Services Medal for gallantry has been awarded to the late Shri Hit Narayan Singh, constable, Bihar, according to the Gazette of India published on December 31, 1960.

According to the citation, Constable Hit Narain Singh lost his life in an encounter with an armed gang of dacoits on March 8, 1959.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF GUJARAT

In a Press Communique issued on December 31, the Ministry of Home Affairs has announced that the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Kantilal Thakoredas Desai, a Judge of the High Court of Gujarat, to be the Chief Justice of that High Court upon the retirement of Shri Justice S.T. Desai with effect from January 28, 1961.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF ASSAM

According to a Press Communique issued on December 19 by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Holiram Deka, a Judge of the Assam High Court, to perform the duties of Chief Justice of that High Court during the absence or leave, preparatory to retirement, of Shri Justice C.P. Sinha with effect from January 3, 1961, and until further orders.

ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE OF ALLAHABAD

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on December 28 says that the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice M.C. Desai, a Judge of the Allahabad High Court, to perform the duties of the Chief Justice of that Court during the absence on leave preparatory to retirement, of Shri Justice O.H. Mootham, with effect from January 17, 1961, and until further orders.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF PONDICHERRY

According to a New Delhi announcement of December 24, Shri A.S. Bam, I.C.S., at present Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, has been appointed Chief Commissioner, Pondicherry. He will assume charge of his new assignment in February 1961.

ABOLITION OF DOUBLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES

The Union Law Minister, Shri A.K. Sen, said in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 20 that the Government had decided that the existing double-member constituencies should be bifurcated and single-member constituencies created in their place.

Necessary legislation to give effect to this decision, added the Law Minister, was expected to be introduced in Parliament shortly.

CONFERENCE OF STATISTICIANS

The ninth session of the All-India Conference of Central and State Statisticians was held at Jaipur from December 15 to 19.

The conference discussed the design of periodic surveys of industries and distributive trades, training of statistical personnel and vital statistics.

A seminar was also organised on the estimation of State income in India.

FINE FOR FALSE ANSWER IN CENSUS

A New Delhi announcement of December 31 says that a person giving a false answer to any question put by a Census Officer is punishable with fine up to Rs. 1,000. An abettor will also be liable to the same punishment.

Similarly, a Census Officer, wilfully putting any offensive or improper question or making any false return, is liable to be punished with fine up to Rs. 1,000 and, if convicted, with imprisonment which may extend to six months.

CENSUS IN KULU

A New Delhi announcement of December 19 says that the population of Kulu sub-division of the Kangra district is estimated at 1,52,766 (78,431 males and 74,335 females) according to the provisional figures made available after the count in the area.

Literacy is rather limited. Only 19,924 persons can read or write. The number of female literates is 2,869.

Literacy among women in Lahaul and Spiti is also negligible and only 300 females can read or write. The total population is 20,478 (11,538 males and 8,940 females).

AMENDMENT OF SERVICE RULES

An announcement of December 17 says that the Union Home Ministry has suggested an amendment to the recruitment rules for various services. Under the amended rule, even a marriage that is legally null and void by reason of a living spouse at the time of the marriage, will disqualify a candidate for appointment to Government service.

A legal lacuna had arisen and inquiries were made if the rules prohibiting bigamous marriage covered a case in which a candidate for Government service contracted a second marriage with a woman who had not, under the law, acquired the status of a wife.

The amended rules will now read as follows:

(a) No person who has more than one wife living or who, having a spouse living, marries in any case in which such marriage is void by reason of its taking place during the lifetime of such spouse, shall be eligible for appointment of service, and (b) no woman whose marriage is void by reason of the husband having a wife living at the time of such marriage or who has married a person who has a wife living at the time of such marriage, shall be eligible for appointment to service, provided that the Central Government may, if satisfied that there are special grounds for so ordering, exempt any person from the operation of this rule.

LEAVE TRAVEL CONCESSION LIBERALISED

On the recommendation of the Second Pay Commission, the leave travel concession scheme for Government employees has been liberalised, says a New Delhi announcement of December 22.

The leave travel concession has now been extended to industrial and work-charged staff. It will also be available for journeys performed between places not connected by rail. In specified circumstances, travel by air may also be admissible.

In respect of Government servants and their families who are unable to avail themselves to the concession in a block of two years, the next block period will be counted from the end of the first year. A Government servant, whose family is living away from his place of work, can avail of the concession for himself alone once every year for visiting his home town instead of having the concession for his family, as well as for himself, once in a block of two years.

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

The privilege ticket order, available to all Government employees who have completed one year of service, enables the employee and his family to make a trip to their home town once in two years on earned leave.

WORKCHARGED STAFF OF C.P.W.D.

According to an announcement of December 23, the Government of India have appointed a committee to examine the question of classification of posts in the work-charged establishment of the Central Public Works Department of the Union Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, into unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled, highly skilled and supervisory categories. The present strength of work-charged establishment of CPWD is nearly 13,000 officials.

The committee will also advise the Government on the measures to be taken to remove the existing anomalies, if any, with regard to classification of posts of individuals or groups of individuals.

The committee is expected to complete its work and submit its report in four months.

BUILDING CORPORATION

The Government of India have set up a National Buildings Construction Corporation under the aegis of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, for undertaking building and other civil works of the Central Government. The

Corporation will also assist the State Governments and other autonomous Corporations in the execution of their various civil engineering projects.

The Corporation has been registered as a Company under the Indian Companies Act, 1956, with an authorised capital of Rs. 2 crores. At present, the paid-up capital has been contributed entirely by the Central Government. Later on, the State Governments will also be invited to participate in the Corporation by subscribing towards its share capital.

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation was held on December 19.

Planning & Finance

AGREEMENT ON BRITISH CREDIT OF Rs. 6.67 CRORES

An agreement for a credit of Rs. 6.67 crores (£5 million) from the Government of the United Kingdom to the Government of India was signed in New Delhi on December 23.

India will be able to draw on this credit for a broad range of imports from the United Kingdom during the current year of the Second Plan. With this, the British Government's assistance for India's Second Plan totals a little over Rs. 107 crores.

The credit is repayable in 20 years, the first instalment falling due on November 30, 1966. The rate of interest will be the same as that currently applied by the U.K. Treasury to a loan for a comparable period out of the British Consolidated Fund on the same date plus $\frac{1}{4}$ th of 1 per cent for administrative charges.

AID FOR THIRD PLAN

In a statement, after signing the agreement on behalf of the U.K. Government, Sir Paul Gore-Booth, British High Commissioner in India, said that for the Third Five-Year Plan of India, the United Kingdom Government expected to

provide aid amounting to Rs. 66 crores—Rs. 40 crores as an initial act of assistance for capital goods from Britain required for the Plan and a separate provision of some Rs. 26 crores for the extension of the Durgapur Steel Project. These loans, he said, would bring the amount of official assistance (including finance by the City of London for the Durgapur steel project), since 1957, to Rs. 188 crores.

Britain's ability to continue helping the developing countries of Asia and Africa depended on the continuance of a vigorous and enterprising economy at home and a high level of multilateral world trade, he added. The world situation was full of challenges at the moment. But given a further period of progress in Britain, there could be no doubt that the U.K.'s proven record of practical co-operation with her friends in the Commonwealth would be maintained, he said.

U.K. INVESTMENTS

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 23, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shri B.R. Bhagat, said that the total amount

of U.K. investments in India was Rs. 398 crores as at the end of 1958. This was 69.8 per cent of the total foreign investment in India and 21.7 per cent of the estimated capital employed in the organised corporate sector at the end of 1958.

The Deputy Minister added that the U.K. investment was Rs. 206.02 crores, as on June 30, 1948. It was 80.5 per cent of the total foreign investment in India on that date.

SECOND EXIM BANK CREDIT

A New Delhi announcement of December 23 says that the U.S. Government have announced an authorisation by the Export-Import Bank of a credit of 50 million dollars to the Government of India for utilisation during the Third Five-Year Plan.

The credit is available for the import of U.S. capital equipment both for the public and private sectors. Allocations for the private sector from this credit will primarily benefit small and medium-sized business concerns.

Repayment of the credit will be spread over a period of ten years beginning from 1966.

This is the second credit granted to the Government of India by the U.S. Export-Import Bank. The earlier credit for 150 million dollars was authorised in 1958 for India's Second Plan.

MORATORIUM TO FIVE BANKS

In a Press Note issue on December 17, the Ministry of Finance has announced that the Central Government, on the recommendation of the Reserve Bank, have granted a moratorium from the 18th December, 1960 to the 18th March, 1961 (both days inclusive) under the provisions of section 45 of the Banking Companies Act, as recently amended, to the following banks: (1) the Travancore Forward Bank, Kottayam, (2) the Kottayam Orient Bank, Kottayam, (3) the Bank of New India, Trivandrum, (4) the Scasia Midland Bank of Alleppey, and (5) the Venadu Bank Pulincunnoo.

PAYMENT TO DEPOSITORS

The question of reconstructing the Travancore Forward Bank and amalgamating it with some other major institution is now under the active consideration of the Reserve Bank of India. It is also proposed that the four other institutions may be brought together so as to form a new and more efficient unit. The moratorium in all the five cases has been declared in the general interests of the depositors of the banks concerned and with a view to facilitating the contemplated reconstructions and amalgamation.

During the period of moratorium, the banks have been permitted to make certain payments as specified in the orders of moratorium, including payments to the depositors. This has been authorised in order to minimise the inconvenience to the constituents and the general public, while the schemes in relation to the banks are under consideration.

RATIONALISATION OF BANKS

The Deputy Minister of Finance, Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha, informed the Lok Sabha during question hour on December 20 that it was proposed to make use of the powers available under the recent amendments to the Banking Companies Act to formulate and implement schemes of reconstruction or amalgamation of banking companies, as and when this might be desirable. Moratorium orders had been issued in the case of ten banks, and schemes for the reconstruction and amalgamation of four of these banks had already been framed and forwarded to the institutions concerned for their comments and suggestions. The question of framing suitable schemes in the case of the other banks was under consideration, she added.

DEARER MONEY POLICY

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 23, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said that the recent measures in the direction of greater credit restraint were not being applied to the credit that was made available to agriculturists by institutional agencies, such as cooperative banks

and societies. The cooperative movement would continue to enjoy, as before, the privilege of obtaining from the Reserve Bank accommodation at concessional rates of interest.

The Finance Minister added that the monetary policy of the Reserve Bank had been and continued to be one of permitting such increases in bank credit as were in keeping with the genuine requirements of the economy and the maintenance of monetary stability. This policy was intended to be applied flexibly. The aim of the recent steps taken by the Reserve Bank was to keep in check any undue expansion in bank credit; and it might be mentioned that, in view of the busy season, the Reserve Bank had relaxed (vide its notification dated November 11, 1960) its earlier measures impounding a certain proportion of the rise in scheduled banks' deposits.

INVESTMENTS BY L.I.C.

The Life Insurance Corporation of India invested Rs. 179 crores last year in 13 States and the Union territory of Delhi. Figures released by the Corporation indicate that the Corporation had invested in

State Government securities, approved securities, municipal securities, and shares and debentures of companies. These investments formed 43.70 per cent of the total investments of the Corporation.

SMALL SAVINGS

According to a New Delhi announcement, dated December 27, there has been an all-round increase in the net collections of Small Savings during April-November, 1960. The increase was more pronounced in the Post Office Savings Bank deposits and the Treasury Savings Deposit Certificates—being Rs. 9.25 crores and Rs. 3.90 crores respectively.

Net collections during the eight months amounted to Rs. 52.64 crores, showing an increase of Rs. 15.06 crores over the corresponding period last year. In November, 1960, net collections amounted to Rs. 7.28 crores, recording an increase of Rs. 1.82 crores over the figure for November, 1959.

In addition to the net collections through Small Savings securities, the sale of Prize Bonds from April to November, 1960, amounted to Rs. 10.37 crores. It was Rs. 25 lakhs in November, 1960.

Commerce & Industry

MEETING OF IRON AND STEEL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The second meeting of the Iron and Steel Advisory Council was held in New Delhi on December 29.

Addressing the meeting, Sardar Swaran Singh, Union Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, said that while the production of steel was running at the rate of a little over 180,000 tons per month in the beginning of 1960, it had recently gone up to a quarter million tons per month. With the increased supply of billets, the monthly production of re-rolling units, which was on an average about 35,000 tons in 1959, had also gone up to 55,000 tons. As a result, in many categories of steel there was hardly any

scarcity in most parts of the country.

The programme was to increase steel production capacity by four million tons of ingots by the end of the Third Plan. In addition, production of 2 lakh tons of alloy and special steels was also to be achieved. For the growing foundry industry in the country, at least 1.5 million tons of pig iron had to be produced. For additional capacity in steel making, in the first instance the newly established steelworks would have to be expanded to their economic balanced output.

