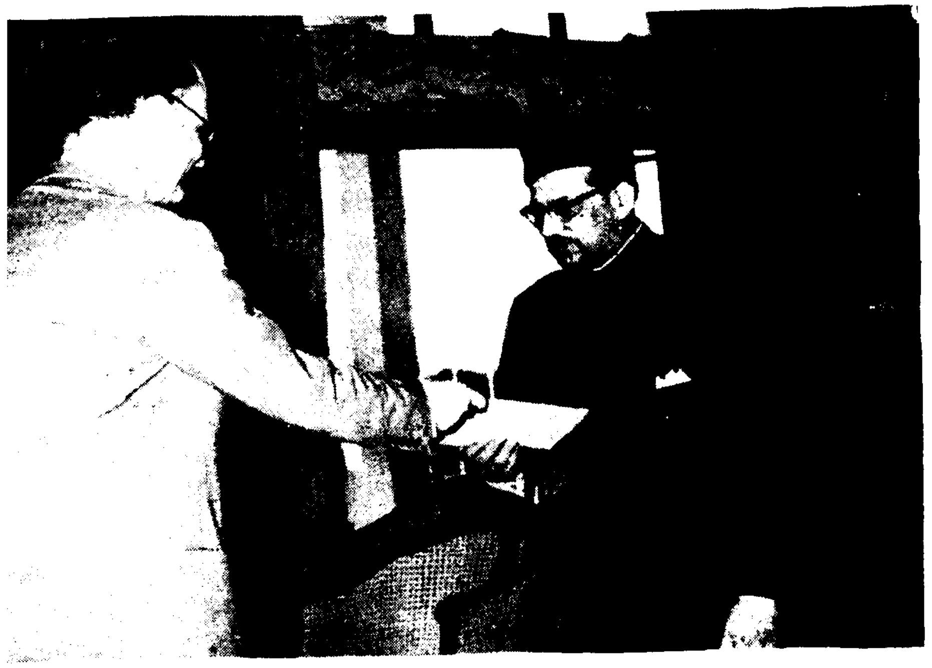
Indian Information

Vol. 3 June 1, 1960 (Jyaistha 11, 1882) No. 9

The Education Minister of Iran, H.E. Dr. Mahmood Mehra (centre), inaugurating a Commission to implement the Indo-Iranian Cultural Agreement in Tehran on May 7. The Indian Ambassador, Shri T. N. Kaul, is on the left



Shri Khub Chand presenting his letter of Credence as India's High Commissioner in Ghana to the Governor-General of Ghana, H.E. Lord Listowel, at a ceremony held recently in Accra

H.E. Mr. Faud Najjer, Minister for Agriculture of Lebanon, with the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, in New Delhi on May 8

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Main Contents

COVER : 'MAN OF STEEL'

For the first time in India's industrial history a consignment of 2,000 tons of steel slabs produced at Rourkela Works was shipped to West Germany towards the end of April, as part of the 12,000 tons of steel slabs contracted for export to that country. India will earn about 4 million German marks through this sale of steel to Europe.

(Indian Information seeks to provide a condensed record of the activities and official announcements of the Government of India. Because of space limitation many items appear in summarized form. Such items should not be treated as complete and authoritative versions.)

Political & General

PRESIDENT'S DIRECTIONS ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The Union Home Minister, Shri G.B. Pant, laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha, on April 29, the Presidential Order containing the President's directions on the report of the Parliamentary Committee on the Official Language. The following is the notification containing the text of the President's directions, a gist of which appeared on page 295 of Vol. III No. 8 (issue dated May 15, 1960) of *Indian Information*.

"A Committee consisting of 30 members of the Lok Sabha and 10 members of the Rajya Sabha was constituted in accordance with the provisions of Clause 4 of Article 344 of the Constitution to examine the recommendations of the first Official Language Commission and to report their opinion thereon to the President. The Committee submitted its report to the President on February 8, 1959. The important points in the report indicating the Committee's general approach are as follows:

(a) The Constitution contains an integrated scheme of official language and its approach to the question is flexible and admits of appropriate adjustments being made within the framework of the scheme.

(b) Different regional languages are rapidly replacing English as a medium of instruction and of official work in the States. It is but natural that the regional languages should secure their rightful place.

The use of an Indian language for the purposes of the Union has thus become a matter of practical necessity, but there need be no rigid dateline for the change-over. It should be a natural transition over a period of time effected smoothly and with the minimum of inconvenience.

(c) English should be the principal official language and Hindi the subsidiary official language till 1965. After 1965, when Hindi becomes the principal official language of the Union, English should continue as the subsidiary official language.

(d) No restriction should be imposed for the present on the use of English for any of the purposes of the Union and provision should be made in terms of Clause (3) of Article 343 for the continued use of English even after 1965 for purposes to be specified by Parliament by law for as long as may be necessary.

(e) Considerable importance attaches to the provision in Article 351 that Hindi should be so developed that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India: and every encouragement should be given to the use of easy and simple diction.

Copies of the report were placed on the table of both Houses of Parliament in April 1959 and the report was discussed in the Lok Sabha from September 2 to 4, 1959 and in the Rajya Sabha on September 8 and 9, 1959. In the course of the discussions in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister made a speech on September 4, 1959 indicating broadly the approach of the Government to the official language question.

2. In exercise of the powers conferred by Clause (6) of Article 344, the President has considered the report of the Committee and, with reference to the opinion expressed by the Committee on the recommendations of the Official Language Commission, issues the directions hereinafter appearing.

3. Terminology: The main recommendations of the Commission which the Committee has accepted are: (i) In preparing terminology, clarity, precision and simplicity should be primarily aimed at; (ii) International terminology may be adopted or adapted in suitable cases; (iii) the maximum possible identity should be aimed at in evolving terminology for all Indian languages; and (iv) suitable arrangements should be made for co-ordinating the efforts made at the Centre and in the States for evolving terminology in Hindi and other Indian languages.

The Committee envisages further that in the field of science and technology there should, as far as possible, be uniformity in all Indian languages and the terminology should approximate closely to English or international terms and has suggested that a standing commission consisting chiefly of scientists and technologists may be constituted to co-ordinate and supervise the work done by various agencies in this field and to issue authoritative glossaries for use in all Indian language.

The Ministry of Education may take action:

(a) To review the work done so far and to evolve terminology in accordance with the general principles accepted by the Committee. In the field of science and technology, the terms in international use should be adopted with the minimum change, i.e., the base-words should be those at present in use in international terminology, although the derivatives may be Indianised to the extent necessary.

(b) To formulate proposals for making arrangements for co-ordination of the work of preparation of terminology; and

(c) To constitute a standing commission for the evolution of scientific and technical terminology as suggested by the Committee.

4. Translation of administrative manuals and other procedural literature. In view of the need for ensuring a measure of uniformity in the language used in the translation of manuals and other procedural literature, the Committee has accepted the recommendation of the Commission about the advisability of entrusting the work to a single agency.

The Ministry of Education may undertake the translation of all manuals and procedural literature other than statutory rules, regulations and orders. The translation of statutory rules, regulations and orders is intimately connected with the work of translation of statutes and the Ministry of Law may take up this work. It should be the endeavour to secure in these translations a maximum possible uniformity in terminology in all the Indian languages.

5. Training of administrative personnel in the Hindi medium:

(a) In accordance with the opinion expressed by the Committee, in-service training in Hindi may be made obligatory for Central Government employees who are aged less than 45 years. This will not apply to employees below Class III grade, industrial establishments and work-charged staff. In this scheme, no penalty should be imposed for failure to attain the required standard by the due date. Facilities for Hindi training may continue to be provided free of cost to the trainees.

(b) Necessary arrangements may be made by the Ministry of Home Affairs for the training of typists and stenographers employed under the Central Government in Hindi typewriting and stenography.

(c) The Ministry of Education may take early steps to evolve a standard keyboard for Hindi typewriters.

6. Propagation of Hindi:

(a) The Committee has agreed with the recommendation of the Commission that the responsibility for this work should now be sponsored officially. Where efficient voluntary organisations already exist, they may be aided financially and in other ways, and where such agencies did not exist, Government may set up the necessary organisation themselves.

The Ministry of Education may review the working of the existing arrangements for propagation of Hindi and take further action on the lines indicated by the Committee.

(b) The Ministries of Education and Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs may, in collaboration, take steps to encourage studies and re-

search in Indian linguistics, philology and literature as suggested by the Committee, and formulate necessary proposals for bringing the various Indian languages closer and for developing Hindi in accordance with the directive contained in Article 351.

LOCAL OFFICES OF CENTRAL GOVT.

7. Recruitment to local offices of Central Government Departments:

(a) In the opinion of the Committee, local offices of the Central Government departments should use Hindi for their internal working and the respective regional languages in their public dealings in the respective regions.

In formulating the plan for the progressive use of Hindi in addition to English in their local offices, the Central Government departments should keep in view the need for providing facilities to the local public by making available to them forms and departmental literature for their use in the regional language in as large a measure as practicable.

(b) In the opinion of the Committee the staff structure of the administrative agencies and departments of the Central Government should be reviewed and decentralised on a regional basis, and the recruitment methods and qualifications may have to be revised suitably.

The suggestion may be accepted in principle, without introducing any domicile qualifications, in regard to categories of posts in local offices of which the incumbents are not ordinarily liable to transfer outside the region.

(c) The Committee has agreed with the recommendations of the Commission that the Union Government would be justified in prescribing a reasonable measure of knowledge of Hindi language as a qualification for entering into their services, provided a sufficiently long notice is given, and the measure of linguistic ability prescribed is moderate, any deficiency being made up by further in-service training.

This recommendation may be applied for the present in regard to recruitment in the local offices of the Central Government departments in the Hindi-speaking areas only, and not in the local offices in non-Hindi-speaking areas.

The directions under (a), (b) and (c) above will not apply to the offices under the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.

8. Training establishments: (a) The Committee has suggested that English may continue as the medium of instruction for training establishments such as the National Defence Academy but suitable steps may be taken to introduce Hindi as the medium for all or some of the purposes of instruction.

The Ministry of Defence may take suitable preparatory measures such as publication of instruction books, etc., in Hindi to facilitate its use as a medium of instruction, where feasible.

(b) The Committee has suggested that English and Hindi should be the media of examination for entrance to training establishments with the option to candidates to select either with reference to all or any of the papers and an expert committee should be appointed to examine the practicability of introduction of regional languages as media without bringing in a quota system.

The Ministry of Defence may take necessary measures for introducing Hindi as an alternative medium for the entrance examination and for constituting an expert committee to examine the question of introduction of regional languages, as media without introducing any quota system.

9. Recruitment to All-India services and higher Central services: (a) Medium of examination: The Committee's opinion is that (i) English may continue to be the medium of examination and Hindi may be admitted as an alternative medium after some time, both Hindi and English being available thereafter as media at the opinion of the candidate for as long as necessary and (ii) that an expert committee be appointed to examine the feasibility of introducing the various regional languages as media without bringing in any quota system.

Necessary action may be taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission for the introduction of Hindi as an alternative medium after some time. The introduction of various regional languages also as alternative media is likely to lead to serious difficulties and it is not, therefore, necessary to appoint an expert committee to examine the feasibility of introducing regional languages as alternative media.

(b) Language papers: The Committee's opinion is that after due notice, there should be two compulsory papers of equal standard, one in Hindi, and another in a modern Indian language other than Hindi to be selected by the candidate.

For the present, only an optional Hindi language paper may be introduced. Candidates selected on the results of the competition who qualify in this paper may be exempted from appearing and passing at the Hindi departmental test after recruitment.

10. Numerals: As suggested by the Committee, a uniform basic policy should be adopted for the use of Devanagari numerals in addition to the international numerals, in the Hindi publications of the Central Ministries depending upon the public intended to be addressed and the subject-matter of the publication. For scientific, technical and statistical publications, including the budget literature of the Central Government, the international numerals should be adopted uniformly in all publications.

11. Language of Acts, Bills, etc.

(a) The Committee has expressed the opinion that Parliamentary legislation may continue to be in English, but an authorised translation should be provided in Hindi.

The Ministry of Law may, in due course, initiate necessary legislation to provide for an authorised Hindi translation of Parliamentary legislation which may continue to be in English. Arrangements may be made by the Ministry of Law also for providing translations of Parliamentary legislation into the regional languages.

(b) The Committee has expressed the opinion that where the original text of Bills introduced in or Acts passed by the State Legislature is in a language other than Hindi, a Hindi translation may be published with it besides an English translation as provided in Clause (3) of Article 348.

In due course, legislation may be initiated for the publication of a Hindi translation of State Bills, Act, and other statutory instruments, along with the text in the official language of the State.

Language Of Courts

12. Language of the Supreme Court and High Courts: The Official Language Commission recommended that so far as the language of the Supreme Court is concerned, Hindi eventually should be the language of the Supreme Court when the time comes for the change-over. The Committee has accepted this recommendation.

In regard to the language of the High Courts, the Commission considered the pros and cons of the regional and Hindi languages and recommended that when the time for the change-over arrives, the language of judgments, decrees and orders of High Courts should be the Hindi language in all regions, but the Committee has expressed the opinion that in the High Courts provision may be made by introducing necessary legislation for the use optionally of Hindi and official languages of the States for purposes of judgments, decrees and orders of High Courts with the previous consent of the President.

The opinion of the Committee regarding the functioning of the Supreme Court eventually in Hindi is acceptable in principle and will require appropriate action only when the time comes for a change-over.

In respect of the language of the High Courts, the Ministry of Law may in due course undertake necessary legislation to provide for the use optionally of Hindi and other official languages of States for purposes of judgments, decrees and orders with the previous consent of the President, as suggested by the Committee in modification of the recommendation of the commission.

13. Preparatory measures for change-over in the field of law: The Committee has agreed with the recommendations of the Commission relating to the preparation of a standard legal lexicon, re-enactment of the statute book in Hindi in respect of both Central and State legislation, plan of action for evolving a legal terminology and for taking other preparatory steps during the transitional period during which the statute book as well as the case law will be partially in Hindi and in English, and has also suggested the constitution of a standing commission or a similar high-level body consisting of legal experts representing the different national languages of India for the proper planning and implementation of the entire programme relating to the translation of statutes and preparation of legal terminology and glossaries. The Committee has also expressed the opinion that the State Governments might be advised to take necessary measures in consultation with the Central authorities. The Ministry of Law may take action in the light of the suggestion of the Committee to constitute a standing commission of legal experts for the proper planning and implementation of the entire work relating to preparation of a standard legal terminology (for use, as far as possible, in all Indian languages) and translation of statutes in Hindi.

Progressive Use Of Hindi

14. Plan or programme for the progressive use of Hindi:

The Committee has suggested that the Union Government should prepare and implement a plan of action for the progressive use of Hindi as the official language of the Union. No restrictions are to be imposed, for the present, on the use of English language for any of the official purposes of the Union.

Necessary action may be taken accordingly by the Ministry of Home Affairs for the preparation and implementation of a plan or programme which will be concerned with preparatory measures for facilitating the progressive use of Hindi in the Union administration, and for promoting the use of Hindi in addition to English for the various purposes of the Union as provided in Article 343 of the Constitution. The extent to which Hindi can be used in addition to English will depend largely on the effectiveness of the preparatory measures. The plan for the actual use of Hindi, in addition to English, will need to be reviewed and adjusted from time to time in the light of experience.

INAUGURATION OF MAHARASHTRA AND GUJARAT STATES

Two new States—Maharashtra and Gujarat—were inaugurated on May 1. Maharashtra was formally inaugurated by Mr. Nehru at a ceremony in Bombay. He switched on a neon sign map to proclaim from Raj Bhavan the birth of the State. The new State of Gujarat formally came into being at Harijan Ashram on the bank of the Sabarmati at Ahmedabad and it was inaugurated by the veteran Sarvodaya leader, Ravi Shanker Maharaj.

The new cabinets of Maharashtra and Gujarat were sworn in on May 1 in Bombay city and Ahmedabad. Headed by Mr. Chavan, the Ministry of Maharashtra is composed of 14 Ministers and 12 Deputy Ministers. In an announcement after the swearing-in ceremony Mr. Chavan said the business of the new State would be transacted in Marathi instead of English.

The New Cabinet of Gujarat State headed by Dr. Jivraj Mehta was sworn in at Harijan Ashram. Besides the Chief Minister, there are four Ministers and 8 Deputy Ministers, including two women. The oath of office was administered by the Governor of Gujarat State, Mr. Mehdi Nawaz Jung, who himself was sworn in earlier in the morning. In a broadcast to the people Dr. Jivraj Mehta said that orders had been issued to adopt Gujarati as the language of administration at the divisional and district levels.

MARTYRS' MEMORIAL IN DELHI

A New Delhi announcement dated May 14 says that a march by a group of persons headed by Mahatma Gandhi, in bronze, will be the central theme of the Martyrs' Memorial to be put up at Delhi in memory of those who fell in the struggle for Independence between 1857 and 1947. The composition will reflect the spirit of those on the march to go ahead with determination in spite of fatigue and exhaustion.

Shri D.P. Roy Choudhury, the well-known sculptor, has been commissioned by the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry to design the memorial, which will be erected at a site in front of the ramparts of Red Fort on the axis of Chandni Chowk. The Central Public Works Department will be in charge of the entire project.

Of the eleven or twelve figures in the march, that of Gandhiji alone will be identified. The unidentified figures will consist of men, women and boys in their teens from various regions of the country and various walks of life and professing different faiths. The figures will be double life size, in bronze, the heights varying between 10½′ and 12½′. These figures will be mounted on a pedestal, 70′ long, 14′ wide and 10′ high.

A half life-size working model of the composition in Plaster of Paris will be used as a guide for execution of the work. The working model, plastercast and bronze statues will all be executed in Delhi and the C.P.W.D. is making arrangements to set up a studio for Shri Roy Choudhury for this purpose.

The construction of the Memorial is expected to take about 7 years and cost Rs. 9.6 lakhs.

Scrutiny Of Central Acts By Law Commission

A New Delhi announcement dated May 2 says that a law relating to hire-purchase in India is under examination by the Law Commission so as to frame a suitable legislation on the subject.

The Commission is scrutinising some other Central Acts, such as the law relating to marriage and divorce among Christians, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the General Clauses Act and the Indian Trusts Act.

The main object of the Commission in revising the existing Acts is to simplify the laws in general and to remove anomalies and ambiguities brought to light by conflicting decisions of High Courts or otherwise. Also, in certain cases, the Acts pertaining to the same subject need to be consolidated.

While examining an Act, the Commission usually invites suggestions from all persons interested up to a specified date.

The Law Commission, as reconstituted, consists of Shri T.L. Venkatarama Aiyar, Retired Judge of the Supreme Court (Chairman); Shri P. Satyanarayana Rao, Retired Judge of the Andhra High Court (Member); Shri L.S. Misra, Retired Chief Justice of the Hyderabad High Court (Member); Shri N.A. Palkhiwala, Advocate, (Part-time Member); Shri Sachin Chaudhuri, Advocate, (Part-time Member), and Shri G.R. Rajagopaul, Secretary, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law (Ex-officio Member).

Public Accounts Committee

A Press Note issued on April 30 by the Lok Sabha Secretariat says that the following Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to serve as Members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on May 1, 1960 and ending on April 30, 1961.

Members of Lok Sabha: Shri Upendranath Barman, Shri Feroze Gandhi, Shri Maneklal Maganlal Gandhi, Shri R.S. Kiledar, Shri Vinayak Rao K. Koratkar, Shri T. Manaen, Shri G.K. Maney, Shri S.A. Matin, Shri Baishnab Charan Mullick, Shri T.R. Neswi, Shri Shamrao Vishnu Parulekar, Shri Purushottamdas R. Patel, Shri Radha Raman, Dr. N.C. Samantsinhar and Pandit Dwarka Nath Tiwary.

Members of Rajya Sabha: Shrimati Sharda Bhargava, Shri Jashaud Singh Bisht, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghose, Dr. Shrimati Seeta Parmanand, Shri V.C. Kesava Rao, Shri Mulka Govind Reddy and Shri Jaswant Singh.

The Speaker has been pleased to appoint Shri Upendranath Barman as the Chairman of the Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Indian Information has been growing in popularity as a journal which provides a handy record of the activities and official announcements of the Government of India.

It has been our endeavour to maintain its high standard and to make it more attractive. Constant rise in the cost of production has, however, compelled us reluctantly to raise its price to 0.50 nP per copy or Rs. 10 per annum.

The new price comes into effect from this Issue (Vol. 3; No. 9, dated June 1, 1960). Annual subscribers will, however, continue to receive their copies without any extra payment until their present subscription expires.

We hope that our readers will not mind this slight rise in price and will continue to extend their patronage to the journal.

PASSPORT FEES REVISED

According to an announcement of May 7, the Government of India have revised the fees for passports as stated below:

In respect of applications lodged on or after June 1, 1960, the fee for an ordinary international passport to be valid for a period not exceeding 3 years (instead of the present 5) shall be Rs. 15. Similarly with effect from the same date, the fee for miscellaneous services on a passport will be raised from Re. 1 on each occasion to Rs. 2. The fee for renewal of a passort after the initial period of 5 years for passports issued before 1-6-1960 and 3 years in respect of passpassports, Indo-Ceylon passports, Identity Certificates and issued after that date, shall be Rs. 2 per year or part of a year of the period of renewal, subject to Rs. 6 for a maximum period of renewal of 3 years.

Up to May 31, 1960, applications for ordinary international passports need only be accompanied by the existing fee of Rs. 10 but the period of validity of a passport will be 3 years instead of 5.

Certain minor changes have also been made in fees relating to other travel documents, but there will be no change in respect of fees for Indo-Pakistan International Refugee Organisation Travel Document.

The question of revising the existing fees for passports and other travel documents had been under consideration for some time past. The present fee of Rs. 10 for granting an International passport initially was laid down before the last World War and there has been no increase since, although expenditure on passport establishments, printing and other items, has increased considerably.

Director Of Training

According to a New Delhi announcement dated May 10, the Director of the National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, has been re-designated as Director of Training, Government of India.

The Director will work out a syllabus for the combined foundational course of training for probationers of the All India Services and Central Services Class I. In the light of that syllabus, he will assist the specialised institutions under the Central Ministries in drawing up their training programmes so that there is no overlapping.

In addition, the Director will visit periodically specialised training institutions and suggest measures to remove difficulties. He is also to advise the Commandant of the Police Training College, Mount Abu, in drawing up the training programme of the I.P.S. probationers in the light of the syllabus prescribed for the combined foundational course.

The Secretariat Training School, New Delhi, meant to impart training to junior officers in Government work and routine, will also be under the overall charge of the Director.

TRAINING OF DETECTIVES

A New Delhi announcement of May 4 says that the three-month training course at the Central Detective Training School in Calcutta has been extended by a fortnight so that the training may have more practical bias.

The School at each term gives training to 30 State Police officers in better, organised and scientific ways of investigation. The officers, with at least five years of service, are sponsored by different States, which bear their expenses. The trainees are also given instruction at the scientific institutions, forensic laboratories and the Central Finger Print Bureau.

Last year, three batches consisting of about 30 State Police officers each, passed out from the School after receiving necessary training.

Report Of S. P. E. For January-April

According to a report released on May 15, of the activities of the Special Police Establishment during the first quarter of 1960, 24 Government employees, including two gazetted officers, and eight private individuals, have been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment ranging up to four years and fines totalling Rs. 12,850.

In addition, 81 Government servants, including ten gazetted officers, were punished departmentally and 21 officers were either dismissed or removed from service or had their services terminated. One was compulsorily retired, 22 had their increments withheld and 22 were otherwise punished.

NUCLEAR POWER

The Atomic Energy Commission was set up by the Union Government in 1958 with full administrative and financial powers and with the requisite degree of autonomy and flexibility for planning and executing the country's atomic energy programme.

The successful production of fuel elements from uranium ore mined in India is the most notable achievement of the year 1959-60.

The Uranium Metal Plant at Trombay and the Fuel Element Fabrication Facility have more than enough capacity to meet the needs of the Canada-India Reactor and other natural uranium reactors, which will go into operation this year and can be expanded so that their ultimate capacity would be sufficient to supply the annual feed for a nuclear power station of 250 megawatts.

Preliminary work in connection with the setting up of the first nuclear power station is well in hand. Steps have been taken to open up a uranium mine in Bihar, which will supply sufficient raw material to feed this station.

A uranium mill for producing uranium concentrate from this ore is being designed at Trombay and will be erected not far from the mine.

In view of the limitations of other power resources, the country will have to draw progressively on its nuclear power resources in the next 25 years.

During the quarter, 60 firms and persons, who had indulged in dishonest practices for obtaining import and export licences, were reported to the Import and Export authorities for being debarred from obtaining licences. As a result, 16 such firms and persons were blacklisted.

I.A.S. OFFICERS IN STATES

Almost 60 per cent of the I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers recruited during the three years from 1956 to 1958 were allotted to States other than those of their domicile.

In allotting these officers to a State cadre, the Union Government have been following the principle that recruitment of at least 50% of the new entrants should be from outside the State.

Jobs For Retrenched Employees

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 10, 614 persons, out of 2,190 retrenched employees of the Rehabilitation Ministry, have so far secured alternative employment with the help of the Special Cell of the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment.

About 250 of these employees have been absorbed in the Armed Forces Headquarters, 60 in the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the rest in various Central Government organisations.

Planning & Finance

REPORT OF ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 4, the annual report for 1959-60 of the Enforcement Directorate, Ministry of Finance, shows that during the year, 1241 cases of violation of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act were registered for investigation. The Director adjudicated 223 cases and imposed a total fine of Rs. 57,29,327 on the offenders.

Since its inception on May 1, 1956, 3503 cases have been registered by the Directorate. The work of adjudication of cases was started in March 1958, and since then as many as 410 cases had been adjudicated upto the end of March 1960. The total fine imposed on offenders in those cases was Rs. 66,56,620. Besides, 32 cases were sent up to courts for trial; of these, 26 ended in conviction and 6 in acquittal. A total fine of Rs. 62,800 was imposed by Courts.

Since the inception of the Foreign Exchange Appellate Board, 55 appeals were filed by various parties against the order of the Director before the Board. Of these 50 have been decided so far including 42 dismissed.

Compensation To Mysore Bank Shareholders

In a Press Note issued on May 6, the Ministry of Finance says, the shareholders of the Bank of Mysore Ltd., who are entitled to compensation in terms of the provisions contained in the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, are hereby informed that a notification has been issued by the Central Government under Section 13 (3) of that Act fixing June 6, 1960 as the date by which requests, if any, to have the amount of compensation referred to a tribunal must reach the Central Government.

The requests, if any, should be in writing, and should be addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, State Banks Section, New Delhi, in the prescribed form.

Bonus For Baroda State Insurance Policies

According to an announcement of May 5, the Government of India have declared bonus in respect of the Baroda State Government Servants' Insurance Fund policies at the following rates:—

(a) In respect of policies in force on March 31, 1957, a simple reversionary bonus for the period from April 1, 1950 to March 31, 1957 at the rate of Rs. 10 per thousand sum assured per annum; and

(b) In respect of policies maturing between April 1, 1957 and the date of next valuation, an interim bonus at the rate of Rs. 10 per thousand sum assured per annum.

The Fund, which was taken over by the P. and T. Department and run as a closed Fund with effect from April 1, 1950, has been merged in the Postal Life Insurance Fund with effect from March 31, 1957. It has been decided that the B.S.I. policies in force on March 31, 1960, will be granted the same bonus as the post-1940 Endowment assurance policies of the Postal Life Insurance Fund for the various inter-valuation periods after March 31, 1957.

RESERVE BANK DIRECTIVE

The Reserve Bank of India has directed all scheduled banks to deposit with it 50 per cent of any addition to their demand and time liabilities after May 6. From March 12 last, the banks had been required to deposit with the Reserve Bank 25 per cent of any additions to their liabilities and this percentage has now been raised.

N. P. Savings Certificates Of New Denomination

A Press Note issued on May 6 by the Ministry of Finance says that a new National Plan Savings Certificate of the denomination of Rs. 25,000 will be introduced with effect from May 16, 1960. This will be in addition to the existing certificates of the denominations of Rs. 5, Rs. 10, Rs. 50, Rs. 100, Rs. 500, Rs. 1000 and Rs. 5,000. The new denomination, however, is intended only for the use of recognised provident funds who have to invest large sums in these certificates.

CUSTOMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

An announcement of May 13 says that the Government of India have extended for another year the term of the Customs and Central Excise Advisory Council at the Centre.

It was set up in May last year for a period of one year in the first instance.

The Council consists of 16 members with the Minister for Revenue and Civil Expenditure, Dr. B. Gopala Reddi, as Chairman. Apart from the officials of the Central Board of Revenue, there are six ex-officio members representing business and commercial interests.

Commerce & Industry

FREE TRADE ZONE SCHEME IN KANDLA PORT

An announcement dated May 8 says that the Ministry of Transport and Communications has formulated a detailed scheme of Free Trade Zone in Kandla Port. According to the scheme, the zone will cater both for industry and trade. Licences for imports and exports into and from the zone will be issued freely. The imports will have to be financed through exports or from foreign exchange holdings abroad or foreign exchange borrowed from a foreign national or a bank.

The free trade zone will comprise an area of about one-fourth square mile, or 160 acres, cordoned off with a high barbed wire fencing. Entry into and removal of goods from the zone will be controlled suitably by the Customs authorities.

The exact location of the zone will be decided later. The Kandla Port Administration will construct and operate the zone. To ensure that local requirements are given full consideration, a regional committee consisting of representatives of the Port Administration and of commercial, industrial and other interests will be set up for advising the Port Administration.

Open space in the zone will be available on lease to those who want to construct their own storage godowns or factories. Covered accommodation inside the zone will be provided on rent. Water supply, drainage and lighting arrangements within the zone will also be made.

RESTRICTED CONTROL

The free trade zone will be an area divorced from Customs territory, maintaining its segregated identity by fencing, guards and watchmen. Customs and import, export and exchange control regulations will not be applicable in the zone except to the extent specified.

The import into the zone of certain specified articles, manufactured or raw, may be completely banned by Government at its discretion. Finished goods, which are not to be re-exported and certain special articles like gold, watches, diamonds, etc. will be subject to the same restrictions in respect of their imports into the free trade zone as for the rest of the country. Any goods or materials moving into the country from the zone will be subject to the normal restrictions on imports.

The rules for the licensing of industries in India will be enforced in the free trade zone. Thus no licence will be necessary for an industry in the zone in case such licence is not required if it is to be set up elsewhere in India.

The proceeds of all exports from the free trade zone will be credited to India's foreign exchange pool except that when raw materials or semi-processed or fully manufactured goods have been obtained on credit, payment for these will be allowed from the export proceeds.

The zone will be a distribution centre for India and neighbouring markets wherein stocks always accessible may be maintained free of duty and bond.

