

Bihar Herald

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Massive Dose Of New Taxes In Central Budget

New Delhi, Mar. 2: Finance Minister Y. B. Chavan on Wednesday proposed a massive dose of additional taxation—Rs. 292.6 crores—leaving out articles of mass consumption luxury goods used by the middle class.

Presenting his budget for 1973-74 to Parliament today, Mr. Chavan proposed additional excise levies on cigarettes (yield: Rs. 32 crores), petrol (Rs. 19.20 crores), airconditioners and gramophone records (Rs. 8.33 crores) and furnace steel and stepping up of import duties on all machinery and stainless steel sheets.

In all, he proposed to raise Rs. 274 crores through indirect taxation and Rs. 18.6 crores by direct taxation.

Defending the highest ever taxation in recent years, Mr. Chavan said it was necessary to step up development expenditure by keeping down deficit financing in view of the current inflationary pressures in the economy.

Mr. Chavan said that after this tax effort, the deficit of Rs. 335 crores originally visualised for 1973-74 would be reduced to Rs. 85 crores. But this estimate did not reckon the additional burden that would be cast on the Government by the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission. He said the Government would come forward with supplementary demands to implement the commission report.

In 1972-73 Mr. Chavan had resorted to additional taxation of the order of Rs. 220 crores and left an uncovered deficit of Rs. 252 crores. This, however, swelled to Rs. 550 crores in the revised estimates for the current year.

The Finance Minister announced amid loud applause the withdrawal of the Bangla Desh refugee levies from April 1.

In the realm of direct taxations he took the opportunity to translate into action the Raj Committees' recommendations for taxing agricultural income. He said the suggestion was being partially implemented in the budget.

Mr. Chavan said the Government would bring later a bill to implement the accepted recommendations of the Wanchoo Committee. The committee had proposed a comprehensive reform to



Mr. Y. B. Chavan

prevent proliferation of black-money and tax evasion.

However, in pursuance of some of the recommendations, Mr. Chavan announced liberalisation of tax exemptions for contributions made to the Provident Fund and Life Insurance.

He proposed no increase in corporate taxation and promised additional incentive for selected industries set up in backward areas—namely, deduction equal to 20 per cent of the profits for ten years. The exemption limits for small and medium industries were also raised.

Mr. Chavan announced higher relief—150 per cent of weightier deduction instead of 133.3 per cent—to widely held companies in respect of export market development. Industrial units are also allowed more deductions for encouragement to scientific and technological research.

Reviewing the economic situation, Mr. Chavan said that the growth of real national income in 1972-73 would be small because of lack of growth in agriculture, despite a higher rate of industrial production.

'Such fluctuations must not lead us to draw pessimistic conclusions about the country's basic economic health or its development potential', he said.

He proposed a higher total Plan outlay for 1973-74—Rs. 4,356 crores against Rs. 4,011 crores. This included Rs. 150 crores for advance action on the Fifth Plan.

He said the provision for power in 1973-74 would be higher—Rs. 115 crores against Rs. 85 crores in 1972-73. About Rs. 100 crores was being set apart for new employment generation.

Mr. Chavan estimated the revenue receipts at Rs. 4,831 crores in 1973-74 against Rs. 4,628 in the revised estimates for 1972-73 and the expenditure at Rs. 4,752 crores against Rs. 4,591 crores.

He has used the revenue surplus of Rs. 79 crores and the Centre's share of Rs. 250 crores out of the Rs. 292.6 crores to be raised through additional taxation to cover the deficit on the capital account.

The capital account estimates the expenditure in 1973-74 at Rs. 2,874 crores against receipts of Rs. 2,460 crores. The deficit of Rs. 414 crores is thus reduced to Rs. 85 crores.

Mr. Chavan appealed to the House to view his budget 'in the context of our firm commitment to socialism, rapid economic growth and a self-reliant economy'.

He said 'in an economy where a large number of people are ill-fed and ill-clothed, we cannot afford the luxury of maintaining the status quo. Fiscal policy must assist in this process'.

Salient features

1. Fresh taxes of the order of 292 crore rupees have been proposed in the Central budget.
2. The deficit of 335 crore rupees has been reduced to 85 crores, the lowest in recent years.
3. The recommendations of the Raj Committee on the integration of agricultural income for income tax purposes has been accepted.
4. New excise levies will fetch 118 crore rupees.
5. The exemption limit on Hindu undivided families has been reduced.
6. Cigarettes, petrol, refrigerators, air-conditioners, and domestic electrical appliances are to cost more.
7. Customs imposed on a large number of items have been raised to bring in additional revenue of Rs. 156 crores.
8. The duty on steel has been raised by 25 percent.

(Contd. on page 93)

DELIVERY DELAYED FOR RS. 12-CRORE "SAGAR SAMRAT"

★From Our Sp. Correspondent★

New Delhi; March 2:

'Sagar Samrat',—the multi-crore jack-up platform for off-shore exploration in quest of oil will take some more months to arrive in 'Bombay-High', on the Western Coast from Sopan. Mr. Devkant Barua, the Minister of Petroleum informed Rajya Sabha on Monday.

This Rs. 12-crore ship, being built by Mitsubishi in collaboration with a U. S. firm is the first of its kind and India will be the first country to use it, as and when the ship arrives.

Negotiated by B. Mukherjee, I. C. S., until recently the Petroleum Secretary, assisted by Dr. Ramaswami, an officer at the same Ministry who deal with Oil and Natural Gas Commission and S. K. Majumdar, Jt. Secretary, Associate Finance, booking of 'Sagar Samrat' was the Petroleum Ministry's response to persistent demand for proper exploration of the

potentially oil-rich 'Bombay High' area, to catch up with India's disturbing backlog for crude oil. Knowledgeable quarters, always skeptical about 'Sagar Samrat'—its high cost, contract terms and unproved technology, the repeated extension of the ship's delivery date, from October, 1972 to a firm date yet to be announced would confirm the apprehension that there is something seriously wrong with 'Sagar Samrat' which the Lloyds, the international agency for insuring ships, have not yet cleared for insurance.

Bihar Takes Over Wheat Trade This Month

★ Staff Reporter ★

Patna, Mar. 2: The Bihar Governor, Mr. R. D. Bhandare, on Monday announced the State Government's decision to take over the wholesale trade in wheat from March 15 and to make all-out efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains by the end of 1974.

Addressing a joint session of the legislature on the opening day of the budget session, he said the government proposed to increase the State's productivity by at least 50 per cent and the per capita income by 28 per cent during the fifth Plan period.