To fill up a gap of about 5 lakh tons in the estimated requirements of pig iron, and also with the

broad objective of regional diversification of the industry, Government had decided to license pig iron plants in the private sector, each up to a capacity of one lakh tons a year.

WIRE DRAWING CAPACITY

To meet the growing demand of wire, it had been decided to encourage the establishment of wire drawing capacity up to the extent of 5 lakh tons a year. A panel set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry had estimated that the demand for wire of all types was likely to grow to about 4.7 lakh tons per year by the last year of the Third Plan. A number of units had been licensed and a very large number of manufacturers had set up wire drawing plants on small scale under the relaxations announced in April, 1960. It was estimated that a capacity to draw 4 lakh tons of wire per year existed in the country. The wire rods were made till recently only by the Indian Steel and Wire Products at Jamshedpur. Now they were also being granted to the existing Re-rollers to manufacture wire rods in coils within the existing billet allocations.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

The year 1960 was comparatively easier for consumers of steel, mainly due to greater indigenous production. That the imports during the year were also likely to be slightly more is mainly due to arrivals of steels from DLF and rupee payment countries. In 1959 the total imports of steel aggregated to over 8.6 lakh tons. In 1960, the imports were likely to be about a million tons. During the year 1960, with the new mills coming up, the need for imports for other categories of steel would be confined to small quantities of a few items like sheets of thinner gauges, wire of special type and tinplates. We had so far entered into contracts for export of about 3.3 lakh tons of pig iron, ingots, slabs, blooms, billets, etc., valued at Rs. 115 million. In 1961, with the coming into operation of the finishing capacities in the new plants, we would export finished steel like heavy plates, structurals and wide strips and coils rather than semis. The foreign

exchange earned by way of these exports could be utilised for import of steel required in this country.

Production of saleable pig iron at the end of the First Plan was about 4 lakh tons. The position remained stationary for the first three years of the Second Plan. In 1959, the production of saleable pig iron was about 800,000 tons and in 1960 it would be about one million tons.

In the case of finished steel also the production till the end of 1958 was about 1.36 million tons. This increased to 1.8 million tons in 1959 and during 1960 the production would be about 2.2 million tons.

TECHNICAL TRAINING

A training programme for training of Indian engineers and operatives had already been drawn up and a large number of them had been trained both in India and abroad. Training institutes had been set up in the steel plants at Rourkela and Bhilai and another one was being organised at Durgapur. The Rourkela technical institute had trained about 450 operatives and about 800 skilled workers, and about 1000 operatives and skilled workers were undergoing training there. At Bhilai, about 400 operatives and 250 skilled workers had been trained, and 28 graduate apprentices and about 190 operatives and artisans were undergoing training there. With the commissioning of the various units in these plants, more engineers would be trained on the job in these steelworks.

CONFERENCE OF INDUSTRIAL LEADERS

A three-day conference of Indian industrial leaders sponsored by the National Productivity Council in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation, began at New Delhi on December 16. The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, inaugurated the conference. Leading industrialists, heads of several public sector enterprises, representatives of labour, as well as some foreign experts, participated in the conference.

The first of its kind in India, the conference had been organised with a view to enabling leaders of industry in both the public and the pri-

vate sectors, to examine problems of current interest in Indian industry. The conference provided a forum for the industrialists to discuss selected problems in the light of their collective experience.

The subjects, dealt with at the conference, included opportunities for growth and development, economic considerations in purchasing plant and equipment, development of managerial skills, maximum utilisation of assets, and management and the worker.

NEW UNITS OF BHILAI PROJECT

A number of remaining units of the Bhilai Steel Works for the production of coke, pig iron and steel were simultaneously inaugurated on December 30 by Dr. Kailash Nath Katju, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

The units inaugurated included the third and last coke oven battery, third and last blast furnace, fifth open hearth furnace for making steel, and two by-product plants, e.g., benzol rectification plant and coal tar distillation plant.

Only two major units of Bhilai Steel Works, e.g., one open hearth furnace in steel melting department, and merchant mill in rolling mills now remain to be commissioned. These units are in the finishing stage of construction and are expected to be commissioned early next year. Hot trials in merchant mill have already started.

Sintering plant, which was the last of units taken up for construction, would also be commissioned before the end of the financial year.

The iron ore mines at Rajhara and the limestone quarry at Nandini have already been fully mechanised to meet the requirements of integrated iron and steel plant at Bhilai.

Bhilai Steel Works are designed to produce annually one million tons of steel to be rolled into 770,000 tons of marketable products including rails and railway bars, beams and other heavy structurals and billets for re-rolling mills. Capacity of the plant will be expanded to 2½ million tons under the Third Five-Year Plan.

Meanwhile, the Bhilai Steel Works had produced up to December about 978,000 tons of pig iron

and 340,000 tons of steel. About 565,000 tons of pig iron and 245,000 tons of steel products have been despatched to consumers all over India. About 96,000 tons of pig iron and 15,000 tons of steel billets have also been exported from Bhilai to Pakistan, Japan and the United Kingdom.

UTILISATION OF NATURAL GAS FROM NAHORKATIYA

Replying to a Short Notice question regarding the utilisation of natural gas from the Nahorkatiya oil fields, the Minister of Mines and Oil, Shri K.D. Malaviya, said in the Lok Sabha on December 22 that 38 million cubic feet of natural gas would be available per day for industrial and domestic consumption.

The Expert Committee set up to recommend projects for the utilisation of the Nahorkatiya natural gas had so far suggested 5 projects which would consume approximately 30.8 million scfd of natural gas. Other projects were under consideration. The exact quantity of natural gas which would ultimately be required by each project would be known after the detailed project reports had been obtained.

The Minister further said that the private sector was being associated with the setting up of petrochemical projects consistent with the best interests of the State.

OIL SURVEY IN NEPAL

The Union Minister for Mines and Oil, Shri K.D. Malaviya, stated in the Lok Sabha during question hour on December 20 that the Nepal Government had given permission to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission of India to carry out a few geological traverses and to make seismic surveys along one profile in Nepalese territory.

He added that during the 1959-60 field season, a geological party carried out a reconnaissance traverse near Amlekganj to Thankot in Birganj and Chispanigarhi districts in the central part of Nepal. During the current field season a party had been detailed to carry out 6 geological traverses in the Dang Valley, to cover about 180 miles.

Indian Information

PRODUCTION OF RUBBER

The measures taken by Government to encourage the production of rubber in the country were detailed in the Lok Sabha by the Minister of Commerce, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, while replying to a question on December 16.

The Minister said that a scheme for replanting 70,000 acres of low-yielding land with high-yielding strains in 10 years was being implemented by the Rubber Board since 1957. The scheme provided for the payment of a subsidy to the growers ranging from Rs. 250 to Rs. 400 per acre. An area of 10,645 acres had already been replanted and a subsidy of Rs. 20.21 lakhs had been paid to the growers by the Rubber Board under this scheme. To make the scheme more attractive, the rate of subsidy had been increased to Rs. 1000 per acre, with effect from the plantations undertaken during the current year.

High-yielding rubber seeds at subsidised rates were also being supplied to rubber growers.

A scheme for the grant of an interest-free loan of Rs.750 per acre to the existing small growers for extension of their area to economic levels, i.e., 5 to 15 acres, had been sanctioned. The amount would be recovered from them in convenient instalments after the trees had begun to yield.

PRODUCTION OF COPPER

The production of copper ore during January-October, 1960 was 369,072 metric tons, according to the Indian Bureau of Mines.

This represents an increase of about 9 per cent as compared to the output of 338,512 metric tons in the corresponding period of 1959.

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

The production of copper metal during January-October 1960 was 7,431 metric tons as compared to 6,592 metric tons in the corresponding period of 1959.

PRODUCTION OF NEWSPRINT

The Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, stated in the Rajya Sabha during question hour

on December 22 that it was proposed to develop the indigenous capacity for manufacturing 1.2 lakh to 1.5 lakh tons of newsprint annually by the Third Plan period.

Shri Shah added that this would meet 75 per cent of the country's requirements. It was estimated that Rs. 15 crores would be required for the implementation of this programme. Part of the expansion would be in the public sector project located at Neopanagar in Madhya Pradesh, where an additional production of 30,000 tons was envisaged. Two newsprint plants in the private sector were proposed to be located in Maharashtra State. The capacity of these two units would be 60,000 tons per annum.

PRODUCTION OF WORSTED YARN

A Press Note issued on December 16 says that, under the Woollen Textile (Production and Distribution) Control Order, 1960, the Textile Commissioner, vide his notification No. T.C. (42)/60 dated September 29, 1960, had fixed the percentages of worsted weaving, hosiery and knitting yarn to be produced by each producer. In view of several representations received from producers, the Textile Commissioner has cancelled the notification, and orders have been issued to individual mills fixing the percentages of their weaving, hosiery and knitting yarn production.

PRODUCTION OF CAUSTIC SODA

A two-day seminar on 'Caustic Soda Industry in India' was inaugurated at Bombay on December 23 by Shri Manubhai Shah, Union Minister for Industry.

The seminar had been sponsored by the Development Council for Alkalis and Allied Industries and was attended by technicians and chemical engineers employed in the industry and also by leading suppliers of machinery for this industry from abroad.

Reviewing the progress of the caustic soda industry, the Minister said that the production of caustic soda had increased ten-fold in the decade after independence. Production which was 5,900 tons in 1948

January 15, 1961

had risen to 57,000 tons in 1958. During 1958-59 the increase had been phenomenal and it was expected that the production might touch 100,000 tons in 1960. With the expected increase in production to 300,000 tons in the Third Plan period, the country would become self-sufficient in this material.

There were at present 18 factories producing caustic soda and 12 more units might come into existence in the next five years. The unit size of production at present varied from two tons to 80 tons per day and would vary from five tons to 160 tons per day after five years.

DEVELOPMENT OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

Inaugurating the first meeting of the reconstituted Development Council for Organic Chemical Industries in New Delhi on December 20, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister of Industry, referred to the important place of these industries in the country's industrial progress.

Referring to the alcohol industry, the Minister said that production had not advanced mainly because demand had not gone up substantially.

Regarding the plastic industry, the Minister said that a target of 85,000 tons capacity of plastic raw materials by 1965-66 and a production target of 74,000 tons had been envisaged.

About the manufacture of dye-stuffs and intermediates, Shri Shah said that the production of dyes had increased from Rs. 2.63 crores in 1956 to 10.6 crores by 1959. Imports during this period had declined from Rs. 12 crores to Rs. 7 crores. Shri Shah referred to the schemes for the manufacture of complex intermediates and said that Government, on its part, were proceeding with the establishment of a project in the public sector for the manufacture of basic chemicals and intermediates required in the drugs, dyes and plastic industries.

Awards For Public Sector Enterprises

An announcement of December 23 says that the Government of India have decided to introduce annual awards to encourage the

Central Government industrial enterprises to exceed their production targets and achieve outstanding all-round performance. The awards have been instituted at the instance of the Prime Minister.

A shield in copper and silver will be awarded to the public sector enterprise adjudged best for its all-round performance during every year.

Certificates of Merit will be awarded to five undertakings for outstanding performance, taking into consideration their financial working, cordial labour relations in the factory, and any special contribution made to the country's economy through research, discovery of new process, design of machinery and equipment, etc.

Certificates of Honour will be presented to the undertakings whose performance is adjudged to be satisfactory.

A Committee of Secretaries to the Government of India, assisted by experts, will evaluate the performance of individual undertakings.

All Central Government industrial undertakings, which are in production, will be eligible for these awards. Some of the undertakings in the Ministry of Defence and other Ministries will, however, be excluded from the scheme for the present. A list of undertakings covered by the scheme will be notified from year to year.

AWARDS FOR SILK STRAINS

In a Press Note, issued on December 17, the Central Silk Board has announced that cash prizes and medals will be awarded for producing better strains of mulberry and silkworm and for inventing new designs of silk reeling and spinning equipment. The purpose is to provide incentives for better silk production.

The Board has decided to give seven cash awards of Rs. 2,500 each and medals worth Rs. 200 each for the best entry under each of the following five categories:

1. Evolving superior strains of mulberry
2. Evolving better races of mulberry silkworms by selective breeding or genetical methods
3. Invention of better types of reeling or spinning machines
4. Invention of preparatory

process for improving the reeling quality of 'Tasar' and 'Muga' cocoons

5. Invention of better races of non-mulberry silkworms by selective or genetical methods.

The entries, sent through the State Governments concerned, should reach the Board by February 28.

TRADE WITH RUMANIA

Trade talks between India and Rumania concluded in New Delhi on December 22 with the signing of an arrangement providing for the supply of iron ore to Rumania in increasing quantities upto 1966.