The Ministry is circulating this tentative scheme to chambers of commerce and industrial and trade interests in the country and to Indians abroad for eliciting comments. A final decision will be taken in the light of the response and suggestions received.

Tour To Study Free Trade Zones

The Minister of State for Transport and Communications, Shri Raj Bahadur, left New Delhi on May 13, on a four-week tour of the United States and West Germany.

During his tour, Shri Raj Bahadur will study the working of the ports of New York, San-francisco and Los Angeles in the U.S.A. and Hamburg and Bremen in West Germany and the free trade zones at these ports. The Government of India have recently formulated a scheme to set up a free trade zone at Kandla port. Shri Raj Bahadur will also visit shipyards at Hamburg.

The Minister will study the operation of road transport in

both the countries, particularly the haulage of goods on long distances, the system of financing road construction by non-official agencies and the collection of tolls.

Agreement For Utilisation Of Polish Credit

An agreement for the utilisation of a Polish Credit of Rs. 14.3 crores to India was signed in New Delhi on May 7 by Dr. W. Trampczynski, Minister for Foreign Trade of the Polish People's Republic, and Shri B.R. Bhagat, Deputy Minister of Finance.

The credit bears interest at 2½ per cent and is repayable in Indian rupees in eight annual instalments. The first instalment will become payable at the end of one year after the drawal of the credit for the last shipment of purchase for any specific project. All contracts for the supply of equipment will be concluded before June 30, 1962.

The credit will be used for the purchase of machinery and equipment from Poland for the construction of mutually agreed industrial plants. Payments relating to project work, technical and other services for setting up the plants, will, however, be made separately under the Trade and Payments Agreement between the two Governments in force at the time. Prices of goods to be bought and sold under the agreement will be based on world prices.

An Indian technical team is expected to visit Poland shortly to study the projects for which the credit will be utilised.

Money repaid by India will be used by Poland for buying Indian goods under the Trade and Payments Agreement. Payments made by India will be deposited in the Reserve Bank of India in a separate account, opened in the name of the Narodowy Bank Polski.

The agreement is the culmination of negotiations between the Government of India and a Polish Economic Delegation which arrived in New Delhi on April 27. The agreement will strengthen the economic relations between the two countries.

Licences For Import Of Machine Tools

An announcement dated May 5 says that the Government of India have decided to issue licences for import of permissible types of machine tools to established importers on the basis of a quota of 30% General and 30% Soft during the current half year. Applications for the import are to be submitted by June 30, 1960. Established importers are also permitted to submit applications on behalf of actual users. The applications have to be supported by the essentiality certificate by the appropriate recommending authority. The licences will be granted in the name of the actual user with a letter of authority in favour of the importing house.

Foreign Trade In March

A Press Note, issued on May 8 by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, says that the provisional figures of foreign trade of India by all routes, i.e. sea, air and land, on private and Government accounts during March 1960, are as follows:—

Merchandise, excluding overland trade with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan: Exports—Rs. 52.91 crores, re-exports—Rs. 46 lakhs, imports—Rs. 75.58 crores. The import figures are exclusive of the value of certain consignments of Government stores awaiting adjustment and of private merchandise under reference to Customs for verification.

Treasure: Exports (including re-exports) of currency notes—Rs. 2.41 crores; gold—nil and current coins (excluding gold coins)—negligible. Imports of currency notes—Rs. 22 lakhs, gold—Rs. 9 lakhs, current coins (excluding gold coins)—negligible.

Balance of trade: Subject to the limitation in import figures mentioned above, the total value of exports (including re-exports) of merchandise and gold fell short of imports by Rs. 22.30 crores.

ANNUAL REPORT OF N.P.C. FOR 1959-60

The annual report of the National Productivity Council for 1959-60, published on May 1, says that the country-wide campaign launched by the N.P.C. has evoked a great response from the industries as is evident from the recognition given by them to the productivity programmes and the rising demand for the services of the Council.

During the year, 29 Local Productivity Councils were established, making a total of 36.

The Council laid special emphasis on the training of personnel in industries for equipping them in the techniques which would help to raise the level of productivity. During the year, 85 training courses were organised at various places and 1,535 persons participated in these courses. Over 62 seminars, conferences and symposia were also held. The talks given by the NPC Training Officers in Business Management Courses of the Small Industries Service Institutes as well as other technical institutions proved popular. In addition, seven in-country teams and 11 inter-plant visits, which aimed at promoting technical exchange within the country, were sponsored.

The Council sponsored training activities and productivity study teams abroad with the aid received from foreign sources. Seven productivity teams on plastics industry, cotton textiles, small-scale industries, management organisation and training, road transport, factory-buildings, layout and construction, and coal-mining, were sent abroad during the year under TCM aid. Besides 37 persons were sent abroad for training in subjects of industrial engineering, industrial management and industrial relations. An additional batch of 20 persons was sent to France for training in Scientific Management under the French Government Fellowship aid. Negotiations are being conducted for sending similar productivity teams and trainees to USSR and the East European countries.

The NPC also rendered advisory services to industries for demonstration as well as for diagnostic and implementation purposes. As many as 104 industrial units received advice during the year. A campaign was launched to collect case data from the industries, indicating the utilisation of specific productivity techniques and the benefits derived from them.

PAPER PRODUCTION

A meeting of paper manufacturers, whole-sale and retail paper dealers, printers and consumers was convened in New Delhi on May 3 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to examine the problems facing the paper industry. Addressing the meeting, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Minister of Commerce and Industry, called upon the paper industry and trade to accept the fair prices fixed by the Government on the recommendations of the Tariff Commission.

Shri Shastri said that if the industry did not succeed in putting down mal-practices, Government might have to move in the matter. As in the case of cement distribution, S.T.C. may be requested to take over the production from the mills and get it distributed through its agency, in which the present dealers could participate. This would be considered only if all other methods failed. He would prefer voluntary regulation and control by the industry.

Shri Shastri emphasised that the foremost problem facing paper industry was how to increase production to meet the ever-increasing demand. The target of production in the Third Plan period would be 7 lakh tons. The Government's policy was to build up and expand small and medium-sized factories. During the past six months, 60 small units with five, to ten ton capacity per day had been licensed. The total capacity thus developed would be 2,27,000 tons.

The Minister disclosed that it was decided to set up two Committees representing all the interests concerned to examine the question of distribution and production of paper.

Cloth Production In April

A Press Note issued on May 13 by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, says that the production of the cotton textile mills during April 1960 is provisionally estimated at 136 million lbs. of yarn and 407 million yards of cotton cloth.

At the end of April 1960, the composite units of the cotton textile industry carried an estimated total stock of 2.74 lakh bales of cotton cloth made up of 1.28 lakh bales of unsold and 1.46 lakh bales of sold but not lifted.

Production Of Iron & Manganese Ores

Sardar Swaran Singh, Union Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel, inaugurated a two-day symposium on 'Iron and Manganese Ores of India' organised by the Geological, Mining and Metallurgical Society of India at Calcutta on May 14.

The Minister said that India was very rich in mineral resources. The reserves of iron ore in this country would be between 16 to 20 billion tons containing 60 per cent iron. All this ore was capable of being reduced to iron and converted to steel.

Expressing the hope that the annual production of iron ore would be raised to 12 million tons in a short itme, the Minister said that judging by past experiences there was a fair likelihood that the production at the end of the Third Plan would reach 34 million tons of marketable ore.

He pointed out that in some of the bigger mines, waste in the form of fines was anywhere between 20 and 30 per cent. A committee was being set up soon to study the methods of utilisation of these fines. In the field of utilisation of low grade ores, experiments were still under way with low shaft furnaces. A beginning was very likely to be made with the Salem ores utilising coke manufactured from the lignite in South Arcot.

Referring to manganese ore, Sardar Swaran Singh said that the discoveries made by the industry in Orissa, Mysore, Bombay, etc. had distributed the units pretty widely in the country, but the decline in export, which was the main off-take for the produce, had resulted in low production from almost all the sources. However, it was hoped that it would not be very long before India attained an annual capacity of about 200,000 tons of ferro-manganese.

MANUFACTURE OF FERRO-MANGANESE

The Government of India have licensed a total capacity of 233,700 tons of ferro-manganese per annum, says an announcement dated May 9

The target under the Second Plan was fixed at 160,000 tons per annum—60,000 tons for estimated internal consumption by 1960-61 and 100,000 tons for export. At present the internal consumption is estimated at 35,000 tons. Already 6 units with a capacity of 93,000 tons have been installed, of which 5 have started production. Three more units and the expansion of two existing units with a total capacity of 140,400 tons per annum are expected to be completed by the end of the Second Plan period.

Ferro-manganese is mostly used in the manufacture of steel. Although India has large reserves of manganese ore, the primary raw material for the manufacture of ferro-manganese, it was until recently being exported to be processed in the consuming countries.

PRODUCTION AT BHILAI

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 4, the Bhilai Steel Works produced 23,761 tons of steel during April 1960. This brings the total steel production up to the end of April to 115,337 tons.

Production of pig iron during the month amounted to 55,539 tons bringing the aggregate pig iron production to 526,397 tons.

Up to the end of the month, 84,658 tons of steel billets were produced in rolling mills in Bhilai. More than 400,000 tons of pig iron and 70,000 tons of steel billets had been despatched to consumers all over India up to the end of April 1960.

Steel Rolling Mills At Durgapur

The first unit of the steel rolling mills at Durgapur Steel Works was commissioned on May 9. Simultaneously, the 42-inch blooming mill began producing 9" and 12" blooms of heavy forging quality. The commissioning of the rolling mills also brought into operation certain ancillary units.

The 32-inch intermediate mill, the second unit of the rolling mills, would go into operation by the end of May.

SMALL BLAST FURNACES

According to an announcement of May 10, the Government of India have sanctioned seven more small blast furnaces in the country. Of these, two will be in Madras State, three in Bombay, one in West Bengal and one in Madhya Pradesh.

Two blast furnaces, each with a capacity of 15,000 tons per annum, sanctioned earlier, have already gone into operation in the States of Madras and Orissa.

The steel delegation which visited China early in 1959 recommended that the design and construction of a few small blast furnaces and converters be taken in hand as an experimental measure in areas which are likely to be favourable in the location of such plants.

The Government of India have generally accepted the recommendations and sanctioned a number of schemes in the private sector for the production of pig iron.

Checking Consumption Of Petroleum Products

An announcement dated May 15 says that several measures have been taken by the Government of India to reduce the current imbalance between consumption and production of motor spirit and high speed diesel oil. One of the measures is the designing of the public sector refineries on a pattern as to have the maximum production of middle distillates like kerosene and high speed diesel.

The production of motor spirit has also been minimised at the existing refineries and the deficit products like high speed diesel, are being produced as much as possible within the technical limitations.

Reduction in the minimum flash point requirements of high speed diesel oil from 150°F to 131°F has been authorised to enable the refineries to further increase the production of high speed diesel at the expense of motor spirit.

The budget proposals for 1960-61 include an additional levy of 25 nP per Imperial gallon of excise/customs duty on high speed diesel oil with a view to further reducing the existing price/tax advantage in favour of that oil and thus arrest its growing consumption.

It is significant, however, that while consumption of diesel in 1958 was 30 per cent over 1957 level, the consumption in 1959 was 10 per cent over 1958, showing a reduction in the rate of increase.

The imbalance problem is also engaging the attention of the recently constituted high-level committee set up by the Government of India to advise on problems of common interest concerning petroleum products and in particular the problems pertaining to patterns of production, demand, supply, consumption, etc., of these products.

NEW OIL FIELD DISCOVERED

Shri K.D. Malaviya, Union Minister for Mines and Oil, issued a statement from Lucknow on May 15.

According to the statement, yet another oil field, nearly 100 miles south of Cambay town, was discovered by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission on May 14, when the first exploratory well at Ankaleshwar in Broach district was perforated for testing.

The drilling of the first exploratory well at Ankaleshwar began in the first week of February 1960 and took about 60 days to complete. Oil gushed out on the second day of the testing operation.

Though more detailed information has to follow, it seems that this discovery is the best that has so far been made in the public sector.

Although, as the report says, the quantity of oil is greater and the quality better than the Cambay oil, it is the usual practice to allow a well to flow for several days before a firm assessment of oil reserve is made.

Oil And Gas In Cambay Oilfield

In a Press Note issued on May 12, the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel has announced that wells No. 6 and 8 in Cambay have shown signs of oil and gas while drilling. This, however, should not be considered as a full-fledged establishment of oil or gas from the wells. In the usual course of drilling the characteristic of Cambay oilfield is that signs of oil and gas are visible at the time of drilling which quite often may have no significance.

The positive find of oil in a well is only established after thorough testing of the well when the drilling is completed. Drilling of well No. 6 has been completed and well No. 8 is still being drilled at the level of about 1600 metres.

SURVEY OF RAMGIRI GOLD FIELD

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 5, the Geological Survey of India has undertaken detailed mapping and investigation of Ramgiri gold field in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh to assess the potentialities of the field.

Numerous samples of load quartz were collected for gold assay from the surface outcrops, mine shafts and mine dumps. Some of the assay results are found to be encouraging but it is yet too early to estimate the actual potentiality of the area.

The Department also undertook preliminary investigation of the old diamond workings in Kolhapur and Achampet taluks in Mehboobnagar area.

Fillip To Radio Industry

An announcement dated May 14 says that the Government of India have decided to license new schemes for the manufacture of electronic components like resisters, capacitors, potentiometers and volume controls, variable condensers, loudspeakers and band change switches. The schemes should be for manufacturing components and not merely for assembly from imported parts and pieces.

This step is being taken to enable the radio and electronic industry in the country to expand rapidly and become independent of imports as early as possible.

For schemes involving investment of more than Rs. 10 lakhs in fixed assets or employment of more than 100 persons, applications should be addressed to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. In regard to schemes involving less than Rs. 10 lakhs investment in fixed assets or employment of less than 100 persons, the applications should be submitted to the Senior Industrial Adviser (Engineering), Development Wing, in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The last date for sending applications is July 31, 1960.

The production of radio receivers in the country has increased by nearly three-fold since 1951. Over 2.1 lakh radio receivers were produced in 1959. With the increase in demand for radio receivers, the industry is bound to expand considerably during the Third Plan period. At present, a fairly substantial percentage of components required for production of radio receivers is met by imports.

COAL COUNCIL OF INDIA MEETING

The Coal Council of India met in New Delhi on May 10 under the chairmanship of Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel.

The Council was of the view that availability of coal, both qualitative and quantitative, could be so organised as to fit in with the requirements of industrial development. It, however, emphasised that sufficient advanced planning should be undertaken to visualise the total size of efforts needed for the purpose.

The Council accepted tentatively the field and gradewise allocation of the additional 35 million tons of coal to be raised during the Third Plan period. This includes 9.5 million tons of coking coal and 5 million tons of semi-coking and blendable coal. The Council emphasised the speedy setting up of the washeries to beneficiate coal for the steel plants. It was felt that benefication of even non-coking coal might become necessary during the Third Plan period to improve its quality.

Activities of the Geological Survey of India and the Indian Bureau of Mines in regard to coal prospecting for the Third Plan were reviewed and ways for accelerating exploration work were discussed.

Training Facilities

The Council considered the steps already taken for the training of technical personnel required during the Third Plan period. In regard to Degree courses in Mining, the capacity of the Banaras Hindu University and the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, have been doubled and six new centres with an annual intake of 25 to 30 have introduced Degree courses in Mining. Nine institutions for imparting training in the Diploma courses have also started functioning. Besides, the National Coal Development Corporation has started 4 schools to train lower categories of personnel such as fitters, overmen, surveyors, etc. A fifth school has to be started shortly.

According to the assessment made by the Committee on Production, about 132 geologists and 2070 drilling engineers would be required to man 150 drills that will be needed during the Third Plan period. The Steering Committee of the Coal Council had assessed in July 1958 that the additional requirements of Mine Managers for both coal and metalliferous mines would be about 3,000.

New Processes Developed

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 12, the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, has developed a process for the manufacture of basic refractories by using low grade chrome ore so far considered unsuitable for refractory purposes.

Basic refractories are widely used in the steel industry for lining the walls of open-hearth furnaces. They also find application in electric arc furnaces and soaking pits as well as in copper smelting furnaces.

While the general technique of manufacture in the new process is the same as followed in the existing chrome-magnesite refractories, the importance of the invention lies in the adjustment of the composition to get the desired mineral ratio in the final product and in the proper selection and control of grain size of the low grade chrome ore.

Catalysts

According to an announcement of May 14, the Central Fuel Research Institute, Jealgora, has developed processes for the manufacture of two types of catalysts for the removal of organic and inorganic sulphur present in industrial gases.

India has had to depend till now on imports of these catalysts to meet her requirements.

The manufacture of both the types of catalysts has been successfully studied in pilot plants. These catalysts have also been patented in the U.K. and West Germany.

Quality Leather

The Central Leather Research Institute, Madras, has developed a process of manufacturing glazed Kid, a variety of high quality leather, from Kushtia goatskins.

At present, out of more than 30 million goatskins produced in the country, only about 50 lakh goatskins are utilised and the rest are exported. High quality leather is used in making hand gloves, chamois leather and other high quality goods. The value of raw and semi-finished goatskins would be increased considerably if converted into high quality leather by the new process.

Mica Apparatus

An apparatus highly suitable for the rapid classification of mica, micanite and other laminated sheets for use at radio frequencies has been developed at the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Calcutta, which is also carrying out researches on the utilisation of waste mica. A process for manufacturing heat insulating mica bricks from waste mica has already been developed by the Institute and it is being commercially utilised.

The process for wet grinding of mica developed at the Institute has also been assigned for commercial exploitation. Successful results have been obtained for use of ground mica in paints.

India is one of the largest producers of mica, supplying nearly 80 per cent of the world's total requirement for good quality sheet mica.

Export of mica during January-June 1959, from the ports of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras was 11,437 tons valued at Rs. 5.41 crores. During the corresponding period in 1958 the export was 10,813 tons valued at Rs. 4.25 crores.

Water Softener

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 10, the National Chemical Laboratory at Poona has developed a synthetic ion-exchange resin used in softening water for boilers, air-conditioning units and ice plants.

The process makes use of cashewnut shell liquid which is available cheaply. The technical and economic feasibility of the process has been established on a pilot plant scale.

The cost of locally-produced resin, estimated at Rs. 41 per cu. ft., compares favourably with the price of imported resin. The machinery for the new process can be easily fabricated in the country.

Wood Seasoning Kiln

A wood seasoning kiln has also been designed. The kiln does not require a boiler, and therefore costs less to install and to maintain. A novel heating system, which enables the chamber to be kept hot without a break, cuts down the time taken for wood seasoning by 25 per cent.

Preserving Arecanut

A simple and economic method of preserving fresh arecanut has been developed at the University of Kerala, according to an announcement of May 11.

The new process makes use of a small quantity of benzoic acid solution. The present practice is to submerge the nuts in water with the result they tend to get spoiled. Stagnant water also serves as a breeding place for mosquitoes.

Unit For Testing Welders

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 4, the Government Test House at Alipore, Calcutta, will soon have a unit for testing and certifying welders.

With the increasing adoption of welding in structures and pressure vessels, the need for a central authority for certification of welders has been felt by Government departments, the industry and others. In order to ensure that welding is of appropriate quality, only qualified welders have to be employed.

Welders, who desire to get a certificate, will have to report at the Government Test House and weld test pieces with the material and machines provided.

Communications

WORLD EXPLOITATION OF SURI-TRANSMISSION

An announcement dated May 13 says that the Government of India have granted a licence to a well-known West German firm of diesel locomotive manufacturers for the world exploitation of a major Indian invention which promises to revolutionise the manufacture of diesel locomotives the world over.

The inventor is 32-year old Shri M.M. Suri, Deputy Director (Diesels) in the Indian Railway Research, Design and Standards Organisation at Simla. He has evolved a new system of diesel locomotive power transmission which has officially been named as 'Suri-Transmission'. The invention of the Suri-Transmission puts Indian 'know-how' in the field of diesel locomotive design ahead of contemporary knowledge in advanced countries like the U.S.A., West Germany, U.K. and Japan. The Suri-Transmission has already been internationally acclaimed by technical opinion as markedly superior to both the electric and hydraulic transmissions.

Patents

The Government of India have officially taken over the invention for commercial exploitation. Through the National Research Development Corporation, Government have already covered the invention with patent applications in 12 major countries of the world, namely, India, Japan, Australia, U.S.A., France, West Germany, Italy, U.K., Czechoslovakia, Poland, Brazil and Canada. Some patents have been granted in the U.K., West Germany, Italy, France, Czechoslovakia and India.

World commercial exploitation rights for the invention have been granted to the West German manufacturing firm of Messrs MaK (Maschminenbau Kiel).

Under the terms of the licence the first seven prototype diesel locomotives fitted with the 'Suri-Transmission' are now under manufacture at the MaK Works and will be delivered for service on the Indian railways later this year. The MaK has been licenced to market the 'Suri-Transmission' locomotives to railway systems all over the world. However, a condition in the agreement provides that whenever indigenous production is established in India, the Indian manufacturers would be free to utilise the invention independently of MaK and to market the Suri-Transmission locomotives in India or abroad.

Large Savings

In locomotives of the future, the introduction of the Suri-Transmission will be a substantial factor in saving manufacturing and recurring operating costs. For instance, the 'Suri-Transmission', if fitted on to locomotives similar to the 2,000 H.P. diesel-electric locomotives recently imported from U.S.A. and now in service in the eastern region of the country, would secure a saving in fuel costs of something like Rs. 16,000 per year per locomotive.

The manufacturing cost of the 'Suri-Transmission' locomotives is also expected to be substantially cheaper than current types because of its lighter and simpler and more compact construction. When fully developed, the 'Suri-Transmission' would pave the way for the construction of very powerful locomotives of 3,000 H.P. to 4,000 H.P. as compared to the 2,000 H.P. locomotives now currently in use in India and other countries of the world.

It was in 1957 that the Railway Board took over the invention for Government exploitation. Informal discussions with foreign locomotive manufacturers were held in London the same year. In 1959, the National Research Development Corporation negotiated for world exploitation of the Suri-Transmission with Messrs MaK of West Germany. In terms of royalty proceeds, the Suri-Transmission is expected to be a fairly substantial foreign exchange earner.

Tourist Facilities In Delhi

The Regional Tourist Traffic Advisory Committee, which met in New Delhi on May 4, has recommended the illumination of important monuments in Delhi every night as a measure of tourist attraction. In many countries monuments of national importance are lit up every night, accompanied by a running commentary on interesting features of the monuments.

The Committee was informed that the authorities concerned had agreed to illuminate the Qutub Minar as an experiment.

The Committee has also recommended that facilities should be created to enable tourists to hire self-driven cars as in western countries. Restrictions on taking photographs of monuments of national importance should be relaxed.

Authorised money changers at airports should be permitted to convert unspent Indian currency with tourists when they leave the country. A reasonable limit on the amount could be put to avoid any misuse. Customs Superintendents at Palam and Safdarjang may be authorised to issue temporary gun licences to tourists for their actual use, instead of having to approach the District Magistrate.

The daily sight-seeing coaches introduced by the Delhi Transport Undertaking had proved a success. To popularise this further, the D.T.U. might air-condition one coach. A special one-day coach from Delhi to Agra and back had been introduced by the U.P. Government Roadways.

Food & Agriculture

INDO-U.S. AGREEMENT ON FOODGRAINS

An agreement was signed in Washington on May 4 for the sale of American wheat and rice to India. The agreement, the biggest between the two countries, provides for the sale to India over a 4-year period of 16 million metric tons of wheat and one million metric tons of rice. The shipments will provide India with four million metric tons of wheat and one million metric tons of rice during the period for reserve purposes. The cost of the foodgrains including transportation will be Rs. 607 crores and payment will be in rupees. The major part of the payment, i.e. about Rs. 512 crores, will be made available to the Government of India for development, half as loan and half as grant. The remaining Rs. 95 crores will be used to meet American expenses in India and to finance other United States' programmes including the development of foreign markets for American agricultural products.

The agreement was signed by President Eisenhower and India's Minister for Food and Agriculture, Shri S.K. Patil. Speaking on the occasion, President Eisenhower described the agreement as a practical symbol of the 'food for peace' programme. The agreement was a product of mutual respect and ever-growing friendship between the United States and India. Shri S.K. Patil in his speech said that a national food reserve was of paramount importance to a country like India. This agreement, he said, would enable India to build up such a reserve and the country would be free to concentrate on all-round development.

One fourth of the amount of financing in the new agreement ($319 million) will be made available immediately to finance the first year's shipments of 4 million metric tons (147 million bushels) of wheat and 250,000 metric tons (5.5 million bags) of rice. The rate and manner in which the remaining quantities will be shipped will be agreed upon by the Governments after January 1, 1961, and will be subject to annual review thereafter. On an average, more than a shipload of wheat will arrive in India every day for the four years.

Sales of the commodities will be made by U.S. private traders. Purchase authorizations will be announced later.

The new agreement reinforced by previous agreements is expected to contribute to India's progress by: (1) substantially increasing India's short food supply: (2) helping to control rising costs of food; and (3) giving tangible support to the financing of India's development projects.

This is the fifth Title I, Public Law 480 agreement signed with India. The first agreement with India (and the largest previous agreement with any country) was signed in August 1956 for the amount of $360.1 million. The previous four agreements with India total nearly $1 billion in value. They have provided a significant proportion of India's grain imports during the past three and a half years.

Meeting Of Indian Central Sugarcane Committee

The twentyninth meeting of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee was held in New Delhi on May 4 and 5. Inaugurating the meeting, Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, Union Minister of Agriculture, called upon the administrators, scientists and the sugarcane growers to critically study the reasons for low acre yields of sugarcane and devise future plans so that 'our efforts might produce substantial improvements both in respect of sugarcane production and sugar recovery'. However, he expressed satisfaction at the rise in per acre yield during 1958-59 to 14.7 tons from 13.4 tons in the previous year.

Presidential Address

Earlier, Shri Ameer Raza, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and President of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee, said that targets of 925 lakh tons of sugarcane and 30 lakh tons of sugar had been proposed for production during the Third Five-Year Plan. These targets would require that the work of sugarcane research and development was expected on a much larger scale.

Reviewing the progress of research work, Shri Ameer Raza said that during 1958-59, 85 research and development schemes for raising the quality and per acre yield of sugarcane and for conducting research on *gur* and *khandsari* functioned at the various sugarcane research stations and development centres in the country.

The acreage under sugarcane in the country during the year was 48 lakh acres as against 50 lakh acres in the preceding year. The total production of sugarcane was 709 lakh tons against the Second Plan target of 720 lakh tons. The overall acre yield of sugarcane was 14.7 tons compared with 13.4 tons in the preceding year.

New Schemes

The Committee reviewed the progress of sugarcane research and development in various States and sanctioned a number of schemes for implementation during the next year. The schemes envisaged the expansion of sugarcane development programme in Andhra Pradesh, intensification of sugarcane in *gur* and *khandsari* areas of Uttar Pradesh, pilot scheme for controlling sugarcane borers and the scheme for studies on the problems of *gur* storage and packaging.

In view of the importance of the *gur* and *khandsari* industry which consumes nearly 60 per cent of cane, the Committee appointed a special sub-committee to make an assessment of the research work done so far for improving the manufacture of these products and to suggest the future line of work.

The Committee stressed the need for the establishment of seed nurseries in sugarcane areas for the supply of pure and disease-free seed to the cane growers and decided to enlarge the scope of All-India Sugarcane Crop Competitions by awarding prizes for *Eksali, Adsali, Ratoon* and early crops of sugarcane.

INCREASE IN SUGAR PRODUC ION

A New Delhi announcement of May 13 says that sugar production during the current year had gone up to 23.50 lakh tons by May 7 last. This is 4.62 lakh tons more than the production at that time last year which was 18.88 lakh tons.

The output during the whole of last 'sugar year' was 19.19 lakh tons.

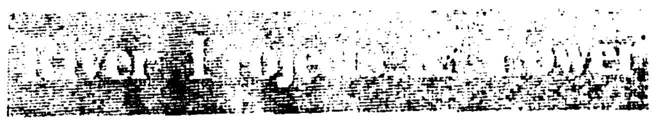
The increase is attributed to better cane production, higher recovery of sugar and the various incentives offered by the Government to raise sugar output. The incentives given are: (i) concession of 31 nP per maund for early start of factories in U.P. and North Bihar, (ii) a 50 per cent rebate in the basic excise duty on sugar produced in excess of the average production of the previous two seasons, and (iii) raising of the minimum price of sugarcane.

Further, the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab took certain administrative measures to ensure adequate supply of cane to sugar mills throughout the season and also to encourage power crushers and khandsari units to operate increasingly away from factory areas.

RELEASE OF SUGAR

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

Allotments will be made at prices fixed under Notification No. GSR 1188/Ess.Com/Sugar dated October 25, 1959 and GSR 386/Ess.Com/Sugar dated April 4, 1960. The controlled ex-factory price for U.P. and North Bihar factories is Rs. 37.85 per maund and for factories in Punjab and South Bihar Rs. 38.35 per maund for ISS D—29 grade with the prescribed price differentials for other grades. The fixed f.o.r. destination prices in respect of allotments made to Kanpur and Calcutta will be Rs. 38.60 and Rs. 39.85 per maund respectively for sugar of ISS D—29 grade.



PROGRESS OF RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

A New Delhi announcement of May 9 says that 17,400 villages and small towns, each with a population of less than 10,000, will have been electrified by 1960-61. During the Third Plan, according to tentative proposals, another 15,000 villages and towns will be electrified, bringing the total to 32,400 in 1965-66.

In 1955-56, only 7,400 such places in rural areas were electrified in the country.

Two programmes have been formulated for rural electrification. One, under which the States get loan assistance from the Centre, is for extending electricity to rural areas. Another programme is for the expansion of power facilities to increase employment opportunities, for which Rs. 15.8 crores were paid to the States up to 1959-60.

The bulk of the 8873 villages and towns, electrified up to March 31, 1959, get their supply from grid mains. The remaining centres are supplied with power mostly by individual small diesel stations.

In hilly areas hydro-stations of capacities of 25 to 50 kw. have been planned. These isolated small generating plants would also serve as pilot stations for building up load in the area.

Economy In Cost

Efforts are being constantly made to minimise the cost of rural electrification. The Central Water and Power Commission, in consultation with the Chief Engineers of the States, have evolved standard, economical designs for rural line construction.

Most of the materials required for rural electrification, such as insulators, conductors, distribution transformers, etc., are being manufactured in the country.

With regard to line supports, efforts are being made to procure, treat and utilise wood poles. Wherever these are not available, concrete poles are being manufactured in the country.

PROGRESS OF IRRIGATION

According to an announcement dated May 16, over 25 lakh acres of land were actually irrigated by four multi-purpose river valley projects — Bhakra Nangal, Damodar Valley Corporation, Tungabhadra and Hirakud — in 1958-59.