The Governor, who spoke in Hindi, said that the entire planning and administrative machinery would be geared up and all material and other available resources mobilised to attain self-sufficiency in foodgrains.

He expressed the determination of the State govern-

ment to improve the law and order situation. The prolonged NGO's strike had delayed the preparation of the annual budget for next year and as such only the vote on account budget for the first four months of the next financial year would come up for adoption during the current session of the state legislature.

On account of the recent drought, the state could produce only 32 lakh tonnes of rice this year as against 50 lakh tonnes last year.

About 24.8 lakh hectares had been brought under wheat cultivation as against the target of only 4.16 lakh hectares to make up the shortfall.

The financial allocation for minor irrigation, road building and land improvement in the drought-prone areas of Palamau, Jamui, Nawadah, Bhabhua and Samaram in south Bihar had been increased to Rs. 3.60 crores for the next financial year as against Rs. 2.35 crores during the current year.

The Governor reiterated the government's decision to takeover wholesale trade in wheat by March 15.

The government was committed to acquire about two lakh hectares of surplus land under the new land ceiling law for redistribution among the landless by 1974-75, the Governor said.

SOVIET HELP TO DOUBLE CRUDE PRODUCTION

New Delhi, Mar. 2: The Soviet Union will supply equipment and technical services to enable the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to double its crude production to 8 million tonnes by the end of the massive five-year exploration programme which will start on April 1.

More than Rs. 600 crores will be spent on this hunt for oil, and it is anticipated that at the end of the five-year period oil reserves totalling 64 million tonnes will be established.

India and the Soviet (Contd. on page 93)

Obituary

NOTED EDUCATIONIST DEAD

Ranchi, Mar. 2: Professor Dr. Rani Chakravorty (46), Head of the Department of Chemistry, Magadh Mahila College, Patna, died here on Saturday at the residence of her brother, Dr. B. Mishra, a surgeon of HEC plant hospital, after protracted illness.

She left behind her husband, Professor S. Chakravorty (50) of Rourkela Government College, a minor son, old parents and a large number of admiring students and friends to mourn her death.

Founded by Guru rasad Sen in 1874
New Series by M. C. Samaddar in 1938



DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH BIHAR

There had been great expectations from the Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas Development Board. But practical experience has demonstrated that these hopes have been by and large belied. The Government has repeatedly gone back on its assurances and professions and the Board has hardly been able to function as yet in an effective manner. There were great reservations about the Board and some thought that it was a prelude to the formation of an Adivasi State, for which a persistent demand has been growing in the eastern region. If the Union Government could concede the demand of the tribals of Assam for the formation of separate States ruled by the tribals and for the tribals, what was there to prevent such a State in Bihar, it was argued. However, the Government could not ignore the problems of the Adivasis, for the political tranquility of the State was dependent on it. Though the Board faced rough weather from the beginning, and much water had been made turbid over its formation, it finally came into being and whatever may be its shortcomings and handicaps, it is now in operation and the aspirations of the tribal region are on the way to fulfilment.

North Bihar similarly is suffering from a plethora of ailments and in order to solve its problems suggestions had been made for the formation of an autonomous North Bihar Development Board on the lines of the Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas Development Board. North Bihar is a perennial victim of the twin maladies of drought and flood. The Kosi and the Gandak are Bihar's rivers of sorrow and every year they cause considerable damage to the crops in the region. Large areas are inundated, houses washed away and even lives are lost. The Government arranges for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people, collection of land dues are suspended, loans and foodgrains and seeds are freely distributed. But all this money goes down the drain as these relief measures have no permanent effect.

It is common knowledge that the North Bihar districts of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Saharsa, Purnea and Champaran are the least developed ones in the State and the extent of poverty there is abysmal. But the potentialities of the districts are immense. It may be recalled that when Mr. Ranchor Prasad was the Development Commissioner, it had been decided in principle that there should be a separate development authority for North Bihar to minimise the regional imbalances. North Bihar's only industries worth mentioning are the sugar and jute industries and very large number of people are fully dependent on them. But of late the sugar mills have fallen on evil days and the only means of sustenance of a vast population has been seriously disturbed. The Gundu Rao Committee had suggested the development of the sugar cane growing areas. It is a pity that the suggestion of Mr. Ranchor Prasad and the recommendations of the Gundu Rao Committee have been put in the cold storage.

A sense of insecurity has gripped the people of North Bihar. The barrages and the embankments constructed on the Kosi and the Gandak have hardly helped them. The repetition of the natural calamities has convinced the people that only the formation of an autonomous and statutory body with powers to prepare foolproof plan for the permanent safety of the people living within the embankments of the Kosi and the Gandak can solve their problems. The imbalance between the two parts of Bihar had attracted the notice of the Planning Commission and a proposal for setting up a development Board for North Bihar had been mooted towards the beginning of the Third Plan. But it had been kept in abeyance pending clearance from the Planning Commission.

The State Government had conducted a survey in 1964 to determine the comparative economic backwardness of the North Bihar districts. The survey revealed that these districts were the least developed in the State. Members of Parliament from Bihar and a number of State legislators had submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister in August, 1969 in which they had drawn her attention to the need for setting up without delay a separate development authority for North Bihar. The demand had repeatedly been turned down on the ground that the Kosi and Gandak projects would soon change the entire picture of North and the land would flow with milk and honey. But that expectation is far from being fulfilled. The matter could not be looked into because of the political instability which dogged the State for a long time. However, the Chief Minister, Mr. Kedar Pande, has again given it the serious attention it deserves when he said recently at Darbhanga that he had decided to form a North Bihar Development Board to remove the regional imbalances. He has already submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister about the matter and action is expected soon.

TUBECTOMY KEEPS A WOMAN A WOMAN

By Dr. CLIVE WOOD

Female sterilisation today never involves the removal of the ovaries — the ancient method which destroyed a woman's essential "femininity". Instead the Fallopian tubes are cut and, apart from being unable to conceive; the woman continues to be normal in all other respects. Now a device partly developed in British teaching hospitals provides a new surgical approach to tubectomy. Although the most advanced technique is not yet routine, knowledge of its existence needs to reach those most likely to need it. This report seeks to reach a wider audience.

The idea of sterilising a woman so as permanently to prevent her from having children is not new. It is said that such operations were performed in the Ancient World, with the full consent, and indeed at the request of the women concerned who were often entertainers or concubines.