Under the Arrangement, Rumania will supply petroleum products, drilling equipment, accessories and spares, and plants and industrial equipment.

The Arrangement provides that the prices of the goods to be purchased or sold will be agreed upon between the two parties at the time of concluding contracts.

The two parties have agreed to utilise, as much as possible, Rumanian and Indian vessels and their insurance organisations on the basis of shippers' preference, provided that the transportation and insurance are on competitive rates. Both Governments have also agreed to consult each other, whenever necessary, to facilitate the full implementation of the Arrangement.

The Arrangement, which will come into force from the beginning of 1961, will be valid up to the end of 1961. It will operate under the Trade and Payments Agreement concluded between the two countries in May 1959.

TALKS ON OIL WITH ITALY

A Press Note issued on December 18 by the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel says that the team of oil experts from E.N.I., the national petroleum organization of Italy, which had arrived in the Capital on December 12 at the invitation of the Government of India, held discussions for a week with representatives of the Government of India with a view to exploring possibilities of collaboration in various fields of the oil industry.

The team was headed by Signor Enrico Mattei, President of ENI.

The discussions covered proposals for partnership in exploration and production and for credit facilities for the import of machinery and technical services for the development of oil industry in its various phases and especially workshop facilities, transportation, and petro-chemical plants. They were very fruitful and resulted in a broad understanding of each other's policies and programmes.

While Signor Mattei, with a part of his team, left for Italy on December 18, two of the ENI's experts are staying back in India to study and survey things, so as to facilitate continuation of negotiations at as early a date as possible.

IMPORT OF POLYSTYRENE

A New Delhi announcement dated December 28, says that actual-user licences for import of polystyrene and polyethylene (low density) will be granted to the units in the small-scale sector on an *ad hoc* basis.

The last date for receipt of applications by the licensing authorities concerned is February 15, 1961. Essentiality certificates for these items will be given by the State Directors of Industries up to February 1.

DRAWBACK OF CUSTOMS

A Press Note issued on December 28 by the Ministry of Finance says that, as a measure of Export Promotion, the Government of India have decided to allow drawback of Customs and Central Excise Duty paid on raw materials used in the manufacture of electrical accessories, cigarettes, pipe or cigarette tobacco, fluorescent lamps, matches, articles made from aluminium circles and sheets, petrol pumps, gas plants, fabrics containing wool, yarn and silk yarn, air compressors, flash lightcases, coir products, mica nite or built-up mica, R.S. pilfer-proof closures, flat files fitted with clips, and oiled coir ropes. Changes have been made in the rates of drawback for steel products, plastic goods, fabrics, etc., made of artificial silk, mixed total fatty acid obtained from coconut oil, tea chests and jute manufactures.

Alterations have also been effected in the items relating to mixed fabrics containing terylene, glassware, coffee, electrical accessories and artificial teeth. Further, the item of 'crown corks' has been transferred from the First Schedule to the Second Schedule (Brand Rates) of the General Drawback Rules.

For further details and for advice regarding the procedure for obtaining these concessions, exporters are advised to consult the Custom House at the ports from which the goods are to be exported.

EXHIBITIONS ABROAD

According to a New Delhi announcement, dated December 26, the Government of India have decided to hold exhibitions at Kuala Lumpur and Singapore during the first half of 1961. The exhibitions which will be organised by the Directorate of Exhibition in the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, will be devoted entirely to the display of Indian goods.

In Kuala Lumpur, the exhibition is scheduled to be held from March 21 and will last upto April 5. In Singapore, it will be held from April 23 to May 7.

A wide range of Indian products, particularly non-traditional items such as machinery and engineering and electrical stores, heavy machinery, consumer goods, sports goods, chemicals, glassware, paints and varnishes, sanitary-ware, leather goods, rubber goods, etc., will be displayed in these exhibitions.

MEASURES FOR REDUCTION IN CLOTH PRICES

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, made a statement on cloth prices in the Lok Sabha on December 21. The main points stressed in the statement are as under:

As a result of discussions which had taken place between the Indian Cotton Mills Federation and the Government in August last, a scheme of voluntary price regulation was adopted by the Federation. Under that scheme, maximum ex-mill prices were laid down for different categories of cloth, expressed in the form of percentage increases permitted over the prices prevailing in August, 1959.

FUTURE TRADING IN LINSEED

In a Press Note issued on December 31, the Forward Markets Commission has announced that with a view to checking the growing speculative pressure on linseed prices, the Forward Markets Commission has, with immediate effect, imposed special margins at the rate of Rs. 4 per 50 Kgs., whenever the price of May 1961 hedge contract and of the February-March 1961 transferable specific delivery contract in linseed at the Bombay Oilseeds and Oils Exchange, Ltd., exceeds the marginal line of Rs. 35.80 nP per 50 Kgs. The payment of special margin would be subject to the usual conditions.

SECOND-HAND JUTE BAGS FOR PACKING CEMENT

A Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on December 20, states that the Government of India have decided to permit, as a temporary measure, the use of serviceable second-hand jute bags also, for packing of cement for a period of six months from January to June, 1961. The bags, whether new or second-hand, shall be of the D.W. Heavy Cees variety and the second-hand bags shall bear a distinguishable mark. Cement producers will be responsible for any defective packing by them.

The Government have fixed the charges for packing cement in new as well as second-hand D.W. Heavy Cees jute bags at Rs. 13 per tonne (20 bags) for the period.

Ex-mill prices and retail prices were to be stamped on all cloth manufactured, the retail prices being calculated on the basis of ex-mill prices, plus a margin of 15% for the trade. Prices were similarly laid down for different counts of yarn.

There has been no rise in the prices of any variety of cloth during the past three months.

FURTHER REDUCTION

However, as the wholesalers and retailers have felt dissatisfied over the margin of 15% prescribed for the trade, it has now been decided

after discussions with the Indian Cotton Mills Federation, to take the following steps:

The Federation has agreed to reduce the prices further. The revised prices, expressed in percentage increases over the prices prevailing in August, 1959, will be as follows:

Coarse	..	20%
Lower Medium	..	17%
Higher Medium	..	13%
Fine	..	8½%
Superfine	..	6%

The revised prices reflect a reduction of 5 points in the prices of coarse, lower medium and higher medium categories and of 3 points in the prices of fine and superfine categories over the prices fixed in September 1960. The Federation has also agreed that in the case of selected varieties of cloth in the categories of coarse and lower medium, an additional reduction of 3 points should be made. The varieties will be selected separately for each mill, jointly by the Federation and the Textile Commissioner, and the total quantity of cloth covered by these selected varieties would amount to about 25% of the total production.

OTHER MEASURES

The existing stocks of cloth with the mills would be released hereafter at the revised prices, and stocks which are unstamped at present would be stamped on the revised basis.

The Indian Cotton Mills Federation has agreed to request all Mills to work three shifts so as to increase the production of cloth by at least 10%.

Government have considered the representations received from the trade in regard to the margin allowed at present over the ex-mill prices and have agreed to the increase of the margin from 15% to 18%.

The main reasons for the rise in textile prices towards the end of 1959 and the beginning of 1960 were the increase in the price of raw cotton and the upward revision of wages as a result of the implementation of the Wage Board's recommendations. The increase in raw cotton prices was directly attributable to the failure of the cotton crop in 1959-60. The present

estimates of the current crop, however, are fairly good and the forecast is that we may have a crop of between 48 to 50 lakh bales, as compared to the last year's crop of 37 lakh bales.

Government are also continuing their efforts to augment foreign imports still further, so that an adequate buffer stock could be built up.

REFERENCE TO TARIFF COMMISSION

Another important step which Government have taken is to refer the question of the fixation of fair ex-mill and retail prices to the Tariff Commission.

The main terms of reference include the determination of the cost of production of the various types of cloth and yarn, and fair ex-mill prices of cloth and yarn. In addition, the Commission has also been requested to suggest methods for effecting suitable adjustments from time to time in such prices, so as to allow for major fluctuations in the prices of raw cotton and other elements of cost of production.

As regards yarn, the prices are still under consideration, but Government expect that they would also be fixed in a manner which would correspond to the revised prices of cloth.

COMMODITY PRICES IN NOVEMBER

According to a Press Note, issued on December 24, by the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, the wholesale prices as measured by the official index (with the year ended March 1953=100) declined by 0.2 per cent to 128.0 during the month of November, 1960 as compared with 128.2 for October, 1959. The index was higher by 6.5 per cent when compared with 118.3 for November 1959. During the month under review, the index for 'Food Articles' registered a fall of 1.3 per cent to 120.2, while the index for 'Tobacco' moved up by 3.2 per cent to 115.8, 'Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants' by 0.2 per cent to 120.1, 'Industrial Raw Materials' by 1.0 per cent to 148.0 and 'Manufactures' by 0.8 per cent to 125.6.

A fall in the prices of rice, wheat, *bajra* and barley brought down the sub-group index for 'Cereals' by 2.6 per cent to 103.5, although the prices of *jowar*, maize and *ragi* witnessed increase. The index for 'Cereals' was lower by 2.5 per cent when compared with that of a year ago. Lower prices of *arhar*, *mung*, *masur* and *urad* caused a fall of 0.4 per cent to 94.2 in the index for 'Pulses'; the price of gram, however, exhibited a rise.

The sub-group index for 'Fruits and Vegetables' receded by 2.2 per cent to 111.2 due to a decline in the prices of oranges, bananas and cashewnuts, notwithstanding a rise in the prices of potatoes and onions. A fall of 3.8 per cent to 113.0 in the index for 'Milk and Ghee' was brought about by lower prices of both milk and ghee. Prices of groundnut oil, gingelly oil and *vanaspoti* (*dalda*) moved down, while those of mustard oil and coconut oil moved up and the index for 'Edible Oils' stood unchanged at its earlier month's revised level of 153.1. The sub-group index for 'Fish, Eggs and Meat' drifted lower by 1.3 per cent to 124.3 owing to decline in the prices of fish, despite a rise in the prices of eggs and meat.

Lower prices of *gur* were responsible for bringing down the sub-group index for 'Sugar and Gur' by 0.7 per cent to 135.6. Higher prices of tea, coffee, cloves, turmeric, betelnuts and salt raised the sub-group index for 'Other Food Articles' by 2.8 per cent to 175.3, although the prices of black pepper, chillies, cummin (*jira*) and cardamoms witnessed decline.

An advance in the prices of raw tobacco raised the index for 'Tobacco' by 3.2 per cent to 115.8.

A rise in the prices of diesel oil and castor oil pushed up the index for 'Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants' by 0.2 per cent to 120.1.

INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS

The sub-group index for 'Fibres' rose by 1.0 per cent to 159.1 due to a rise in the prices of raw jute, raw hemp, raw wool and raw silk; the prices of raw cotton, however, showed a fall. Higher prices of linseed, castorseed, rapeseed and

copra raised the index for 'Oilseeds' by 0.7 per cent to 149.3, although the prices of groundnut, gingellyseed exhibited decline. The sub-group index for 'Minerals' moved up by 0.1 per cent to 98.1 due to an increase in the prices of manganese ore. A rise of 1.5 per cent to 127.7 in the sub-group index for 'Other Industrial Raw Materials' was caused by higher prices of raw hides, raw skins, and lac; the prices of tanning materials, however, registered a fall.

The index for 'Intermediate Products' advanced by 1.1 per cent to 131.6 due to a rise in the prices of linseed oil, cotton yarn, coir yarn and tin, notwithstanding a fall in the prices of rayon yarn, aluminium, zinc, brass, copper and lead.

FINISHED PRODUCTS

Higher prices of jute manufactures (+4.0 per cent to 141.7) and silk and rayon manufactures (+0.3 per cent to 101.8) raised the

index for 'Textiles' by 1.1 per cent to 128.8, although the prices of cotton manufactures (-1.0 per cent to 129.1) exhibited a fall. In the case of cotton manufactures, mill-made cloth displayed a fall, while handloom cloth showed a rise.

The sub-group index for 'Metal Products' stood unchanged at its earlier month's level of 146.8. A decline in the prices of general chemicals and drugs and medicines brought down the index for 'Chemicals' by 1.0 per cent to 104.3 despite a rise in the prices of dyeing materials. 'Oilcakes' recorded a rise of 1.0 per cent to 142.5.

The sub-group index for 'Machinery and Transport equipment' stood at its previous month's revised level of 112.1, despite a rise in the prices of cycles. Prices of bricks and tiles moved up and, in consequence, the index for 'Other Finished Products' rose by 0.3 per cent to 116.5. On the whole, the index for 'Finished Products' registered a rise of 0.8 per cent to 124.7 during the month under review.

PROVISIONS OF COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) ACT

The Companies (Amendment) Act, having received the assent of the President on December 28, 1960, has come into force.