Of this, Bhakra-Nangal irrigated 19.5 lakh acres in Punjab and Rajasthan, DVC 2.35 acres in West Bengal, excluding 2.17 lakh acres served by the old Damodar canal, Tungabhadra 1.58 lakh acres in Mysore and Andhra Pradesh, and Hirakud 2.85 lakh acres in Orissa.

The total potential created at the outlets by these projects was 37 lakh acres, and the command area approximately 58 lakh acres.

The actual irrigation by all medium and major projects in 1958-59 was 82% of the potential created at the beginning of the year. It is anticipated that the percentage of actual to potential irrigation will be maintained in the two years 1959-61.

Total Irrigated Area

The total area irrigated from all sources in 1950-51 was 515 lakh acres, out of which 220 lakh acres were irrigated by large and medium projects. The additional area to be irrigated by the end of the Second Plan by major and medium projects will be 335 lakh acres — 29 lakh acres in 1955-56; 34 lakh acres in 1956-57; 49 lakh acres in 1957-58; 59 lakh acres in 1958-59; 74 lakh acres in 1959-60; and 90 lakh acres in 1960-61.

It is envisaged that by 1975-76 — the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan — it should be possible to bring about 1,800 to 1,900 lakh acres under irrigation.

The estimated cost of major and medium irrigation projects, included in the First and Second Plans, is about Rs. 1,400 crores. The actual expenditure on such projects in the First Plan was Rs. 375 crores. In the Second Plan, the estimated expenditure is Rs. 388 crores.

Public Co-Operation In River Valley Projects

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 3, notable progress has been made in enlisting public co-operation for execution of work on the river valley projects since 1955.

The total value of work done by voluntary organisations with the help of public co-operation in the irrigation and power projects in 1955-59 is estimated at Rs. 192 lakhs. This involved 65 crores cubic feet of earthwork —equivalent to building 25-foot wide roads joining the farthest points from north to south and east to west in India.

The work was largely carried out on the Kosi project in Bihar, the Nagarjunasagar project in Andhra Pradesh, the Chambal Valley Development project in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, and two flood control schemes in the Union Territory of Delhi.

Benefits

This system of work has not only helped encourage people to offer voluntary labour, but has also resulted in reduction of expenditure. For instance, the direct monetary benefit to the exchequer on the Kosi embankments was about Rs. 5 lakhs. Moreover, the rates at which this work was done at Nagarjunasagar and Chambal projects were about 5% below the estimated or lowest tendered rates.

Other benefits derived by the local population included extension of community benefits, for which 5% of the total earnings was set apart by the organisers. Further, as much as 85% of the total earnings were given as wages to labour.

FOUNDATION OF MAHI PROJECT LAID

The foundation of the Mahi project was laid by the Union Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, on May 7.

The project, one more example of inter-State co-operation in utilisation of water resources, will irrigate 1.3 lakh acres of land, half of it in Gujarat and the other half in Rajasthan, and will ultimately produce about 45,000 kw. of power.

The project envisages an 11,850 ft. long earth-cum-masonry dam over the river Mahi, about ten miles from Banswara in Rajasthan. The maximum height of the earth dam will be 140 ft. and of the masonry dam about 210 ft. from the deepest foundation.

The reservoir created by the dam, to be known as Jamnalal Bajaj Sagar, will impound 60,000 million cubic feet of water.

The spillway has been designed to discharge the maximum anticipated flood of 5.5 lakh cubic feet of water per second. A road will also be built over the dam.

Community Development

TAX ON BUSINESS PROFITS OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

In a Press Note issued on May 6, the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation has announced the position re- garding the taxation of business profits of the various types of co-operative societies under the provisions of the India Income-tax Act, 1922, as amended by the Finance Act, 1960.

SOCIETIES EXEMPTED

I. The following categories of societies are wholly exempted from income tax:

(a) A society engaged in carrying on business of banking or providing credit facilities to its members: This would include:—(i) primary credit societies; (ii) district and central co-operative banks; (iii) apex co-operative banks; (iv) land mortgage banks (primary as well as central); (v) non-agricultural credit societies such as urban banks; (vi) employees' credit and thrift societies, etc.

(b) A society engaged in a cottage industry.

(c) (i) A society engaged in marketing of agricultural produce of its members. This would include primary, central and State marketing societies. (ii) A society engaged in purchase of agricultural implements, seeds, livestock or other articles intended for agriculture for the purpose of supplying them to its members.

(d) A society engaged in processing without the aid of power of the agricultural produce of its members. This would include societies for hand-pounding of paddy, oil Ghanis, etc.

(e) Primary milk societies: a primary milk society engaged in supplying milk raised by its members to a federal milk co-operative society.

In case the societies mentioned in the above category undertake activities other than those mentioned in the above clauses, they shall be required to pay income tax in respect of the profits attributable to such activities. The tax however is payable only on that part of the profits which is in excess of Rs. 15,000.

PARTIALLY EXEMPTED

II. The following categories of societies are partially exempted from income tax:

(a) Societies other than those mentioned in I above: Profits or gains of business of a co-operative society other than a co-operative society referred to in I above shall not be taxable up to Rs. 15,000. In other words, transport societies, housing societies, etc., will have to pay tax, if their profits exceed Rs. 15,000, on such excess.

(b) Processing societies using power:—So much of the profits derived from an industrial undertaking like a co-operative sugar mill, co-operative spinning mill, cotton gin, oil mill, solvent extraction plants, etc., as does not exceed six per cent per annum on the capital employed in the undertaking computed in accordance with the rules made by the Central Board of Revenue shall not be liable for assessment for the financial year, next following the 'previous' year, in which the society begins to manufacture or produce the articles and for the six assessments immediately succeeding, provided the conditions laid down in section 15 C of the Income Tax are satisfied.

(c) Consumers' Societies:—Where a consumer society makes bulk purchases of commodities which it sells to its members, the rebate passed on by such a society to its members on the value of purchases made by them during a year will be treated as deferred discounts and be deducted from the gross profits.

It is hoped that, as a result of these concessions, it would be possible for co-operative institutions to strengthen their resources and build up their organisations on sound lines.

WORK OF CREDIT SOCIETIES IN 1958 59

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 5, an all-round progress in the agricultural credit sector of the co-operative movement is reflected in the statistics for the year 1958-59.

The number of primary agricultural credit and multipurpose societies went up during the year by 16,568 and stood at a little more than 1.83 lakhs. The membership of the societies at the end of the year was about 1.19 crores—nearly 16.8 lakhs more than what it was in 1957-58. The highest average membership was marked in Kerala and the lowest in Madhya Pradesh. Deposits held by the societies amounted to Rs. 9.87 crores as against Rs. 8.63 crores in the year before.

The societies advanced to their members Rs. 125.43 crores—nearly Rs. 29.34 crores more than in the previous year. Compared with the corresponding figure at the beginning of the First Plan, the increase in co-operative credit facilities represents nearly a six-fold expansion.

MEETING OF GRAM SEVAKS

The Gram Sevaks adjudged best by the State Governments and the Mukhiyas, Pradhans or Sarpanches of the villages, selected for the State-level prizes were invited by the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation to meet in Delhi on May 11 for a discussion of their field experiences.

After their deliberations which lasted four days, the 23 outstanding village level workers met Shri S.K. Dey, Union Minister for Community Development and Co-operation. They assured the Minister that they would do everything possible to help increase food production by popularising the new methods and techniques which helped them bring about an appreciable increase in their own areas.

They pointed out that the programme of Gram Sahayak camps had proved extremely effective and that it should be further intensified. The camps should embrace not only the youth who could popularise the new techniques with an evangelistic zeal, but also the older people whose wisdom could in its own way help the programme as much as the vitality of the youth.

They were of the view that although increasing stress should be laid on the programme of increased food production, the amenities programme i.e. building of roads, schools, panchayat-ghars and hospitals should not be ignored.

The charges of factionalism, casteism and groupism in panchayats, they maintained, were exaggerated. The scheme of Panchayati Raj was the only answer to the problems of rural areas, including the problem of agricultural production.

For drawing up agricultural production targets, they suggested, support of the people's agency, such as Gram Panchayat and the Kisan Mandal, should be ensured and functional sub-committees of the panchayats allowed to play their due role. The work of supply of improved seeds, fertilizers, better equipment, they added, should be entrusted to the service co-operatives which should be strengthened.

According to another suggestion, contracts pertaining to mines should in future be given as far as possible to panchayats in preference to contractors. This would help the panchayats divert their additional income to agricultural production work. It was also their unanimous view that further efforts should be made to popularise the cow-gas plant and similar mechanical devices which would help improve rural economy.

Shri S.K. Dey assured the village level workers that their suggestions for popularising the new techniques would be placed before the National Conference on Community Development, scheduled to be held in Srinagar early next month. The Ministries of Community Development and Agriculture were already trying to work out an approach of agricultural development which would make a positive impact on the farmers.

Education & Culture

RECRUITMENT OF TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL

A New Delhi announcement dated May 9 says that certain improvements have been effected in the procedures for recruitment of scientific and technical personnel to speed up the intake.

Bulk selections are to be made annually, not only for filling the posts in the organised Engineering Services under the Central Government, but also for posts outside such services. Similarly, there will be bulk selections once or twice a year for different posts which require some years of practical experience or special qualifications.

The Union Public Service Commission will prepare lists of candidates found fit for appointment to Class I or Class II posts, permanent or temporary, and these lists will be utilised for filling vacancies under various Ministries until new lists are prepared. The Ministries are to notify to the Commission in advance their vacancies which are not at present filled as a result of competitive examinations and for which they would like to make selections out of these lists.

The U.P.S.C. also makes personal contacts with candidates who are *prima facie* suitable in cases where advertisement alone is not sufficient to bring forth suitable persons.

Persons registered in the Special Section of the National Register are treated as 'personal contact' candidates, even without any formal application. During his tours abroad, the Chairman of the U.P.S.C. also interviews and prepares a list of scientists, technologists* and engineers who are qualified for the various posts likely to be advertised by the Commission.

New Procedure For Loans For Hostel Construction

A New Delhi announcement of May 7 says that the practice of granting loans direct from the Centre to educational institutions managed by voluntary organisations, for construction of hostels, has been discontinued under the revised procedure for the disbursement of such loans, which became effective in the current financial year.

The new procedure provides for the budgeted amount being placed at the disposal of the State Governments which also make suitable provision in their own budgets for giving advances to educational institutions eligible under the scheme.

The Government of India further provide funds, in the form of grants-in-aid, to State Governments to the extent the interest charges on the loans advanced to the institutions are waived by them after taking into account the financial capacity of the institutions concerned. For this purpose also the State Governments make corresponding provision in their own budgets.

LOANS ALREADY SANCTIONED

Government have also decided that, in cases where loans have been advanced directly in previous years by the Centre and where the full amount of the sanctioned loan has not been released so far, the balance would continue to be paid to the concerned institutions direct by the Union Ministry of Education.

Under the Second Five Year Plan a scheme was included for giving loans to educational institutions for construction of hostels. Under this scheme loans are payable to colleges affiliated to Indian Universities, high schools, higher secondary schools including multi-purpose schools, teachers' training colleges and basic and social education institutions.

From 1959-60, Government also decided that this scheme should apply to physical education training institutions.

A total provision of Rs. 1.60 crores for this purpose has been made in the Second Plan.

Assistance to Sanskrit Institutions

According to a Press Note issued on May 12 by the Ministry of Education, the Government of India have instituted a scheme for giving financial assistance to voluntary Sanskrit organisations, institutions and Pathshalas.

Under the Scheme, the Government consider requests for only non-recurring grants to well-known institutions for important and specified purposes relating to expansion and development of Sanskrit. No grants are given for the maintenance of the institutions.

Applications are to be submitted in the prescribed form through the State Governments concerned before August 31, 1960. Application forms and other particulars can be had from the Special Officer (Sanskrit), Ministry of Education, New Delhi-2.

Publications Of National Book Trust

A New Delhi announcement dated May 6 says that the National Book Trust has so far released nine publications, including 'THE VOICE OF THE UNINVOLVED' by Shri C. Rajagopalachari in English; 'INDIA: TODAY AND TOMORROW' by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in Gujrati, Kannada, Hindi, Marathi and Malayalam; 'KALKI' by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan in Telugu and Marathi, and 'JWALAMUKHI' by Shri A.G. Sheorey in Marathi. Most of these books are being translated into one or more other Indian languages. The translation work has been entrusted to eminent men of letters in each field.

Besides, 23 more publications in 11 Indian languages and English are likely to be made available to the public within the next two or three months. These include 'MEMOIRS OF MY WORKING LIFE' by Shri M. Visveswaraya and 'THE GOSPEL OF BUDDHA' by Mr. Paul Carus in English, and translations in several Indian languages of 'HINDUSTANI DRAMA' by Dr. Safdar Ash, 'ASPECTS OF SCIENCE' by Dr. C.V. Raman and 'MAHAPARINIRVANA KATHA' in Bengali by Dr. S. Dutt.

Nearly 120 other books are also in various stages of preparation at the initiative of the National Book Trust. Members of the Trust have under consideration 79 other books besides various manuscripts on different subjects which are referred to it periodically.

The National Book Trust was set up in August 1957 to encourage the production of good literature and to make good books available at moderate prices to libraries, educational institutions and the public generally.

The Trust undertakes the publication, among other things, of classical literature of India, standard works of Indian authors, translations of famous books from foreign languages, works of living authors, reproductions of Indian paintings, sculptures and other art treasures and translations of standard books from one Indian language into another.

COLLECTED WORKS OF MAHATMA GANDHI

The third volume of the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi, compiled by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and due for release was placed before the Advisory Board in New Delhi on May 10.

The meeting of the Advisory Board was held under the chairmanship of Shri Morarji Desai, Union Minister of Finance.

The Board was also informed that the manuscript of the fourth volume was being sent to the press and was expected to be published within the next three months.

FIRST SPANISH WORK UNDER COPYRIGHT

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 3, the first Spanish work to be registered under the Copyright Act 1957 (14 of 1957) is an unpublished work entitled 'LAS VISTAS DE LA REINA DE SABA' by H.E. Mr. Miguel Serrano, Ambassador of Chile in India.

Unesco Fellowship

A New Delhi announcement dated May 15 says that the UNESCO has offered, under its Major Project on Mutual Appreciation of Eastern and Western Cultural Values, a fellowship for University teachers and other specialists in social and cultural subjects for studies abroad for six months during 1960 or 1961.

The candidate must possess at least a second class Master's degree in the subject of study and at least three years' teaching or research experience in the subject. Candidates must be employed and sponsored by the university concerned or a comparable institution which will have to give a 'Release and Re-employment' certificate in the prescribed forms.

All expenses in connection with the round-trip travel and maintenance in the country of study abroad will be borne by the UNESCO authorities.

U.S.S.R. Scholarship

A Press Note issued on May 3 by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs says that a candidate has been selected for the award of a scholarship offered by the Government of the U.S.S.R. for post-graduate study or research in Mathematical Statistics in the U.S.S.R. during 1959-60.

Research Fellowships In Science By U. G. C.

According to a Press Note issued on May 15 by the University Grants Commission, 37 candidates have been selected for the award of Post-doctoral Senior and Junior Research Fellowships in Science Subjects granted by the Commission. Of these 22 candidates have been selected for Senior Fellowships and 15 for Junior Fellowships. The Senior Fellowship carries a monthly honorarium of Rs. 500, while the Junior Fellowship is of Rs. 300 per month. The selected candidates will pursue their research in the various Universities in India.

Free Passage To U.S.A. For Studies in Humanities

A New Delhi announcement of May 16 says that two free sea passages to the U.S.A. have been offered by the Hellenic Lines of New York to Indian students desirous of undertaking higher studies in the Humanities. The offer has been made to encourage the exchange of students between India and the U.S.A. and strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries.

Candidates desirous of availing the free passage facilities should have obtained admission for post-graduate studies, entirely at their own cost, in any recognised University or institution in the U.S.A. for a subject in Humanities for which facilities for higher studies are not available in India and which are important from India's point of view.

Research Division In Education Ministry

A new Division to deal with research and publication has been created in the Union Ministry of Education under the charge of Shri J.P. Naik, Adviser on Primary Education and an eminent educationist, says an announcement of May 11.

The Division will consist of a Research and Evaluation Section, a Publication Section and a Statistical Section. The work of the Research and Evaluation Section will include, among other things, promotion and publication of educational research in India, evaluation of approved educational programmes, promotion of research in Secondary Education, etc.

It will also co-ordinate the research work done at the six Central Research Institutions, namely Central Institute of Education, Central Bureau of Text-Book Research, Central Bureau of Educational and Vocational Guidance, National Institute of Basic Education, National Fundamental Education Centre and National Institute of Audio-Visual Education.

The new Division has also been entrusted with the responsibility of preparing and publishing the Year Book of Education proposed to be issued by the Education Ministry.

ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

An announcement dated May 3 says that the Government of India have revised the composition of the All-India Council for Elementary Education.

The new Council will have 27 members with Shri K.G. Saiyidain, Educational Adviser to the Government of India, as Chairman.

Besides the Chairman, the revised Council will be composed of a member representing each State Education Department; one member representing the Union Territories; and one representative each of the Planning Commission, Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, Central Advisory Board of Education, the Directorate of Extension Programmes in Secondary Education, and a Principal of a Training College. The revised Council will have three educationists connected with the field of basic education, girls' education and education of backward classes respectively, one representative of Parliament known for his work in the field of education and an Officer of the Union Ministry of Education who would act as Secretary.

The All India Council for Elementary Education was constituted by the Government of India in July 1957 to accelerate the pace of expansion of elementary education and to fulfil the Directive in Article 45 of the Constitution.

Regional Seminars On Primary Education

An announcement of May 9 says that the Union Ministry of Education is organising four Regional Seminars in May and June with the co-operation of the State Governments as a preparatory measure to the implementation of the programme of free and compulsory education during the Third Plan.

The first seminar will commence at Puri on May 10. Representatives of the States of Assam, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Manipur, Tripura and Andaman and Nicobar Islands will take part in the discussions scheduled for five days. The second seminar will be held at Mahabaleshwar from May 20 to 25 in which Bombay, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh will participate.

Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Madras, Kerala, Pondicherry and the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands will meet at the third seminar to be held at Bangalore from June 3 to June 8. The fourth seminar will be held at Simla from June 25 to June 30 for the Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPORTS

According to an announcement of May 13, the Government of India have decided to locate the National Institute of Sports at Patiala. The Institute, which will provide adequate facilities for training of coaches of the highest calibre in various games and sports, is being set up on the advice of the All India Council of Sports. The Punjab Government have offered an estate worth Rs. 14 lakhs including buildings and extensive grounds and other facilities free of cost for housing the Institute.

The National Institute of Sports will be managed by an autonomous Board of Governors, consisting of nine persons.

The Government of India have nominated the following persons to be members of the First Board of Governors: Shri P.N. Kirpal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education (Chairman); General K.S. Thimayya, Chief of the Army Staff (Member); Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, M.P. (Member); Raja Bhalindra Singh, President, I.O.A. (Member); Shri M.N. Kapur, Principal, Modern School, New Delhi (Member); Shri N.N. Wanchoo, Finance Secretary, Government of India (Financial Adviser) and two other members to be nominated by the All India Council of Sports and the Punjab Government respectively.

SUMMER SCHOOL FOR BOTANIST

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 4, about 40 young research and field workers in botany from various Universities and the Botanical Survey of India will participate in a Summer School of Botany which commences in Darjeeling on June 2.

The two-week School which is being organised by the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, is intended to provide an opportunity to young research workers to get together and discuss problems of mutual interest in their respective fields of study.

Progress Of Indian Everest Expedition

The Indian Everest Expedition reached the South Col at a height of 26,000 feet and established Camp VI there on the afternoon of May 9, according to a message received in Delhi on May 11.

The South Col is the final firm base, and though the Expedition will now be poised for the ascent, its further advance will depend on favourable weather. Meanwhile, with the route to the South Col now having been opened over the difficult Lhotse Face, the high-altitude ferry plane has been put into operation, with the Sherpas carrying tents, stores, food and oxygen beyond Camp V. During the last few days, progress was considerably slowed down because of rarefied atmosphere and bad weather conditions.

The organisation for controlling the ferries has been shifted to the advance base (Camp III) to ensure smooth movement of stores and equipment to the South Col for the summit teams.

TAGORE CENTENARY FUND

According to a New Delhi announcement dated May 7, a sum of Rs. 4,39,995 had been received in the Rabindranath Tagore Centenary Fund up to May 5. A number of individuals, leading industrial and business houses and other organisations are donating to the Fund.

Nation-wide celebrations will be held in May, 1961, to mark the 100th birth anniversary of the poet.

A Central Committee headed by the Prime Minister was constituted last year to organise the celebrations.

Health

HEALTH CONDITIONS IN MARCH, 1960

A New Delhi announcement of May 13 says that according to preliminary reports received up to March 26, 1960, 5 cases and 2 deaths due to plague were reported from Salem district of Madras State during the week ended March 19, 1960. Smallpox and cholera continued to be reported from some districts of the country.

CHOLERA:—Mild incidence prevailed throughout the month in Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh, and Midnapur district and Calcutta city in West Bengal. Mild incidence was also reported from Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh and Burdwan district in West Bengal during the second week of the month.

SMALLPOX:—Mild incidence was reported throughout the month from the districts of Visakhapatnam, West Godavari, Krishna, Nellore, Anantapur and Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh; Nowgong district in Assam; Greater Bombay and Wardha district in Bombay State; the districts of Kolar, Belgaum, Bijapur, Chikmagalur, Bellary, Dharawar and South Kanara in Mysore State; South Arcot, Tiruchirappalli, Tanjore, Ramanathapuram, North Arcot, Coimbatore and Madras City in Madras State; the districts of Agra, Allahabad, Bijnore, Bulandshahr, Farrukhabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Meerut and Muzzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh; Burdwan and Midnapur districts in West Bengal, and Pondicherry. Mild incidence was also reported from the district of Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh; Amraoti district in Bombay State; Dhankanal, Keraput, and Mayurbhanj districts in Orissa; Chitaldrug and Raichur districts in Mysore State; Nagaur district in Rajasthan; Mathura and Fatehpur districts in Uttar Pradesh during the last week of the month.

KYSANUR FOREST DISEASE:—During the fortnight ended March 12, 17 cases were reported from the Shimoga district in Mysore State as against 15 cases during the previous fortnight.

GASTRO-ENTERITIS: Ninety-eight cases and 6 deaths were reported from Uttar Pradesh during the fortnight ended March 12 as against 43 cases and one death during the previous fortnight.

INFLUENZA:—Stray cases were reported from Assam, Bombay and West Bengal.

DENTAL CLINICS

An announcement of May 8 says that during the Second Plan period the Union Ministry of Health has so far sanctioned the establishment of 107 dental clinics in district hospitals in various States. Of these, 58 clinics have already been set up.

The Statewise break-up of the number of clinics approved and opened respectively is as follows:—

Andhra Pradesh — 18, 10; Assam — 3, nil; Bihar — 12, 4; Jammu and Kashmir — 7, 7; Kerala — 7, 4; Mysore — 3, 3; Madhya Pradesh — 5, 2; Madras — 10, 7; Orissa — 4 nil; Punjab — 7, 7; Rajasthan — 12, 10; Uttar Pradesh — 8, 4; and West Bengal — 11, nil.

Grants amounting to Rs. 5,60,391 were sanctioned to State Governments during the years 1956-59 for dental clinics.

The scheme for the establishment of 350 clinics in district hospitals throughout the country has been included in the Second Plan. The expenditure on the clinics is shared by the Union and State Governments.

DELEGATION TO A W H

A New Delhi announcement dated May 1 says that the Government of India have decided to send a delegation to the thirteenth World Health Assembly which will meet in Geneva from May 3, 1960.

Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, will lead the delegation. The other members of the delegation are: Dr. A.L. Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras; Lt.-Col. V. Srinivasan, Director-General of Health Services; Dr. C.G. Pandit, Director, Indian Council of Medical Research; and Shri A.S. Mehta, Consul General of India at Geneva.

The World Health Organisation holds the annual meeting of its Assembly usually in May, when delegates representing member States meet to determine the broad policies of the Organisation, decide its programme and budget and adopt such international health regulations as may be necessary. The forthcoming session of the Assembly is expected to last for three weeks.

Social Welfare

PROGRESS OF PROHIBITION

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 3, almost all the States in India have introduced a phased programme of prohibition in areas other than declared dry.

States like Madras and Bombay, which observe total prohibition, have made the laws stringent and have enhanced punishment. The States enforcing phased programmes have taken the following steps:

In former Hyderabad State it has been decided to shift all toddy and liquor shops from populated places. The Assam Liquor Prohibition Act has been extended to the South Kamrup portion of the Gauhati Sub-division. In the areas other than Kamrup, various measures have been adopted such as the reduction of the sale of liquor to one bottle from three at a time. The sale of 30 u.p. liquor has been prohibited in some tea garden areas.

Bihar has constituted a Prohibition Board to consider the details of policy and to review the progress of revision from time to time. A Technical Committee has also been set up.

Madhya Pradesh is considering a draft bill to stop drinking at public places and public receptions.

Mysore has adopted several measures, such as gradual raising of duty licence fee, shifting of shops one mile away of the prohibition areas, reduction of issue of opium to shops, and declaring advertisements of liquors as an offence.

Punjab has prohibited the sale of liquor to students of all ages and to all persons below 25 years. Grant of licences for retail vend of foreign spirit for consumption 'on' the premises is prohibited, except with the approval of the Government. The State has prohibited the printing, publishing or otherwise displaying any advertisement or soliciting the use of or offering the use of any intoxicant calculated to encourage or incite any individual or class of individuals or the public generally to commit an offence under the Excise Act.

Rajasthan has issued a circular to public servants that they should set an example by abstaining from drinks. Orders have also been issued that country liquor shops be gradually removed from the living quarters or main streets. Uttar Pradesh has prohibited the sale of ganja. There will be also no sale of opium husk in the dry area of U.P., which is 26,398 sq. miles.

West Bengal has imposed a Dry Day in industrial areas and reduced the hours of transactions in the Excise Shops.

In Delhi, restriction has been placed on the printing or publishing of advertisement etc. and on sale of liquor to any one below twenty-five. The number of country liquor shops has been reduced from 7 to 2 and *Dhabas* attached to these shops have been abolished. The saleable strength of country liquor and the number of licences have been reduced. Clubs have been licensed and sale of foreign liquor in these clubs is confined to members only. Number of dry days has been increased from one to two a week. A number of other days important from national or religious point of view have also been declared as dry days. Assessment fee has been considerably increased. The possession limit of foreign liquor and beer has been reduced to two and eight bottles respectively. Duty on all varieties of country liquor has been increased by 5 nP. per gallon.

There is total prohibition in certain areas of Himachal Pradesh. In other areas, the quota of country liquor has been reduced and the number of excise shops has been brought down. Liquor shops in Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been closed for five days in a week. The import of foreign liquor has been banned and toddy shops closed.

Welfare Of Backward Classes

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 13, almost 90% of the outlay of Rs. 91 crores for the welfare of Backward Classes would have been spent by the end of the Second Plan.

The allocation for the current year amounts to Rs. 26.93 crores. The States and Union Territories utilised Rs. 33.9 crores that is, 37 per cent of the Plan outlay, during the first three years of the Plan.

To avoid shortfalls, various steps have been taken by the Centre. The annual plans of the States are finalised. They have been empowered to go ahead with the implementation of the schemes without waiting for formal sanction from the Centre.

Advances equal to three-fourths of the Central assistance due to the State Governments are given by the Union Finance Ministry in nine equal monthly instalments. Quarterly expenditure reports from the State Governments are examined so as to spot out the progress of the implementation of the schemes.

Also, the States can now regulate expenditure on schemes included under education, economic uplift, health and housing without the prior concurrence of the Government of India. Further they can re-appropriate funds to the extent of 25 per cent from one group of schemes to another. However, the priorities intended in the Plan should not be distorted and the special schemes like multi-purpose tribal blocks and grant of scholarships not disturbed.

LOW INCOME GROUP HOUSING SCHEME

An announcement of May 11 says that the Government of India have decided to extend the scope of the Low Income Group Housing Scheme to enable universities and recognised non-governmental educational institutions to avail themselves of loan assistance under the scheme. At present, individuals with an annual income not exceeding Rs. 6,000 and co-operative societies of such individuals can obtain loan for building their own houses. Besides, co-operative tenancy societies, certain categories of public institutions, hospitals, educational trusts, charitable institutions, local bodies and State Governments can obtain loan for construction of houses to be sold or let out to eligible persons.

Since the inception of the Scheme in November 1954 up to the end of December 1959, 74,430 houses were sanctioned under the Scheme and 45,848 were completed. The number of houses under construction at the end of December 1959, was 15,870. Also, during this period 4,674 acres of land were acquired and of these 2,832 were developed. Out of a provision of Rs. 35.60 crores in the Second Plan for the Low Income Group Housing Scheme, the States are expected to draw Rs. 35.14 crores i.e., 99.1 per cent of the allocation by the end of the Plan period.

Under the scheme, which is administered by the State Governments and Union Administrations, loan to the extent of 80 per cent of the cost of the house, including cost of land, subject to a maximum of Rs. 8,000 per house, is available. Short-term loans are also advanced by the Central Government to the States for acquisition and development of land and for sale of developed sites to eligible persons.

REHOUSING FACILITIES UNDER SLUM CLEARANCE SCHEME

A New Delhi announcement dated May 4 says that rehousing facilities for 1,431 more families living in slums in Kerala, Mysore, Bombay, Madras, Rajasthan and Punjab will be provided under 12 slum clearance projects now ready for implementation. The Central Government reviewed these projects, which were formulated by the State Governments, during March 1960, and authorised the State Governments to go ahead with the implementation of the projects subject to certain modifications aimed at improving the livability of houses, etc. The projects provide for 35 tenements and 1.046 open developed plots at a cost of Rs. 31.51 lakhs.

Under the Slum Clearance Scheme, which was formulated in May 1956, 156 projects, providing for the construction of 41,239 housing units in various States and Union Territories, were sanctioned till the end of March 1960. Of these, 16,487 housing units had been completed or were under various stages of construction.

Reclamation Work in Dandakaranya

An announcement of May 8 says that the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation has decided to import special type of tractors for stepping up reclamation work in

Dandakaranya. Under the programme the Ministry will purchase three fully mechanised units comprising 45 tractors, complete with attachments and accessories for jungle clearance operations.

Out of Rs. 1.30 crores sanctioned for the purchase of these units, tractors and machinery worth Rs. 95 lakhs will be required to be imported from the U.S.A. Arrangements are also being made to purchase five fully mechanised units of 75 Komatsu tractors through the Director General, Ordnance Factories.

At present 45 tractors, acquired from the Central Tractor Organisation, are in operation in Umerkote zone and 28 Komatsu tractors in Parlkote zone of the Dandakaranya area.