The method used — both extreme and dangerous — consisted of removing the ovaries the two small oval-shaped organs which lie deep inside the abdomen and which produce the female egg cells. Such a procedure will of course lead to sterility. It will also considerably diminish a woman's "femininity" in other ways, because the female sex hormones which control such basic female characteristics, as for example, the menstrual cycle, are also produced by the ovaries.

Reasons the same

The reasons for wishing to have the operation carried out, despite the hazards which it entailed in those early days, are of great interest, because they have not changed a great deal in several thousand years. Although some might consider that women wished to avoid pregnancy out of vanity there is evidence that then as now the desire to avoid having more children reflected a deep-seated anxiety. It rested on the knowledge that continuous child-bearing would be an even greater hazard than the surgery involved — a hazard which, if it did not eventually lead to the mother's death, would certainly make her old before her time.

Today far more sophisticated sterilising operations are carried out on women who request them. But though the surgery has improved beyond recognition, the motives are largely the same. Typically, the woman who may benefit from sterilisation will have three, four or more children. She will desperately want to avoid having any more but she may not know how to prevent herself doing so. She may have quite justifiable anxieties about what would happen to her health and to the wellbeing of her existing children if she became pregnant again.

Spreading the word

Unfortunately, the procedure is still little publicised or even talked about, and often it is precisely those women who would benefit from it who are the ones most unlikely to hear about the operation.

But in some parts of the world the situation is slowly improving. Contraceptive advice is being given in antenatal clinics women immediately after the delivery of their latest child are often visited in the hospital wards and asked what steps they would like to take to avoid becoming pregnant

again. In some cases the steps can be taken before the woman leaves hospital. In others they are taken when she returns for a post-natal checkup visit some six weeks after delivery.

Today female sterilisation never involves removal of the ovaries. Instead it is usually carried out by severing the two Fallopian tubes which carry the egg-cells from the ovary down into the uterus. Once the tubes are severed the ova cannot descend, nor can any sperms reach them to cause fertilisation.

However, since all the other parts of the female reproductive system remain intact the woman continues to be normal in all other respects. She experiences regular menstrual cycles; she retains the same female body shape and temperament, and she is freed from the fear of another pregnancy, for the operation itself is highly effective.

Laparoscope

The severing of the Fallopian tubes, or tubectomy as it is called, is currently performed in one of two different ways. Often it is carried out like any other normal abdominal operation, through an incision a few centimetres long. Such a procedure is known as a laparotomy operation. Fairly recently, however, a new surgical approach makes use of a device known as a laparoscope.

The essential difference between these approaches is as follows. When a laparotomy is performed, the Fallopian tubes are exposed and a section is removed from each. Like the male sterilising operation of vasectomy the actual technique used depends on the individual doctor but often he will tie the cut ends of the tubes, double them back on themselves or even embed them within the outer wall of the uterus, in order to prevent them from joining up again. The patient may spend a week or so in hospital recovering from such an operation.

Undeniable Advantages

The use of a laparoscope however (a device which was partly developed in and which is now favoured by a number of British teaching hospitals) does not require such a large abdominal incision. Indeed, only two small "punch" holes need to be made in the patient's abdomen. They can subsequently be closed by a single suture clip and the woman is usually allowed to return home the following day.

The key to the laparoscope is a fibre-optic system a collection of very fine flexible light-conducting tubes which allow the surgeon to see clearly and directly into the abdominal cavity. In fact, a similar

device may be used to examine the inside of the stomach, the bladder or any other body cavity.

Fibre-optic Telescope

A number of different surgical instruments can be introduced together with this "visualising" system. For tubectomy two are usually used. One is called a *thermo-cautery*. It consists of a fine pair of surgical forceps which are connected to an electrical supply and which develop a very intense but very localised heat source. The forceps are applied to the Fallopian tube and their placement is very carefully controlled by the surgeon who is watching the whole procedure through the fibre-optic "telescope." When the forceps are properly in place a current is passed through them and the tube — over part of its length — is very rapidly coagulated to a solid mass. The patient is of course anaesthetised, and the procedure is painless. The coagulation is so localised that it does not cause damage to any other organ. Using a small sharp drill, it is then possible to cut through this coagulated region and in so doing to separate effectively the two portions of each tube.

Not yet Routine

The use of a laparoscope for tubectomy is by no means a routine procedure as yet. It requires skill and experience and some gynaecologists do not look on it with favour. Those who do favour it, however, claim that its advantages are undeniable. Perhaps its greatest advantage is the fact that in a busy hospital department where beds are limited it allows a far greater number of patients to undergo the operation than do more traditional methods. This is of considerable importance, even in countries such as Britain and the United States of America, and it is probably even more significant in parts of the world where hospitals are few and the pressure on beds is even greater.

As the importance of female sterilisation is progressively better recognised it seems likely that the laparoscope will come to play an increasingly more important role, both in Britain and elsewhere.

Crocodiles on the decrease

Calcutta, Mar. 2: The West Bengal Government is considering the enforcement of the Wild Life Protection Act to save crocodiles from extinction.

West Bengal Forest Minister, Mr. Sitaram Mahato said on Thursday that although the actual number of crocodiles was not known, this species was reported to be decreasing.

Nepal

A Modern in the form of concrete box, up among ples and palaces of the Du Kathmandu

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Nepal Saves Her National Treasures...

★ By Richard Greenough ★

A Modern police station, in the form of a large grey, concrete box, was recently put up among the historic temples and palaces in the heart of the Durbar Square in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Now it is to be pulled down and replaced with something more in keeping with the surrounding architecture, some of it dating back nearly 1,000 years.

This decision was taken by Nepal's Tourist Development Board, one of the most active and influential government bodies in that country, comprising as it does members of the royal family, cabinet ministers, business leaders and, in general, men whose position and opinions are to be reckoned with there.

It is a decision which indicated the energetic steps Nepal is now taking to safeguard its vast and unique cultural heritage with one eye fixed on the economic benefits this can bring from cultural tourism.

After long taking this rich inheritance for granted to such an extent that most of it crumbled into disrepair and even ruin, the country has now started vigorous measures to restore, protect and preserve it.

But one problem about all this is, as a well-known historian once remarked, that in Nepal: "There are nearly as many temples as houses and as many idols as inhabitants, there not being a fountain or river or a hill within its limits that is not consecrated to one or other of the Hindu or Buddhist deities".

Nepal is the birthplace of Lord Buddha, the light of Asia and lover of peace, and of Sita, the ideal woman of the Hindu epic "The Ramayana," and these two religions have been the motive force in its life for centuries.

True, there are national "Gurthi" or co-operative trusts, semi-government organisations which in the past five years have restored some 250 or so of the country's sacred monuments, mainly in Kathmandu itself.