Under the amended Act, a public company can be converted into a private company only with the approval of the Central Government. The Act provides that where not less than 25 per cent of the paid-up capital of a private company is held by one or more corporate bodies, the private company shall, subject to certain specified exceptions, become a public company.

Another change is that if a company, at the time of issuing further shares, wants to exclude the existing equity shareholders, this can be done only if a special resolution to that effect is passed by the company in general meeting. If the resolution is passed only by simple majority, the shares can be offered to any outsider only with the sanction of the Central Government.

The act further lays down that, in future, a company shall not employ simultaneously more than one of the following categories of managerial personnel, viz., Secretary and Treasurer, Managing Agent, Managing Director or Manager.

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AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS.

No dividend shall be paid without first providing for depreciation for that year, as well as for arrears of depreciation. This provision will have no retrospective effect and may, in any particular case, be relaxed by the Government in the public interest. The Act stipulates that dividend shall always be paid in cash, except where bonus shares are issued.

The balance-sheet and the profit and loss accounts will have to be placed before the shareholders in annual general meeting within six months of the close of the financial year instead of 9 months as before. In exceptional cases, the Registrar will have the power to extend this time for a further period not exceeding three months.

Books and accounts of a company will now have to be preserved in a good order for a period of not less than 8 years. The modifications made to the form of the

balance-sheets and the requirements of disclosure in the profit-and-loss account will be applicable to the accounts for the current financial year also.

The Board of Directors would be required to state in their report, attached to the balance-sheet, material changes and commitments affecting the financial position of the company, which have occurred between the date of the balance-sheet and the date of the Board's report. It will be incumbent to hold an annual general meeting once every calendar year.

Every branch of a company will have to be audited by its auditor or by a person who is qualified to act as an auditor, unless the branch is exempted from such audit under the rules to be framed by the Government.

MANAGING DIRECTORS

The Act stipulates that Central Government's approval would be necessary for the appointment of a person as manager in a public company or its subsidiary for the first time, the reappointment of a manager of such company for the first time after the commencement of the Amendment Act, if the company was in existence on April 1, 1956; similarly, the reappointment of an existing managing director for the first time after the commencement of the Amendment Act, even on existing terms and conditions, will require Government's approval if the Company was in existence on April 1, 1956. The approval of the Government would be necessary even in cases where the existing term of a managing director expires on March 31, 1961 by virtue of section 317.

No person will be allowed to be manager of more than two companies, public or private, unless specifically permitted by the Central Government. Similarly, in the cases of persons who are acting as managing directors of companies, of which one is a public company, they will have to resign their managing directorship in excess of two within one year of the commencement of Amendment Act.

In calculating the "net profit" for payment of managerial remuneration, it will be necessary to deduct any loss in previous financial years.

In case of public companies or their subsidiaries, where minimum managerial remuneration under section 198(4) of the Act is being paid without having obtained the specific approval of the Central Government in the past, it will not be competent for the companies to continue such payment without obtaining the approval of the Central Government, unless approval has been obtained under any other provision of the Act.

Where the articles of association of companies provide for recurring payments of fixed amounts to directors, the companies should, with the approval of the Central Government, amend their articles of association and provide for sitting fees for each meeting of the Board or any committee attended by the directors. Where a monthly amount was being paid, the present position may be continued for a period of two years, unless the term of the director expires earlier.

Salaries paid to directors, who are not whole-time or managing directors, will have to be either discontinued or replaced by payment on commission basis.

The total remuneration paid to a managing or whole-time director should henceforth be restricted to an amount not exceeding 5 per cent of the net profits of the company, unless the approval of the Central Government is obtained to exceed this limit. Salaries which have been specifically approved as minimum remuneration shall not, however, be affected.

MANAGING AGENTS

A person will be deemed to be a managing agent if he holds 10 per cent of the shares in a managing agency company which is public, or 5% of the shares in a managing agency company which is private. Those connected with managing agency companies should immediately review the position and ensure that they are not deemed to be managing agents of more than 10 companies, which is prohibited.

The transfer of office by a managing agent in any form whatever will require the approval of the Central Government as also of the managed company.

If the managing agent, being a corporate body, is a subsidiary of another corporate body, any change in the constitution of the holding company will also require the approval of the Central Government. Otherwise, the managing agency will terminate.

Payments made by way of remuneration to any partner of a managing agency firm, or to a director of any managing agency company, or to a member of a private company acting as a managing agent, shall be included in the remuneration of the managing agent. No contract for the rendering of any service between a company and its managing agent or an associate of the managing agent shall be valid in future, unless such contract is approved by the company by a special resolution and also by the Central Government.

The definition of 'same management' group, as given in section 370, has been enlarged. It will be necessary for a company to maintain a register in respect of loans, etc., made to companies under the same management.

The provisions relating to inter-company investments have also been extensively amended. Subject to certain limits and exceptions, Government approval will be required for investments made outside the 'same management' group as well.

EXAMINATION FOR COMPANY SECRETARIES

In a Press Note, dated December 17, the Department of Company Law Administration has announced that the first Preliminary and Intermediate examinations for company secretaries will be held from March 6 to 11, 1961, instead of March 1 to 4, 6 and 7, 1961, as announced earlier.

The last date for receipt of applications for admission to Preliminary Examination and from registered candidates for Intermediate Examination was December 20, 1960. The centres, where the examinations will be held, remain unchanged.

ANNUAL REPORT ON INDIAN STANDARDS

The annual report of the Indian Standards Institution for 1959-60 was published in December, 1960.

During the year under review, ISI issued 216 new standards covering a wide range of industrial and consumer goods. Besides, 22 revised standards were also issued. Under the Second Five-Year Plan of ISI, the formulation of standards was to reach the mark of 200 by 1960-61. This target has already been exceeded.

The standards published and under print, the report observes, totalled 1434 at the end of 1959-60. The adoption of these standards by the industry and purchase departments of Central and State Governments numbered 1173, as against 948 at the end of the previous year.

CERTIFICATION MARK

The number of licences in force under the Certification Mark Scheme during the year totalled 184 as against 120 in the last year. Twenty-five items were covered by the scheme in addition to 34 commodities which had been covered earlier.

During the period, ISI formulated its Third Five-Year Plan, under which the rate of production of standards would be raised to 500 per year. Besides, there are proposals to create an Implementation Division, a Consumer Products Division, a Laboratory Division for testing certificate goods, etc. The total outlay would be about Rs. 2.76 crores.

The setting up of a Women's Advisory Committee for popularising the utility of goods conforming to Indian standards and the creation of a metric cell to assist the industries in the changeover to the metric system were other important achievements of the year. During the year, the ISI produced a 'Conversion Slide' for the interconversion of values from the inch pad system to the metric system.

According to the report, the membership of the Institution rose to 1946 from 1770 in the previous year.

Communications

INCREASED AMENITIES ON RAILWAYS

Inaugurating the first meeting of the reconstituted National Railway Users' Consultative Council in New Delhi on December 16, the Railway Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, said that Indian Railways would be called upon to handle about 244 million tons of originating goods traffic during the Third Plan as against the target of 162 million tons at the end of the Second Plan. In terms of workload, this would mean an increase of 80 per cent in ton miles.

It was proposed to equip the railways with diesel and electric power to the extent of about 70 per cent of the additional needs of freight traffic during the Third Plan. Steam traction would, however, continue for all other services.

Complete electrification of about 1100 miles, including those which are now under execution, and doubling of about 1,600 miles of track were also contemplated. Other measures for improving line capacity would include remodelling of yards, opening of new crossing stations, additional loops, introduction of centralised traffic control, automatic signalling, etc.

While giving a brief account of the working of the Railways since the last meeting of the Council, the Minister referred to improvement in loading, running of 'creek' trains, and several measures of amenities to the railway users like introduction of larger number of *Janata* trains, new type of sleeping coaches for third class, etc.

JANATA TRAINS

The Minister said that, in pursuance of the policy of introducing larger number of *Janata* express trains providing exclusively third class accommodation, bi-weekly *Janata* express trains had been started between Howrah and Bombay via Patna and Allahabad with effect from October 1, 1960.

The frequency of the existing *Janata* trains between Ahmedabad



and Delhi had also been increased. The weekly *Janata* express trains between Howrah and Hardwar, as well as Banaras and Hardwar, had been extended to run to and from Dehra Dun.

A number of mail and express trains running between important cities like Howrah, Delhi, Bombay, Poona, Bangalore, had been accelerated.

NEW DESIGN SLEEPERS

Progress had been made in the introduction of 3-tier sleeper coaches in III class. By the end of October this year, 137 B.G. and 53 M.G. coaches of this new type had been built. Another 63 B.G. and 147 M.G. coaches were expected to be ready by about the end of March next. The new coaches had already been put into service on 20 broad gauge and 3 metre gauge long distance trains. On the metre gauge, the service was being extended to trains having runs over 450 kilometres.

In addition to the 3-tier type sleeper coaches, it was proposed to construct more of two-tier sleeper

coaches both on the broad and metre gauge, and put them into use side by side with the 3-tier coaches, so that such of those passengers who desired a more comfortable sleeper service, could avail of the 2-tier coach on payment of the prescribed surcharge.

POSITION OF CLAIMS

Efforts for the expeditious disposal of claims had continued. By the end of 1959-60, the total number of outstanding claims had been successively brought down to 37,862 from 73,162 in 1955-56.

The position had also considerably improved in regard to incidence of new claims. It had come down from 452,811 in 1955-56 to 438,986 in 1959-60. The figures for 1960-61, which were available upto the end of September 1960 only, showed an increase in the closing balance as compared to that on March 31, 1960.

SPECIAL LIGHT IN TRAINS

The Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri S.V. Ramaswamy, confirmed in the Lok Sabha during question hour on December 19 that a special type of light for use on trains in cases of accidents, etc., had been designed recently. The equipment was being manufactured by the Railways and would be provided as soon as it was ready.

Food & Agriculture

DEVELOPMENT OF FORESTRY

The sixth meeting of the Central Board of Forestry was inaugurated by the Governor of Orissa, Shri Y.N. Sukthankar, at Bhubaneswar on December 29. Shri S.K. Patil, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, who presided over the meeting, observed in the course of his address that India's forests, actually effective in timber production, accounted for only 15 per cent of the country's surface as against the existing overall forest area of about 22 per cent. According to

the timber trends survey of 1957-58, made by the F.A.O. in conjunction with the ECAFE, the gaps between India's actual requirements and locally available supplies would be 89 million cft. in 1970 and 120 million cft. in 1975 in respect of timber, and 4707 million cft. in 1970 and 5734 million cft. in 1975 in respect of firewood. Another survey of India's forest resources in relation to modern industrial development had revealed that it would be necessary to raise 1.5

million acres of plantation of fast-growing species within 15 years in well-chosen localities suitable for establishment of forest industries.

BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board in the course of its two-day meeting, approved the carrying out of a pre-investment survey of forest resources as a preliminary measure towards the promotion of forest-based industries in various parts of the country. This project is expected to be financed and sponsored by the Government of India with assistance from the United Nations Special Fund.

Such a survey would help formulate comprehensive programmes for setting up industries based on timber and forest products and also to step up the availability of timber, the consumption of which is at present as low as 0.6 ton per capita per annum.

A programme for plantation of quick-growing species of timber over an area of 1 lakh acres per annum for the next 15 years was also approved.

The Board considered various measures for increasing the availability of match-wood and ply-wood species of timber including bamboos, and suggested that, in view of the short supply of matchwood, certain species should be preserved for this industry. In the case of timber and bamboos for the paper industry it was felt that the prices paid for bamboos at present were inadequate and that a proper system of determining reasonable prices of raw material should be worked out with reference to the cost of production of finished goods and other relevant factors on the one hand and the expenditure incurred on producing such raw material on the other.

The Board recommended that the duration of the Diploma Course for Forest Officers at Dehra Dun should be reduced from three to two years and that the rules regarding selection of candidates for the Diploma and Rangers' Courses, including the standards of physical fitness, should be reviewed.

STUDY OF BIRD LIFE

The research sub-committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research met in New Delhi on December 21. The sub-committee

decided that food and feeding habits and life histories of several birds considered detrimental to agricultural crops, would be studied at a number of regional research centres under the overall supervision of Dr. Salim Ali. The research sub-committee recommended that ornithological studies of parrots, flying foxes, sparrows, weaver birds, rose-coloured starling and squirrel should be carried out in various parts of the country to determine the damage caused by them to the agricultural crops, benefits, if any, and methods of dealing with notorious pests.

It was recommended that research centres might be set up at Ludhiana, Kanpur, Poona, Hyderabad, and (one centre each) in the East and the South, where competent entomologists should conduct field and laboratory research, including intensive life history and population dynamics studies.