The Project authorities plan to reclaim about 70,000 acres of land by the end of the next working season. Already, 6,000 acres of forest land have been reclaimed in Umerkote and 7,000 acres cleared of jungle in Parlkote.

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR D.Ps.

According to a brochure, "Training and Employment Opportunities for D.Ps." brought out by the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Government of India have spent over Rs. 7.5 crores on creating employment opportunities for the D.Ps. from East Pakistan settled in West Bengal. This includes expenditure on providing vocational and technical training, setting up of cottage, small and medium industries and establishing co-operatives and training-cum-production centres.

Of the total amount, Rs. 2 crores have been spent on providing vocational and technical training through Government and non-official institutions. So far, over 38,000 D.Ps. have been trained under these schemes and over 2,300 are under training. A sum of Rs. 2.89 crores has been advanced to medium-scale industries to provide employment to over 7,800 D.Ps. and Rs. 1.30 crores sanctioned to the West Bengal State Transport Department for providing jobs to over 3,400 D.Ps.

Training-cum-production centres have been set up in camps and Homes at a cost of Rs. 11.61 lakhs for 1,800 persons.

All this has been done under a three-point plan formulated by the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation.

REHABILITATION OF D.Ps. IN ASSAM

A New Delhi announcement of May 13 says that the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation, in consultation with the Assam Government, has decided to resolve the residuary problem of rehabilitation in the State during this year.

The total number of D.Ps. from East Pakistan in the State is 4.87 lakhs. The problem that remains is mainly one of giving loans to displaced families for business, agriculture or construction of houses.

To meet these requirements, the Union Ministry has placed Rs. 35 lakhs at the disposal of the Assam Government. This amount includes Rs. 22 lakhs for urban house building loans, Rs. 3 lakhs for urban business loans, Rs. 2 lakhs for rural small trade loans, Rs. 2 lakhs for rural house building loans and Rs. 6 lakhs for agriculture loans.

Following the disbursement of loans, the State Gvernment, according to a phased programme, will transfer different items of rehabilitation work to the appropriate permanent departments of the State Government.

The Assam Government also plan to work out industrial schemes for improving the economic condition of displaced persons settled in the State. These schemes include setting up of an Industrial Estate, establishing powerlooms and a calendering unit and starting sugarcane plantation in Cachar district.

Medical Facilities For D.Ps. In W. Bengal

According to an announcement dated May 5, the Government of India have spent over Rs. 3 lakhs so far on providing medical facilities to displaced persons in West Bengal.

Special attention has been given to fight tuberculosis among the D.Ps. Nearly 600 beds costing the Government about Rs. 71 lakhs have been reserved for displaced T.B. patients. Those awaiting hospitalisation and their dependents are given special monthly allowance in addition to other facilities. The allowance given so far amounts to Rs. 57 lakhs. Over Rs. 16 lakhs have been spent for reserving beds for D.Ps. in Nursing Homes, Sanitoria and Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

In Government run camps, Rs. 1 crore 11 lakhs have been spent for providing hospitals, dispensaries, ambulance vans and medical staff. In addition, special diet allowance is given to the sick and nutritious diet provided for expectant mothers and infants.

The success of the measures undertaken is reflected in the health statistics of the displaced persons which show that the average death rate of 8 per thousand is no more than the average for the rest of the population in the State.

Survey Of Rural Life

A New Delhi announcement dated May 5 says that 35 villages in each of the States in India will be selected during the 1961 Census to study the economic and social life of the community. These will be 'typical villages' as far as possible. Tribal villages will be included to represent a particular tribe each. Villages important from the point of view of cottage industries and handicrafts will also be covered.

The purpose of the enquiry is mainly to collect basic information about the layout of the villages and amenities available to the population, such as educational, medical, communications, postal, etc. The study follows the old Indian Census tradition of conducting sociological enquiries apart from the presentation of the census data in the Census Report.

GRANTS FOR FAMILY PLANNING

An announcement of May 2 says that the Government of India have decided to give a token grant of Rs. 1,000 per annum for distribution of contraceptives to commercial organisations, manufacturers, mills, factories, etc. The organisations have to be recommended by the Administrative Medical Officer of the State. They will have to establish family planning clinics in their concerns for the benefit of their workers with their own funds. Free educational material and facilities for training will also be provided by the Government.

Labour & Employment

REPORT OF INFORMAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON GORAKHPUR LABOUR

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 5, the Informal Committee of Parliament on Gorakhpur Labour has recommended in its report that the Gorakhpur Labour Organisation and the Coalfields Recruiting Organisation should be replaced by a system which it has outlined in the report. The Committee has suggested that the recruiting functions of the Gorakhpur Labour Organisation should be Resettlement and Employment of the Union Labour Ministry. The Welfare work of the Coalfields Recruiting Organisation at worksites should be entrusted to the Coal Mines Welfare Fund Organisation, a statutory body of the Labour Ministry.

The Committee has specified the functions which the D.G.R.E. should take over. These include the recruitment and medical examination of Gorakhpur labour seeking employment in collieries, proper maintenance of the existing Collecting Centre at Gorakhpur where the workers are kept before they are sent to the coalfields, as also the record office until such time as is possible to extend this facility to all workers at worksites and maintenance of the labour hospital at Gorakhpur.

As regards welfare activities at worksites, the Committee has recommended that the Coal Mines Welfare Fund Organisation should set up a small tripartite committee with wide powers to carry them out effectively.

Equal Treatment

In order to extend to all colliery workers the advantages enjoyed by Gorakhpur labour, the Committee has recommended that a Welfare Officer should be appointed by the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Organisation to look after all mine workers in his sector. Also, the camps at worksites where workers are lodged should be called workers' hostels. Accommodation in workers' hostels should be made available to such local workers who live without families at worksites and may wish to join a hostel. Any Gorakhpur worker desiring to live outside the hostel should be permitted to do so. Gorakhpur workers should be free to bring their families to the worksites. All workers, whether local or from outside, must be treated equally.

As regards security of employment, the Committee found that while employers were willing to offer such terms as would ensure continuity of service for the workers, Gorakhpur labour preferred short-term employment with freedom to go and return as and when they liked. The Committee has, therefore, recommended that whoever desires to become permanent should be made permanent.

The Gorakhpur Organisation, which is run by Government, has been recruiting labour from Gorakhpur and the adjoining areas for the coalfields, while the Coalfields Recruiting Organisation, set up by the employers, has been functioning as the sole indenting agency for supply of Gorakhpur labour to the collieries.

The Informal Committee of Parliament was set up in September 1959 to work out a scheme for implementing the decision to abolish the Gorakhpur Labour Organisation subject to certain considerations. The Union Deputy Minister for Labour, Shri Abid Ali, was Chairman of the Committee, which consisted of 10 Members of Parliament.

Survey Of Graduate Employment

In a Press Note issued on May 15, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has announced that the Director General of Resettlement and Employment, Government of India, has undertaken an All India Survey of Graduate Employment, on a sample basis. The survey aims at collecting information in respect of graduates who took University degrees in 1954, regarding their subsequent employment and income. It is also expected to reveal the relation between employment and the subjects studied at college, the extent of unemployment and various other facts relating to the post-educational careers of graduates.

The survey includes graduates and post-graduates of the year 1954 from various Universities. In addition, graduates of 1950 from the Universities of Agra, Andhra and Patna have also been included.

The survey has been undertaken with the co-operation of the Universities. The enquiry is being made from a sample of approximately 22,000 graduates.

HOUSES FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

According to an announcement dated May 14, the construction of 2,935 houses for industrial workers under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme in Madhya Pradesh, Bombay and Madras was sanctioned by the State Governments concerned during April 1960. The houses in Bombay and Madras will be built either by private employers or co-operative societies, while construction of those in Madhya Pradesh will be undertaken by the State Government itself.

The total cost of these housing schemes is esitmated at Rs. 91 lakhs.

During the first 4 years of the Second Plan, construction of 46,580 houses by different constructing agencies, namely, State Governments, co-operatives of industrial workers and private employers, were sanctioned under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme. Till the end of December 1959, 44,926 houses including some sanctioned in the First Plan were reported to have been completed.

Report Of Employees' P.F. Scheme For 1958-59

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 7, the annual report for 1958-59 of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme shows that the number of establishments covered by the Scheme increased from 6,528 in 1957-58 to 7,024 and the number of subscribers from 24.27 lakhs to 25.43 lakhs during the year.

During the year, the Employees' Provident Funds Act was extended to one more industry, bringing the total number of industries covered to 38. The provident fund contributions collected up to the end of March 1959, exclusive of refunds, amounted to about Rs. 132 crores as compared with Rs. 110 crores at the end of March, 1958.

Attention was mainly devoted during the year to consolidating existing gains in order to make the Scheme more effective. The scheme was amended to enable members to draw temporary advances from the fund for treatment of serious or prolonged illness of the subscribers themselves or members of their families. By another amendment, employees were permitted to contribute to the Provident Fund up to 8 1/3% of their basic wage and dearness allowance, as compared with the original rate of 6¼%.

The Employees' Provident Funds Act was amended to bring within its perview establishments belonging to Government or local bodies and thereby placing private and public undertakings on an equal footing so far as application of the Act was concerned.

Committee To Assess P.F. Burden

According to a resolution in the Gazette of India dated May 12, the Government of India have constituted a Technical Committee to ascertain if there are industries which are not capable of bearing the additional burden arising out of the proposal to increase the provident fund rate from 6¼% to 8 1/3%.

Shri M.R. Meher is the Chairman of the Committee which consists of four other members. In addition, employers' and workers' organisations will be requested to nominate an additional expert for each industry when it is taken up for investigation.

The Committee will take up the following six industries for investigation, in the first instance: (1) cement, (2) cigarettes, (3) electrical, mechanical or general engineering projects, (4) iron and steel, (5) paper, and (6) textiles. Examination of the cement and textile industries will be taken up last.

In the terms of reference of the Committee, it has been explained that, in conducting its investigations, the Committee should take into consideration gratuity or other similar retirement benefits available to the employees of all or some of the units in a particular industry. Also, in making its recommendations to Government, the Committee should see whether enhancement in the rate of contribution to the provident fund will threaten the existence of the smaller or weaker units to any appreciable extent.

The headquarters of the Committee will be at Bombay.

The States

JUNIOR GUARDS FOR DELHI

An announcement dated May 12 says that a separate wing for boys and girls has been added to the Home Guards Organisation in Delhi.

Known as 'Junior Guards', both the girls and boys get training in foot-drill, elementary fire-fighting etc, An air rifle club is also being started for the members' training.

Soon, the Junior Guards will have a youth centre where they will get training in wireless and wood work. They will also be given lectures on aviation so as to make them air-minded.

Women's Wing

A women's wing—two batches with 40 girls each—is also now an integral part of Delhi's Home Guards Organisation. The members get training in foot-drill, first-aid, ambulance work, elementary fire-fighting, rescue, etc., at the Indraprastha College and Tis Hazari.

One of the main jobs that the women's wing will be called upon to do during emergency is to operate the communication centres. Forty girls have already started training in telephone operation, operational methods of control of communications, etc.

The women's wing, which has social workers, housewives, school teachers and college students as members, will also be taught motor-driving.

A 10-day camp will be held in Delhi towards the end of May to acquaint the members with different aspects of public services, social welfare, etc.

The Home Guards Organisation was established in Delhi in June last year when the Bombay Home Guards Act, 1947, was extended to the Union Territory.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY IN NEUROLOGY

According to an announcement of May 12, the Shyamjee Memorial Trust, New Delhi, has set apart funds for the award of a scholarship to a qualified medical graduate from Delhi or Punjab University for higher studies abroad in Neurology with emphasis on head injuries.

The candidate should be a graduate in medicine and must have practised medicine either independently or in a hospital for some years. He must either belong to Delhi or should be in a position to stay and practice in Delhi ultimately.

The scholarship will cover the passage both ways and university/college fees for the prescribed period of the course. Candidates should apply to the Directorate General of Health Services, Government of India, before June 15, 1960.

Flood Control In J & K

The Jammu and Kashmir Flood Control Board held its third meeting in Srinagar on May 11. Shri C.L. Kotwal, State Development Minister, presided over the deliberations.

A number of matters concerning flood control works were discussed and processed. It was announced at the meeting that the Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission had approved an estimate amounting to Rs. 8.21 crores for improving the capacity of the outfall channel of the Jhelum. This work will be carried out over a number of years.

Problems relating to the collection of data for planning flood control works both in the Jammu and Kashmir provinces and arrangements for procurement of essential machinery were also discussed at the meeting.

ASSENT FOR RAJASTHAN WARE HOUSES BILL, 1959

According to an announcement of May 11, the President has given assent to the Rajasthan Warehouses (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

The legislation seeks to prohibit the Central and State Warehousing Corporations in Rajasthan from lending money on the security of goods deposited with them, as the basic principles of warehousing envisage that warehousemen should not provide credit facilities.

The warehouses licensed under the Sea Customs Act, the Inland Bonded Warehouses Act and the Central Excises and Salt Act have been excluded from the purview of the Bill.

ASSENT FOR ASSAM BILL

According to an announcement of May 4, the President has given assent to the Assam Tea Plantations Employees' Welfare Fund Bill, 1959.

The legislation seeks to provide for the constitution of a fund for financing and conducting the activities to promote welfare of tea plantation employees in Assam.

It has been brought to the notice of the State Government that large amounts of unpaid money due to workers in tea plantations are lying with employers. It is now proposed to set up a plantation employees' welfare fund on statutory basis to be financed out of this money.

Defence

ADVANCED LEADERSHIP COURSES IN N.C.C.

A New Delhi announcement dated May 7 says that the special adventure courses for boys of the Senior Division of the National Cadet Corps, which were organised in 1959, amply proved their worth and value in developing leadership, a high sense of co-operation, team spirit, resourcefulness, discipline and ability to take quick independent decisions amongst cadets. Government have, therefore, decided to make these training courses, now re-designated as advanced leadership courses, a permanent feature, with certain modifications found necessary in the light of experience gained.

The duration of each course has been increased from 14 to 17 days, while its capacity in future will be one N.C.C. officer and 30 cadets, which will normally include one officer and four cadets from the State/Circle Cadet

Corps organising the course and two cadets each from the remaining circles.

PROGRAMME OF COURSES

The advanced leadership courses this year will be held at Kodaikanal from May 2 to 18, Ranikhet from May 23 to June 8, Gulmarg from May 23 to June 8, Delhi from May 23 to June 8, Darjeeling from May 2 to 18, Mount Abu from May 23 to June [illegible], and Mysore from May 2 to 18. A camp has already been held in Shillong in April.

As last year, four all-India summer training camps at selected centres for boys of the Senior Division and girls of the Senior Wing of the Girls Division are also being held this year to bring together cadets from different parts of the country and give them an opportunity of mixing with each other. These camps are being held at Dharamsala, Secunderabad and Mount Abu from April 25 to May 8, and another one at Shillong will start on May 23.

The usual combined cadre and social service camps are being held in May and June this year near Bombay, Poona, Nagpur, Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli, Ranikhet, Dehra Dun, Delhi, Ambala, Adampur, Dharampur, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chirala, Ellore and Visakhapatnam.

T.A. And L.S.S. Conference

A three-day conference of the Territorial Army and the Lok Sahayak Sena was inaugurated in New Delhi on May 3 by Major-General D. Som Dutt, Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Army Headquarters.

In the course of his address, Maj-Gen. Som Dutt exhorted the two auxiliary forces to be vigilant in the performance of their duties and be ever prepared to face any eventuality that may arise.

Meeting Of Railway T.A. Units

A meeting of the Group Commanders of the Railway Territorial Army Units was inaugurated in New Delhi on May 10 by Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Deputy Minister for Railways.

The meeting, which was attended among others by representatives of the Ministry of Railway and Defence, discussed a number of subjects covering problems of recruitment of railwaymen to territorial army units, creation of more such units on certain railways, the relief of railwaymen from certain routine duties during the period of training camps, etc. Training programme for Railway Territorial Army Units for 1960-61 was also discussed.

FAMILY WELFARE CENTRE IN DELHI CANTONMENT

Major-General Bikram Singh, G.O.C. Delhi and Rajasthan Area, formally opened a family welfare centre at the Rajputana Rifles, Delhi Cantonment, on May 4.

Intended for the benefit of the families of the J.C.O's and other ranks, the centre is housed in a spacious building. It has a general information room, a children's recreation room and a sewing room. Tailoring, handicrafts and general education classes are conducted at the centre, where free milk is distributed to children of the unit personnel.

VISIT OF BRITISH DEFENCE SCIENTIST

Mr. H.A. Sargeaunt, Scientific Adviser to the Army Council in the U.K. and Chairman of the Working Party of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Defence Science, arrived in New Delhi on May 9, at the invitation of the Government of India.

Mr. Sargeaunt's mission includes, among other things, promotion of closer understanding and greater co-operation among defence scientists of the Commonwealth countries on problems of mutual interest. He is scheduled to visit a number of defence laboratories and establishments in India.

VISIT OF INDONESIAN ARMY DEPUTY CHIEF

Maj.-Gen. Gatot Soebroto, Deputy Chief of the Indonesian Army, left Delhi for Rangoon on May 5 on the conclusion of his 20-day tour of the country which included visits to various Army institutions and ordnance factories.

A silver crest of the Indian Army was presented to Gen. Soebroto by the Chief of the Army Staff, Gen. K.S. Thimayya, the previous day.

India & The World

INDIAN BALLET TROUPE ABROAD

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 5, the Little Ballet troupe of Bombay is now in Paris participating in the International Drama Festival organised by the Theatre des Nations. The Troupe gave its first performance on May 2.

The troupe is on an extensive tour of Europe, North Africa and Latin America, sponsored by the Government of India. It will also take part in the Belgium Mondial Festival at Brussels and the Holland Festival.

One of the foremost ballet troupes in the country, the Little Ballet group was founded in January 1952.

It will visit Morocco and Tunisia for over a month at the invitation of the Governments of Morocco and Tunisia. In Morocco, the group will present programmes in aid of the earthquake victims. This is the first time that an Indian Troupe is visiting these countries.

The troupe will, thereafter, go to Latin America on a three-week visit staging performances in Brazil, Chile and Argentine. On their way back from Latin America the ballet dancers will participate in the Edinburgh Festival and stage shows in London. The entire tour is expected to last six months.

Indian Gift For U.S. Vice-President

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 5, a large-sized nickel plated water pitcher, with traditional design etched on the surface, was presented to the U.S. Vice-President, Mr. Richard M. Nixon, on May 4 by the Consul-General of India in New York, Shri Gopala Menon.

The presentation was made when Mr. Nixon visited the Indian pavilion at the International Trade Fair which opened in New York on May 4. India is participating in the fair and has on display a variety of goods in handicrafts, handlooms and other textiles, light engineering, food and allied products and raw-material.

AMBASSADOR TO ITALY

In a Press Note dated May 7, the Ministry of External Affairs has announced that Shri Sunder Narain Haksar, till recently Ambassador of India in Afghanistan, has been appointed as Ambassador of India to Italy and concurrently as Minister to Albania. He will assume charge of his new assignment in May, 1960.

AMBASSADOR TO AFGHANISTAN

In a Press Note issued on May 9, the Ministry of External Affairs has announced that Shri Jagan Nath Dhamija, Commissioner for India in Mauritius, has been appointed as Ambassador of India to Afghanistan. He will assume charge of his new assignment in July, 1960.

CORRECTION

Page No. 365 of Vol. II No. 12 (issue dated July 15, 1959) should be read as 465. The page numbers of the subsequent issues of Vol. II should read as follows :

No.	Date of publication	Original page Numbers	Corrected page Numbers
	1959		
13.	August 1,	369-404	469-504
14.	August 15,	405-452	505-552
15.	September 1,	453-500	553-600
16.	September 15,	509-548	601-640
17.	October 1,	549-600	641-692
18.	October 15,	601-644	693-736
19.	November 1,	645-676	737-768
20.	November 15,	677-724	769-816
21.	December 1,	725-760	817-852
22.	December 15,	761-820	853-912
	1960		
23.	January 1,	821-864	913-956
24.	January 15,	865-912	957-1004

The error is very much regretted.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

MAY 1 To 15

May 1 — Two new States, Maharashtra and Gujarat, come into existence under the Bombay Reorganisation Act

The Vice-President, Dr. Radhakrishnan, presents the Film Awards for 1959 at a ceremony held in New Delhi

— The Public Accounts Committee of Parliament is reconstituted

3 — The Government of India announce the reconstitution of the All India Council for Elementary Education

4 — An agreement is signed in Washington between the Governments of the U.S.A. and India providing for the sale to India of 16 million metric tons of wheat and one million metric tons of rice over a period of four years

— A two-day meeting of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee begins in New Delhi

7 — An agreement is signed in New Delhi between the Governments of India and Poland for the utilisation of the Polish credit to India amounting to Rs. 14.3 crores

— The Union Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, lays the foundation-stone of the Jamnalal Bajaj Sagar Dam of the Mahi Multi-purpose Project near Banswara in Rajasthan

9 — The first unit of the steel rolling mills is commissioned at the Durgapur Steel Works

— The Indian Everest Expedition establishes Camp VI at a height of 26,000 feet on the South Col

10 — The Coal Council of India meets in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Sardar Swaran Singh, Union Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel

12 — The Government of India set up a Technical Committee to ascertain if there are industries which cannot afford to bear the additional burden arising from the proposed increase in the rate of employees' provident fund

14 — Oil is found at Ankaleshwar, about 100 miles south of Cambay in Gujarat

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PERMANENT REGULAR COMMISSION IN THE ARMY

GRADUATES' COURSE JANUARY, 1961
INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY
DEHRA DUN

Applications from Male Indian citizens are invited for Permanent Regular Commissions in the Corps of Engineers, Signals, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, the Army Education Corps and Army Service Corps (Food Inspection Organisation) for the course commencing in January, 1961.

AGE-LIMITS :—(*i*) For Engrs./Sigs./EME/ASC (Food Inspection Organisation)-Candidates must have been born not earlier than 2nd January, 1934 and not later than 1st January, 1941. (*ii*) For AEC—Candidates must have been born not earlier than 2nd January, 1934 and not later than 1st January, 1938.

MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

(A) Engrs./Signals/EME—(i) A degree/diploma in Civil, Electrical, Mechanical or Telecommunication Engineering recognised by the Institution of Engineers (India) in exemption of passing their Associate Membership Examination; OR (ii) Any other degree or diploma in Electrical, Mechanical, Civil or Telecommunication Engineering recognised by the Ministry of Education for recruitment to superior posts under Central Government; OR (iii) M.Sc. (Tech) in Radio Engineering and Electronics of College of Science and Technology, Calcutta. OR (iv) Diploma in Electronics (DMIT) of Madras Institute of Technology, Madras.

(B) ARMY EDUCATION CORPS—(i) An M.A./M.Sc. degree of a recognised University plus a degree /diploma in teaching; OR (ii) An M.A./M.Sc. degree of a recognised University with at least 3 years' experience of teaching in a College/University.

(C) ARMY SERVICE CORPS (Food Inspection Organisation)—(a) Minimum Essential—M.Sc. degree in Chemistry/Biochemistry with two years' research experience in Technology or Biochemistry of foods. (b) Additional qualification desirable—(i) Experience in food inspection and analysis in public health or any other recognised laboratory: (ii) Research experience in either Technology or Biochemistry of foodstuffs; (iii) Knowledge of sampling/inspection procedure and (iv) Knowledge of pest control measures.

NOTE :—Candidates who have appeared or intend to appear at an examination the passing of which would render them eligible may also apply.

SELECTION, TRAINING AND COMMISSIONING

Eligible candidates will be interviewed by a Services Selection Board. Selected candidates will undergo a twelve months' course at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, on successful completion of which they will be granted a regular commission in the rank of Second Lieutenant. Those who are graduates in Engineering may be granted provisional Short Service Regular Commission for the period of their training, on completion of which they will be granted a Permanent Regular Commission, and an ante-date of approximately two years in accordance with the prescribed rules.

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF VACANCIES

The provisional number of vacancies for this course is 25. These vacancies are liable to alteration at any stage.

Application form and full particulars can be had free on furnishing details of age and educational/technical qualifications from ARMY HEADQUARTERS, Adjutant General's Branch, ORG 6 (SP) (b), DHQ P.O. NEW DELHI-11.

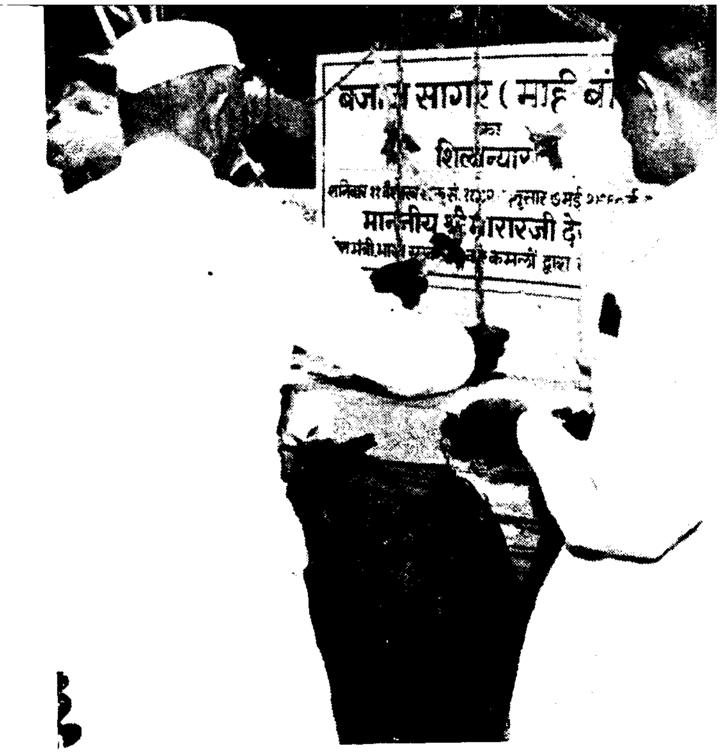
LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS

For candidates residing in India	8th June, 1960
For candidates in the employ of Government	29th June, 1960
For candidates residing abroad	23rd July, 1960

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Deputy Minister of Railways, at the inaugural meeting of Group Commanders of the Railway Territorial Army, in New Delhi on May 10

The Polish Minister for Foreign Trade, Dr. W. Trampezynski (left), with the Vice-President, Dr. Radhakrishnan, in New Delhi on May 4

Dr. A.M.N. Shafei of the Social Welfare and Labour Department of the Government of the United Arab Republic being greeted by children when he visited a Welfare Extension Project Area near New Delhi on May 8



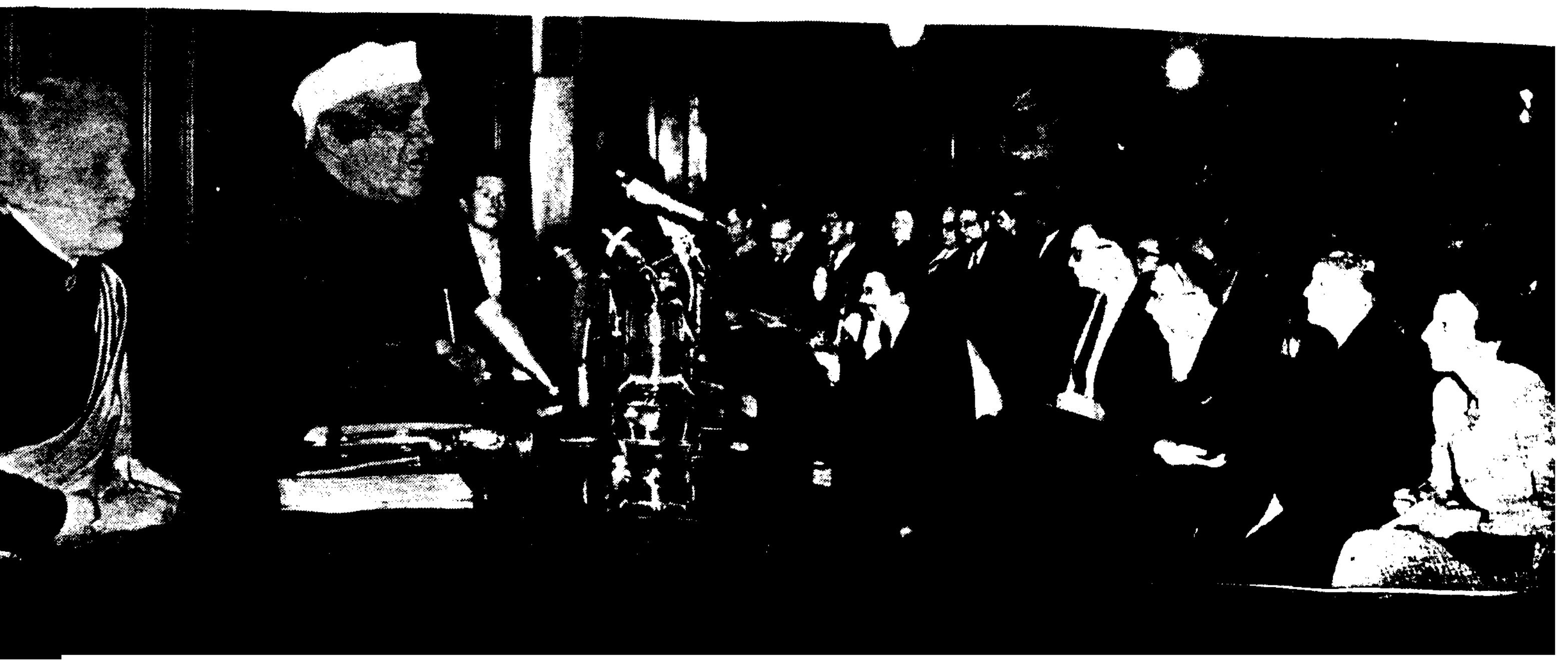
Shri Morarji Desai, Union Finance Minister, laying the foundation stone of earth-cum-masonry dam over the river Mahi in Rajasthan which will create a reservoir to impound 60,000 million cubic fe of water for irrigation and power generation

Shri K. C. Reddy, Union Minister of Works, Housing and Sup receiving on behalf of the Government of India the gift of the pavilion at the World Agriculture Fair from the U.S. Ambass in India H.E. Mr. Ellsworth Bunker, in New Delhi on April 14

Regd. No.
D—940

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, while in London to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, being greeted by students when he visited his old school, Harrow, where he studied from 1905 to 1907

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, answering questions at a press conference at India House in London on May 2