But, as Mr. Ramesh Jung Thapa, Director of Nepal's Archaeological Department explained: "The reason why so many of these temples, palaces, idols and ancient monuments have lapsed into decay has been largely economic.

"Funds, and assets usually in the form of land around such buildings, which, at the time for their construction were originally set aside for their upkeep, have gradually been exhausted, been squandered by successive generations or simply disappeared with time, often over centuries".

Historic

Mr. Thapa said that not only the ancient Hindu and Buddhist temples, the palaces, monasteries, stupas and individual idols, the ikons and the tang-kas—vividly coloured Buddhist religious paintings on cloth—many of which 800 or 900 years, but simpler construction such as a small stone water conductor a pillar,

that have to do with the antiquity of the country, are all classed as historic monuments.

In the lush Kathmandu Valley, situated at an altitude of 1,400, metres, with the snow Himalayas peeping into the valley from over the hills, it estimated there are over 10,000 historic and cultural monuments.

Eight years ago the Government of Nepal, with the idea of promoting tourism as an economic resource which had unique and important possibilities for exploitation for national development, declined that some sort of order should be brought into the development planning of this 20-by 25 mile valley. It sought international assistance.

Mr. Carl Pruscha, a Viennese trained architect who also has a degree in City Planning from Harvard, was sent to Nepal in 1965 as expert by the UN Development Programme.

Wood

Apart from helping the Government to set up its own Department of Housing and Physical Planning one of his main jobs has been to make a complete catalogue, with maps, individual photographs and aerial surveys, of all the important cultural and historic monuments and monument sites in the Kathmandu Valley—70 complexes and 662 individual monuments—which are in need of restoration, preservation and conservation.

Unesco has now started a programme to help restore some of these priceless monuments.

Miss Giselle Hyvert, a French specialist in biology and biochemistry, trained at the University of Paris, who has already done valuable restoration work at Angkor Wat and other historical sites in the Khmer Republic, is now setting up a laboratory at the National Museum, with equipment and chemicals supplied by the Organisation and UNDP technical assistance.

She has begun experimental work on restoring badly decayed or diseased objects in wood and stone, and on one or two of the hundreds, if not thousands, of tang-kas in the country that are literally falling apart.

Special attention is being paid to the tang-kas. Arrangements have been made for some of the more badly damaged ones to be sent to Rome for study and restoration by Italian art specialists, and a proposal is under discussion with the Nepalese Government to interest other foreign museums, offering one to each museum which accepts to restore some of these tang-kas for Nepal.

Another Unesco expert, Mr. Peter Sanday of the U. K., a specialist in the care of historic buildings who has been working on the conservation of the Wren Library at Trinity College, Cambridge, has recently arrived

for a year's work as architect-restorer.

He will assist in plans for the preservation and development of sites and monuments in the Valley, and possibly in the restoration of one of the more important palaces whose development as a regional museum could contribute to the overall growth of cultural tourism.

Task

Part of the task of both of these Unesco experts is to pass on some of their specialised knowledge to the Nepalese who will continue the conservation programme in future, by working with them and by organising training courses in their own specialities.

Dr. Raymond Allchin, a Briton with 25 years experience of archaeological research in India, is also due to arrive to advise on the programme.

To train local specialists in the related fields of restoration and preservation of wood, stone, bronze and ceramics, Unesco is providing fellowships for local students to study abroad. Another expert to be appointed will introduce modern restoration and preservation methods and give in service training to local staff.

Restoring, preserving and conserving crumbling monuments is not the whole problem in the Valley; there are environmental problems as well, for the surroundings of historic monuments are being ruined or they become the victims of local pollution.

Beauty

A case in point is the Pashupati Nath temple, a few miles outside Kathmandu, which is considered the most holy Hindu shrine in Nepal and is visited annually by thousands of pilgrims.

Here not only do ugly new concrete dwellings mar, when they don't mask the beauty of the two-tier golden roof and silver gates, but the holy Bagmati river, which runs through the temple complex, one bank lined with little round stone platforms—the ghats for burning the dead—is badly polluted.

Parts of the river are used as a garbage dump; upstream people wash themselves; lower down they wash their clothes and gather water for household purposes.

Along the length of this river, as it flows through the temple, the monkeys from the temple gardens wander freely over the mud flats or frolic in the stream.

What catches the eye everywhere is the obvious parlous physical condition of so many of the monuments.

Kathmandu, the two other sizeable towns in the Valley and its numerous villages, seem almost entirely made up of exquisitely decorated temple and palaces, wooden trellis courtyards housing a Buddha or Hindu god.

Most places are in disrepair and decay, often with small trees or thick vegetation growing through the

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CASE FOR AN UNEMPLOYMENT DOLE