As there was a shortage of trained ornithologists at present, it was decided to recommend the offering of stipends of Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 each to post-graduate students with a view to encourage them to take up this subject.

D.L.F. LOAN TO TROMBAY FERTILIZER FACTORY

A loan agreement was signed in Washington on December 30, 1960, between the Governments of India and the U.S.A. Under the agreement, 30 million dollars would be made available by the Development Loan Fund (D.L.F.) to the Trombay fertilizer factory. This is the first time that the D.L.F. advanced a loan for an industrial project in the public sector.

The loan is repayable in rupees over a fifteen-year period. The loan covers the entire foreign exchange cost of the project.

PRODUCTION OF PROTECTIVE FOODS

The two-day meeting of the Scientific Food Advisory Panel of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture concluded in New Delhi on December 23.

Shri S.K. Patil, Union Minister of Food and Agriculture, told the members of the Panel that while in the First and the Second Plans emphasis had been placed on the quantitative aspect of increasing the production of foodgrains, targets

of production in the Third Plan were being finalized 'with proper emphasis' on protective and supplementary foods.

The Panel considered a number of proposals for the production, conservation and effective utilisation of supplementary and protective foods and recommended results of research that could be taken up on commercial scale for diversification of Indian dietary pattern.

The Panel recommended that the nutritional value of rice should be raised by par-boiling on a large scale. For popularising the improved techniques developed at the Jadavpur University and the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, the State Governments should set up demonstration units in collaboration with rice mills.

PRESERVATION OF FOOD

Another recommendation related to the preservation of fruits and vegetables through the application of sugarcane wax emulsion. Experiments carried out at the C.F.T.R.I. have proved that wastage of large quantities of these perishable foods due to deterioration in storage and transportation could be prevented by this inexpensive method.

Increased use of *atta* enriched with groundnut flour was also recommended by the Panel. Already two plants for the production of edible groundnut protein were being put up with UNICEF assistance in Maharashtra and Madras States. Six more units were proposed to be set up during the Third Plan.

The Panel felt that further research should be urgently undertaken on the treatment of cotton-seed to produce edible protein rich flour, besides the production of cottonseed oil.

Another recommendation of the Panel related to the fortification of common salt with calcium.

It was also suggested that the economics of production of protein from green leaves should be further investigated.

HYBRID MAIZE

Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, Minister for Agriculture, said in the Rajya Sabha in a written reply to a question on December 20 that a special committee appointed by the Government had formulated a scheme for the production of hybrid maize seed on commercial lines. Details of the scheme were still under consideration.

Education & Culture

NATIONAL AWARDS TO 71 TEACHERS

At a special function held in New Delhi on December 22, the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, distributed national awards to 71 teachers for outstanding services rendered by them to the community; each recipient of the award received a Certificate of Merit and Rs. 500 in cash.

The teachers were selected from primary and secondary schools in all the States and Union Territories of India.

The Scheme of National Awards for Teachers was first instituted in 1959 by the Union Government with the object of recognising the meritorious services rendered by teachers to the community and to raise their social status in society. The award is given to a teacher who has put in over 20 years of service in the teaching profession.

AWARDS FOR PRINTING AND DESIGNING

On December 24, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant, Minister of Home Affairs, gave away the annual State awards for excellence in printing and designing of books and other publications. The awards were instituted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in 1955.

About 5300 entries received under 25 categories of printing and designing had been adjudged by a panel of judges. The chairman of the Judging Committee was Shri Justice P.B. Gajendragadkar, Judge of Supreme Court.

The publications included art books, art magazines, books for children, periodicals, posters, calendars, diaries and best-bound books.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Pant observed that the art of printing and designing had made good progress and some of the country's presses could now stand comparison with the best in the world. Earlier, the Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Dr B.V. Keskar,

said that the awards had greatly contributed to the development of printing industry in India. He added that, as there was an increasing number of entries every year, the present system of awards would have to be reorganised to accommodate more competitors.

An exhibition of selected entries was also opened on the occasion.

SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI AWARDS FOR 1960

The national awards in the fields of dance, drama, music and films for the year 1960 were announced by the Sangeet Natak Akademi after its meeting in Madras on December 28.

The names of the recipients of the awards are given below:—

Music: (1) Hindusthani Vocal—Shri Mirashi Buwa; (2) Hindusthani Instrumental—Shri Kanthe Maharaj, (3) Karnataka Vocal—Shri Mudikondan Venkatarama Iyer; (4) Karnataka Instrumental—T. N. Swaminathan Pillai (Flute)

Dance: (1) Kathakali—Shri Ramunni Nair; (2) Manipuri—Shri Amudon Sharma; (3) Traditional—Shri Bapu Khude Narayangaonkar and Shri Vedantam Satyanarayana

Drama: (1) Playwright—Shri Prabhulal Dwivedi; (2) Director—Shri Kasam Bhai Mir.

Regional Language Theatre: (1) Andhra—Shri Sthanam Narasimha Rao; (2) Assam—Shri Nrityadeo Mahanti; (3) Punjab—Shrimati Sheela Vatsa; (4) Karnataka—Shri Subhaiah Naidu; (5) Orissa—Shri Samuel Sahu alias Baby.

Film: (1) Acting—Shrimati Lalita Pawar; (2) Lyric Composer—Shri Pradeep; (3) Script-writer—Shri Mukharam Sharma.

PRIZE FOR BOOK ON INDIAN LIFE

A Press Note issued on December 29 by the Ministry of Education says that the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO invites manuscripts in

about 30,000 words in English, accompanied by suitable illustrations, planned and written for use in other countries as supplementary reading material for school pupils aged about 11 to 15.

In the choice of subjects, the objective should be to interest young readers in the every-day life of the people, especially of children and adolescents, in towns and villages, and to give them some appreciation of our cultural heritage and of contemporary developments and problems.

The writer whose manuscript is finally accepted by the Commission will be awarded a prize upto an amount equivalent to \$ 500 in Indian rupees. The manuscript, in duplicate, should be sent to the Secretary, Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO, Ministry of Education, New Delhi, by April 30, 1961.

LOW-PRICED SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said in the Rajya Sabha during question hour on December 21 that scientific, metallurgical and other technological books had been prepared in the U.K. for the use of students in India.

The Minister added that the books were selected by the United Kingdom Government out of those approved by the University Grants Commission. They were to be printed in the United Kingdom and priced low through a subsidy from that Government. A guarantee of a minimum sale of 2,000 copies each of the approved books had been given, said Dr. Shrimali.

NATIONAL MUSEUM

The new building of the National Museum was inaugurated in New Delhi on December 18 by the Vice-President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan. The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, attended the ceremony.

In 17 galleries, entailing a walk of about a mile, the Museum presents, amongst others, excavated material from Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Chanhu-daro, Taxila, Nagarjunakonda and several other ancient

sites, covering India's history for thousand of years.

The National Museum has at present in its possession some 50,000 objects for exhibition.

Two more units of the building are yet to be constructed.

MOUNTAINEERING COURSE FOR WOMEN

A meeting of the Executive Council of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, was held in New Delhi on December 17. The Council approved a proposal for the introduction of a basic course in April-May 1961, restricted only to women. The cost of the six-week course, including board and lodging, training, equipment and portage, will be Rs. 420 as for a normal course.

The Council noted with satisfaction the progress which mountaineering had made in the country. Besides the first Indian expedition to Mount Everest in 1960, a number of other expeditions and mountaineering treks were organised during the year by ex-students of the Institute. They included ascent of Nanda Ghunti (20,700 feet) in Garhwal, a mountaineering trek, and training camp, to Lahaul and an expedition to the Rongti Col and Rupkund.

Sherpa instructors from the HMI have been sent to various centres in the country for imparting instructions in rock-climbing being arranged by different mountaineering clubs and organisations.

Attempts are scheduled to be made by Indian mountaineers in the 1961 summer on the peaks of Annapurna III (24,854 feet) in Nepal, and Neelkanth (21,640 feet) and Nanda Devi (25,645 feet) in Garhwal Hills. The second Indian attempt on Everest is due in 1962.

PASSING-OUT CEREMONY

The passing-out of the 24th basic and 6th advance courses at the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute was held at Darjeeling on December 15. It was for the first time that the three premier mountaineering organisations in the country—the Himalayan Club, the Sherpa Climbers' Association, and the H.M.I.—were represented on the occasion.

Twenty-four students from all

walks of life, including officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force and some Sherpas, were presented the silver ice-axe emblem of the Institute, indicating that they had successfully accomplished the basic initiation to the mountains up to 20,000 feet. Four students of the advance course were presented the Institute's badge on their graduation for the advanced mountaineering technique, leadership qualities and expedition-organising ability. Nine Sherpas were presented with the Tiger Badges.

CULTURAL SCHOLARSHIPS

In a Press Note issued on December 25, the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs has announced that under the Scheme of Scholarships to Young Workers in Different Cultural Fields, the Government of India have awarded scholarships during 1960-61 to 23 persons of outstanding promise in music, dance, drama and the fine arts for training in India.

The value of the scholarship is Rs. 250 per mensem. The duration of scholarship will be one year in the first instance with a provision for extension by two years, on an yearly basis, subject to progress being satisfactory at annual tests conducted by a committee appointed by the Government of India.

SCHOLARSHIPS IN SCIENCE

According to a New Delhi announcement, dated December 27, the University Grants Commission have selected 123 candidates for

the award of Post-graduate Research and Post-graduate Merit Scholarships in science subjects for 1960-61.

The Post-graduate Research Scholarship, which carries a monthly stipend of Rs. 200, has been awarded to 53 persons and the Post-graduate Merit Scholarship, with a stipend of Rs. 100 per mensem, has been awarded to 70 candidates.

NORWEGIAN SCHOLARSHIP

According to a New Delhi announcement of December 17, a scholarship under the Norwegian Government Scholarship Scheme, 1960-61, for post-graduate research in Veterinary Bacteriology in Norway, has been awarded to an Indian candidate.

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

According to a New Delhi announcement of December 21, the New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships Committee has announced the award of Commonwealth Scholarships for 1960 to a candidate each from India in Microbiology and Dairy Technology.

FRENCH EXAMINATION

An announcement of December 21 says that the Central Government have, in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission, extended the recognition accorded to the 'Baccalaureat' (a French examination) as equivalent to B.A. for a further period of one year, that is, upto May 10, 1961.

Social Welfare

CONFERENCE OF STATE MINISTERS FOR HOUSING

The fifth conference of State Ministers for Housing was held at Udaipur from December 28 to 30.

Addressing the conference, Shri K.C. Reddy, Union Minister for Works, Housing and Supply said that during the Second Plan period, four new housing schemes had been introduced, namely, the

plantation labour housing scheme in April 1956, the slum clearance scheme in May 1956, the village housing projects scheme in October 1957 and the land acquisition and development scheme in October 1959.

With the subsidised industrial housing and the low-income group

housing schemes, formulated in September 1952 and November 1954 respectively, Government had to implement six housing schemes during the Second Plan period, he added.

Speaking about the steady progress made during the first four years of the Second Plan period, the minister said that the drawals by the States during these years were about Rs. 51 crores and if the budgeted amounts for this year were utilised fully by them, the total drawals during the Plan would have come to about Rs. 80 crores against the prescribed target of Rs. 84 crores. The drawals by the States from the Life Insurance Corporation, under the two non-Plan schemes which were formulated in February 1959, namely, the Middle Income Group Housing Scheme and the Rental Housing Scheme for State Government Employees—would have come to about Rs. 15 crores by the end of March 1961. Thus, a total of Rs. 95 crores would be the expenditure against Rs. 84 crores provided for in the Second Plan.

PROGRESS OF SCHEMES

Reviewing briefly the performance under each scheme, Shri Reddy said that, under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme, 58,000 houses had been completed or were under construction by the end of September 1960, and that a good number more had been taken up for construction since then. Thus, 91% of the prescribed target of Rs. 27 crores had been reached. Of the total number of about 58,000 houses sanctioned, over 70% or about 40,600 units were taken up for construction by the States themselves. Only 26% of the houses, about 15,100 units, were taken up for construction by the employers, while the cooperatives of industrial workers accounted for a mere 4% or about 2300 houses only. Members of cooperatives could now get the entire 100% finance required for the construction of their houses—25% of it as subsidy, 65% as loan and 10% from their Provident Fund accounts.

LOW INCOME GROUP HOUSING

Under the Low-Income Group Housing Scheme, Shri Reddy said that, as against the provision of

Rs. 35.60 crores, a sum of Rs. 35 crores was expected to be drawn by the States up to the end of March 1961.

Under the Slum Clearance Scheme, the limit of expenditure was set at about 13 crores, though projects could be sanctioned upto Rs. 20 crores during the Second-Plan period. Upto the end of November 1960, 175 projects had been sanctioned by the States, totalling upto Rs. 16 crores.