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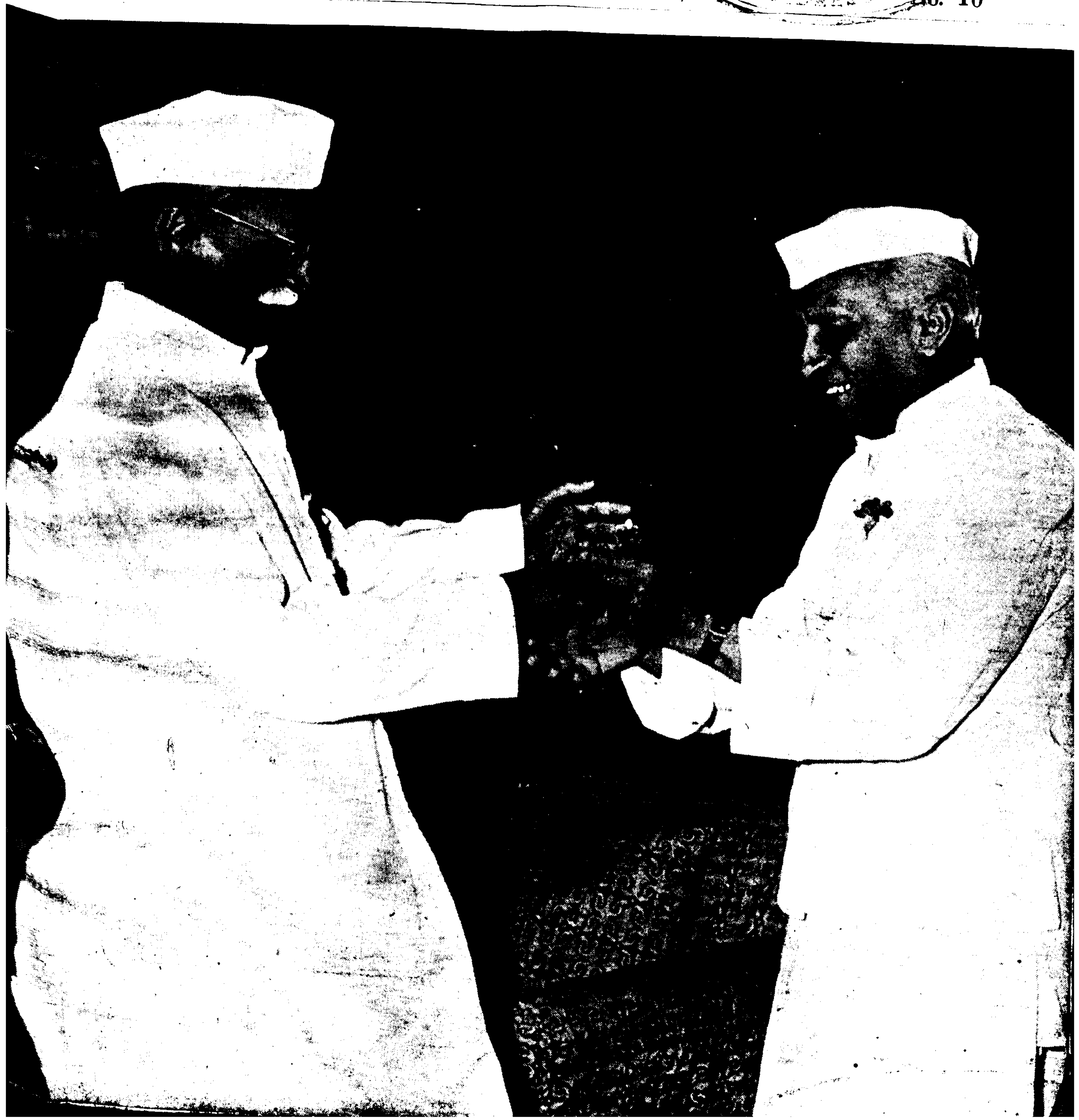
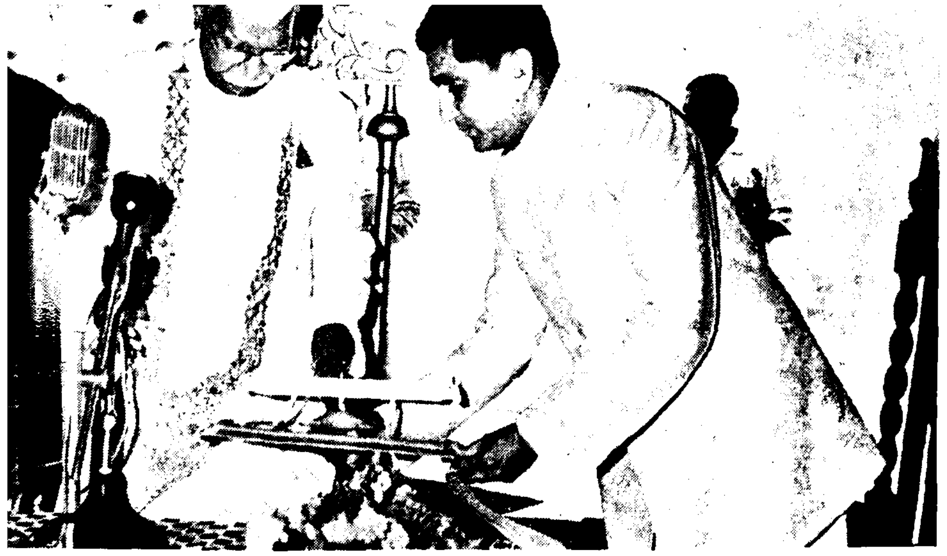
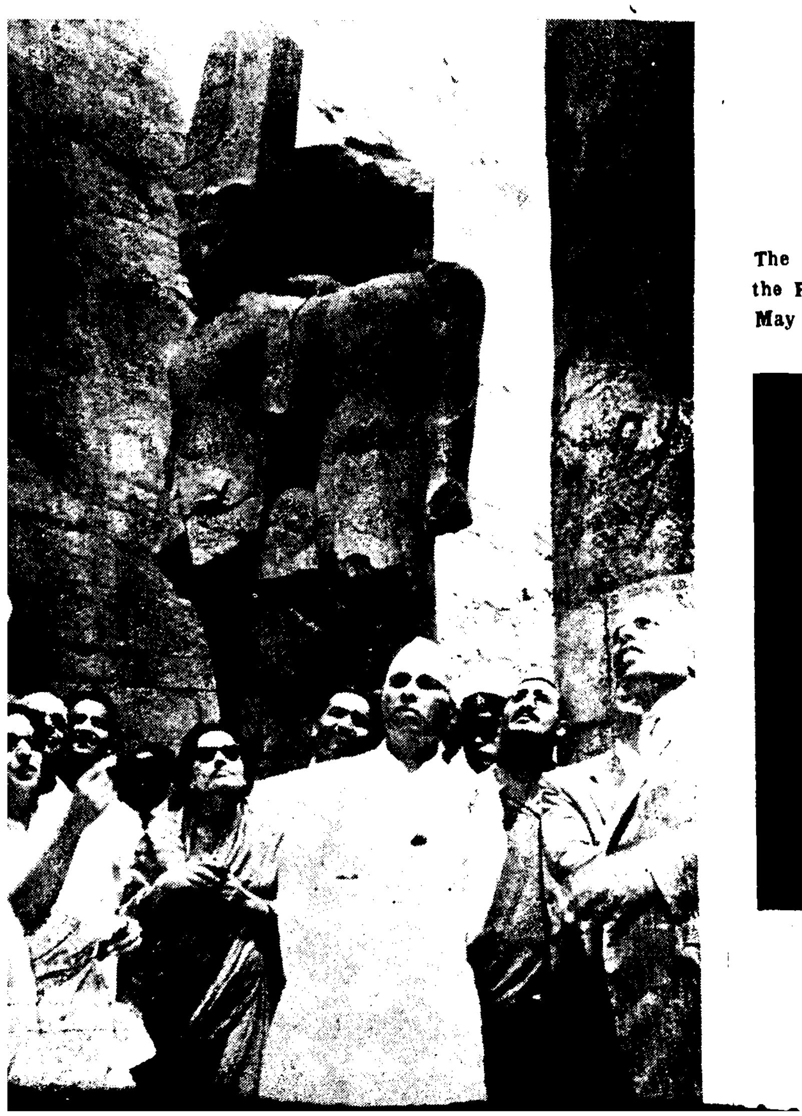




The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, receiving an Address of Welcome presented by the Bareilly Municipal Board when he visited the city on May 16

ıe Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, being taken round Karna mples when he visited the ancient "Valley of the Kings" and ıer places of archaeological interest at Luxor in U.A.R. during his ıy in that country from May 17 to 19 on his way back to India ›m London



The U.A.R. President, H.E. Mr. Gamal Abdel Nasser, receiving the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, at Cairo airport on May 17

Indian Information

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Main Contents

COVER : The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, receiving the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, after the latter's return from abroad.

(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

MORE POWERS FOR ADMINISTRATORS OF UNION TERRITORIES

A New Delhi announcement dated May 18 says that more powers have been delegated to the Administrators of Union Territories to quicken the implementation of Plan schemes.

The Lt. Governor of Himachal Pradesh and the Chief Commissioner of Delhi can now sanction expenditure up to Rs. 15 lakhs on any scheme. Similarly, the Chief Commissioners of Manipur, Tripura, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands can authorise expenditure to the extent of Rs. 10 lakhs. The limit for the Administrator of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindive Islands is up to Rs. 3 lakhs.

Powers have also been delegated to the Administrators of Manipur, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands to accord administrative approval as well as expenditure sanction up to Rs. 5 lakhs. They have been empowered to accept tenders for works up to Rs. 5 lakhs with the approval of the Works Advisory Board, and up to Rs. 3 lakhs on their own authority. The Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindive Islands Administration has been authorised to accord sanction on such works up to Rs. 2 lakhs.

CENTRAL FINGER PRINT BUREAU

According to New Delhi announcement dated May 16, a review of the working of the Central Finger Print Bureau reveals that, on an average, about 8,000 finger print slips are received every month by the Bureau from various State Governments. When the State Bureaux are reorganised, the number will go up to 14,000.

By the end of 1959, the Bureau had received 2,74,081 finger print slips from various State Capitals. Classification, testing and indexing, recording and preparation of index cards were completed in 2,08,512 cases.

The Central Finger Print Bureau keeps records of finger prints of international and inter-state criminals, criminals belonging to wandering tribes and foreigners convicted in India. Finger prints of convicts in offences relating to coins, currency notes and postage stamps, habitual smugglers of arms, excisable articles and bullion, certain classes of professional criminals and habitual offenders are also maintained.

The Central Finger Print Bureau was first established in 1905 at Simla in accordance with the recommendation of the Police Commission of 1902-3. The functions of that Bureau were to deal with the finger prints of criminals in India and with those received from outside. In 1922 the Bureau was wound up as a result of the Inchcape Committee's proposals. The Bureau was restarted in 1957.

PREPARATIONS FOR 1961 CENSUS

According to a New Delhi announcement dated May 17, more than 2,000 tons of paper will be required for printing the 1961 Census enumeration forms, household schedules, etc. About 55 crores of Census slips, 11 crores of household schedules and 2.2 crores of houselist forms are required to be printed. The three Government presses in Calcutta, Aligarh and Nasik are expected to finish the work in another month's time and the printed forms will reach the Census Superintendents by September this year.

Only a small percentage of forms and questionnaires is to be printed in English, the rest will be in the regional languages.

Nearly one million enumerators will be employed in taking the Census, and they will be paid a small honorarium. But, even on a very moderate basis, the honorarium will run to the order of Rs. 1.6 crores.

The enumeration period of the 1961 Census has been fixed for 22 days, from February 10 to March 3, the last three days devoted to the ···onal round.

gy Dele tion To U.S.S.R.

A Bombay announcement dated May 22 says that an Indian Atomic Energy Commission Delegation is visiting the U.S.S.R., at the invitation of the Soviet Government, to hold discussions with the atomic energy authorities of the Soviet Union regarding Indo-Soviet co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, including the design and construction of nuclear power plants. The talks opened in Moscow on May 27. The Delegation will later tour nuclear power stations and other atomic energy projects in the Soviet Union.

The Indian Delegation is led by Dr. Homi J. Bhabha, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission.

The Indian Delegation's visit is a follow-up of the visit to India early this year by Prof. V.S. Emelinov, Head of the Atomic Energy Utilisation Board of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers, and other Soviet atomic energy scientists.

HOME GUARDS CONFERENCE

Officers in-charge of the Home Guards Corps met in New Delhi on May 21 and 22 to pool their experiences so as to evolve a uniform, country-wide pattern. The Union Home Minister, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant, inaugurated the Conference.

The Home Guards, a voluntary corps, is meant to meet emergencies of law and order as well as calamities like floods, epidemics, fires, earthquakes, etc. Almost all the States have such a nucleus, though with a different nomenclature. Uttar Pradesh, for example, has the Raksha Dal. West Bengal has what is known as National Volunteer Force. Both Andhra Pradesh and Mysore have the Home Guards Organisation.

The Punjab Government has finalised the scheme for a statutory voluntary organisation to be called National Volunteer Corps. Rajasthan has prepared the draft Rajasthan Home Guards Bill. Orissa has also formulated a comprehensive scheme. Jammu and Kashmir has accepted the formation of the Home Guards Organisation in principle. In the Union Territory of Delhi, the Bombay State's Act on the Home Guards has been extended.

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

Measures To Utilise Technical Personnel

A New Delhi announcement dated May 30 says that the Union Home Ministry has suggested certain measures to the Government organisations for utilising fully the experience of the limited number of technical personnel in the country. One of the measures is that senior scientific personnel be relieved of routine administrative and financial details by appointment of non-technical supporting staff.

Experienced technical personnel is also to be spared from such technical work as could be carried out by less experienced or less qualified hands.

One other suggestion is to hold periodic reviews so as to determine whether a technical person at a particular job is able to utilise his training and experience fully. If not, he should be immediately transferred to a suitable post either within or outside the organisation.

The employing authorities have also been requested to increase the number of training posts in all organisations, and to examine the possibility of utilising in certain posts such persons who, though without formal qualifications, have acquired long practical experience and training within the organisation itself.

Officers Affected By States Reorganisation

According to an announcement dated May 31, the Government of India have reconstituted the Central Advisory Committee to deal with representations from gazetted officers affected by the States Reorganisation.

Members of the reconstituted Committee are: Chairman, Union Public Service Commission; Shri P.N. Sapru, Member, Rajya Sabha, and Shri K.Y. Bhandarkar.

Till the end of 1959, the Central Advisory Committee had dealt with 741 cases out of 1,265 representations received from the eight reorganised States—Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Mysore, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Kerala and Rajasthan.

CLOSED DAY ON SECOND SATURDAY

A New Delhi announcement of May 26 says that from June 1, 1960, civil offices of the Government of India will remain closed on the second Saturday instead of the last Saturday in each month.

Planning & Finance

ANNUAL REPORT ON BANKING FOR 1959

The Report on the Trend and Progress of Banking in India during the year 1959, published by the Reserve Bank of India on May 31, says that during the year there was a significant strengthening of the base of the economy though there was no abatement of inflationary pressures. There was a further step-up in the rate of investment in the public sector and private investment also recovered after slackening in the previous year.

Over the year as a whole, aggregate deposits of commercial banks increased by Rs. 253 crores raising them to a record level of Rs. 1,816 crores, as compared with the rise of Rs. 216 crores in 1958. As in the previous years, time deposits made the major contribution to deposit growth; they rose by Rs. 234 crores, or Rs. 9 crores above the increase in 1958. Demand deposits also increased by Rs. 19 crores in contrast with a decline of Rs. 10 crores in 1958. As in the two preceding years, a sizeable part of the increase in deposits represented the counterpart funds of P.L. 480 imports. Even after excluding P.L. 480 deposits, there has been a significant rise in deposits since 1955. This is indicative of the gradual spread of the banking habit among the people and effort of the banking system in mobilising savings in the context of expanding money incomes.

In 1959, there was a big spurt in scheduled bank credit amounting to Rs. 91 crores as compared with Rs. 11 crores in 1958. As there was a relatively larger increase in the deposit resources of scheduled banks than in their credit expansion, the credit deposits ratio came down from 54.8 per cent in 1958 to 52.2 per cent in 1959. Industrial advances rose by Rs. 20 crores in the year ended October 1959 as against Rs. 14 crores in the corresponding previous year. The proportion of industrial advances to the total recorded a decline for the first time in 5 years. It stood at 45 per cent in October 1959 as against 48 per cent in October 1958.

Credit Policy

The credit policy of the Reserve Bank was one of general restraint and vigilance, especially in view of the tendency of prices to rise. The Bank continued to operate selective credit controls over advances against foodgrains and sugar and brought within the purview of these controls advances against groundnuts and other oilseeds (except cottonseeds). With a view to making selective credit controls more effective and minimising circumvention in the form of clean loans, the Reserve Bank requested the banks to discourage the practice of discounting clean hundis drawn by parties affected by the measures.

In the context of the large expansion of credit in the busy season and of a rising price trend, the banks were asked to curb the tendency to hold on to stocks of raw materials and finished goods and to achieve a measurable reduction in credit in the slack season. Further, in order to reduce the magnitude of reliance of scheduled banks on the Reserve Bank for funds, the Bank reviewed its policy under the Bill Market Scheme; for the busy season of 1959-60 the Bank reduced the credit limits under the Scheme to 50 per cent of the previous year's level and restricted the period of their availability upto the end of May 1960 instead of for the whole year. The Bank continued to conduct open market operations to absorb the growing reserves of the banking system.

During the year, net sales of Government securities by the Bank amounted to Rs. 66 crores as compared with Rs. 117 crores in the previous year. The sales partly assisted by the availability of P.L. 480 deposits with the State Bank of India. Scheduled banks augmented their port-folio of Government securities by Rs. 150 crores in 1959 as compared with Rs. 204 crores in 1958. Of the Government securities held by scheduled banks, treasury bills holdings increased over the year by Rs. 15 crores to Rs. 71 crores.

Profit And Loss Accounts

An analysis of the profit and loss accounts for 1959 of 25 large Indian scheduled banks, each with deposits of Rs. 5 crores and over, revealed a slight improvement in their net profit position. During the year, gross earnings (largely made up of interest and discount) increased by Rs. 7.8 crores to Rs. 69.9 crores. Total expenses, comprising interest paid on deposits and borrowings, establishment expenses and other miscellaneous expenses, on the other hand, increased by Rs. 7.5 crores to Rs. 62.0 crores. Thus, net profit of these banks increased to Rs. 7.9 crores as against Rs. 8.4 crores and Rs. 7.6 crores in 1957 and 1958 respectively.

The Report suggests that large banks should extend medium-term credit to industries especially in view of the facilities provided by Re-finance Corporation for Industry. It also indicates that Indian banks might find it worthwhile to undertake cost studies of services provided to customers and work out a schedule of charges based more closely on the costs of specific operations. Further, Indian banks might explore the possibilities of mechanisation of certain routine operations. The Report calls upon the banks to undertake a collective and comprehensive stock-taking of the problems, policies and procedures posed by the Third Plan and to set up study groups for the purpose. On the basis of such studies as the groups can prepare, the banks can consider an orientation of their policies, methods of work and procedures.

INDO-WEST GERMAN CREDIT AGREEMENT

An agreement was signed in Bonn on May 27 between the Governments of India and West Germany for a West German credit of 30 million dollars to India.

At the conference held in Washington in August 1958 under the auspices of the World Bank, the West German Government had agreed to give India a credit of a hundred million dollars to enable India to meet the foreign exchange demands of the Second Five-Year Plan. The new agreement is the second instalment of this credit. The first instalment was given in January last year when West Germany allowed India a credit of 40 million dollars.

The new credit will be utilised for paying the German creditors.

Vice-Chairman Of State Bank

A Press Note issued on May 31 by the Ministry of Finance, says that the Government of India have appointed Prof. D.G. Karve to be Vice-Chairman of the Central Board of Directors of the State Bank of India for a period of two years with effect from the date on which he takes charge of his office.

The appointment has been made in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India and on the recommendation of the Central Board of the State Bank.

NATIONAL SAVINGS ADVISORY BOARD

A two-day session of the National Savings Central Advisory Board and the Chairmen of the State Advisory Boards was inaugurated by Shri Morarji Desai, Union Finance Minister, in Bangalore on May 16. Addressing the meeting, Shri Desai said that at least Rs. 550 crores would have to be collected from small savings during the Third Plan period. Referring to the prize bond scheme, he declared that 50 per cent of the income from it would be given to the States.

The total net small savings collections in 1959-60 reached the record figure of Rs. 84 crores. This shows an increase of more than Rs. 4 crores over the previous year's collections. Bombay again topped the list with Rs. 30.36 crores, Bihar coming next with Rs. 9.67 crores. West Bengal was third with Rs. 9.16 crores.

DRAWBACK OF CUSTOMS DUTY ON NOIL YARN

In a Press Note issued on May 20, Ministry of Finance has announced that, as a measure of export promotion, the Government of India have decided to allow drawback of customs duty paid on noil yarn used in the manufacture of silk fabrics for export.

Certain modifications have also been made in the existing provisions for drawback on the export of handicrafts and other articles made of albaster, badminton and tennis rackets strung with nylon guts, plastic goods and tea chests. Provision has also been made for breaking up of ships in bond.

Commerce & Industry

MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1959

A New Delhi announcement dated May 7 says that according to the provisional estimates of mineral production made by the Indian Bureau of Mines for the year 1959, the total value of mineral production was Rs. 1,398 million compared with Rs. 1,376 million in 1958. This does not include petroleum and other minerals prescribed under the Atomic Energy Act, 1948.

The increase of Rs. 22 million or 1.6 per cent over the total value of production in the previous year was mainly due to the higher output of coal, iron ore, chromite, lead and zinc concentrates, gypsum, dolomite and limestone and higher price of gold bullion.

Coal with an output of 47.83 million tons was the leading commodity and was valued at Rs. 948 million. The production of other important minerals in the year 1959 was as follows:

Copper ore — 404,000 tons; gold — 5,144 kilograms; ilmenite — 303,000 tons; iron ore — 7.9 million tons; limestone — 10.6 million tons; manganese ore — 1.2 million tons; mica (crude) — 28,694 tons and salt — 3.2 million tons.

Bihar Leading

In terms of physical volume there was a marginal decline in mineral production during the year, as indicated by the quantity index which stood at 125.6 in 1959 (base 1951 = 100) as compared with 126.0 in 1958. The fall in index was mainly due to non-metallic minerals.

Bihar was the leading State and produced minerals valued at Rs. 503 million, which is 36 per cent of the total value of mineral production. Next in succession were West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh, their shares being 22 per cent and 11 per cent respectively.

Total foreign exchange earnings by the exports of ores and minerals during the year amounted to Rs. 470 million as against Rs. 460 million in the preceding year. Japan emerged as the leading importer of Indian minerals followed by the U.S.A. and the U.K.

Metals Produced

The total value of metals produced was Rs. 1,554 million as compared to Rs. 1,115 million in the preceding year. The production of finished steel reached the peak figure of 1.8 million tons representing an increase of 476,000 tons over the preceding year. The output of ferro-manganese increased from 45,000 tons in 1958 to 60,000 tons.

Amongst the non-ferrous metals, the production of aluminium was 17,355 tons, copper 7,674 tons, lead 3,958 tons and silver 3,881 kilograms.

The total value of imports of metals was Rs. 1,230 million as against Rs. 1,328 million in 1958. The imports of iron and steel materials accounted for 67 per cent of the total value and the rest was shared by the imports of non-ferrous metals like aluminium, copper, lead, tin and zinc.

The year was characterised by the falling prices of manganese ore arising from the lack of adequate foreign demand. The significant feature of the metal market was the rise in the prices of copper and zinc as a result of higher level of consumption coupled with shortages of supplies.

Production Of Dolomite

A New Delhi announcement dated May 29 says that the output of dolomite, which has been on the increase since 1955, reached a new peak of 325,000 tons in 1959.

The Birmitrapur and Panposh areas in Sundergarh district of Orissa accounted for 97 per cent of the total output.

The production of dolomite was reported for the first time from Nagpur district of Bombay State and Ajmer district of Rajasthan.

There has been a considerable increase in the demand for dolomite which is used as a flux and for refractory lining in the iron and steel industry.

Iron Ore Output

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 31, the output of iron ore, maintaining the upward trend, recorded the peak figure of 7.93 million tons in 1959, as compared with 6.13 million tons in the preceding year. This represents an increase of 1.81 million tons or 29 per cent over the 1958 figures.

The share of Bihar and Orissa in the total production was 41 per cent and 33 per cent respectively. The production from these two States increased by 972,000 tons and 418,000 tons respectively. The output from Madhya Pradesh increased by 180,000 tons or 77 per cent. Bombay and Mysore showed an increase of 164,000 and 55,000 tons respectively.

Increase In Demand

There was a considerable increase in the internal requirements of iron ore after the three steel plants in the public sector went into production during the year and the expansion of plants in the private sector. There was also a larger overseas demand for Indian iron ore in Japan, West Germany and East European countries.

The total despatches of iron ore to steel plants totalled 5,661,000 tons as against 3,511,000 tons during the preceding year, representing an increase of about 61 per cent.

The exports of iron ore were also higher by about 32 per cent as compared to 1958.

Japan which heads the list of the countries importing Indian iron ore is interested in additional quantity. The Kiriburu iron ore deposits are being developed for annual export of 2 million tons to Japan. A further quantity of 4 million tons for purposes of export to Japan is also contemplated and action has already been initiated for large scale exploration of the Bailadila iron ore deposit in Madhya Pradesh.

Production Of Iron Ore In March, 1960

A New Delhi announcement of May 25 says that according to the Indian Bureau of Mines, the production of iron ore during March 1960 was estmated at 830,000 tons. This brings the total output during January-March 1960 to 2,553,000 tons which is higher by 31 per cent as compared to the output of 1,951,000 tons during corresponding period of the preceding year.

Orissa was the chief producing State with an output of 323,000 tons followed by Bihar with 235,000 tons. Mysore and Madhya Pradesh recorded an output of 112,000 tons and 78,000 tons respectively while the output from Bombay was 42,000 tons.

During the month despatches of iron ore for consumption in the iron and steel plants totalled 591,000 tons while the despatches to the export market were 185,000 tons.

Copper Ore Production In January-March, 1960

The production of copper ore during the quarter January-March, 1960 was 106,472 tons, according to the Indian Bureau of Mines.

This represents an increase of nearly 8 per cent over the output of 98,961 tons during the corresponding period of the preceding year.

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

The production of copper metal during the quarter was 2,210 tons as compared to 1,798 tons in the same period of 1959.

Production In Public Sector In 1959-60

A New Delhi announcement of May 20 says that production in the Public Sector enterprises registered a substantial rise during 1959-60. In the current year, i.e. 1960-61, it is expected to increase further on the completion of the expansion programme in the various units.

The Hindustan Machine Tools Factory at Bangalore produced during the year over 700 machines valued at about Rs. 3 crores, a rise of about 30 per cent over the previous year. The factory exceeded the plan target of 400 machines a year by the end of the second year of the Plan, three years ahead of schedule.

An expansion programme for increasing production to 2,000 machines a year during the Third Plan period has been approved by the Government.

In the case of the Sindri Fertiliser Factory, the production of ammonium sulphate in 1959-60 amounted to over 3.5 lakh tons. The annual production target of 3.3 lakh tons has been achieved every year, since the beginning of the Second Plan. The production of coke in the factory during the year was also higher and amounted to nearly 2.5 lakh tons as against 2.29 lakh tons in the previous year.

Production in the Hindustan Cables Factory in 1959-60 amounted to 691 miles telephone cables of the value of Rs 115 lakhs, representing a rise of 5.7 per cent over the previous year.

The production in the National Instruments Factory also showed a rise. The value of production was Rs. 53.70 lakhs, as against Rs. 44 lakhs during the previous year.

The Hindustan Antibiotics Factory at Pimpri manufactured over 33 million mega units of finished penicillin which was about 14 per cent more than that of previous year.

In the case of the Nahan Foundry and the Praga Tools Factory also a rise in production was recorded though on a modest scale.

PRODUCTION AT BHILAI

It was announced in New Delhi on May 21 that the Bhilai Steel Works completed the production of first one lakh tons of steel billets in the third week of May.

The production of billets at Bhilai commenced on December 24, 1959 when the billet mill in rolling mills of the Steel Works was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, Sardar Swaran Singh.

Upto now 88,000 tons of steel billets have been despatched from Bhilai to re-rolling mills in the country.

MOULDS FOR STEEL INGOTS

A New Delhi announcement of May 19 says that the Bhilai Steel Project has started making moulds for steel ingots. The first mould for seven-ton ingot has just been manufactured in the foundry shop of the steelworks. In due course foundry will be manufacturing eight such moulds daily.

Steel is first produced in the form of liquid which is then poured into blocks called ingots. Each ingot weighs from five to ten tons depending on size and shape of the mould.

Manufacture of moulds for pig iron was started in the foundry of the Bhilai Steelworks some time ago.

SULPHURIC ACID

A New Delhi announcement dated May 27 says that the Bhilai Steel Project has started supplying sulphuric acid to Indian market.

The first consignment of sulphuric acid was despatched to Nepa Paper Mills at Nepanagar followed by more despatches to Kanpur Chemical Works at Kunhan and Birla Chemical Works, Sirpur in the last week of May.

Sulphuric acid produced at Bhilai conforms to Indian standards and is of 98 per cent purity. About 60 tons of acid have been despatched so far in tank wagons.

Sulphuric acid plant of the Bhilai Steel Works will produce 18,000 tons of acid annually. It will mainly be required for production of ammonium sulphate fertiliser from coke oven gases. Some surplus stock is expected to be available for Indian market.

MANUFACTURE OF LOW-COST RADIOS

A programme for the manufacture of low-cost radio set, priced at Rs. 125 and capable of receiving medium and short-wave stations, was drawn up at a meeting of prominent radio manufacturers convened in New Delhi on May 26 by the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, and Information and Broadcasting. Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister of Industry, presided over the meeting.

It is expected that about 50,000 to 60,000 cheap radio sets would be manufactured by the end of next year. All the leading manufacturers have agreed to devote 25 to 30 per cent of their production for the manufacture of these radio sets. The manufacturers will be given assistance by way of import of additional components for implementing the programme.

The project for the manufacture of low-cost radios coincides with the expansion programme of All India Radio to cover the entire population by its medium-wave transmission.

INDIGENOUS COMPONENTS

It was also agreed that efforts would be made to increase the indigenous manufacture of radio components and meet the full requirements for different components by the end of next year. At present, about 20 to 25 per cent of the components of a radio receiver are imported. Indigenous manufacture of all components would not only effect considerable saving in foreign exchange but also result in considerable impetus to domestic production of radio receivers.

Measures for increasing the production of transistorised radios, both in the large-scale and small-scale sectors, were discussed and it was agreed that about 50,000 transistor sets would be manufactured locally during the next year.

Since 1951, production of radios has risen by nearly three-fold. Over 2.1 lakh radios valued at about Rs. 5.5 crores were produced in 1959, as against 83,000 radios of the value of Rs. 2.2 crores in 1951.

PRODUCTION OF SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS

A New Delhi announcement dated May 24 says that since the commencement of the Second Plan, production of scientific instruments in the large-scale sector has more than tripled. The value of indigenous production which was only Rs. 63 lakhs in 1956 amounted to over Rs. 2 crores last year.