★ By K. S. Ramchandran ★

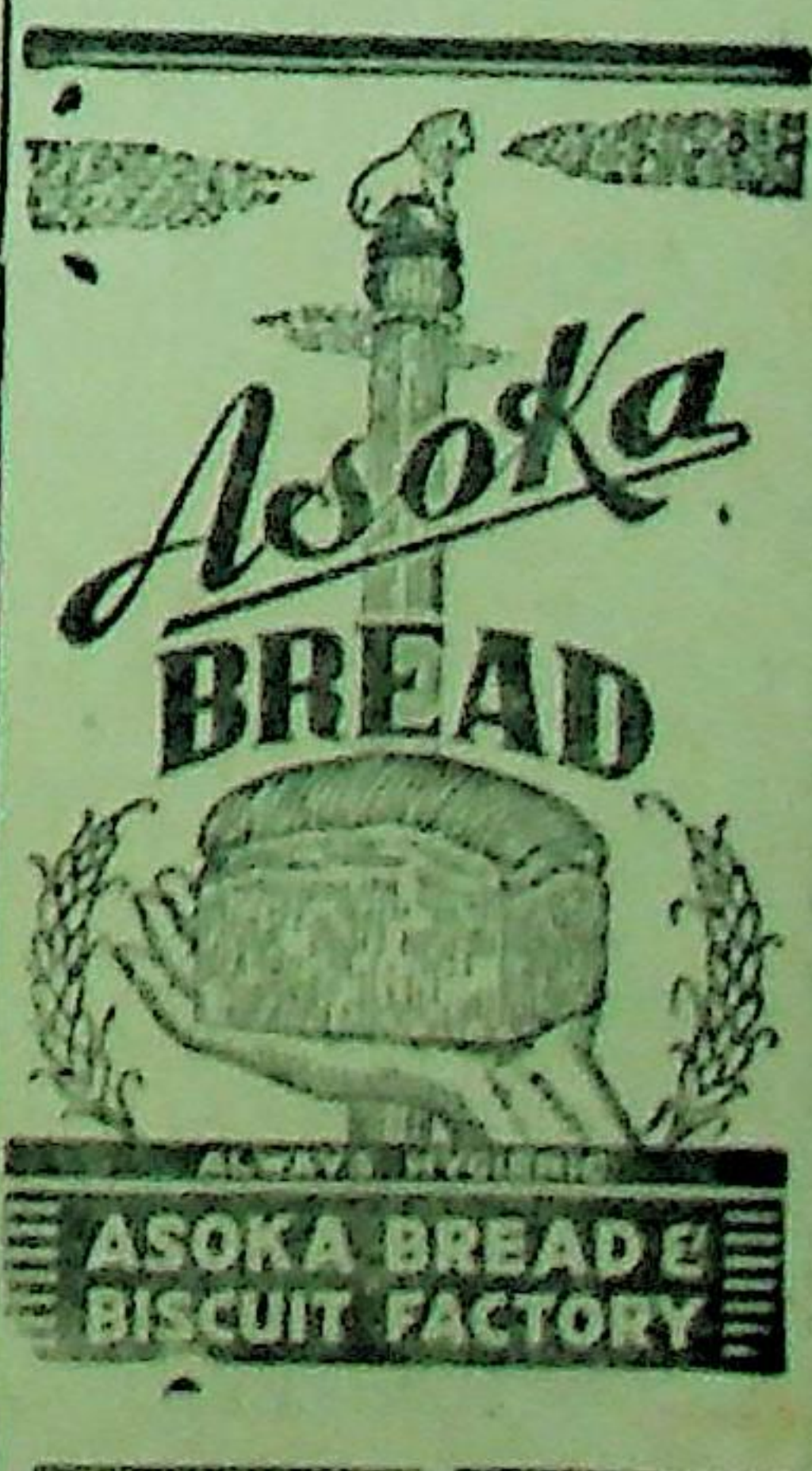
The Petitions Committee in its report submitted in the Lok Sabha some time back suggested the selective introduction of a system of unemployment doles, even while taking note of the financial burden that it would impose on the public exchequer. Prof. Galbraith said in his "Affluent society" that the dole could reduce the impact of massive unemployment in under-developed countries. The Government of India, however, does not favour the payment of a dole to the jobless obviously in view of its financial implications and of the administrative difficulties involved in the payment. Besides, the belief persists in official circles that it is a retrograde step.

Doubtless, it is not quite a progressive measure; and of course, it cannot remedy the problem of unemployment itself. The most that it can do is only to give the jobless some relief from the economic burden of unemployment. But the pertinent question is—Don't the country's jobless people require some kind of a relief and would not the payment of doles lessen the social tension that often results in violent incidents in different parts of the country? While for humanitarian reasons and as a measure of administrative wisdom (which should provide a palliative in cases where the search for a remedy is both uncertain and time-consuming) a system of relief payment is called for, it does not look as if the Government's present practice of maintaining large public sector undertakings with their conspicuously dismal ways of working and of re-opening closed and "sick" companies on the strength of bank credit is any more progressive than the dole itself. Nor, for that matter does it look any different from the selective payment of relief that the Petitions Committee has recommended.

Somehow or the other, Governmental pronouncements on matters pertaining to public sector industry give the impression that the units under state control need not yield social benefits through efficient working, which would be reflected by the maximisation of production and an adequate return on the capital employed. An attempt is often made to justify their existence through an emphasis on their direct contribution to social welfare. It is yet to be realised that these undertakings must do a lot more beyond providing employment supported by fringe benefits. By their highly inefficient working, many public sector companies are proving to be no less a burden on the exchequer than the introduction of unemployment relief would. Further, the practice of keeping the workers paid virtually out of the losses incurred by the respective units means nothing beyond the payment of doles (which would be rather on the high side compared to the subsistence relief that the Petitions Committee might

have thought of) to a favoured few. Equally burdensome could the sick companies be, which are kept in operation through massive bank and institutional advances. Earlier in the year, the Union Labour Minister gruefully admitted that many of them were not at all hopeful of turning the corner and on the contrary, only continued to make losses. In contrast to the continued maintenance at a huge public expense of inefficient public sector companies and of those private companies that had closed down for want of proper management (which only implied the payment of doles to a selected few), what the nationwide dole system has in its favour is surely its virtue of being able to make a wholesome contribution to the cause of maximum social justice, considering that the benefit could be open to all the unemployed in the country.

The Petitions Committee, perhaps anticipating the Government's reservations on the matter; has refrained from dealing at length with the dole system. It has merely recommended the selective disbursement of the dole, obviously in an effort to reduce the financial impact of the proposal and thereby make it acceptable to the Government. But then, the manner in which payment should be made of the dole is a highly intricate issue. It is easy to stipulate that it should be selective but it would be a problem to choose those to be covered by the scheme and those to be left out. What, therefore, appears to be a sensible course of action is to support the policy of generating employment through a system of payment of monthly dole to all persons within the age range of 20 and 55 years registered with the Government employment exchanges. The dole should be made payable every month, but only for a period of two years. Certainly, the assumption must be made that during the period the registered unemployed would have secured jobs. The payment should, of course, be only a limited amount, depending on the beneficiary's qualifications and experience.—(H. S.)



Calcutta Notes

★ By Atulendu Gupta ★

Calcutta, Feb. 23—While on a visit to Nepal about a fortnight ago, Mrs. Indira Gandhi made two important statements. In one she expressed her desire to have peace and amity with Communist China. In the other she condemned American bombing of North Vietnam which she described as white arrogance against the non-white.

Why did our Premier vent her spleen against America at a time when there was ceasefire in Vietnam? Why this pointless raking up of old wounds which has better be left to heal? Almost in the some breath she extended her hand of friendship to China and patiently looked for the Mao smile in spite of the latter's past record of aggression and present policy of collusion with Pakistan against India. We are not against amity with China, but we fall to understand why amity with America is less important.

All the Calcutta papers, Congress or non-Congress, have hailed Mrs. Gandhi's fling against America as heroic and outspoken. But nobody cares to remember that wise statesmanship is often more consistent with reticence and restraint than with voluble outbursts.