The progress made under the Plantation Labour Housing Scheme had not been quite satisfactory. Even against the meagre provision of Rs. 51 lakhs, the expenditure likely to be incurred by the end of this Plan would not exceed Rs. 18 lakhs.

VILLAGE HOUSING PROJECTS

Under the Village Housing Projects Scheme, as against a provision of Rs. 5 crores, the drawals by the end of the Second Plan would be about Rs. 4.5 crores.

A Land Acquisition and Development Scheme was introduced a few months ago. The entire sum of Rs. 2.90 crores had, however, been allocated to the States. While the expenditure under the Scheme was not to exceed this amount, the States were allowed to enter into commitments upto a total of Rs. 15 crores during the Second Plan period.

HOUSING IN THIRD PLAN

The shortage in urban housing in 1961 was estimated to be 7.8 million units. During the next five years, the increase in population and the rapid urbanisation in the country would require additional 5.6 million houses.

The investment in housing during the Third Plan would be Rs. 1,200 crores—Rs. 700 crores in the private sector and Rs. 500 crores in the public sector, including the provision of about Rs. 120 crores for six housing schemes.

For providing incentive to housing projects in the private sector, the Minister suggested a revival of the exemption from payment of income tax on new residential units for a period of two years. He also disclosed that the proposals for setting up Housing Finance Corporations were under consideration.

One of the major recommendations made by the conference was that a higher priority in housing should be given in the National Development Plan, and that the proposed allocation of Rs. 120 crores in the draft Third Plan for the housing programme be substantially raised.

According to another recommendation, the allocation for rural housing, at present proposed at Rs. 15 crores, should be raised to Rs. 30 crores.

For subsidised industrial housing scheme, the conference recommended an allocation of Rs. 33 crores in the Third Plan, against Rs. 27 crores proposed at present.

The following are other main recommendations made by the conference:—

(1) A strong cooperative structure should be created for encouraging house building activity, preferably at three levels—the project, the town and the State.

(2) Both in urban and rural areas the State Housing Departments should assist cooperative activity in overcoming any administrative, legal and organisational difficulties, and set up separate machinery for organising new housing cooperatives of industrial workers.

(3) In regard to rural housing project scheme, the State Governments should be given discretion to utilise funds for improving existing houses and building new ones in the villages.

(4) For slum clearance, the Central Government should extend the scope of the scheme at the discretion of the State Governments.

(5) The State Governments should adopt measures to prevent the growth of new slums in the cities and undertake pilot projects for the construction of night shelters for pavement-dwellers.

(6) The primary responsibility for providing adequate residential accommodation to industrial workers being that of the employers, the State Governments should enforce penal provisions against those who did not take steps to discharge their liability to provide suitable houses for residential workers on plantations.

(7) A certain flexibility should be introduced in the use of funds,

made available to the State Governments by the Centre for house building activities, as the success of the housing programme was based on land acquisition and development. The State Governments and their agencies should therefore take maximum advantage of this scheme during the third Plan period.

(8) Special incentive by way of tax relief should be provided to the industrial undertakings for housing factory workers and a comprehensive study of the incidence of taxation on housing should be undertaken by the Central and the State Governments.

HOUSING SCHEMES IN MYSORE

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 21, Shri Anil K. Chanda, Union Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, stated that a sum of Rs. 22 lakhs had been allocated to the Government of Mysore for implementation of the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme in the State during 1960-61.

The Deputy Minister added that out of 9,723 houses sanctioned for construction in Mysore State since the inception of the Scheme in September 1952, 6,535 houses were constructed up to September 1960, while the balance of 3,188 were either under construction or to be taken up for construction.

The Deputy Minister also stated that Rs. 20.35 lakhs had been allocated to Mysore State for 1960-61 under the Village Housing Projects Scheme.

SURVEYS BY NATIONAL BUILDING ORGANISATION

Shri Anil K. Chanda, Union Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 21 that socio-economic surveys were carried out by the National Building Organisation with a view to collecting information regarding climatic data, etc., in connection with the construction of demonstration houses in six villages of six different States. The villages in which the demonstration houses were being constructed were: Kishanpur in district Raipur

(Madhya Pradesh), Borunda in district Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Nauraspur in district Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), Barkat-Arabari in district Gauhati (Assam), Mellaram in district Khammameth (Andhra), and Bahin in district West Dinajpur (West Bengal).

The Deputy Minister added that similar surveys were also carried out in village Badal in District Ferozepore (Punjab).

MASTER PLANS FOR CITIES

In a written reply to a question on December 19, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, laid a

INTER-STATE WAKF CONFERENCE

The two-day Inter-State Wakf Conference, which concluded in New Delhi on December 28, recommended the setting up by the Central Government of a Central Advisory Council to review the administration of Wakfs and working of Wakf Boards in order to recommend measures for their better administration and effective working of Wakf Boards. The government should devise suitable machinery to help the Council in effectively discharging its functions.

The conference was attended by over 130 delegates from different parts of the country, including Ministers-in-charge of Wakfs in the States, Members of Parliament and prominent Muslims interested in Wakf administration. The discussions at the conference covered a wide field relating to the problems facing the Wakf Boards in various States.

The conference viewed with concern the un-authorised occupation of Wakf properties in different parts of the country and suggested that suitable Central legislation be passed on the lines of Public Premises (Eviction of Un-authorised Occupants) Act 1958, conferring on the executive the authority to evict illegal occupants as envisaged in the Hindu Religious Endowment Act. It further pleaded that the period of limitation for recovery of Wakf as well as religious and charitable trust properties be raised to 60 years, as provided in the case of suits by and against the Government. Wakf properties at present in possession of the Custodian, Govern-

ment Departments and local bodies should be restored and entrusted to the Wakf Boards quickly. The conference also recommended speedy and comprehensive survey of the Wakf properties in all States.

ADMINISTRATION OF WAKFS

The conference expressed concern over the mal-administration of Wakf properties by the Mutawallis and recommended that Wakf Boards be empowered, on the lines of the U.P. Wakf Act, to impose fines on defaulting Mutawallis and also remove them, when necessary. Suitable amendments to the Central Wakf Act, 1954, should be made to vest the Wakf Boards with these powers. The aggrieved Mutawallis would, however, have the right of filing a revision before the State governments. In cases, where necessary, the Boards should be enabled to take over direct control of the Wakf properties.

The conference urged immediate steps to be taken by the Central and State Governments to set up Wakf Boards in the States where they did not exist. It further recommended that the Wakf Act, 1954, should be applied to all those areas to which a specific Wakf Act, Central or State, did not at present apply. The conference approved the suggestion that Wakf Boards should take up schemes for imparting religious and also technical education to provide gainful employment to unemployed youth. These schemes could be financed with any surplus incomes that might be available.

WAKF PROPERTIES

The President issued an Order on December 31, 1960, regarding the transfer of work, transacted in the Ministry of Rehabilitation under the Administration of Evacuee Property Act, 1950, in respect of Wakf properties, from the Ministry of Rehabilitation to the Ministry of Irrigation and Power.

The Order says: "In pursuance of clause (3) of article 77 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to make the following Order with effect from December 30, 1960 (Pause 9, 1882 Saka), namely: "The work transacted in the Ministry of Rehabilitation under the Administration of Evacuee Property Act, 1950, in respect of Wakf properties shall be transferred from the Ministry of Rehabilitation to the Ministry of Irrigation and Power".

PROGRESS IN DANDAKARANYA

According to the progress report for November 1960, issued by the Dandakaranya Development Authority, the movement of families from transit centres to villages was expedited and, out of 1,824 farmer families in the Dandakaranya area, 1,265 had been taken to the village sites. Since October 1, 1960, 118 families had moved into the project area, bringing the total number of families to 2,033. During the same period 545 families were taken to village sites, raising the total number of such families to 1,265.

So far, the report states, 4,271 acres of land have been allotted for agricultural purposes and 512 acres for homestead plots. On the reclamation side, tree-felling operations were completed in over 11,000 acres in Umarkote and over 9,000 acres in Parlkote. The total land released by the State Government so far was over 70,000 acres.

With the addition of two more primary schools during November, 1960, the total number of such schools in the project area went up to 37. In addition, there were three secondary schools in the area. The number of students in primary schools rose to 2,747 and in secondary schools to 167.

MOVEMENT OF D.Ps. TO DANDAKARANYA

Replying to a "Calling Attention Notice" in the Lok Sabha on December 23, Shri P.S. Naskar, Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation, stated that a decision was taken to serve notices on displaced persons in West Bengal camps to move by definite dates to Dandakaranya, because the movement of D.Ps during the last six months on voluntary basis had been slow and far behind the requirements of the Project.

Education of D.P. Students

According to a review prepared by the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation on transferring the work relating to the education of D.Ps to the Union Education Ministry, the Rehabilitation Ministry has sanctioned so far about Rs. 3.66 crores for providing college education in the eastern zone to the displaced students from East Pakistan. Of this amount, 60 per cent has been sanctioned for setting up new colleges and providing additional accommodation and equipment in the existing colleges. The remaining sum of Rs. 1.50 crores has been spent on the grant of stipends to students.

Every year about 5,000 students have received the benefit of these stipends over the last ten years.

The review states that the work of setting up new colleges and providing additional accommodation in the existing colleges has been practically completed; and the distinction between the displaced and other students has nearly disappeared.

STIPENDS TO STUDENTS

The Government of India, the review states, also provides financial assistance to displaced students themselves in the form of monthly stipends to enable them to meet the expenditure on their education. The scheme of financial assistance covers the post-graduate and technical-professional courses in addition to the normal courses of study upto the degree standard. The amount of stipends for the various courses is determined according to the needs of the students at various stages of their education

and varies according to the nature of the courses taken up by them.

Upto the end of 1960-61, stipends to the extent of Rs. 155 lakhs would have been paid to about 50,000 students, the number of college students in receipt of financial assistance each year on an average being about 5,000. In West Bengal alone, the number of beneficiaries during the period 1950-51 to 1959-60 was 43,303 and the total amount of stipends awarded was Rs. 1,43,67,735.

R.F.A. DISSOLVED

According to an announcement of December 31, 1960, the Government of India have ordered the dissolution of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration at the close of business on December 31, 1960. The assets of the Administration will now vest in the Central Government which have assumed all the powers of the Administration in recovering the loans remaining unpaid. The outstanding work of the Administration will be handled by the Rehabilitation Finance Administration Unit, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, New Delhi.

The dissolution has been ordered under Section 21 of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration Act of 1948. The R.F.A. was set up in that year for the purpose of giving financial assistance on reasonable terms to displaced persons from East and West Pakistan, to enable them to settle in business or industry. It was placed in liquidation at the close of business on the last day of June, 1960.

INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBAL AREAS

According to a New Delhi announcement of December 29, almost all the areas where the tribals (population—2.5 crores) live, are proposed to be developed intensively in the Third Plan. More than 450 special blocks, as against 43 in the Second Plan, will cover the various States to spur the ordinary programmes in the field of education, housing, or cottage industry.

The development in an entire tribal block, embracing 25,000 indi-

duals in an area of 200 square miles, will be taken up not piecemeal but together. Such priorities as agriculture, health and communications will receive special attention; the resources will be spread over a wide area and not concentrated in a few pockets.

The additional expenditure that the States are to bear will be made good by the Central Government. The Union Home Ministry has allocated Rs. 25 crores for this purpose.

As for the de-notified tribes, there is likely to be a special provision of Rs. 4 crores in the Third Plan. The schemes will include small industries, schools for children, and colonies to settle the tribes on agriculture.

FAMILY PLANNING DAY

The Family Planning Day was observed throughout the country on December 18, 1960, by various State Governments, local bodies, family planning associations and other organisations. Symposia on family planning and exhibitions displaying posters and models had been arranged by family planning centres and other institutions. There were also variety entertainments, including songs and dramas, dealing with family planning.

Family planning centres and institutions, like contraceptive test units and training centres were thrown open to the public and their working explained.

FELLOWSHIPS IN FAMILY PLANNING

A New Delhi announcement of December 18 says that a number of Ford Foundation fellowships are likely to be available for a period of one year for training in Family Planning Communication Research in the United States of America and other European countries during the year 1961-62.

Applications must be submitted by candidates in all cases through their respective State Governments and Head, of the Institution, on prescribed forms obtainable from them or from the Fellowships Section, Ministry of Health, Government of India, New Delhi, by January 31, 1961.

POPULATION COUNCIL FELLOWSHIPS

A number of Population Council fellowships are likely to be available for a period of one year for training in Physiology of Human Reproduction for studies at post-doctoral or pre-doctoral level in the Universities of the United States of America

during the academic year 1961-62.