Recently, the Government have approved two schemes for the manufacture of industrial process instruments such as pyrometres, temperature recorders, controllers, thermocouples and multi-point recorders. These instruments are now being imported into the country.

Indigenous manufacture of X-Ray equipment is also expected to commence soon. Three schemes with total production capacity of Rs. 90 lakhs worth of X-Ray equipment every year have been sanctioned by the Government.

The production of box-cameras by two firms has commenced in the country. An Indian firm, with an annual capacity of 18,000 cameras, went into production towards the close of last year. Another unit has also just begun the production of box-cameras in collaboration with a West German firm.

MANUFACTURE OF PAINTS AND VARNISHES

An announcement dated May 24 says that the Government of India have decided to permit the setting up of new units, upto a total fresh capacity of 20,000 tons, for the manufacture of paints and varnishes.

A recent survey carried out by the Commerce and Industry Ministry and Planning Commission and the estimates made by the Development Council for oil-based and plastic industries have indicated that, in the context of increasing requirements of paints and varnishes during the Third Plan period, there is scope for the establishment of additional capacity in the northern and southern regions.

Of the proposed fresh capacity, half will be in the northern region comprising the States of U.P., Punjab, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi. The other half will be in the southern region comprising Madras, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

COTTON TEXTILES

The production by cotton textile mills in India during February 1960 was provisionally estimated at 138 million lbs. of yarn and 402 million yards of cloth.

Exports of cotton piece-goods from India during 1959 were provisionally valued at Rs. 61 crores, showing an increase of Rs. 15 crores over 1958.

Production of handloom cloth during January- November 1959 was estimated at 1,726 million yards, as against 1,642 million yards during the corresponding period in 1958. It accounted for nearly 28 per cent of the cloth available for civil requirements.

During January-November 1959, exports of mill-made and handloom cloth amounted to 733 million yards as compared with 567 million yards in the corresponding period of 1958. Principal customers for Indian mill-made cotton piece-goods were the U.K., Aden, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanganyika, Sudan, Ethiopia, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the U.S.A. Handloom piece-goods were exported mainly to Ceylon, Malaya, Nigeria, Aden, Singapore and the U.K.

RETENTION PRICES OF TINPLATES

An announcement of May 26 says that the Government of India have decided to fix fair average retention prices of tinplates for four years beginning in 1957.

The prices are: 1957—Rs. 899 per ton, 1958—Rs. 1078 per ton, 1959—Rs. 1055 per ton and 1960—1070 per ton.

The only change in the 1957 price is the admission of Rs. 4.3 per ton being the ad hoc allowance to labour now notified by the Industrial Tribunal. This had previously been disallowed.

The Government have, while fixing the 1958 and 1959 prices, taken into consideration, among other things, the fact that due to low supplies of ton bars and Tata packs, in 1958 the production was only 57,877 tons as against 74,000 tons estimated by the Tariff Commission. In 1959 it was 67,900 tons as against 77,500 tons estimated by the Tariff Commission. In addition, the following packing charges will be allowed:

1957	Rs. 22.36 per ton for packing in tin lined cases and Rs. 9.95 per ton for bulk packing.
1958	Rs. 25.543 for tin lined cases and Rs. 11.5 per bulk.
1959 and 1960	Rs. 25.419 per ton for tin lined cases and Rs. 11.5 for bulk packing.

The Government of India in their Resolution dated September 7, 1959, had said that they would view on merits any representation made by the Tinplate Company of India, if for reasons beyond the Company's control the supply of tin bars and Tata packs in 1958 fell short of its requirements and the company found that its works costs were higher than those estimated by the Tariff Commission to such an extent as to cause a serious decline in its profits.

The Tinplate Company represented in September and October 1959. The representation was in the first part against the deductions made by the Government in the retention prices recommended by the Tariff Commission, and in the second part about the factors ignored by the Commission in recommending the retention prices.

The Government of India decided to consider the first part, but not the second.

Ceiling Price Of Pig Iron Articles Reduced

In a Press Note issued on May 20, the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel has announced that in view of further improvement in the availability of pig iron in the country, the Government of India have decided that for the purposes of allocation of iron under the export quota, the ceiling in respect of articles manufactured out of pig iron be reduced from Rs. 500 to Rs. 400.

The ceilings in respect of steel and pig iron were reduced in October 1959 following the reduction in the value of finished goods because of price concessions of raw materials allowed since 1957 for the manufacture of articles for export. The ceiling in case of steel articles continues to be Rs. 800 as fixed in last year.

In giving effect to these revised prices, the Export Promotion Council will satisfy themselves that the exported goods, on which iron and steel quotas are issued, are processed goods and not merely pig iron or steel with little processing.

CONTROL ON SALE OF COTTON

The Government of India, says an announcement of May 17, have issued an order imposing stricter control on cotton transactions. According to the order, after August 1, 1960, sales of cotton shall have to be made only to mills nominated for this purpose by the Textile Commissioner. The purchaser mills will pay the ceiling price and the quality will be certified by the appropriate committees.

This step has been taken to ensure the observance of ceilings and render the transactions genuine as regards quality, weight and price of cotton. Irregular practices in the trade this year have pushed the effective prices beyond the ceiling.

Sales for export and inter-trade sales are exempted from the operation of the order.

EXPORT OF PLASTICS

A New Delhi announcement dated May 21 says that India exported plastic goods and manufactures worth about Rs. 70 lakhs in 1959-60, as against Rs. 7 lakhs during 1955-56. The exports included optical frames, fountain pens based on plastics, leather cloth, umbrella heads, bangles, etc. The main importers were countries of South-East and West Asia and Africa.

The prospects for developing large scale export markets for Indian plastic goods are considered bright, since production of raw materials such as polysterene and polyethelene have already started in the country. Schemes for the production of other chemicals and raw materials required for the industry have also been sanctioned.

The Government of India have taken several steps for promoting the export of plastic goods. An Export Promotion Council for this industry is now functioning. The Council has sponsored delegations in order to explore markets abroad. Special licences for raw materials are being granted against export targets. A rebate of duty is also allowed on imported raw materials used in products subsequently exported.

EXPORT OF FOUNTAIN PENS

A New Delhi announcement dated May 23 says that among the new items which India has begun to export on a large scale are fountain pens which earned foreign exchange worth nearly Rs. 2 lakhs in 1959.

The Indian fountain pens were exported to countries in West and South-East Asia. It is expected that in the coming years,

exports would be considerably higher.

The industry, which has been in existence for just a decade now, has made significant progress and meets practically the entire domestic requirements. Production in 1959 was of the order of 15 million fountain pens. Most of the parts, including gold plated nibs, are manufactured within the country.

The problem before the industry, which employs nearly 3,000 people direct, is one of substandard products coming from ill-equipped small-scale units. At the instance of the Government, an *ad hoc* committee of fountain pen manufacturers is looking into this problem. The possibility of obtaining the services of a foreign expert to help the industry in this regard is also being considered.

A number of manufacturers have shown interest in the production of ball point pens. While a beginning has already been made in their manufacture with the use of imported refills, domestic production of complete ball point pens with refills is expected to begin at an early date.

INDUSTRIAL SHOWROOM IN RANGOON

Burmese Prime Minister, U Nu, inaugurated the 'Indian Industrial Showroom' in Rangoon on May 16.

The opening of the showroom is a modest effort to put before the Burmese people samples of some of India's engineering and textile goods.

Import Of Jute Goods

In a Press Note issued on May 18, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry says that, in view of delayed sowing and consequent delay in jute arrivals in the market, Government have authorised the Jute Commissioner to issue supplementary import licences for long jute and jute cuttings, in addition to quantities recently released, to user mills, on the basis of their actual requirements, assessed in consultation with the industry.

The Government have observed with concern the recent abnormal rise in jute and gunny prices. The industry has represented that this is due to the apprehension of delay in the arrivals of our new crop, which may in turn result in some mills running short of raw material at the beginning of the coming season. Government had previously stated that production in industry will not be allowed to suffer for want of raw material.

Oil Deposits In Moran And Nahorkatiya Area

A New Delhi announcement dated May 16 says that according to the latest estimates the proved oil deposits in the Nahorkatiya-Moran area of Assam are of the order of 28.5 million tons or 185 million Imperial barrels.

So far the number of wells dug in this area is 65 up to the end of January 1960. Of these, 47 are oil wells, 3 gas, 9 dry and the rest are being tested.

The proved quantity of gas in the area is of the order of 481,000 million cubic feet.

The area at present is being explored and exploited by the Oil India Limited—an undertaking in which the Government of India have one-third share and the Burmah Oil Company/Assam Oil Company have control over the remaining two-thirds.

The oil deposits in the area will be refined at the two new refineries being set up in the public sector at Nummati near Gauhati and Barauni in Bihar.

NEW COMPANIES IN NORTHERN REGION

According to a New Delhi announcement dated May 28, seventy companies with total authorised capital of about Rs. 7.56 crores were registered under the Companies Act, 1956, in the Northern Region (comprising the States of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan) during the quarter ending March 31, 1960. Of these, 5 were public and 64 private limited companies. One non-profit association was also registered in Delhi.

During the quarter, 21 companies went into liquidation and the names of 72 companies were struck off from the Register under Section 560 of the Companies Act.

A state-wise break-up shows that in the Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, 2 public and 12 private limited companies with authorised capital of Rs. 17 lakhs and 23.3 lakhs respectively were registered. One company went into liquidation and the names of 7 companies were struck off.

In 23 cases, fresh prosecutions were launched by the Registrar against the defaulting companies and its officers for their failure to comply with the provisions of the Companies Act. Out of the cases decided during the quarter, 7 cases resulted in conviction.

In Delhi, one public and 34 private limited companies with authorised capital of Rs. 2 lakhs and 648.94 lakhs respectively were registered. Seven companies went into liquidation and the names of 21 companies were struck off the Register. The number of fresh prosecutions launched totalled 52. Of the cases decided, 35 resulted in conviction.

The number of new companies registered in Uttar Pradesh was fourteen—2 public and 12 private limited companies. Nine companies went into liquidation and the names of 42 companies were struck off. Twenty-eight fresh prosecutions were launched and 73 cases resulted in conviction.

In Rajasthan, six private limited companies with authorised capital of Rs. 26 lakhs were registered. While 4 companies went into liquidation, the names of two companies were struck off. Thirty-two fresh cases of prosecution were reported. Out of the cases decided, 20 cases resulted in conviction.

Company Secretaries Examination

In a Press Note issued on May 28, the Department of Company Law Administration has announced that the Government of India have decided to hold in February 1961 the First Preliminary and Intermediate Examinations for qualifying as Company Secretaries.

This has been decided on the advice of the Board constituted in last March to advise the Government on questions pertaining to the Company Secretaries' profession.

The Department of Company Law Administration will shortly publish a booklet dealing with detailed rules for registration of students, subjects and syllabi for the examinations, fees to be charged and other particulars.

Work Of Small Industries Service Institutes

According to a New Delhi announcement dated May 25, nearly 6,000 people have been trained so far under the different training programmes organised by the Central Small Scale Industries Organisation.

The programme, implemented through the Small Industries Service Institutes, aims at training of managerial personnel, improving the skill of artisans and training extension officers in the Community Development Blocks. Apart from these, training courses for specific industries have also been undertaken.

Nearly 1,600 people have benefited so far under the training scheme for the artisans. The training given to these people aims at improving their skill through better tools and production techniques.

The training for managerial personnel is designed to ensure efficient accounting, quality control, better salesmanship, etc. So far, 1,750 persons have been trained under this scheme.

TRAINING ABROAD

The training given to the Industrial Extension Service staff has succeeded in creating a general sense of understanding and appreciation of the problems relating to the development of small-scale industries in the country. District Officers and Block Level Extension Officers of the Community Development Blocks, numbering 113 and 2,020 respectively, have been trained under the scheme.

At the Central Footwear Training Centre, Madras, three courses, each of nine months' duration, have been completed. The courses were attended by 250 trainees.

Under the technical assistance programme like Colombo Plan and the Point Four programme, 44 trainees have so far been sent abroad for advanced training for small-scale industries.

A few foreign nationals have also been trained in India under these programmes. A batch of eight Philippine nationals visited India recently under the T.C.M. Programme for being trained in management problems relating to the small-scale industries. In the past, nationals from Egypt, Syria, Nepal, Afghanistan and Iraq as also a batch of African students have attended these training courses.

NEW PROCESSES DEVELOPED

According to a New Delhi announcement dated May 27, a process for the manufacture of high-grade gelatine from Indian hides has been worked out at the National Chemical Laboratory at Poona.

The process tried out on a 200-lb. capacity pilot plant scale yielded about 48 per cent gelatine and glue, a by-product, in equal quantities. An industrial unit manufacturing 1,000 lbs. of gelatine and 1,000 lbs. of glue will require a capital investment of Rs. 7 lakhs.

Gelatine has a wide variety of uses as a dispersing agent sizing medium, coating on photographic film and a stabiliser for foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals. In 1958, about 180 tons of Gelatine valued at Rs. 7 lakhs were imported.

BANANA STARCH

Studies on the use of banana starch as a disintegrating agent in pharmaceutical tablets have been carried out at the L.M. College of Pharmacy in Ahmedabad. The starch has been found to be as effective as maize starch for this purpose.

MEWAR TEXTILE MILLS TAKEN OVER

A Press Note issued on May 16 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry says that the Government of India have, under Section 18A of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, taken over control of the Mewar Textile Mills Limited, Bhilwara (Rajasthan), and have appointed Shri M.S. Sadasivan as the Authorised Controller of the Mills.

The Mills, which have remained closed since December 1, 1959, are expected to resume working shortly.

Communications

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF NATIONAL FEDERATION OF RAILWAYMEN

The fourth annual convention of the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen was inaugurated by the Railway Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, at Mysore on May 29.

In his address, Shri Jagjivan Ram pointed out that at the end of the First Five Year Plan, Indian railways moved a total

freight of 114 million tons. At the end of the Second Plan this tonnage was estimated to go up to 162 million, and at the end of the Third Plan it was anticipated that it would increase to 235 million and more. Coupled with increasing passenger traffic and other special movements, the calls on railway resources were heavy and all those must be met effectively.

Shri Jagjivan Ram further said that the Ministry of Railways had been following for some years a progressive policy in regard to the welfare of the staff, spending as much Rs. 11 crores per year from revenue alone on this account, compared to less than Rs. 6 crores in 1956-57. Efforts were being made to provide better living conditions as well as recreational and medical facilities. Education among children of railwaymen was being encouraged through various concessions. The amenities like holiday homes, mobile libraries, moving dispensaries, etc. were being provided. It was the Government's policy to progressively increase these amenities.

PAY COMMISSION BENEFITS

In the matter of minimum wage, it was not possible to grant anything more than what the Pay Commission recommended because the country's economy could not afford it.

The average monthly emoluments of the lowest grade Class IV employees on the railways could increase under the decisions announced by Government from Rs. 78.33 to Rs. 88.75, a rise of nearly 14 per cent. Refixation of pay in the revised scales would be done on the point-to-point basis, which, subject to certain limiting conditions, provided weightage for length of service and seniority.

The rates of house rent and city compensatory allowances were being enhanced. The conditions for the grant of house rent allowance were also being liberalised. In future, employees whose place of duty, though outside, was in the proximity of a qualified city, and who, of necessity, resided within the city, would also be given the house rent allowance admissible in that city.

The replacement of the present scale of Rs. 30-35 and the dearness pay and allowance which would go with it by the scale of Rs. 70-1-85 with dearness allowance of Rs. 10 per month, would raise the overall pensionary benefits by 55 per cent. Monthly pension alone would go up from Rs. 20.50 to Rs. 32; death-cum-retirement gratuity (excluding the special additional gratuity granted to class IV staff, who retire with more than 30 years' service) would increase from Rs. 825 to 1275. The decisions of the Government on the recommendations of the Commission regarding retirement benefits, namely, that temporary service should count in full instead of to the extent of half officiating pay should count to the extent of half in every case, and full death-cum-retirement gratuity should be granted after 30 years instead of 34 years' service, would all have the effect of increasing the retirement benefits.

The benefits arising from the merger of the bulk of the dearness allowance with the basic pay and the recommendations regarding retirement benefits and compensatory allowances would be equally beneficial to other grades of employees also.

The fixation of pay of a large number of staff in the revised pay structure, the computing of the net additional amounts due after the merger of dearness allowance in pay and clearing the arrears would necessarily take some time. Special machinery had, however, been set up to do the work as expeditiously as possible, and formal orders of the Government on new scales of pay, allowances, retirement benefits, etc. would be issued shortly.

The initial cost of implementation of the Pay Commission's recommendations, which had already been accepted by the Government, worked out to approximately Rs. 13 crores per annum in respect of railway employees. This would progressively increase in coming years. These increasing commitments made it necessary to make some adjustments in the railway freight rates and to levy a supplementary charge of 5 nP per rupee on freight of goods and coal traffic excluding a few items from April 1, 1960.

Referring to the decision of the Government to increase the hours of work and reduce the casual leave and holidays, the Railway Minister said that this applied only to office staff which constituted less than 10 per cent of the total Railway staff. Over 90 per cent of the railway employees would not at all be affected by this decision.

AREAS OF CO-OPERATION

Exhorting the railwaymen for co-operation with the Government, Shri Jagjivan Ram said that outside the pale of subjects normally taken up by unions, came questions such as efficiency, economy, safety of travelling public, passenger amenities, etc. In all such matters, railwaymen could make valuable contribution. He had called upon the railways to set up joint committees of officers and staff at stations, workshops, running sheds, sick lines and other places of work 'to make the staff feel as partners in a common endeavour.'

One important source of leakage of railway revenue was ticketless travel. The number of ticketless travellers detected in a year was about six million and the amount realised was about Rs. 1.5 crores. An investigation conducted by the Central Ticket Checking Squads working directly under the Railway Board indicated that the extent of ticketless travel was between 4 and 5 per cent and that the railways were losing to the tune of Rs. 5 crores per annum on account of ticketless travel.

Other sources of leakage of revenue included under-weighment and misdeclaration of goods, non-recovery of railway dues such as siding, demurrage and wharfage and other charges. The checks made by the railways on under-weighment indicated that about 5 per cent of the consignments were found to be under-weighed.

All such leakage of revenue could be stopped only if the railway staff came forward and gave their full and unstinted support.

CONCESSIONAL RETURN TICKETS

A New Delhi announcement dated May 28 says that as in previous years, the Railway Board has decided that concessional return tickets at one and a half single journey fares should be issued from July 15 to September 15, 1960 for I, II and III classes.

Return tickets will be issued only between stations situated at a minimum distance of 480 kilometers apart (about 300 miles).

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

A Press Communique issued on May 24 by the Lok Sabha Secretariat says that Sardar Hukam Singh, Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, has been appointed as chairman of the Parliamentary committee to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to the General Revenues.

REPORT OF INTERMEDIATE PORTS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

In its report released on May 20, the Intermediate Ports Development Committee has recommended the development of four existing intermediate ports as all-weather ports with modern facilities at a total cost of Rs. 37.76 crores. The ports are: Tuticorin in Madras, Mangalore in Mysore, Paradip in Orissa and Porbandar in Gujarat.

The development of Tuticorin as an all-weather port at a cost of Rs. 10.27 crores and of Mangalore at a cost of Rs. 12.70 crores has been recommended as first priority works and of Paradip and Porbandar as second priority works at a cost of Rs. 9.54 crores and Rs. 5.25 crores respectively.

The committee has emphasised the need for developing additional capacity at ports to cope with the growing volume of cargo to be handled, particularly in view of the rise expected in exports of iron ore. On the basis of existing and future commitments, these exports would rise to 15 million tons per year by 1966-67 as against 2.8 million tons in 1959-60. It would, therefore, be desirable that port development for the next five to ten years should be planned for handling 15 million tons of iron ore cargo so that capacity is available ahead of needs.

The developments recommended in respect of intermediate ports, together with the development of the major port of Visakhapatnam, would help create this capacity.

The committee has recommended that besides Mangalore and Paradip, Kakinada and Masulipatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Cuddalore in Madras, Karwar in Mysore and Redi in Maharashtra should be developed for handling iron ore exports to the extent of 4.5 million tons.

The capacity recommended for handling iron ore exports in respect of the intermediate ports is: Paradip—2.50 to 5 lakh tons; Kakinada—2.00 lakh tons; Masulipatnam—3.00 lakh tons; Cuddalore—5.00 lakh tons; Mangalore—20.00 lakh tons (provided this port is found suitable for not less than 34 ft. draft); Karwar—5.00 lakh tons; and Redi —5.00 lakh tons.

It is also recommended that Neendakara, in Kerala State, should be developed as an intermediate port to cater for about 4 lakh tons of traffic per year, considering the traffic which originates from the Quilon region. Development works for this port are given first priority at an estimated cost of Rs. 92.50 lakhs.

In regard to Paradip, which is already being used as a lighterage port (that is, cargo being taken to steamers standing in stream by light vessels), should be developed for handling 2.5 lakh tons for the present iron ore traffic.

It may be necessary to provide an all-weather port there together with a railway line from Cuttack to Paradip when the traffic reaches a figure of 5.5 lakh tons per year. For handling the 2.5 lakh ton traffic, works costing Rs. 99 lakhs should be given first priority. As the traffic increases, certain additional works will have to be provided as a second priority at a cost of Rs. 55.30 lakhs.

TUTICORIN AND PORBANDAR

In respect of Tuticorin port, the committee estimates the traffic to develop to 1 million tons per year by 1964-65 and, therefore, considers that a deep sea harbour should be developed there. Besides, it has recommended normal development works for this port.

Regarding Porbandar, which is a lighterage port at present, the volume of traffic at the port is expected to rise to 3.5 lakh tons by the end of the third Five-Year Plan and it would be economic to convert the port into an all-weather port when there are indications of the traffic rising to about 5 lakh tons per year. Normal development works have been recommended for this port.

The works recommended by the committee, cost of the works and the priority given to them are stated below against the names of the respective ports:

1. Kakinada—Improvement to existing facilities; Rs. 25 lakhs; first priority.

2. Masulipatnam—(i) Stabilisation and improvement of bar; Rs. 17 lakhs; first priority; (ii) Development Works; Rs. 14.80 lakhs; second priority.

3. Cuddalore—(i) Development into a 9 ft. harbour; Rs. 50

lakhs; first priority; (ii) Additional development works; Rs. 28.40 lakhs; second priority.

4. Nagapattinam—(i) Improvement of bar: Rs. 10 lakhs: first priority; (ii) Additional development works: Rs. 12.15 lakhs, second priority.

5. Tuticorin—(i) Development works for a lighterage port; Rs. 27 lakhs; first priority; (ii) Other development works; Rs. 9.50 lakhs; second priority.

6. Beypore—(i) Provision of a sailing vessel wharf: Rs. 14.56 lakhs; first priority; (ii) Other development works: Rs. 10.78 lakhs; second priority.

7. Kozhikode—(i) Provision of electric cranes; Rs. 10 lakhs; first priority; (ii) Other essential works; Rs. 4.50 lakhs; second priority.

8. Mangalore — Development works; Rs. 28 lakhs; first priority.

9. Karwar—(i) Development works to make Karwar an efficient fairweather lighterage port: Rs. 25 lakhs; first priority: (ii) Development works: Rs. 9.50 lakhs; second priority; (iii) Alongside berth for steamers; Rs. 152 lakhs: subject to experimental dredging being successful.

10. Redi—Development works; Rs. 10 lakhs, first priority.

11. Ratnagiri—(i) Improvement of lighterage facilities; Rs. 15.40 lakhs; first priority: (ii) Provision of staff quarters; Rs. 2 lakhs; second priority.

12. Surat—(i) Lighterage port at Magdala; Rs. 12.10 lakhs; first priority.

13. Broach—(i) Development works; Rs. 12.60 lakhs: first priority; (ii) Navigational aids and staff quarters; Rs. 1.75 lakhs; second priority.

14. Bhavnagar—(i) Provision of wharfing jetties, electric capstans, tugs and fork-lift truck; Rs. 36.80 lakhs; first priority; (ii) Additional development works; Rs. 40.25 lakhs; second priority.

15. Veraval—(i) Development works; Rs. 15.50 lakhs; first priority; (ii) Additional development works; Rs. 26.50 lakhs; second priority.

16. Porbandar—(i) Construction of lighterage wharf with mobile cranes; Rs. 19 lakhs; first priority; (ii) Additional development works; Rs. 11 lakhs; second priority.

17. Okha—(i) Development works; Rs. 24.50 lakhs; first priority; (ii) Additional development works; Rs. 18.20 lakhs; second priority.

18. Sikka—Development works; Rs. 8 lakhs; first priority.

19. Bedi — (i) Development works; Rs. 12 lakhs; first priority; (ii) Additional development works; Rs. 15.80 lakhs; second priority.

The committee was set up in October 1958 by the Government of India to select suitable intermediate ports for intensive development in order of priority and to determine the extent of development required at these ports, taking into account broad national considerations as well as regional requirements, engineering aspects and traffic potential of the hinterland and transport cost.

The report is under consideration by the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

NEW DREDGER FOR CALCUTTA PORT

A four-man team of Calcutta Port Officers left for Hong Kong on May 22, to finalise the purchase of a dredger at a cost of about Rs. 53 lakhs.

The acquisition of this dredger will further augment the dredger fleet of the port, which is constantly pressed into service to keep the Hooghly navigable between Calcutta and the sea.

The team will inspect the dredger 'Maitena' and also make arrangements for suitable modifications so that the vessel can be used in Calcutta port. With the arrival of the 'Maitena' the Calcutta port will have a fleet of five dredgers. Of the existing four vessels two are fairly old while the other two were acquired in recent years.

Besides the purchase of the 'Maitena', orders have already been placed for building a new vessel which would be a replica of one of the existing dredgers, the 'Bhagirathi'. To be called the 'Churni' (after another tributary of the Hooghly) the new vessel is expected to be delivered early next year. The question of placing orders for building one more dredger is now being actively considered.

RAIL LINK TO COCHIN PORT

The Quilon-Ernakulam rail link has been extended to Cochin harbour terminus for goods traffic. The first crack goods train was run between Ernakulam junction and Cochin harbour terminus on May 15 to mark the occasion. With the opening of this six-mile long line, the hinterland regions of Kerala will be connected with the Cochin port. It also completes a through link between Trivandrum and Cochin.

Inquiry Into Accidents In Major Ports

An announcement of May 22 says that instructions have been issued by the Government of India to the authorities of the major ports to hold an inquiry into every accident within the port area, involving loss of life, even where there is no statutory obligation to do so.

The object is to fix responsibility for negligence which might have led to the accident and to enable the authorities to adopt remedial measures so that an accident of the same nature can be averted in future.

The different Port Administrations have laid down procedures for conducting such inquiries.

The holding of an inquiry into each accident, it is felt, would help in creating greater safety awareness and in tightening up safety procedures in ports where a large variety of mechanical equipment is used.

Shipping Development Fund

A New Delhi announcement dated May 27 says that, during the year 1960-61, a total amount of Rs. 8.70 crores, in the form of loans, is expected to be made available to the Shipping Development Fund by the Government of India.

The Fund, which was created in March 1959 to provide a permanent source of rupee finance to Indian Shipping Companies to acquire ships, received about Rs. 6 crores by way of loans from Government during the past two years. The total money in the Fund will thus be raised to about Rs. 15 crores during the current year.

The Shipping Development Fund Committee, which operates the Fund, has already sanctioned loans amounting to about Rs. 3 crores to companies both in the public and private sectors.

During 1959-60, 25 ships, with a total tonnage of 1,22,633 GRT, were acquired by Indian shipping companies. This means that in one single year almost the same tonnage was acquired as was sailing under the Indian flag in 1947. As seven ships of a total tonnage of 20,929 GRT were sold or scrapped in 1959-60, the net addition to the Indian tonnage last year was 1,01,704. Out of this, 52,760 tons were acquired in the private sector and 48,944 tons in the public sector.

The present Indian shipping tonnage is now about 7,50,000 tons. The Second Plan target of 9 lakh tons is expected to be achieved by the acquisition of more ships during this year. Ten ships with a total tonnage of 72,914 are already under construction, four of these with nearly a third of the total tonnage in India. The Second Plan target may, perhaps, be exceeded by a few thousand tons.

Freight Earnings Doubled

Indian ships are now operating in the overseas trades, covering practically the entire world. Apart from the India-U.K.-Continent service, Indian ships now call at ports in the Soviet Union, Australia, East and West Africa, North and South America, the United States, Japan and other Far East ports, Malaya and the Persian Gulf.

The freight earnings of Indian ships almost doubled in the past three years. In 1958-59, the total earnings of ships engaged in the overseas trades stood at Rs. 24.05 crores as against Rs. 13.42 crores earned in 1955-56.

In 1958, Indian ships carried about 2.3 million tons of cargo, 1.7 million tons in the overseas trades and the remainder in the adjacent areas. Thus, about 10 per cent of India's foreign trade is now carried in Indian bottoms.

A Committee, known as the Shipping Co-ordination Committee, has been in existence for over two years now to provide better liaison between different Ministries and Government organisations on the one hand and the shipping interests on the other so that Indian shipping is fully utilised for carrying Government cargo. Due to the Committee's efforts, Indian shipping companies have been allotted about 5 lakh tons of Government cargo.

LOCAL TELEPHONE TARIFFS REVISED

In a Press Note dated May 21, the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has announced that, in pursuance of the statement made by the Minister of Transport and Communications in the Lok Sabha during the last Budget Session, the Government of India have re-considered the revised local telephone tariffs which were brought into effect on April 1, 1960 and have announced certain changes, effective from the same date.

The changes provide for quarterly payment of rental as well as call bills in areas where the measured rate system has been introduced. The quarterly rental in measured rate systems will be Rs. 54 in Calcutta, Bihar Coalfields and Bombay areas and Rs. 50 in Delhi and all other exchange areas. There will be a free quota of 150 calls per quarter. The fee for every local call in excess of the free quota will be 15 nP. in Calcutta and Bihar Coalfield areas, 12 nP. in the Bombay and Delhi areas and 10 nP. in other exchanges.

At places where a flat rate is charged, provision has been made for both annual and monthly payments. In such areas, the charge in manual and automatic exchanges of a capacity of 300 lines and over would be Rs. 300 per annum or Rs. 27 per month; in automatic exchanges of a capacity of less than 300 lines and manual exchanges of a capacity of less than 300 lines but over 20 lines, the rate would be Rs. 250 per annum or Rs. 23 per month. In the case of manual exchanges of a capacity of 20 lines or less, separate rates have been notified for exchanges giving 24 hour service and those having restricted hours of service. In the former, the rate will be Rs. 250 per annum or Rs. 23 per month; in the latter, the rates will be Rs. 180 per annum or Rs. 17 per month.