One Calcutta paper, however, pointed out that neither Mrs. Gandhi, nor President Giri, nor Sardar Swaran Singh, was altogether indifferent to American friendship. This paper's information was that all the three wrote "Friendly letters" to Washington. But apparently these letters were confidential, not meant for public consumption. The paper commented,

"Is it possible that New Delhi is making friendly noises in private and less tactful noises in public? If so, this can be attributed only to New Delhi's ridiculous fear of being branded pro-American by the Opposition and particularly the leftist section of it which, with Congress connivance, has cultivated the myth that co-operation with the United States is ipso facto anti-national".

Recently the CPI chief, S. A. Dange, abused Sidhartha Shankar Ray, Chief Minister of West Bengal, as a "bourgeois" and this raised a flutter in the Congress dovecot. But why should one be offended if one is called a bourgeois? True, a bourgeois does not earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, but by the sweat of his brain. He need not be ashamed of it. Surely our society cannot be run by brawn alone; a little brain is also necessary. A school, for example, cannot be managed by a durwan and a sweeper alone: perhaps the headmaster with his retinue of teachers is not altogether a superfluous ornament.

In communist parlance, "bourgeois" means anybody who is neither a Kishan nor a Mazdoor. One wonders, however, why a non-Kishan and a non-Mazdoor should be regarded as an enemy on the people. Alllabon leaders themselves earn their pile by their wily brain. The pils amazed by them in this way is not inconsiderable as their style of living shows. The Agricultural Minister of West Bengal, Abdus Sattar, disclosed on the floor of the Assembly on Feb. 16 last that all CPI leaders when joining some Kishan-Mazdoor rally stopped at first class hotels like Grand, Park or Rita and in this matter the great Dange surpassed the lesser leaders.

In this connection one newspaper correspondent wrote he saw Mr. Dange at Patna in November last occupying an airconditioned hotel:

Communists have a knack of using even harmless terms in a derogatory sense. In his book on the solar system, Otto Schmidt, the famous Russian astronomer, abused Sir James Jeans as an "idealist", though for us—ordinary bourgeois people—this term is no abuse at all. The communists choose to live in a topsyturvy world and invent their vocabulary accordingly. We need not be unduly perturbed over their peculiar lexicon.

The statement about ownership and other particulars about the newspaper entitled BEHAR HERALD (ENGLISH) Newsmagazine as required to be published under Rules 8 of the Registration of Newspapers (Central) Rule 1956.

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Sd/- D. N. Sircar
Publisher

YOU CAN'T GO WRONG ON SEX AND CRIME

★ By John Court ★

"They" said that television would "kill" reading. Well, TV is reaching saturation point in many countries—and publishers' lists grow bigger every year, with sales of

books more than twice as big as 10 years ago. So big best-sellers become jumbo best-sellers, with the accent mainly on sex and crime.

Ask Harold Robbins, the world's most successful novelist, His 12 books have sold well over 100 million copies. True, this 57-year-old ex-seaman, ex-snow-shifter, ex-Hollywood clerk—born to a tough background in New York's "Hell's Kitchen" area—has been called "the new Lord of the Garbage Heap" and his books 'overstuffed distillations of sex, violence and schmaltz.' But, he says; "I'm not a sex maniac, although I know what it is all about. You don't get to my age and have five marriages without finding out things along the way".

He explains: "I'm a *people* writer. If you've got something to say, it's got to be valid for the truck-driver and for the woman at home, not just a select audience. I tell what I think is a good story. I don't care too much about critics. Literature is made not by critics but by readers."

"Literature that lasts is something that talks about the contemporary scene. Mine will last. Like Dickens. He was once treated as a pop writer of his day."

He never makes notes or even an outline of a book, keeping everything in his head. "I prefer to let the scenes just happen," he says. "I begin on page one and go. If I can start getting excited by page two, I know it's going to be a winner."

To get background material for *The Adventures* he lived with a South American armed guerrilla band for three months. "It was wild, fantastic," he says; "while I was there I saw whole villages wiped out, rape and murder."

He has a more traditional rival in Belgian-born Georges Simenon, the creator of well over 400 books, of which the best known are the French "Maigret" detective novels. He wrote his first book *Au Pont des Arches* at the age of 17 in 10 days. Soon he had signed a package-deal to write 12 novels and was employing a chauffeur to deliver his manuscripts by hand. From morning to night he wrote for six publishers under 16 pennames.

He finishes each of his short novels in 12 days—seven to write, five to revise—and may write four in a year. Before beginning, he compiles a factual list of characters, even to their telephone numbers. He has no plot: the creatures of his invention tend to get involved in situations which make the story.

He has the same recipe for success as the late Ian Fleming, the creator of the James Bond spy adventure stories Fleming had only 11 years as a novelist and wrote one book a year. He achieved commercial success only in the last two years of his life, with paperbacks selling more than 12 million copies up to the time of his death in 1964.

It is the paperback revolution which has made the enormous sales possible (one of "give-her-hell" Mickey Spil-

lane's less successful novel, *Vengeance is Mine* sold more than five million copies), To begin with, paperbacks were merely reprints of hard-cover books. But as sales grew, paperback publishers became hungry for new material of their own. So now paperback right in a book may be negotiated before the hard-cover rights. Paperback rights used to fetch only perhaps a few hundred pounds; now a figure of £100,000 is commonplace.

Some best-seller writers can look back to a meagre post. Sixty-four-year-old thriller writer John Creasey (the world's most prolific writer, with nearly 600 books published) got 13 guineas in the 1930s for 52,000-word serials for magazines. He set himself what he called a "cracking pace" in novel writing—66 books in three years. His average has been 6,000 words a days, with the first version of the book completed in 10 days.

Devotion certainly pays off, especially when a new field can be worked. M. Georges Remi or "Herger" has been turning out the famous "Tintin" children's illustrated books for more than 40 years. They are over the 30 million sales mark, have been translated into a score of languages and made into TV series and films—with more books—for the world.

Out of work in January, 1970, Frederick Forsyth wrote in 35 days his *The Day of the Jackal*, a novel about an attempt to assassinate General de Gaulle, based on his days as a Reuter correspondent in Paris. It sold a million within a year.

There are some surprises in the writing game. British publishers talk of the "Piccadilly cowboys"—the native writers of Westerns who have scarcely been west of London. Many of the writers are part-timers yet achieve best-seller-dom.

One 52-year-old Londoner named Peter Watts is a civil servant who writes for two hours each evening. In 12 years he has written 144 novels under pen-names, which have been translated into 11 languages and have sold more than eight million copies. "People seem to like a cowboy novel because of the unprotected world it represents," he says. "We are mollycoddled by rules and regulations—but the cowboy makes his own rules and lives, or dies, by the skill with which he operates them."