Applications must be submitted by the candidates in all cases through their respective State Governments/Union Territories/ Heads of institutions on the prescribed form obtainable from the Director, Indian Council of Medical Research, Medical Enclave, New Delhi, so as to reach him by February 20, 1960.

Labour & Employment

SECOND AGRICULTURAL LABOUR ENQUIRY

The report on the Second Agricultural Labour Enquiry in India was placed on the Table of Lok Sabha by the Union Deputy Minister for Labour, Shri Abid Ali, on December 21.

The enquiry was conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment during 1956-57, in collaboration with the Central Statistical Organisation, the National Sample Survey Directorate, and the Indian Statistical Institute.

The enquiry was conducted in 3,600 villages, selected on the principle of stratified random sampling but staggered evenly over a period of 12 months. Data on employment, unemployment, wages and earnings, income expenditure and indebtedness were collected from 28,560 sample agricultural labour households residing in the sampled villages.

The First Agricultural Labour Enquiry was conducted in 1950-51. One of the main objects of the Second Enquiry was broadly to assess the impact of developmental schemes undertaken under the First Plan on the conditions of agricultural labourers as between 1950-51 and 1956-57. The results of the second enquiry, as compared to those of the first enquiry, are briefly given below:

I. OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE

(i) The estimated number of agricultural labour households was 16.3 millions in 1956-57 as against

17.9 millions in 1950-51, i.e., a fall of 1.6 millions. This reduction might be mainly due to conceptual difference in the definition of the term "agricultural labour households" adopted during the two enquiries.

(ii) The landless agricultural labour households in 1956-57 accounted for 57 per cent of the total as against 50 per cent in 1950-51.

(iii) According to the 1950-51 enquiry, the proportion of attached and casual agricultural labour households was 10 : 90. The results of the 1956-57 enquiry showed that attached labour households accounted for about 27 per cent of the total for all-India, the remainder being casual labour households.

(iv) The average size of the agricultural labour household rose slightly to 4.40 in 1956-57 from 4.30 in 1950-51. The average number of wage earners was 2.03 per household, comprising 1.13 men, 0.74 women and 0.16 children. The corresponding figures for 1950-51 were 2.0 wage earners, made up of 1.1 men, 0.8 women and 0.1 children.

(v) The estimated number of agricultural labourers during 1956-57 was 33 million, composed of 18 million men, 12 million women and 3 million children. The corresponding figures for 1950-51 were 35 million, consisting of 19 million men, 14 million women and 2 million children.

II. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

(i) Casual adult male workers were employed, on an average, for wages for 200 days in 1950-51 and for 197 days during 1956-57. They were self-employed for 75 days in 1950-51 and for 40 days in 1956-57.

(ii) Casual adult female workers were employed on wages for 134 days during 1950-51 and for 141 days during 1956-57.

(iii) As regards children, their wage-employment had increased from 165 days in 1950-51 to 204 days in 1956-57.

(iv) Casual adult male workers were unemployed for 128 days in 1956-57, as compared to 90 days in 1950-51.

According to the report, measurement of employment was not meticulously done in the first enquiry (1950-51). In the second enquiry (1956-57), the intensity with which the activity pattern, major or minor, was followed was duly taken into account. For this purpose, four intensity classes were laid down, namely, full, half, nominal and nil.

Self-employment data was not collected separately in the first enquiry, but was only of an inferential nature.

III. WAGES

(i) About 76 per cent of the average income of agricultural labour households was derived from wage-employment in agricultural operations as, well as from non-agricultural occupations, during 1950-51 as against 81 per cent during 1956-57. About 56 per cent of the man-days worked were paid for in cash in 1950-51 and 48.7 per cent in 1956-57. Payments made entirely in kind accounted for 31.3 per cent in 1950-51 and 40.5 per cent in 1956-57. Wage payments made partly in cash and partly in kind related to 9.8 per cent of the total man-days worked in the first enquiry and formed 10.8 per cent in the second enquiry.

(ii) The average daily wage rate of adult male workers decreased from 1.09 nP in 1950-51 to 96 nP in 1956-57 and the average daily wage-rate of adult women also fell from 68 nP in 1950-51 to 59 nP in 1956-57. Child labour received an average wage of 70 nP in 1950-51

and 53 nP in 1956-57.

(iii) In comparing the average wage-rates obtaining in 1956-57 and 1950-51, the difference in imputation procedure of payments in kind as between the first and the second enquiries, and the relative importance of payments in kind at both the points of time have to be kept in mind, since evaluation of kind payments was done at wholesale prices during 1956-57 as against ruling retail prices during 1950-51.

(iv) The estimated wage-bill in agriculture worked out to roughly Rs. 520 crores in 1956-57 as against Rs. 500 crores in 1950-51. The increase was mainly due to the proportion of attached labour households being considerably higher (above 27 per cent) in 1956-57 as compared with 1950-51 (about 10 per cent), and the average annual income per attached labour household as also of all households taken together from agricultural wage-employment in 1956-57 being higher than in 1950-51.

IV. HOUSEHOLD INCOME

(i) The average annual income of an agricultural labour household in 1950-51 was Rs. 447, while in 1956-57 it was Rs. 437.

(ii) The average income realised from different sources during the first and the second enquiries by agricultural labour households is given below:

Source of income	1951-52 Rs	1956-57 Rs
1. Cultivation of land	59.90 (13.49)	30.07 (6.87)
2. Agricultural labour	286.0 (64.2)	319.55 (73.04)
3. Non-agricultural labour	53.19 (11.9)	34.94 (7.99)
4. Others	46.94 (10.51)	52.91 (12.10)

(Figures in brackets are percentages to total income from all sources)

Income from farming and non-agricultural labour declined during 1956-57 but that from agricultural labour increased.

(i) The average annual consumption expenditure of agricultural labour households increased from Rs. 461 in 1950-51 to Rs. 617 in 1956-57. The percentage expendi-

ture according to different consumption groups is given below for 1950-51 and 1956-57:

1950-51		
Food	..	85.3
Clothing and footwear	..	6.3
Fuel and lighting	..	1.1
Miscellaneous and services	..	7.3

1956-57		
Food	..	77.3
Clothing and footwear	..	6.1
Fuel and lighting	..	7.9
Miscellaneous and services	..	8.7

(ii) The average income per household during 1956-57 was Rs. 437 while average consumption expenditure was Rs. 617. The deficit was thus Rs. 180. This deficit, to a considerable extent, would seem to have been met from past savings, sale of stocks, remittances received, and loans.

VI. INDEBTEDNESS

(i) About 64 per cent of agricultural labour households was indebted during 1956-57 as against 45 per cent in 1950-51. The average accumulated debt per household increased from Rs. 47 in 1950-51 to Rs. 88 in 1956-57.

(ii) The average debt per indebted household also rose from Rs. 105 in 1950-51 to Rs. 138 in 1956-57.

(iii) The total estimated volume of indebtedness of agricultural labour households in 1956-57 was Rs. 143 crores as against Rs. 80 crores in 1950-51.

(iv) Of the total debt, about 46 per cent was incurred for meeting the consumption expenditure. Social purposes accounted for 24 per cent and productive purposes for 19 per cent, the remaining 11 per cent being incurred for meeting the expenditure on other miscellaneous items.

(v) Of the total loan, 34 per cent was taken from money-lenders, 44 per cent from friends and relatives, 15 per cent from employers, 5 per cent from shop-keepers and one per cent from cooperatives.

NATIONAL TRIBUNAL AWARD ON P.T.I. DISPUTE

The Award of the National Industrial Tribunal, Bombay, presided over by Shri Salim M. Merchant, on the dispute between the Management and the employees of the Press Trust of India, was published in the Gazette of India, dated December 24. The Tribunal has awarded that working journalists employed in the Press Trust of India are entitled to grades and scales of pay which are more favourable to them than those to which they are entitled under the Government's Wage Rate Order of May 29, 1959, to the extent prescribed by the Tribunal.

Besides, under the Wage Rate Order, each working journalist in the P.T.I. is entitled to opt for the total emoluments made up of basic pay, dearness allowance, including location allowance and interim relief, covered by the agreements of July 3, 1955 and December 4, 1958 between the Management and the employees, in preference to the total emoluments under the Wage Rate Order.

Such option is not to be group-wise; on the other hand, every individual working journalist is entitled to make his choice; but once a choice is made, he shall continue to be governed by it.

The employees of P.T.I., other than working journalists, are entitled to grades and scales of salaries more favourable than those to which they are entitled under the agreements of July 3, 1955 and December 4, 1958.

WAGE SCALES

The Tribunal has stated that it is more than satisfied that the P.T.I. has the capacity to meet the financial burden of the more favourable terms of employment for both working journalists and non-working journalists, which it had granted under the Award in respect of the various matters referred to it, and, if necessary, it can easily raise the requisite funds by increasing its rate of subscriptions.

Under the Award, the wage scale of Group III of the working journalists of P.T.I. has been revised to Rs. 200-25-400-30-700; the

scale prescribed under the Wage Rate Order was 175-20-375-25-600.

For the rest of groups, viz, Groups II (a) and II, the Tribunal has retained the rates prescribed under the Wage Rate Order, with a few changes in the groupings.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

The Tribunal has awarded the following revised scales of dearness allowance to the employees of P.T.I.:

(1) Up to basic pay of Rs. 150-P.M.—Rs. 55; (2) Basic pay 151 to Rs. 200 P.M.—Rs. 60; (3) Basic pay Rs. 201 to Rs. 300 P.M.—Rs. 65 or 30%, whichever is higher; (4) Basic pay Rs. 301 to Rs. 500 P.M.—Rs. 100 or 25%, whichever is higher; (5) Basic pay of Rs. 501 and above P.M.—Rs. 125 or 20%, whichever is higher.

This scheme of dearness allowance will apply to both working journalists and non-working journalist employees of the P.T.I.

Dearness allowance for lower grade staff and semi-skilled workmen will be Rs. 55 in metropolitan centres and Rs. 45 in mofussil centres.

AGE OF RETIREMENT

As regards metropolitan allowance, the Tribunal has awarded 8 per cent of the basic pay with a minimum of Rs. 10 and a maximum of Rs. 25 for the staff, excluding the lower grade staff, working in Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras and drawing a basic pay upto Rs. 400 per month with marginal adjustment. As for lower grade staff in metropolitan centres, the Tribunal has awarded a metropolitan allowance of Rs. 5 per month.

The Tribunal has fixed the age of retirement at 58 years for all classes of the employees of P.T.I. with liberty to the management to further continue in service any employee, after he completes the age of 58 years, if it chooses to do so.

The Award shall come into force from January 1, 1960 except where otherwise directed by the Tribunal

on any particular demand. All payments due under the Award shall be made to the employees by March 31, 1961.

BONUS COMMISSION

An announcement of December 29 says that the Government of India have decided to set up a Commission to study the question of bonus to industrial workers in its various aspects and to make recommendations.

Shri M.R. Meher, President, Industrial Court, Bombay, will be the Chairman of the proposed Commission, and Shri M. Govinda Reddy, M.P. and Dr. B.N. Ganguly, Director of Delhi School of Economics, its members.

The terms of reference of the Commission are being worked out.

PROVIDENT FUND ACT ENFORCED

The Employees' Provident Fund (Amendment) Act, 1960, came into force on December 31, 1960.

The amended Act, among other things, provides for the extension of the benefit of compulsory provident fund to establishments employing 20 or more persons. Hitherto, this benefit was confined to establishments with 50 or more persons.

Also, under the amended Act, provision has been made to ensure that the establishments once covered under the Act do not go out of the purview of the Act because of a reduction in their employment strength, except where the strength is reduced to less than 15 and remains so for a period of one year continuously.

CESS ON COAL DESPATCHES RAISED

An announcement of December 17 says that the Government of India have decided to fix the excise duty on all coal and coke despatched from collieries at 49.21 naye Paise per metric ton from January 1, 1961. At present the cess is 36 naye Paise per metric ton.

The increase in the cess has been necessitated by the growing tempo of welfare activities undertaken by the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Organisation. The

Fund derives its income from this cess, which is being collected under the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947. The Act provides for a levy of the cess up to a maximum of 50 nP per ton (i.e., 49.21 nP per metric ton).

The Fund is utilised for providing housing accommodation, medical facilities, education, recreation and other welfare measures to colliery workers and their families.

REPUBLIC DAY AS HOLIDAY

A Press Note issued on December 25 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment says that, in pursuance of the instructions issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment on previous anniversaries of the Republic Day, workers were permitted to participate in the celebrations on January 26 without being made to suffer any loss in wages.

A similar directive has been issued this year by the Government of India to their officers-in-charge of industrial undertakings, and they hope that other employers as well will cooperate with them by declaring this National Day as a paid holiday.