Additional Charges

The additional charges for far-off connections extending beyond the local area of an exchange have also been revised. In the case of measured rate exchanges, the additional quarterly rental will be Rs. 18 per additional kilometre or fraction thereof of the actual length of the connection beyond the local area. In flat rate systems, the additional charge would be Rs. 75 per annum or Rs. 7 per month for each additional kilometre or fraction thereof of the actual length of the connection beyond the local area. If the distance of a conection beyond the local area exceeds three kilometres, special rates will be charged unless it is possible to utilise existing wires and cable conductors with inexpensive changes.

In the case of the telephone connections provided under the 'Own Your Telephone' scheme, the rate of rentals will be the same as for other telephone connections at the respective stations. But, in consideration of the initial lump sum payment made by the subscribers, a reduction in rental, which will be the same as provided hitherto-fore, will be allowed. In flat rate areas, this rebate will be Rs. 96 in the annual rental or Rs. 8 in the monthly rental. In the measured rate areas a rebate of Rs. 30 will be allowed in the quarterly rental in Bombay and Calcutta, whilst a rebate of Rs. 24 in the quarterly rental in other cases.

Rural Postal Service

The Posts and Telegraphs Department is taking further steps for increasing the frequency of delivery of mails in rural areas. Nearly 2.5 lakh villages in the country are now getting a daily mail service, compared with only 1.5 lakh villages at the beginning of the Second Plan. Besides, over 1.5 lakh villages get mails three times a week and another 1.65 lakh twice a week.

Last year runners' services were replaced by motor and other vehicular services on over 1,600 miles of mail routes.

INDO-FRENCH AIR AGREEMENT

Inter-governmental consultations on air transport matters between delegations representing the Government of India and the Government of the French Republic, concluded in New Delhi on May 27.

The discussion which began on May 20, were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. The delegations took note of the present and future operating programmes of their designated airlines, viz., Air-India International and Air France, through each other's territory and agreed on mutually satisfactory arrangements.

At present Air-India International is operating two services a week through Paris to New York and Air France is operating three services a week through India to the Far East. It has now been agreed that from April 1961, Air-India International could operate up to four services a week through Paris to New York via intermediate points and Air France will be permitted to operate an extra frequency through India.

STUDY IN CLIMATOLOGY

According to the publication, 'Memoirs of the India Meteorological Department,' released on May 29, a climatological study over a period of 61 years has revealed that, on the average, 13 disturbances, either storms or depressions, originate annually in the Bay of Bengal.

During the period 1890-1950, there were 793 disturbances in the Bay of Bengal. Of these, 288 were cyclonic storms and the rest were depressions. A good part of the annual rainfall in the Indian sub-continent (including widespread heavy to very heavy falls) is often associated with these storms and depressions which develop in the Bay of Bengal.

The disturbances occur most frequently during the monsoon and post-monsoon months, the frequency being highest in August and September. So far as cyclonic storms are concerned, October and November are the most favourable months for their formation. The disturbances are nearly absent in January, February and March.

There was not a single year in which the monsoon or the post-monsoon season was altogether free from the incidence of disturbances. There were, however, eight monsoon and seven post-monsoon seasons without a single cyclonic storm.

Food & Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF GUJARAT AND MAHARASHTRA

A New Delhi announcement of May 18 says that according to the 'Maharashtra and Gujarat Agricultural Statistics', recently published by the Union Ministry of Agriculture, Maharashtra has a relatively larger share of foodgrains, while Gujarat is in a more favourable position in the production of commercial crops.

Maharashtra's share of the total foodgrains production is 72.6 per cent. Gujarat, on the other hand, claims 64.3 per cent of cotton—the two most important commercial crops of the former Bombay State. In the production of castor and rapeseed, and mustard, the share of Gujarat is as high as 93.3 per cent and 95.5 per cent respectively.

Maharashtra has generally a more than proportionate share of rice, *jowar, ragi*, 'total cereals' and gram and *tur*, while Gujarat is in a better position in the case of *bajra*, maize, wheat and barley. Among the cash crops, Maharashtra has a relatively large share of sugarcane, potatoes, chillies and mesta while Gujarat has more of tobacco, cotton, groundnut and total oilseeds.

The 'net irrigated area' and the 'total irrigated area' in the two States are almost in the proportion of their geographical area although there are considerable variations in the extent of irrigation under different crops.

The geographical area of the former Bombay State is shared by the two States of Maharashtra and Gujarat in the proportion of 62.1 and 37.9 per cent respectively. The area of Maharashtra is nearly 29.55 million acres more than that of Gujarat. Maharashtra has a slightly more than proportionate share of 'net area sown' and 'total cropped area'. Forests are largely concentrated in Maharashtra whereas Gujarat has more than double the area under the category 'not available for cultivation' compared with Maharashtra.

In the matter of livestock, Gujarat has a larger share of buffaloes (particularly females), sheep, horses and ponies, mules and donkeys and camels. Maharashtra, however, is in a more favourable position as regards cattle, especially cows.

Studies In Economics Of Farm Management

The report on Studies in Economics of Farm Management released by the Union Ministry of Agriculture on May 16. The report contains results of research on important aspects of farm management such as the structure of holdings, costs and returns for farm business as a whole, enterprise studies including input-output relationship for various crops and certain methodological problems.

Financed by the research programme committee of the Planning Commission, the studies in the economics of farm management were carried out under the supervision of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in six typical regions of the country — Bombay, Madras, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. These areas covered all the major soil-crop complexes in the country.

The general pattern of investigation and techniques was recommended by a Committee of Direction of which Prof. D.R. Gadgil was the Chairman.

River Projects & Power

RECOMMENDATIONS OF N.-W. RIVERS COMMISSION

According to a New Delhi announcement dated May 21, the North-West Rivers Commission, which met at Chandigarh recently, has recommended the establishment of a flood-forecasting unit in each river basin. Such units would also prove useful in construction and operation of major river valley projects. It was also felt that special units should be set up in the States for co-ordinating flood data in the country.

On the basis of this suggestion, a flood forecasting unit, the second in India, is likely to be set up in Punjab by the State Government for giving flood warnings in time.

The first such unit, set up in November 1958, on an experimental basis, has been collating data for the Yamuna at Delhi, and it has accurately forecast the magnitude of floods in the river two days in advance. The damage to property and suffering to the people in low-lying areas near the river Yamuna in Delhi were thus greatly reduced last year.

Another recommendation of the Commission related to a more regular system of inspection of rain gauges by the Indian Meteorological Department, so that a third of all the rain gauges are inspected each year. The Commission also underlined the importance of continuing collection of hydro-meteorological data by observatories functioning in the Himalayan areas.

The number of such observatories in the Himalayan region is at present 80—58 in Nepal, 3 in Sikkim and 19 in Bhutan.

Power Development In Second Plan

A New Delhi announcement dated May 20 says that about 5.8 million kw. of power generating capacity will have been installed in the country by the end of the Second Plan.

An additional installed capacity of 6 million kw. of electric power is likely to be created by 1965-66—2.4 million kw. from schemes continuing from the Second Plan, and 3.6 million kw. from new schemes including 0.3 million kw. from the atomic power station, proposed to be established during the Third Plan period.

This will raise the total installed capacity in 1965-66 to 11.8 million kw. — twice as much as in 1960-61.

The transmission and sub-transmission lines for distribution of electric power will also keep pace with increased generation in the Second and Third Plan periods.

By the end of the Second Plan, a total of 35,000 miles of transmission lines will have been constructed, of which 28,250 miles have already been completed and energised.

The programme in the Third Plan is to construct additional 35,000 miles of extra high voltage transmission lines in the country.

BHAKRA POWER HOUSE

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 26 the first 90,000 kw. generating unit in the left bank power house at the Bhakra Dam, which attained a maximum height of 534 ft. from the deepest foundation on May 1, is likely to be commissioned by October 1960. The remaining four units, each having an installed capacity of 90,000 kw., will be completed by the end of April 1961. The third units at the Kotla and Ganguwal power houses, which are located on the Nangal Hydel Channel, will also be completed by April 1961.

The installed capacity of Bhakra-Nangal power houses will then increase from 96,000 kw. to 6,04,000 kw. in April 1961.

The Bhakra transmission system, spread over Punjab and

Rajasthan, is also largely ready. About 925 miles of transmission lines of 66 KV and above have been erected in Punjab and about 150 miles in Rajasthan.

In addition, four substations in the two States are nearing completion, these being at Solan and Simla in Punjab, and at Ratangarh and Bikaner in Rajasthan.

Electricity from the Bhakra Nangal project was supplied for the first time to Rajasthan in January last, when the substation at Sriganganagar was commissioned.

Education & Culture

MEETING OF ALL-INDIA COUNCIL FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION

The All-India Council for Secondary Education held its second meeting in New Delhi on May 23 and 24. Shri P.N. Kirpal, Joint Secretary to the Union Ministry of Education and the chairman of the Council, presided.

In his inaugural address, Shri Kirpal said that the Draft Third Plan for Education had dealt at length with the expansion of secondary education in quantity and quality. If expansion at the primary and middle stages maintained the pace originally envisaged, then by an inevitable process of upward growth, it would be possible to achieve near universal secondary education in another 25 years. The pressure of numerical expansion was, however, expected to make itself felt about the Fifth or the Sixth Plan, after the constitutional directive of universal education up to the age of fourteen was fulfilled. In the meanwhile, before the surge of numbers came upon, it was essential to use the interim period for effecting necessary consolidation in the sphere of reforms which had been taken in hand so that a sound foundation was laid for quality secondary education.

Referring to the question of upgrading High Schools into Higher Secondary Schools, Shri Kirpal said, the Joint Meeting of the State Education Secretaries and the Working Group on Education, which had met earlier, had expressed the view that at least 50 per cent of the schools existing unreorganised at the end of the Second Plan should be converted to the Higher Secondary pattern during the Third Plan with the compulsory provision of elective Science and elective Humanities. This worked out to about 4000 schools in the whole country. Subsequent thinking on this subject in the light of the likely allocation of funds led to believe that it might not be possible to achieve this target and perhaps only 1500 schools would be upgraded.

Conversion Of High Schools Into Multipurpose Schools

Regarding the conversion of High Schools into Multipurpose schools, he said that the joint meeting of the Education Secretaries and the Working Group had recommended that during the Third Plan the expansion of Multipurpose schools should be kept to the minimum and concentrate efforts on consolidating and strengthening the existing ones. The Working Group, therefore, provided for about 100 new Multipurpose schools, and the addition of 465 additional courses in the existing Multipurpose schools during the Third Plan. There was, however, another scheme as well of establishing one model Multipurpose school in each district. The Government have also worked out a scheme for establishing four Regional Colleges with model Multipurpose schools attached to them. This proposal had been approved in great detail by the Planning Commission. As for vocational guidance, Shri Kirpal said that a provision had been made in the draft Third Plan for the appointment of 500 full-time counsellers and 1500 career masters in the existing Multipurpose schools. Subsequently it was worked out in conjunction with the Central Bureau of Vocational and Educational Guidance, what might be considered to be a more workable and effective scheme of providing a minimum programme of guidance in the Multipurpose schools during the Third Plan.

Extension Services Project

The Extension Services project had been so successful that it was generally felt that an extension centre should be made an integral part of every training college in the country. In fact the draft Third Plan included a programme of establishing such extension centres for primary school teachers on the same pattern as had been followed at the secondary level. Provision had, therefore, been made in the draft plan for the continuance of the existing 54 centres and for opening 50 more in new training colleges.

Concluding his speech, Shri Kirpal said that the Working Group on Education for the preparation of the Third Five Year Plan estimated the cost of Secondary education at about Rs. 248 crores during the Third Plan period. This estimate, which was by no means extravagant, might have to be cut down drastically to about one-third in the revised allocations.

Council's Recommendations

The Council has recommended the conversion of all High Schools into Higher Secondary Schools during the Third Plan period. It has suggested a realistic examination and reappraisal of the cost of conversion, to achieve this objective.

Members of the Council were of the opinion that the upgrading of High Schools into Higher Secondary schools could not be prolonged indefinitely without great detriment to the spirit of Secondary Education reform. If it was not possible to convert all High Schools, the target for upgrading should not be less than 50 per cent as already decided by the Working Group and Conference of Education Secretaries.

Referring to the acute shortage of teachers qualified to teach the Higher Secondary classes, the Council recommended that emergency measures of various types may be undertaken to enable existing graduate teachers to acquire sufficient professional competency to teach in the Higher Secondary schools. All long and short-term measures, such as the short certificate courses, vocation courses and the two-year diploma course of the Punjab pattern would be necessary to meet the shortage. The States might devise their own schemes in the light of their special requirements.

Teaching Of Science

To create a proper climate for developing interest in science, the Council agreed to the proposal that December 1 be observed every year as National Science Day and recommended that the celebration should be organised for a whole week preceding December 1. During this period, science fairs and competitions should be held throughout the country. The Central Government should arrange for the grant of awards at different levels for the best exihibits.

The Council emphasised that science education should be provided in as many schools as possible and that the original targets of introducing general science in all high schools, where it did not exist at present, and elective science in all the old and new Higher Secondary schools during the Third Plan, should be retained. The programme of strengthening science in schools was one of such magnitude and urgency that it was imperative that a separate science unit should be established in the Directorate of Extension Programmes to implement science programmes. The Central Science Club-cum-Workshop should also be revived immediately.

To meet the shortage of teachers in science and in other subjects, the Council recommended that the States might consider raising the age of retirement to 60, provided the individuals were physically fit. Further, to bring about speedy improvement in science education, Science Development Officers should be appointed, one at the State headquarters and one in each Division or Region.

State Education Departments should take steps to expand and strengthen the Science Club movement. As many secondary schools as possible should be encouraged to start Science Clubs. These Clubs may be encouraged to federate into district, regional and State organisations culminating in a national federation.

A non-Government machinery should be set up to supervise the programme so that the active interest of industry and commerce could be pressed into the service of the Science Club movement.

Women's Education

In view of the fact that the education of girls and women was lagging far behind and there was acute shortage of woman personnel for developmental programmes, the Council recommended that every attempt should be made to retain the provision for Special Programme included in the Draft Third Plan, as suggested by the National Council for Women's Education. If, however, any cut was necessitated in the total programme, it should not be greater than a proportionate reduction in respect of this sector and the amount earmarked should not be diverted for any other purpose.

Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh, who was invited to the Council's meeting, outlined the importance of secondary education for girls. She said that it was recognised that special measures had to be taken to impart education at the primary and secondary levels to girls to meet the requirements of teachers, health visitors, social welfare workers, etc. during the Third Plan. The National Council for Women's Education had drawn up special schemes to increase the output of women teachers, expand school facilities, hostels and provide freeships to girls in the rural and urban areas.

Vocational Guidance

The Council was of the view that it was essential to provide a full programme of vocational guidance in every Higher Secondary and Multipurpose school during the Third Plan. The appointment of full time counsellors in every Multipurpose school was recommended. Where this was not possible, a minimum programme was suggested consisting of teacher counsellors in all the 1,500 Multipurpose schools, a career master in every High and Higher Secondary school and one peripatetic field counsellor for every 15 Multipurpose schools.

Co-ordination Committees should be set up in all States to co-ordinate the present activities of vocational guidance conducted by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour and Employment. District Committees should be established to coordinate the vocational guidance activities at the district level. These Commitees should work in conjunction with the National Small Scale Services Institutes set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in the various regions.

Higher Studies

In order to enable students of Higher Secondary and Multipurpose schools to pursue studies in the universities without difficulty, the Council recommended that some provision should be made in the schools

for imparting instruction through English or in the same language as is the medium of instruction in the universities of the State.

The Council accorded very high priority to the Extension Services Project and considered that it was of such national value in the reconstruction of secondary education that it should continue in the Third Plan to be centrally guided and supervised.

The Council recommended that the State Education Departments should take urgent steps to set up State Evaluation Units to implement the scheme of examination reform.

The Council further suggested the setting up of Research Units by the State Education Departments to plan and organise seminar work in their regions.

National Institute Of Sports

The Board of Governors of the National Institute of Sports decided, at its first meeting held in New Delhi on May 18, that the Institute should start functioning at Patiala from December 1, 1960. The Board also decided to appoint a Director to hold charge of the Institute by September 1 this year.

The draft constitution of the National Institute of Sports was adopted. The Institute might be registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.

A sub-committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Shri M.N. Kapur to draft, among other things, rules for admission to the Institute, syllabus of studies and bye-laws.

The National Institute of Sports is being set up to provide adequate facilities for training in India of coaches of the highest calibre in various games and sports. The Institute will be located in a Rs. 14 lakh estate in Patiala which includes buildings, extensive grounds and other facilities. The Institute will be managed by an autonomous Board of Governors, consisting of nine members nominated for a period of three years.

Standard Devanagari Script

In a Press Note dated May 29, the Ministry of Education has announced that the Government of India have finalised and issued the standard form of the Devanagari script based on the recommendations of the Conference of Education Ministers held in 1959.

The State Governments have been requested to adopt the finalised Devanagari script in all their work where Hindi is used.

The need for reforming the Devanagari script arose partly as a result of the necessity of standardising the shape and form of its characters and partly because of the requirements of typewriting and printing.

A conference convened by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in Lucknow in November 1953 for standardising the script made certain reforms. In January 1955, the Government of India accepted the recommendations of this conference. But they were not fully acceptable to the State Governments concerned.

In 1957, the Government of Uttar Pradesh convened another conference which recommended certain significant modifications. The question was then re-examined in the Union Ministry of Education. The matter was placed before the State Education Ministers Conference in August 1959 after eliciting expert opinion. The State Education Ministers accepted the recommendations of the 1953 Lucknow Conference, subject to the modifications suggested by the 1957 conference and with certain further clarifications. These recommendations are now being implemented.

NATIONAL CALENDAR FOR SAKA YEAR 1882

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 19, the uniform National Calendar, called Rashtriya Panchang, for the Saka year 1882 (1960-61) based on a uniform and scientific system of calculations, has been published in English, Hindi and nine other Indian languages as well as Sanskrit.

The publication, which has brought about uniformity among diverse systems of calendar calculations prevailing in different parts of the country, is based on the recommendations made by the Calendar Reform Committee appointed by the Government of India.

The Rashtriya Panchang has the usual features and details like the *tithi*, the *nakshtra*, etc. In addition, it gives the beginning of the *lagnas* (zodiacs) for each day and the longitude of planets and other related phenomena. The days of all principal religious festivals in different States have also been shown as well as the auspicious days for events like marriage.

The National Calendar, apart from being based on scientific calculations, seeks to do away with diversities regarding the beginning of the year, differences in the times of the same astronomical events, differences in the names of months as well as the lunar and solar systems followed by the large variety of indigenous calendars.

Published by the India Meteorological Department, the Panchang has now entered the fourth year of its publication. The Indian languages, apart from Hindi, in which the Panchang is available are Bengali, Oriya, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Gujarati and Urdu.

GEOLOGY MANUAL

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 25, the Manual of Geology of India and Burma, a standard work of reference for geologists both in India and abroad, has recently been published by the Geological Survey of India.

The volume, which is the second in a series of four, was compiled by late Sir Edwin Pascoe, formerly Director of the Department.

It is based on the work of the officers of the Geological Survey of India and other geologists during the past several decades and gives a comprehensive account of geological formations of India, Pakistan, Burma and adjoining countries.

Commencing with the description of the Lower Vindhyan system the volume deals with the Palaeozoic rocks, the Gondwanas and the marine Cretaceous and other equivalent formations. The lithology, structure, relative ages and fossil assemblages of the formation have also been dealt with in detail.

Short descriptions of the important economic minerals like coal, limestone, diamonds and fireclay have been included in the publication.

Vacation Training At Bhilai

According to an announcement of May 26, the Bhilai Steel Project has extended vacation training facilities to about 65 engineering students from various technical and engineering colleges in India during this academic year. A large majority of students belong to engineering colleges in Madhya Pradesh. They include 29 students from the Raipur college, 14 from the Jabalpur college, 5 from the Banaras Hindu University, 6 from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, and a few students from Madras, Andhra, Jodhpur, Pilani and Quilon.

The Technical Institute of Bhilai Steel Project has made provision for giving practical training to engineering students during the period of their vacation under the supervision of training officers. Training will be imparted to students in civil, mechanical, electrical and metallurgical engineering in the Technical Training Institute as well as in different shops or the Steelworks. Period of training will vary from six to 17 weeks.

Last year, 50 students from various technical institutes of the country were given such vacation training facilities in the Bhilai Steelworks.

RECOGNITION OF DIPLOMA

On the recommendation of the Board of Assessment for Technical and Professional Qualifications, the Government of India have decided to recognise the following Diploma and Certificates for purposes of recruitment to subordinate posts and services under the Central Government:

Diploma in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering awarded by the Board of Apprenticeship Training, West Bengal, in respect of the Calcutta Technical School, Calcutta; and the National Certificate in Commercial Art (Pictorial) and the National Intermediate in Arts and Crafts awarded by the All India Council for Technical Education.

UNESCO FELLOWSHIPS

In an announcement dated May 19, the Union Ministry of Education says that the UNESCO has offered, under its project 'Production of Reading Material', a fellowship for study abroad for six months in the field of book publishing.

The scope of studies will cover important aspects of book publishing including general and specialised publishing; legal aspects of publishing (copyright, libel etc); role of publishers' associations; cost accountancy of publishing; relations with authors; distribution channels and publicity methods.

FELLOWSHIP IN JOURNALISM

In a Press Note dated May 22, the Union Ministry of Education has announced that UNESCO has made an offer of a Fellowship to an Indian national for study in the field of journalism for a period of two months in 1960. The object of the programme is to promote international understanding through raising standards in journalism and in the professional education of journalists.

The study programme will consist of two parts: an initial programme of intensive work at the Strasbourg University Centre, in October 1960 to be followed by a one-month programme of individual study in a European country.

French Scholarships In Zoology

In a Press Note issued on May 19 the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs has announced that a candidate of New Delhi has been awarded one of the eight scholarships offered by the Government of France for Higher Studies during 1959-60. The subject of study is Zoology.

Foreign Languages Scholarships

In a Press Note dated May 28 the Union Ministry of Education has announced the names of 15 candidates selected under the Foreign Languages Scholarships Scheme, which is intended to provide facilities for Indian nationals to specialise in foreign languages abroad during 1959-60. Of these scholarships 3 are awarded in Arabic (U.A.R.), 2 in Persian (Iran), 3 in German (West Germany), 2 in Japanese (Japan), 3 in Russian (U.S.S.R.), 1 in Spanish and 1 in Swahili (U.K.).

The duration of the scholarships will vary from language to language but will generally be between one to two years, and three years in the case of Japanese language only.

Science Research Scholarship

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 21, a candidate has been selected for the award of a Science Research Scholarship offered by the Royal Commission for the London Exhibition of 1851 for research in Organic Chemistry.

Grant For Educational Tours

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on May 23 says that, under its Youth

Welfare Programme, the Ministry has been giving grants to recognised educational institutions not below the status of a High School, to enable small and manageable batches of students to undertake educational tours to places of historical, cultural and industrial importance, and big national projects.

The grants, which cover the actual third class railway and bus fare, at students' concession rate, were being given in the past, direct to the institutions on receipt of their applications through the State Governments in the case of schools, and through the Universities in the case of colleges.

The procedure proved very circuitous and many institutions were not able to get the grants in time. To obviate this difficulty and to operate the scheme in a more effective and helpful way, it was decided to implement the scheme through the State Governments with effect from July 1959. Available funds were, therefore, placed at the disposal of the State Governments for payment of grants to eligible institutions.

The State Governments will continue to give, during the current financial year also, grants to the eligible educational institutions within their respective jurisdiction, out of the funds provided by the Centre. All the applications for tour grants should, therefore, be sent direct to the State Education Secretaries and not to the Union Ministry of Education. In the case of affiliated colleges, applications should be sent to the State Governments duly recommended by the Vice-Chancellor or the Registrar of the University concerned.

Institutions in the Union Territories will continue to receive grants direct from the Ministry of Education as before and their applications should reach the Ministry duly recommended by the Education Departments of the Administrations or Registrars/Vice-Chancellors of the Universities, as the case may be.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FILM FINANCE BODY

An announcement dated May 16 says that the Government of India have nominated a nine-member Board of Directors for the Film Finance Corporation Ltd., a Government-owned company. Shri N.D. Mehrotra of Bombay is the Chairman of the Board.

The Corporation, which has its office in Bombay, has been set up to provide financial assistance to the film industry in the production of films of good standard and quality and to help generally in raising the standard of Indian films.

The Corporation has an authorised capital of Rs. 1 crore, to be entirely subscribed by the Government of India. Of this amount Rs. 20 lakhs has been subscribed for the present.

First Colour Cartoon Film For Children

The Films Division's first colour cartoon film for children, 'Banyan Deer' was released on May 20.

Based on a Buddhist Jataka story, the film illustrates how self-immolation can bring about a revolution in human outlook from violence to non-violence.

This film has won an All-India Certificate of Merit in the State Awards for Films for 1959.

India's Place In Film And Book Production

In the production of feature films, India with an output of 293 films, occupies the second place in the world, according to the U.N. Year Book 1959. The first place is taken by Japan which made 360 films.

India is among the first five largest book producing countries of the world. More than 10,000 books were published in the country during 1958. The first place goes to the Soviet Union.

NEW TECHNIQUE TO SEE HUMAN RETINA

According to a New Delhi announcement dated May 28, Dr. C.V. Raman, famous physicist, has recently developed a new technique by which, without the aid of any instruments whatever, it is possible for a person to view his own retina in action and observe how its different parts function in the perception of colour.

Describing the new technique, in a talk in the National Programme on All India Radio, Dr. Raman said: 'The observer sits facing a white screen in a well lighted room and views the screen through one or another of a suitably chosen set of colour filters held close to the eyes. After allowing a sufficient time for the observer's vision to adapt itself to the effect of the colour filter, the latter is suddenly removed. The observer then sees on the screen a highly enlarged image of his own retina, or rather of the physiologically important central part of it, known as the *macula lutea*. The nature of the image perceived and the colour which it exhibits in different parts depend very much on the colour filter used.'

The new technique, he said, had disclosed the existence in the human retina of three different pigments which he named visual pigments. These enable people to perceive the full spectrum of colour extending from extreme violet to extreme red.

After discussing the question of limen or minimum of colour difference which the eye could detect along the spectrum, Dr. Raman inferred that the perception of light and colour involved a simple transference of the energy absorbed by the visual pigment to the nurons in the retina.

FOLK PLAY COMPETITION IN REGIONAL LANGUAGES

A New Delhi announcement dated May 28 says that, in the folk play competition in all languages sponsored by the Song and Drama Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting 28 scripts have been awarded prizes.

Except two plays in Hindi which have been jointly awarded the first prize, none of the scripts in other languages was found suitable for the first prize. In all 10 second and 9 third prizes have been awarded. Two special prizes have been awarded to non-Hindi authors for scripts in Hindi in the authentic folk styles of the regions.

Language-wise, 8 scripts in Hindi, 4 in Telugu, 3 each in Tamil and Kannada, and 2 each in Malayalam, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali and Oriya have won these prizes. The value of the prizes are: first prize — Rs. 1000 second prize — Rs. 750, third prize — Rs. 500 and special prize Rs. 600.

The number of scripts received for the competition was 673. The play entered in the competition had to fulfil the condition that it should lend itself for presentation as a live stage performance in the authentic folk style of the area concerned. The scripts of the plays were assessed with the aid of experts.

A.I.R. LISTENERS' CLUB

An announcement of May 16 says that the institution of "a listeners' club" to enable individuals as well as groups to receive sets of A.I.R. processed records and to express their views on A.I.R. programme has been recommended by the three-day conference of Directors of various stations of All India Radio which concluded recently in New Delhi.

The recorded material will include musical, educational, devotional and other programmes, prepared by All India Radio, which are normally not available in the market. Membership of the club will be limited.

The Station Directors also suggested that A.I.R. should go to the villages during its Silver Jubilee celebrations next year. They proposed that four parties of radio-men should be despatched in different directions—North, South, East and West—from a central place and each should supply the nearest station with a daily despatch on the various activities in the villages they pass through. These parties would be continuously on the move in their respective regions and provide first-hand accounts of activities in the villages.

Panels Of Music Audition Board

A New Delhi announcement of May 20, says that, Dr. S.N. Ratanjankar, Indra Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh (Madhya Pradesh) has been appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Northern Panel of the Music Audition Board of A.I.R. for a further term of two years. Shri N. Padmanabhan, Indore; Pt. V.N. Patwardhan, Poona, Pt. V.A. Kashalkar, Allahabad and Shri Mushtaq Hussain Khan, Delhi, have been appointed as members of the Northern Panel of the Music Audition Board for a further term of one year. Shri Chilakalapudi, Vijayawada and Shri Palani M. Subramaniam, Madras, have been appointed as members of the Southern Panel of the Music Audition Board for a further term of one year.

EXHIBITION ON WHEELS'

According to an announcement of May 27 the 'exhibition on wheels', sponsored by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, has returned to New Delhi after a tour of eight months.

The 70-foot-long railway coach carrying the exhibition visited 92 stations in the course of its itinerary which took it to the States of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Bombay. The coach halted mostly at small way-side stations and was visited by lakhs of people. As an additional attraction, over 200 cinema shows were given during the tour.

After some renovation, the 'exhibition on wheels' will embark on a second tour in a few months.

Health

PREVENTION OF FOOD ADULTERATION

An announcement of May 31 says that the Union Ministry of Health has, in consultation with the Central Committee for Food Standards, made certain amendments to the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, after taking into consideration the comments received on the draft rules published for eliciting opinion.

According to the amendments, aluminium utensils for cooking food have to conform to specifications laid down by the Indian Standards Institution for cast aluminium and aluminium alloy. This restriction, it is felt, will ensure safety from poisonous metals, such as lead, etc.

By another rule, the manufacture, sale or stocking of sago without licence has been prohibited and the use of colour whether natural or synthetic banned.

The use of phosphoric acid in the manufacture of aerated water has been allowed. Carbitol as a solvent in flavours is prohibited.

Standards have been prescribed for synthetic vinegar and fortified atta and maida, obtained by the addition of calcium carbonate, iron, thiamine, riboflavin and niacin either in combination or singly.

In addition to the eleven coal tar dyes, amaranth and erythrosine have also been approved.

LEPROSY PROBLEM

India has about 20 lakh leprosy patients; of these about four lakhs are infectious.

Every case of leprosy is not infectious; in India only 30 per cent of the cases are infectious. Children are more susceptible than adults.

Leprosy cases can be divided into two main types-lepromatous and non-lepromatous. Cases of the lepromatous type are mainly responsible for spreading the infection to healthy persons. In general, it may be said that infective cases are characterised by thickening of face, ears and other parts of the body, and by the presence of thick patches and nodules, which may ulcerate.

There are now patent medicines for the treatment of leprosy. If the patients are put on treatment in the early stage the patches disappear and the patients are cured completely. The modern drugs such as sulphones reduce the infectivity and the patient finally becomes non-infectious if he takes the treatment regularly for a sufficiently long time.