Always there are the single non-fiction successes which go on and on. One of the biggest best-sellers ever published in our day is the American Dr. Spock's *Baby And Child Care* with some 25 million sales in 26 languages. Another American practical best-seller is the *Better Homes And Gardens Cook Book* with a sale of some 14 million. In Britain a paperback best-seller is *Air-craft Recognition*, by R. A. Saville-Smith, with more than seven million sales.

Certainly the biggest single best-seller has been *The Thoughts Of Chairman Mao*

(Contd. on page 92)

World population was 3.708 m in mid-1971

New Delhi: One out of every two people in the world is an Asian, according to the "demographic Year book" of the U. N. published last week.

The world's population reached 3,708 million in mid-1971, the Year Book says, representing an increase of two per cent, growth rate.

Some 2,104 million people lived in Asia, representing 56.7 per cent of the world total.

In other regions, 354 million people lived in Africa (9.5 of the world total). 327 million in North America, 8.8 per cent), 195 million in South America (5.3 per cent,) 466 million in Europe (12.6 per cent), 19.7 million in Oceania (0.5 per cent) and 245 million in the Soviet Union (6.6 per cent), according to the Year Book.—

Nepal saves....

(Contd. from page 89)

bricks, or through cracks in the stone or woodwork; there are even veritable gardens pushing up through the roof tiles.

In Bhaktapur—the "city of devotees"—picturesque home of mediaeval art and architecture, founded in the 9th century, one magnificent complex of Hindu temples, the Chupinghat, has long since been totally abandoned, while many other building gems in the Durbar Square, including the Palace of 55 Windows and the Batsala temple, are in a sorry state.

The town's National Picture Gallery, itself a building made of superbly carved wood, contains some of the country's oldest and most beautiful tangkas, many of them almost in shreds, also some examples of indoor wall paintings, another once-common form of sacred art now fast disappearing through lack of restoration or preservation—where enough of a painting is still visible to allow it to be restored.

The same can be said of Patan—the "city of beauty"—founded in the 3rd century and famous for its craftsmen and metal workers.

It is like an open museum, full of Buddhist stupas, Shiva temples guarded by gigantic lions and magnificent carvings in wood, stone and metal; yet hardly any one of these monuments is not in need of repair work.

Although Nepal is a tiny spot on the map near the roof of the world, its cultural history is fascinating; the artistic treasures it has to offer in the Kathmandu Valley alone are probably unmatched elsewhere in the world.

But there are less than 600,000 inhabitants in the Valley. International efforts are essential if this treasure-house is to be saved.

—Unesco Feature

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USSR : THE LAW AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

★ By Arkadi Vasilyev ★

Every person in the USSR has the right to personal property, regardless of age. Article 10 of the Soviet Constitution declares that personal property as well as the right of citizens to inherit such property is protected by Law. However, this aspect of the Soviet life is very frequently distorted in the Western press as there is general belief that Soviet citizens cannot possess any property.

There is of course, some truth in this statement. It is not possible for any individual in the Soviet Union to own factories, plants and land, in short, nothing by which he can get unearned income. The personal property of Soviet citizens includes the means of consumption, diverse household articles everything acquired on their personal incomes, connected with socially useful work. This covers a wide range of articles—from foodstuffs, clothing, furniture and books to a dwelling house, a country-cottage, a motor-boat, a motorcycle and a car.

At present some 104 million people live in the rural areas of the Soviet Union—more than 26 million families, and almost all of them in their own houses. Apart from that a part of the population of average-sized and small towns also live in their own cottages.

In accordance with Soviet legislation owners of personal property have the right to dispose it off according to their own discretion. Any body can sell his property, turn it over to another person as a gift or leave it by will, and also temporarily lease it. Nevertheless, personal property (for instance, a house), cannot be used for obtaining unearned income. In such cases property on a court ruling is confiscated by the state without compensation.

Items Owned

The rural population has as its personal property some 25 million head of cattle, more than 15 million pigs, more than 30 million sheep and goats and large numbers of poultry. This is the per-

sonal property of the peasants, just as the foodstuffs received on their personal plots (each household has a small plot of land which usually does not exceed 0.5 hectare). The products received from personal plots are used by the peasants for their own requirements while the surplus is sold at collective farm markets. The farmer's personal plot is only an additional source for meeting his material requirements while work on the collective farm is his main source of income.

There is no limit to the number of articles an individual can possess, except for the number of houses and livestock. Thus, for instance, a person can have as his personal property only one country-cottage. The size of a house is also limited by the laws adopted in the majority of the Union Republics of the USSR to 60 square metres. But what should in large family do? In all such cases the executive committee of the local Soviet issues a permit for building a larger house. The laws of each Union Republic determining the number of live-stock allowed as personal property, varying according to local conditions.

The personal savings of the population are growing from year to year, reflecting the steady rise in the USSR economy. They, in a way, are an index of the well-being of the people. This is particularly to be seen by the increase in the deposits of the population in the state savings banks. Thus during the years of the Eighth Five-Year Plan (1966-1970) total deposits increased 2.5 times and today there are more than 80 million savings banks depositors in the country.

Higher Purchasing Capacity

The rise in the incomes of the population also determine the purchasing capacity of the people. In 1971 Soviet people, for instance, bought nearly 11.3 million TV and radio sets, some 28 million watches and more than four million domestic refrigerators.

(Contd. on page 92)

Russia To Participate In US Skylab

London : Space research is about to become meaningful to that ubiquitous man in the street as the programmes in the next phase turn inwards to look at Planet Earth. This has in fact been going on, with instruments in orbit, for some time.

The project of the immediate future is the US SKYLAB in which the Russians will certainly participate. The biggest structure ever to be projected into

space, the laboratory in the sky is scheduled to be shot off in early April 1973.

The most important research objective of SKYLAB will be the study of the human body (the astronauts) and how it functions in prolonged exposure to weightlessness. AS the schedule stands the vehicle will be manned for 140 days, in three missions of 28, 56 and 56 days by three astronauts at a time.

Soviet and US space scientists have probably collaborated more in this particular aspect than in any other given field in space. From studies in simulated conditions and information from Soyuz Salyut and Gemins/Apollo programmes, including the atopsy on that fatal Russian flight, scientists are inclined to agree that the body adapts to weightlessness and does not deteriorate physiologically or in efficiency.

Tests in SKYLAB on the astronauts will be vital not only in planning the long space missions of the future but in understanding the human health system in health and illness. The biomedical research could well yield to new and better treatments for particular disease conditions on earth.