The States

SHOPS IN KERALA

An announcement of December 22 says that the President has given assent to the Kerala Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill, 1960.

The legislation seeks to introduce in the State a uniform law on the regulation of conditions of work and employment in shops, commercial establishments, restaurants, theatres, and other establishments.

At present, two Acts—the Travancore-Cochin Shops and Establishments Act and the Madras Shops and Establishments Act—are in force in different regions of the State.

PUBLIC PREMISES IN MADRAS

An announcement of December 20 says that the President has given assent to the Madras Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Bill, 1960.

The legislation authorises the administration to evict, in the

interest of public health, such persons as have occupied public premises without authority and also to prevent the growth of further slums in the State of Madras.

DELHI MILK SCHEME

The Government of India have declared the Delhi Milk Scheme to be a public utility service under the Industrial Disputes Act for a period of six months from December 22.

In the notification, Government have stated that they are satisfied that public interest requires that the industry for the supply of milk in Delhi be declared as public utility service.

Defence

TRAINING IN RADIATION MEDICINE

A new three-month training course in Radiation Medicine was inaugurated at the Defence Science Laboratory at Metcalfe House on December 19 by Dr. D.S. Kothari, Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister.

Dr. Kothari spoke at length on radiation and its application to human activities as well as for industrial purposes. The American industry,

India & The World

AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE

The Ministry of External Affairs announced on December 19 that Nawab Ali Yavar Jung Bahadur, at present Ambassador of India to Yugoslavia, has been appointed Ambassador of India to France. He is expected to assume charge of the new post in February 1961.

AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA

The Ministry of External Affairs announced on December 22 that Shri M.N. Masud, at present Consul-General of India at Muscat, had been appointed Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia.

he said, would save in the next two to three years a sum of \$ 5 billion by the correct use of radio-isotopes. The course is the first of its kind in India.

The training course has been organised under the joint guidance of the Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister and the Director-General of Armed Forces Medical Services.

A Radio-isotope Centre was opened in September 1960 at the Military Hospital, Delhi Cantonment. So far 70 cases had been treated at this Centre. It was hoped that similar centres would soon be opened at the Military Hospitals in Lucknow and Poona.

I.M.A. PASSING-OUT PARADE

A passing-out parade was held at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, on December 17.

About 600 gentlemen cadets of the Indian Military Academy took part in the parade, which marked the completion of the 26th regular and the 11th N.C.C. graduates' courses.

AIRCREW PARADE

A combined passing-out parade of Flight Cadets of the pilot's and of the navigators' courses, and of the NCOs signallers' course was held at the Air Force Flying College at Jodhpur on December 17.

Six Naval officers and three officers of the IAF belonging to non-flying branches were amongst those who passed out.

AMBASSADOR OF ETHIOPIA

Mr. Ato Getahun Tesemma, Ambassador-designate of Ethiopia, presented his credentials to the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan on December 27, 1960.

DR. SUZUKI IN INDIA

Dr. Daisetz T. Suzuki, world-famous Buddhist philosopher of Japan, arrived in Calcutta on December 18, from Tokyo on a four-week visit to India at the invitation of the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

DECEMBER 16 TO 31

December 16—A conference of industrial leaders from both the private and public sectors is organised in New Delhi by the National Productivity Council.

—The first meeting of the reconstituted National Railway Users' Consultative Council begins in New Delhi.

18—The National Museum is inaugurated in its new building in New Delhi by the Vice-President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

19—The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the newly-constituted National Buildings Construction Corporation is held in New Delhi.

21—The second cricket Test between India and Pakistan ends in a draw at Kanpur.

22—India and Rumania sign a trade arrangement in New Delhi for the increased supply of iron ore to Rumania up to 1966.

—The Rajya Sabha approves the Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, to extend the Preventive Detention Act for another three years.

—The Rajya Sabha approves the Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, to implement the border agreements with Pakistan.

23—Both Houses of Parliament adjourn *sine die* at the conclusion of the winter session.

—An agreement is signed in New Delhi between India and the U.K. for a British credit of Rs. 6.67 crores to India.

—The Export-Import Bank of U.S.A. announces a credit of 50 million dollars to India for the Third Plan projects.

24—The award of the National Industrial Tribunal, Bombay, on the dispute between the management and employees of the Press Trust of India is announced.

28—A conference of State Ministers for Housing opens at Udaipur.

29—H.E. Mrs. Sirimavo Bandarnaike, Prime Minister of Ceylon, arrives in New Delhi during the course of her unofficial visit to India.

—The Government of India announce decision to set up a Commission to study the question of bonus to industrial workers.

—The Advisory Council for Iron and Steel meets in New Delhi.

—The sixth meeting of the Central Board of Forestry begins at Bhubaneswar.

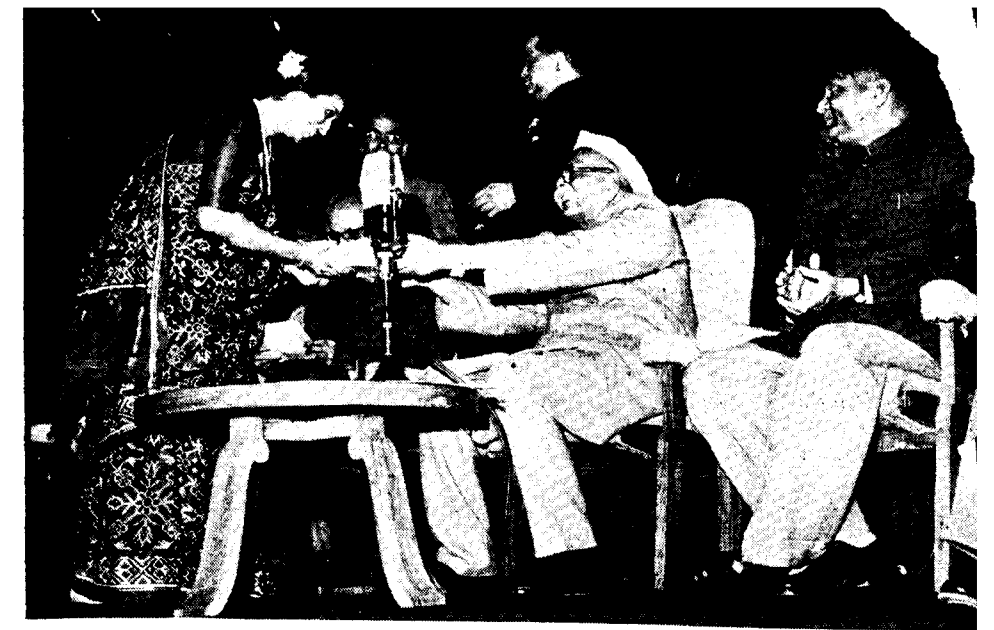
30—The third and last coke oven battery, the third and last blast furnace, the fifth open hearth furnace for making steel, the benzol rectification plant and the coal tar distillation plant of the Bhilai Steel Works are formally inaugurated by Dr. K. N. Katju, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

—Mr. Duncan Sandys, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, Government of U.K. arrives in New Delhi on a two-week visit to India.

31—A conference of State Ministers in charge of Soil Conservation begins at Bhubaneswar.

—The Employees' Provident Funds (Amendment) Act, 1960, comes into force.

The Union Home Minister, Shri G.B. Pant, giving away State awards for excellence in printing and designing of books and other publications at a ceremony in New Delhi on December 24



Dr. D.T. Suzuki, renowned Buddhist philosopher of Japan (second from right), at the Mahabodhi temple in Bodhi Gaya on December 25



The Union Health Minister, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, going round a Family Planning exhibition in New Delhi organised on the Family Planning Day on December 18



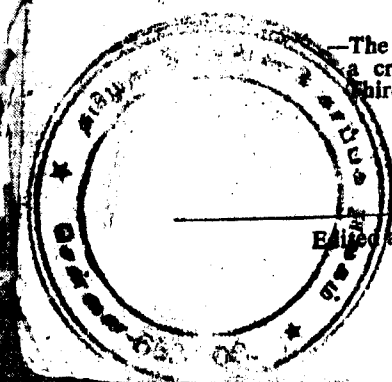
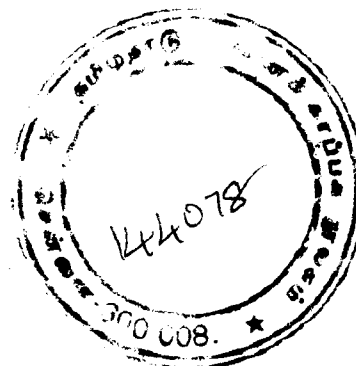
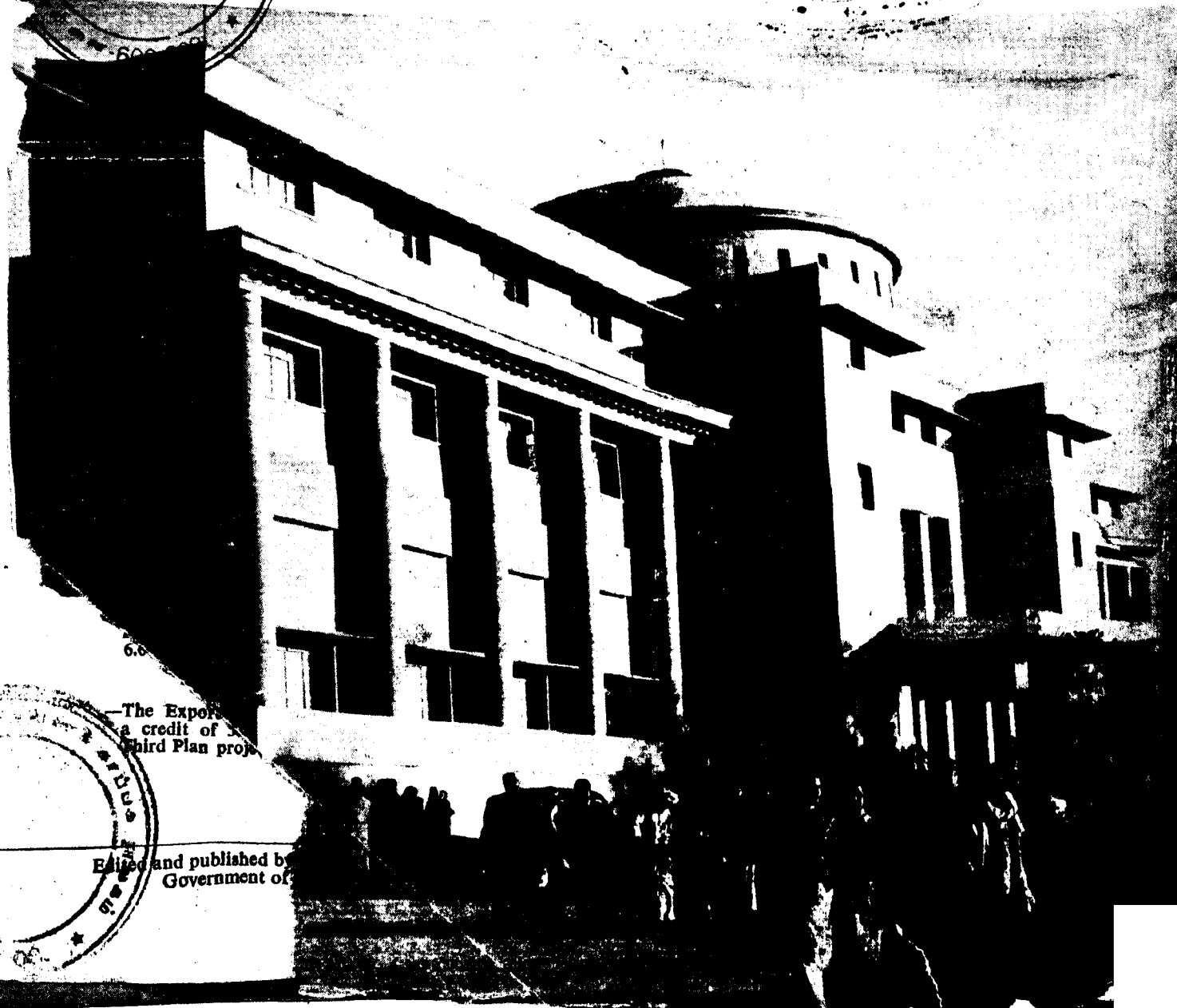


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NATIONAL MUSEUM

The National Museum was inaugurated its new building in New Delhi on Decem-
ber 1947 by the Vice-President, Dr. S. Rad-
hakrishnan. The Museum has a collect-
ion of some 50,000 exhibits arranged in
galleries. The picture on the left shows
pieces of antiquity from Kausambi,
the picture below shows a front view of
new building



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