The modern approach to the problem of leprosy is to carry out case-detection campaigns and put every case on treatment.

FELLOWSHIP IN PHARMACY

According to a New Delhi announcement dated May 25, some fellowships are likely to be available for Indian nationals for a new degree course in pharmacy in Australia under the Technical Co-operation Scheme of the Colombo Plan.

The applicants must at least have the Intermediate Science qualification. They should be below 30 years of age. The age limit is relaxable in the case of Government servants or persons in employment to the extent of the period of service.

Applications are to be submitted to the respective State Governments so as to reach the Union Ministry of Health by June 30, 1960.

NATIONAL FORMULARY OF INDIA

According to an announcement dated May 19, the first edition of the National Formulary of India has been published. The Formulary is intended to serve as a handbook of reference for members of the medical profession, pharmacists and hospitals. It contains a list of essential drugs with their useful formulations. The Formulary has been prepared by a committee constituted for this purpose by the Government of India.

PROTEIN HYDROLYSATE

According to a New Delhi announcement dated May 28, experiments conducted at the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, have shown that protein hydrolysate, prepared from mustard and til oilseed cakes, is comparable in nutritive value to casein, the main protein in milk.

The new process will assist in the manufacture of a cheap indigenous substitute for protein concentrates which are now being imported in large quantities for combating protein-deficiency diseases.

Experiments on rats have shown that the product has almost all the essential amino acids present in protein and, when incorporated into a synthetic diet, it sustains growth with the same degree of efficiency as casein. Further, the amino acids in the hydrolysate are available in a readily assimilable form for protein synthesis in the body.

Social Welfare

URBAN HOUSES FOR D.P.s

According to a Press Note issued on May 29 by the Ministry of Rehabilitation, the Government of India feel that the retrieving of urban houses in the possession of land allottees would cause hardship to them. It has accordingly been decided that, where no rural houses or sites and cash grants, as admissible under the Quasi-Permanent Allotment Scheme, have been given to the allottees, the payment of the reserve price by giving a rebate equal to the value of the houses to which they were entitled in the rural area. The rate of rebate would be as under:—

(i) Allottees of land upto 10 standard acres .. Rs. 800

(ii) Allottees of land above 10 standard acres and upto 50 standard acres .. Rs. 1,200

(iii) Allottees of land over 50 standard acres .. Rs. 1,500

The rebate will be admissible only if the allottee is in occupation of an allotable urban house within a radius of 10 miles of the land allotted to him.

The Quasi-Permanent Land Allotment Scheme introduced in the Punjab provided for the allotment of house in a rural area alongwith the land. Where houses were not available, the allottees were entitled to the allotment of building sites and some grant. Though the houses were to be provided only in the rural areas, the allottees in some cases occupied houses abandoned by Muslim evacuees in the adjoining towns. These houses in the urban areas could not obviously be transferred to them free as appendages to the land. However, the allottees of these houses had been representing that since they had been in occupation of these houses for a long time, the houses might be transferred to them.

The new decision of the Government will benefit about 4,000 displaced persons. The financial effect of allowing the rebate on the rates prescribed would be about Rs. 35 lakhs. Instead of evaluating the price of site in each case, it has been decided to give a uniform scale of rebate to the allottees so that the process could be made simple and expeditious.

U. P. ZAMINDARI ABOLITION BONDS

In a Press Note issued on May 26, the Ministry of Rehabilitation says that in a Press Note issued in October 1956, applications were invited from displaced claimants for payment of compensation in the form of U.P. Zamindari Abolition Bonds. These Bonds are repayable in 40 equated annual instalments of principal and interest @ 2½% per annum.

In another Press Note issued in July 1959, it was announced that there was another type of Bonds known as U.P. Zamindari Abolition Rehabilitation Grant Bonds which were repayable in 25 years but did not carry any interest. Applications for payment of compensation in both these types of Bonds were invited from displaced claimants whose claims had not been settled. The last date for receipt of applications was October 31, 1959.

As some Bonds of both the types are still available, displaced claimants who are desirous of obtaining these bonds against compensation payable to them are advised to apply to the Chief Settlement Commissioner, Ministry of Rehabilitation. Government of India, New Delhi, showing their preference for the particular type of the Bonds. Applications accompanied by compensation applications already filed, viz. registration number, the region in which they were filed and particulars of statements of account issued should be filed so as to reach Chief Settlement Commissioner's Office by October 31, 1960.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

A New Delhi announcement dated May 31 says that the scholarships, under the Government of India Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes Scholarship Scheme for study in recognised Post-Matriculation institutions, will, like last year, be awarded by the respective State Governments and Union Administrations.

Labour & Employment

STAFF WELFARE MEASURES IN PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

A report on the staff welfare activities in the various public enterprises during 1959-60, which was released on May 29, reveals that the tempo of these activities was considerably stepped up. Schemes relating to housing, education centres, medical facilities, recreation clubs and the like made further progress during the year.

Almost all the regular employees of Hindustan Chemicals and Fertilisers have been provided with accommodation. A hospital with a hundred beds is under construction. A small hospital is already functioning, besides a first aid post and a family planning centre. Two educational institutions have been set up and three others are under construction. Free education up to the sixth standard for the children of all employees is being provided by the company.

At the Sindri Fertilizer and Chemical Factory, a sum of Rs. 7 lakhs has been set apart to constitute a Workers' Amenities Fund, formed out of the *ad hoc* ex-gratia payments sanctioned for the employees from 1956-58.

Residence Facilities

Residential colonies are under construction for workers employed at the two units under Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. 133 quarters under construction at Delhi would house nearly half of the employees. At Alwaye, over 70 quarters have already been built and occupied by the workers. Canteens, medical and recreational facilities have been provided at both the factories. Travel concession on the lines granted by the Government of India to its employees have been extended to all the employees of the company. A scheme for the grant of loans for purchase of cycles has been introduced.

In the case of the Hindustan Cables Factory, in addition to over 250 quarters constructed earlier, 108 more quarters are expected to be ready very shortly.

At the National Instruments Factory in Calcutta, the Measures taken included the grant of subsidies for equipping the canteens to facilitate the supply of food to employees at cheap rates.

Ex-Gratia Grants

The Hindustan Machine Tools Factory at Bangalore introduced an Incentive Bonus scheme based on measurement of individual efficiency, where possible. An attendance bonus paid at the rate of Rs. 4 to employees who do not absent themselves in a month continuously was raised to Rs. 5. A sum of over Rs. 71,000 was paid under this scheme.

The management of the Heavy Electrical Factory at Bhopal has taken measures for construction of hospitals, canteens and recreation clubs.

At the Hindustan Antibiotics Factory in Poona, nearly 50 per cent of the employees are now provided with housing accommodation. The residential colony is being expanded by the construction of another 240 quarters. The scales of pay of about 600 workers in the lower income group were revised upwards and the estimated additional payments on this amount would be about Rs. 1 lakh a year. A scheme for free milk supply to workers has been introduced as also free education to children of all workers. The company has provided rent-free accommodation and cash grants to the Ladies Club. A consumer's co-operative store, which runs a fair price shop for cheap grains and renders short-term monetary assistance to its members, has also been organised.

As a matter of principle, no profit-sharing bonus is given in Government undertakings. Ex-gratia payments have, however, been made in some cases. In the Sindri Factory, for example, during 1958-59 a sum of Rs. 16 lakhs was thus sanctioned for employees drawing less than Rs. 500 per month. The management of the Hindustan Cables Factory has decided a payment of about Rs. 1 lakh under a similar scheme to its employees. The Penicillin Factory at Pimpri made a payment of about Rs. 2 lakhs in 1959-60.

EVENING INSTITUTE

Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, inaugurated the first Evening Institute for Workers' Education at Indore on May 16.

The Institute provides general education and recreation facilities to industrial workers. Established as a pilot project in social education, the Institute aims, among other things, at arousing a sense of social and civic responsibility and stimulating a desire for knowledge in the working classes.

The curriculum envisages group discussions in special subjects and lectures. Youth clubs will be formed to arrange various social activities such as dramas, radio listening and study groups. Creches will be set up to look after the workers' children and promote children's activities.

Aid Under Industrial Housing Scheme

An announcement of May 20 says that the Government of India have liberalised the financial aid available under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme and have amended the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme. The loan quantum under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme has been increased from 50% to 65% of the approved cost of a house, which, along with the subsidy of 25%, will meet 90% of the cost. Following the amendment of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, a worker can obtain the balance of 10% from his contributions in the fund as a non-refundable advance. Thus a worker is assured financial aid for the full cost of his house.

It is expected that these facilities will provide sufficient inducement to industrial workers to set up co-operatives for building houses for themselves. Under the scheme, financial aid is made available to the approved agencies, viz., co-operative societies of industrial workers, private employers, State Governments, statutory housing boards and municipal bodies.

Hostels For Non-Family Workers

An announcement dated May 23 says that the Government of India have decided to permit construction of hostels for non-family industrial workers under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme. Hitherto, the scheme provided only for the construction of two-roomed tenements and skeletal houses and development of open plots.

The rent for accommodation in the hostel will be half of what is prescribed for a small two-roomed tenement.

Hostels, for workers, it is expected, will be popular particularly in the industrial towns of Calcutta, Kanpur and Ahmedabad, which have a sizable number of workers who have come from the rural areas leaving their families behind.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAJOR PORTS

A study of the conditions of labour employed in the ports of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Visakhapatnam, Cochin and Kandla was undertaken by the Labour Bureau of the Government of India. The report on the study, released on May 22, reveals that there is a fair degree of stability of employment in the principal ports of India. Out of the total labour force directly employed in these ports by the end of September 1958, 44.18 per cent, on the average, had service lasting 10 years or more. Individually, the percentage of workers with this length of service varied between 42.16 per cent in the port of Bombay to 64.44 per cent in Cochin.

The study has also shown that the rate of separations, i.e., the number of persons who were discharged or who left their jobs for various reasons, was quite low, the percentage being 2.05 for all the ports taken together during the year ended September 1958. About 50 per cent of the separations were caused by retirement or death.

Contract Labour

The total number of workers employed in the six ports was 73,468. Of these, 69,485 were employed directly and 4,001 were engaged through contractors. While the proportion of contract labour to the total labour force was high in Visakhapatnam (44.3%) and Kandla (46.3%), the percentages were low in Cochin (9.75) and Calcutta (0.45). Contract labour in the ports was mainly employed on road and building construction and maintenance work.

Employment of female workers in the principal ports was negligible, hardly one per cent of the workers being women in all the ports except Kandla where the percentage was 3.92.

The system of piece-rate wages was widely prevalent in the ports of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The percentages of piece-rated workers to the total labour force in the ports of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras were 35.9, 32.88 and 28.89 respectively. Piece-rated workers were mainly employed in the docks department in the port of

Bombay and the traffic department of the ports of Calcutta and Madras.

Wage Structure

Study of the wage structure in respect of monthly or daily rated workers employed in Bombay and Calcutta showed that there was no rationalisation and, as a result, various scales of wages were prevalent for most of the occupations. The wage scales also varied for different categories from department to department. The wage structure in the ports of Madras and Cochin, however, was more or less standardised and there were fixed scales of wages for different grades in an occupation. Efforts to rationalise the wage structure were being made in various major ports.

COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE PIECE-RATE SYSTEM

According to a New Delhi announcement dated May 18, the Government of India have set up a five-man Committee to examine the feasibility of introducing a system of payment by results to certain categories of employees in the Bombay and Madras Port Trusts. The categories are tally clerks, shed staff, stackers, mobile crane drivers and wagon loaders and unloaders.

The Committee, which is expected to submit its report within six months, will devise suitable schemes of payment by results to categories in whose case such payment is considered feasible.

While announcing their decisions on the report of the Officer on Special Duty, who conducted an inquiry into the demands of port and dock workers, the Government of India had agreed that the feasibility of payment by results to certain categories of workers should be examined. The Bombay Port Trust was conducting certain investigations but it has now been decided that the matter should be inquired into by a Committee.

Work Of Tribunals During July-December 1959

According to a New Delhi announcement dated May 26, a periodical study conducted by the Labour Bureau of the Government of India has revealed that out of 209 awards given by adjudicators and tribunals during the half year ended December 1959, 127 i.e., 60.8 per cent were in terms of mutual settlements reached by the parties. The textile industry alone accounted for 54 of the awards based on agreements concluded by employers and workers after the disputes between them had been referred for adjudication. Besides, five important agreements were also reached during the six months.

Of the total number of cases, in respect of which awards were given or agreements reached, 80 related to bonus, 56 to basic wages, 55 to basic wage and dearness allowance, and the remaining 23 to dearness allowance only. The cases included 73 (34.1 per cent) in respect of the textile industry and 39 (18.2 per cent) related to the basic metals industry (including engineering).

Increase In D.A.

The study showed that there was an increase in dearness allowance paid to cotton textile workers at all centres except Delhi and Kanpur and in West Bengal as compared with D.A. paid in the previous half year. In Ahmedabad, it was increased from Rs. 85.31 to Rs. 92.75, in Baroda from Rs. 76.95 to Rs. 83.48 and in Bombay from Rs. 83.49 to Rs. 89.34.

An important award on basic wages during the period was in respect of 21 handloom factories in Udipi in Mysore. The Industrial Tribunal, Bangalore, in this case, awarded an increase of two annas per rupee of basic wage.

Bonus was awarded on a widely varying scale to industrial workers during the period. Out of the 214 awards and agreements covered by the study, 101 related to the erstwhile Bombay State, 25 to Kerala, 16 to Punjab, 15 to Madras, 14 to Uttar Pradesh and 11 to Mysore. In the other States, the number of awards during the period was less than 10.

All awards and agreements except 16 related to single units.

The Labour Bureau periodically studies the awards and agreements to find out if there has been any revision in basic wages, dearness allowance and bonus paid to industrial workers.

SEPARATE ASSOCIATION OF P. AND T. EMPLOYEES

In a Press Note issued on May 19, the Posts and Telegraphs Department says that the question of recognising a separate Union for the Extra-Departmental staff employed in the P. and T. Department has been under consideration of Government for some time past. At present, such of them as are not employees of any State Government or of a local body and consequently subject to the discipline and control of those authorities, are allowed to join the Unions of the regular staff of corresponding categories.

Government appreciate that the terms and conditions of service of the Extra-Departmental employees of the Department are quite different from those of the regular employees and a separate Association of such employees would be desirable and necessary. The Government would, therefore, be prepared to recognise a separate Association for the Extra-Departmental staff engaged in the P. and T. Department if such staff joins to form their Association at local, Divisional, Circle and Central levels. All persons employed as Extra-Departmental Agents in the Postal and R.M.S. Wings of the P. and T. Department would be eligible to join as members of the proposed Association provided that the rules of their other employing authorities such as State Governments, local bodies, Corporations, private institutions, etc. permit of their being members of such Association.

The new Association, if and when formed and recognised, would be permitted to represent matters about the conditions of service of the Extra-Departmental Agents as Central Government employees only and not in any other capacity.

PREFERENCE FOR GOVERNMENT JOBS

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 27, an analysis of data relating to employment exchanges has shown that out of 14,20,901 applicants on the live registers of exchanges at the end of December 1959, 2,48,489 i.e. 17.5% desired Government jobs only.

A State-wise analysis revealed that in the Union territories of Manipur and Pondicherry, which had 7,218 and 2,298 applicants respectively on their live registers, all wanted to be employed under Government, while in Tripura 3,470 applicants, i.e., 97%, desired Government jobs. In Jammu and Kashmir, 2,261 out of 2,430 applicants and in Orissa 18,933 out of 20,992 showed similar preference. In Andhra Pradesh, Madras and Rajasthan, 56.7%, 35% and 54.8% applicants respectively showed preference for employment in Government.

The States

ASSENT FOR ANDHRA BILL

A New Delhi announcement of May 30 says that the President has given assent to the Andhra Tenancy (Andhra Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 1960 which seeks to extend by one year the protection to tenants against ejectment.

Under the Andhra Tenancy Act, 1956, all tenancies subsisting on the day of the promulgation of the Andhra Cultivating Tenants Protection Ordinance, 1956 and all subsequent tenancy agreements entered into upto the commencement of the Tenancy Act are to continue at least for a period of four years from June 1, 1956.

As the four-year period is about to expire, it is apprehended that a large number of tenants might become liable for ejectment. A unified Bill for the entire State on the subject is under the consideration of the State Government, but it will take sometime before it is enacted.

The State Government has, therefore, promoted the present legislation to give protection to the tenants.

ASSENT FOR PUNJAB BILL

According to an announcement of May 28, the President has given assent to the Punjab Laws (Extension No. 7) Bill, 1960.

The Bill seeks to bring uniformity in the application of certain laws throughout the State of Punjab, because, as a result of States reorganisation, different laws on the same subject are in force in the Punjab and PEPSU areas of the reorganised Punjab State.

The legislation, seventh in the series, extends certain regional laws, in force in the Punjab area, to the PEPSU area and repeals the corresponding laws in force in the PEPSU.

Government Residential Accommodation In Delhi

A New Delhi announcement dated May 21 says that the rules and procedure relating to allotment of Government residential accommodation in Delhi and New Delhi are to be simplified and rationalised. An inter-ministerial committee headed by Shri Anil K. Chanda, Union Deputy Minister for Works, Housing and Supply, has been set up to examine this matter.

The Committee has been asked to recommend the lines on which the rules can be simplified and the procedure streamlined. In particular, its advice has been sought on the question whether there is need for having separate allotment rules for regular and special residences in Delhi and New Delhi and Class IV quarters. Also, the Committee's suggestions have been invited in regard to criteria for sanctioning 'out-of-turn'

V.I.P.s OF DELHI ZOO

According to a New Delhi announcement of May 18, some of the animals and birds of the Delhi Zoo are the 'privileged few' who left Delhi in the second week of May to spend summer in the cool and bracing climate of the hills, away from the rigours of the Delhi heat.

Escorted by their keeper and carefully looked after at various stops *en route*, 15 animals and birds — all used to cold climates — performed the journey from Delhi to Simla in a special van. Among them were whooper swans, brant geese, sea eagles, polar owls, polar fox, siberian foxes and raccoon dogs. At Simla they will receive 'V.I.P.' treatment and hospitality in the Raj Niwas under the personal care of Raja Saheb Bhadri, Lieut. Governor of Himachal Pradesh, who is a keen naturalist and a well-known lover of birds and animals.

The Delhi Zoological Park has acquired some more Australian animals at a cost of about Rs. 6,000. These include four red kangaroos, four euros, two grey kangaroos, six quokkas and four black swans. These animals, transported free by the British India Steam Navigation Company Limited, arrived in Delhi on May 17. They will not however be on view for some time and will be kept under observation behind khas khas screens in cool houses.

allotments and according overriding priority in respect of such allotments.

Production Of Vegetables In Delhi Territory

According to an announcement dated May 18, more than 200 demonstrations will be carried out in Delhi villages during the current summer and the next *kharif* season for popularising the production of improved varieties of vegetables and the correct methods of manuring and cultivation.

At present an area of about 12,000 acres is under vegetables in Delhi territory. This is considered inadequate even to meet 10 per cent of the daily needs of the capital's growing population.

Already arrangements have been made for the free distribution of improved varieties of vegetable seeds and the extension staff has been provided with the necessary 'know-how' of improved vegetable farming.

Defence

ARMY CADET COLLEGE

An Army Cadet College, a pre-cadet training institution for Other Ranks in the Service for entry into the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, has been set up at Nowgong in Madhya Pradesh (near Jhansi). The College was opened by the Defence Minister, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, on May 16. It has been established to feed the I.M.A. with the best available officer potential from the ranks by affording them adequate training facilities and befitting them for an interview before a Services Selection Board and subsequently a pre-commissioned course at the I.M.A.

The College will offer an inducement to educated young men first to join the Army in the ranks and then avail themselves of the opportunity to obtain a commission. It will also provide a further chance to those who fail to enter the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, or the I.M.A. through the normal competition or through the National Cadet Corps or as technical graduates. Service candidates who may not make the grade at a Services Selection Board, on rejoining their unit, be better qualified and fitted for promotion to the rank of J.C.O. The duration of training at the College will be one year.

ANNUAL TRAINING CAMP FOR O. T. U.

The first annual training camp for the Officers Training Unit was inaugurated at Kailana, near Chakrata, by the Defence Minister, V.K. Krishna Menon, on May 17.

Addressing the cadets, the Defence Minister expressed gratification at the response of students to calls for volunteers to join the special category of the N.C.C. Rifles. While the target of half a lakh was fixed for the first three months of the year, he was glad to note that it had exceeded the 57,000 mark by March 31 last.

At the camp, 63 cadets drawn from all parts of the country will undergo intensive training of a higher standard than what is at present imparted in the N.C.C. Senior Division. The camp will last for six weeks. Officers training units are raised for the N.C.C. to provide a standard of training to those N.C.C. cadets who have agreed to choose a career in the Armed Forces.

Passing Out Parade By Air Crew

Air Vice-Marshal Ranjan Dutt, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Training Command, took the salute and presented wings and trophies to air crew graduates at a joint passing out parade held at the Air Force Station, Hyderabad, on May 28.

Amongst these graduates were two Indonesian officers and two officers of the Indian Navy trained for flying duties.

The air crew which passed out as full-fledged pilots or navigators have had their training either at the Jet Training Wing or the Transport Training Wing of the Air Force Station, Hyderabad. Before coming to the JTW or TTW they had already completed their basic and intermediate training, lasting one year, at the Air Force Flying College, Jodhpur.

JODHPUR PARADE

The cadets of the 78th pilots' and 18th navigators' course passed out of the Air Force Flying College, Jodhpur, on May 28. There was not a single flying accident or suspension during the training of the pilots, which is unknown in living memory.

Air Commodore H.C. Dewan, Senior Air Staff Officer, Operational Command, took the salute at the ceremonial joint parade.

The cadets passing out included two Army Officers, six Naval Officers and two officers of the Indonesian Air Force. They will now go to Hyderabad for their one-year advanced and applied training at the JTW or TTW before receiving their commissions.

The Air Force Flying College is the premier flying training institution and one of the oldest establishments of the Indian Air Force.

BIFURCATION OF R.V.F. CORPS

A New Delhi announcement dated May 21 says that the Remounts, Veterinary and Farms Corps has been bifurcated into the Directorate of Remounts and Veterinary and the Directorate of Military Farms. There will be separate Directors of the rank of Brigadiers or civilian officers with equal status in charge of these Directorates.

The bifurcation was necessitated by a desire to accord a full and an unhampered scope for enlarging the functions of military farms in the country and to integrate its activities and expansion programmes with the Grow More Food Campaigns and the dairy development programmes which have been undertaken by the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The splitting up of the Directorates will also help the Remounts and Veterinary sides where it will be possible to devote undivided attention to the important breeding schemes which have been launched by the Ministry of Defence. Under these plans it is hoped to attain self-sufficiency in the country for procuring horses and mules for the Army within the next ten to fifteen years. The technical and scientific knowledge of veterinary science too will receive greater attention.

COMBINED NAVAL EXERCISES

Led by the Flagship MYSORE, units of the Indian Fleet left Bombay on May 24 for their summer exercises to be held in the Indian Ocean and off Malaya. Ships of the British Far East Station and the Royal Malayan Navy are expected to participate. Ships of the Indonesian Navy are also likely to take part in the exercises to be held off Indonesia by the Indian Fleet.

During this period, I.N. ships in batches will also pay goodwill visits to Indonesia, Malaya and Singapore.

The I.N. ships participating in these exercises and goodwill visits will be the cruisers MYSORE and DELHI the destroyers RAJPUT, RANJIT and RANA and the new frigates BRAHMAPUTRA, KHUKRI, KIRPAN and KUTHAR.

NEW FRIGATE FOR INDIAN NAVY

INS TRISHUL, one of the latest antisubmarine frigates acquired by the Indian Navy, arrived at Bombay on May 19.

The frigate has a complement of about 240 officers and men. The first frigate of her type to be acquired by the Service, the TRISHUL is equipped with specialised modern antisubmarine equipment. She was launched and named in June 1958 and commissioned into Indian Navy (in U.K.) in January this year.

NAVAL STAFF COURSE

A New Delhi announcement dated May 17 says that eleven officers of the Indian Navy have been selected to undergo the Staff Course commencing in October 1960 at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington (Nilgiris).

India & The World

BUDDHA IMAGES FOR SIKKIM INSTITUTE

Shri Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, presented on behalf of the Government of India, two images of the Buddha from Sarnath collection to the Namgyal Institute of Tibetlogy, Gangtok, on May 28. The statues are of special significance to the followers of the Mahayana Buddhism.

The Namgyal Institute is devoted to the study of Buddhism with special reference to Tibetan literary sources and objects and schools of thought. The Institute was incorporated into an autonomous academic body by the Royal Charter in October 1958 by the Maharaja of Sikkim. During each of the financial years 1955, the Government of India gave Rs. 100,000 for establishing the Institute. Afterwards in years 1958 and 1959, the Indian Government gave Rs. 25,000 a year for its maintenance. Three fellowships carrying Rs. 300 per month have also been granted by the Government of India.

The Minister arrived in Sikkim on May 27 on a short visit.

SURVEYORS FOR IRAQ

The Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs has announced on May 21 that, the Government of Iraq have expressed their desire to employ about 50 surveyors on contract for a period of one year which might be extended.

The qualifications prescribed are a minimum experience of 10 years in topographic and cadastral surveys. Other desirable qualifications are knowledge of levelling and technometric surveys and ground control works and its computations.

Selected candidates will be paid a minimum monthly salary of Iraqi Dinar 80 (about Rs. 1,060). Married officials will be entitled to a fixed housing allowance at the rate of 10 per cent. In both cases the allowance will not exceed Iraqi Dinar 12.

Free voyage tickets will be provided for the official and his family for journeys both ways. Selected officials will also be entitled to leave and other facilities.

I.S.I. Publications For Iran

A complete set of I.S.I. publications, including some 1,400 Indian standard specifications, published by the Indian Standards Institution since its inception in 1947, was presented to Edardh Standards-ha, the National Standards Department of Iran, at a ceremony in New Delhi on May 31. Mr. H. Hakimi, First Secretary at the Iranian Embassy in New Delhi, received the gift on behalf of his country.

Indian Independence Medal

India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Shrimati Vijayalakshmi Pandit presented the Indian Independence Medal to Lady Bucher for her work in India in the troubled days of 1947 at a brief ceremony held at India House, London, on May 30.

HAJ SAILINGS IN 1960

According to a New Delhi announcement dated May 24, a total number of 19,397 pilgrims went from India on Haj pilgrimage this year. This number surpasses all the previous records.

'S.S. Mozaffari' sailed for Jedda from Bombay on May 22, carrying 1,447 pilgrims. This was the thirteenth and last sailing after the Ramzan. This year 1,575 pilgrims went before the Ramzan and 17,822 after the Ramzan.

INDIAN ENVOYS ABROAD

ITALY

A New Delhi announcement dated May 26 says that India's Ambassador to Italy, Shri S.N. Haksar, presented his credentials to President Giovanni Gronchi of the Italian Republic on May 24.

COLOMBIA

In a Press Note issued on May 24, the Ministry of External Affairs announced that Shri R.S. Mani, Ambassador of India in Chile, has been concurrently accredited as Ambassador of India to Colombia, with residence in Santiago.

HIGH COMMISSIONER IN CANADA

In a Press Note dated May 16 the Ministry of External Affairs has announced that Shri Birendra Narayan Chakravarty, Special Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed High Commissioner for India in Canada. He will take up his new post in September, 1960.

CEYLON

In a Press Note issued on May 27, the Ministry of External Affairs has announced that, Shri Balraj Krishna Kapur, till recently High Commissioner for India, Accra, has been appointed High Commissioner for India in Ceylon. He will take up his new post in July.

COMMISSIONER TO NIGERIA

A New Delhi announcement dated May 27 says that, India's Commissioner-designate to Nigeria, Shri Khub Chand, presented his letter of credence to the acting Governor General at Lagos on May 25.

BURMESE AMBASSADOR TO INDIA

A Press Note issued on May 20 by the Ministry of External Affairs says, Maha Thiri Thudhamma Daw Khin Kyi (Madam Aung San) has been appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Burma to India, in place of Thado Maha Thray Sithu U Than Aung.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

MAY 16 To 31

May 16 — The Army Cadet College is inaugurated at Nowgong in Madhya Pradesh by the Defence Minister, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon

— The Government of India announce the nomination of a nine-member Board of Directors for the Film Finance Corporation of India

— The Central Advisory Board and the chairmen of the State Advisory Boards of National Savings meet in New Delhi

17 — The joint Indo-British-Nepalese Services Expedition conquers the 26,041-ft. high peak Annapoorna II

18 — The Government of India appoint a five-man committee to examine the feasibility of introducing a system of payment by results to certain categories of employees in the Bombay and Madras Port Trusts

20 — An agreement is reached in principle between the United States Development Loan Fund and the Government of India for providing Rs. 3.65 crores for the construction of two thermal power stations in India — one at Barauni in Bihar and the other at Ahmedabad in Gujarat

— The report of the Intermediate Ports Development Committee is released in New Delhi

21 — The Vice-President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, inaugurates the sixth All-India Tribal Conference at Ootacamund

— Officers in charge of Home Guards corps in States and Union Territories meet in Delhi to evolve a uniform countrywide pattern of the organisation

23 — The All-India Council for Secondary Education meets in New Delhi

24 — Units of the Indian Navy fleet leave Bombay for summer exercises in the Indian Ocean and off Malaya

27 — An agreement is signed in Bonn under which West Germany will give India a credit of thirty million dollars for projects under the Second Plan

— The delegations of the Governments of India and France reach an agreement in New Delhi on mutual arrangements for air services

— Talks on Indo-Soviet co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy open in Moscow between the delegations of the two countries

29 — The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, returns to India after attending the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London and visiting some Middle East countries

— The fourth annual convention of the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen is inaugurated by the Railway Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, in Mysore

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The Defence Minister, Shri V. K. Krishna Menon meeting the first batch of students at the Army Cadet College at Nowgong in Madhya Pradesh after he inaugurated the College on May 16

Shri K. M. Raha (extreme right) Director-General of Civil Aviation, Government of India, and Mr. Pierre Moussa (second from right), Director of Air Transport of the Republic of France, signing the air transport agreement between the two countries in New Delhi on May 27

Shri P. N. Kirpal, Joint Secretary, Union Ministry of Education, presiding over the first meeting of the Board of Governors of the National Institute of Sports in New Delhi on May 18

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A set of two volumes of the "No
books of Srinivasa Ramanujan
published in 1957 by the T
Institute of Fundamental Reser
Bombay, was presented rece
the Cambridge University Li
on behalf of the Governm
India. Mr. Creswick, the U
sity Librarian, is seen examir
the volumes.

The Prime Minister of Burma, H.E. U Nu, being taken round the Indian show room in Rangoon after he inaugurated it on May 16