As recently as October last year a new device—the M518 Multipurpose Electric Furnace System—was found which more than doubled the experiments in metals and materials originally planned for the earth orbiting laboratory.

As the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) puts it, the new furnace will enhance the SKYLAB materials science capability by providing a means of experimentation in solidification, crystal growth, composite structures, alloy structural characteristics and other thermal processes involving changes in materials under conditions of weightlessness.

The SKYLAB experiments in M518 will explore and pioneer a variety of potentially practical uses in manufacturing and processing techniques and could lead to production in space of vaccines, pharmaceuticals and various other manufactures for transportation to and use on earth.

Of more immediate interest and significance to everyman will be SKYLAB's research into and information about this plant and the human environment. A number of satellites have been sending down information of this kind for some time.

In July this year the United States launched into earth orbit the first Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS 1) which, with its vidicon camera and multispectral scanner, opened out fresh horizons in the study of earth. The concentration of instruments and the men on board SKYLAB will immensely extend the experiments and the information.

Benefits more tangible than the world experiment suggest, have already been illustrated by the unmanned satellites. Mapping, surveying and prospecting, agriculture and forestry, hydrology, geology, geography air and water pollution they all come within SKYLAB's scope.

Even in the narrow area of monitoring the spring thaw and consequent run-off of water, SKYLAB could provide information vital to water conservation and flood control on a global scale. An immeasurable amount of water is wasted in the spring thaw run-off and it has been estimated that even a small improvement in assessment and prediction would provide twice as much water for irrigation than is available today.

If this extra water could be used the world's irrigated crops could be doubled without any further increase in the area of land under cultivation. At the same, if more is known about the water flow, is estimated that hydroelectric power production could be increased by almost half without any new generators being installed.

As far as the crops are concerned one function which sensors in the sky can perform which cannot be done satisfactorily even by high-flying aircraft is the detection, by infrared photography, of diseases in plants and trees, long before the symptoms are detectable on the ground.

Losses which even at the present level of cultivation run into billions of dollars annually in the US alone, could be sharply reduced given the early warning from multi-spectral cameras situated far out in orbit and taking false-colour pictures of vast tracts of the earth's surface.

The ceaseless surveillance of practically all man's activities and a good many of nature itself has already begun. When SKYLAB goes up next April the focus on earth will become that much closer. The growing US/USSR collaboration in earth research from space only indicates its importance. Visions of the planet's resources being exploited by studies in space under international control are taking shape.—(Gemini)

The Oldest Beer Mug In The World

★ By Ranjit Halder ★

Beer which was the cause of Adam's downfall—not apples—is one of the oldest manufactured drink in the world.

It was in general consumption in Egypt, and we find that Pharaoh Rameses II gave as a thanks-offering, or sacrifice, to the Priests of Set no fewer than 25,000 gallons of beer a year, so that the monks of 600 and 700 years ago were not the first religious body to find that beer and religion went well together. Best authorities are of the opinion that Egypt acquired the knowledge of making beer from Babylonia.

The oldest beer mug in the world was found at Beth-Pelet in 1929. It is estimated at about 1,500 years B. C., say about 300 years before the Israelite exodus from Egypt, and shows that not only did Egyptian influence extend into Southern Palestine, but that the Egyptian custom of drinking "boosa" or Egyptian beer, had spread beyond Egypt.

Louis Pasteur was the man who started pasteurisation, which is a most important process in the manufacture of beer. Today brewing has reached a very advanced stage due to the progress of science and machinery employed. Many breweries employ whole-time chemists who spend their time in research work and the study and analysis of materials used.

Beer is a solution of malt extract fermented by yeast and flavoured with hops, and is an exceptionally pure and wholesome drink.—(H. S.)

THE WORLD'S CLIMATE IN THE YEAR 2000

★ By Almuth Genrich ★

Bonn (DaD — Is Arctic Ocean ice in the process of melting? Does the danger of unbearable climate deviations exist? Will we soon find ourselves in the midst of a great water shortage? Meteorologists all over the world ask these questions in view of the steadily growing use of both energy and water. The weather is now characterized by a state of extreme instability. A model calculation for the world's climate which was made in the Meteorological Institute of the University of Bonn (Federal Republic of Germany) with the support of the German Research Society, reached this conclusion.

According to Professor Hermann Flohn, the director of the Bonn Institute, large

volcano eruptions are no longer a possible source of danger, as they were in earlier centuries, nor are the so-called arctic ice eruptions. The continual rise in energy consumption, on the other hand, is a matter of serious concern and now amounts to five per cent per annum of a world scale. If mankind continues to increase its energy consumption as it does at the present, this can lead to a dangerous warming of the earth. Even now, the temperatures are a few degrees higher in the cities at night and during the winter than in the country.

"What upsets us the most", thus Professor Flohn, "is the problem of the Arctic Ocean ice". It could be that the ice recedes considerably

due to the expected drastic increase of temperature over the Atlantic. Then the entire climate zones could change. And once the Arctic ice melts, it could not be formed anew under the present climatic conditions.

Another problem that will probably be of more immediate interest is the continually growing use of water. The increase presently lies at four per cent per capita and year. Even though precipitation in the last decade was a great deal higher than before, the world could suffer a considerable water shortage. This situation is declared by an increase in evaporation. Even though it is hard to measure its exact amount, the meteorologists believe that it will be necessary to de-salt

the ocean during the next century. This would mean that the energy consumption rates would be forced to rise even higher. In other words, mankind has reached a vicious circle and it could be that it will have to manufacture its climate itself by the year 2030.

The Bonn meteorologists believe that this development can only be stopped when the politicians agree to plan and carry out a considerable reduction of energy and water consumption. Once the climatological border values are reached, it will be too late for a re-thinking process.

OUTSTANDING ROLE OF SOVIET INDOLOGY

★ By Prof. Debiprasad Chattopadhyaya ★

It is four years since I started publishing in India in English translation the scholarly works of Soviet Orientalists in a general series entitled "Soviet Indology Series." How did this idea originate? In 1968 I went to the Soviet Union to acquaint myself with the main centres of Indology in the Soviet Union situated in Moscow, Leningrad and Tashkent. I must admit that till recently Indian scholars did not have a very clear idea of Indological studies in Russia.

During my stay in Moscow and Leningrad, having familiarised myself in the main with the vast Indological heritage of the Soviet Union, I realised how important it was both from a scientific and historical point of view to "discover" Soviet Indology for Indian scholars and for the whole Indian people. Many intellectuals of India were well informed of the German, English and French schools of Indology. But bourgeois scholars as a rule considered the Indian people only as bearers of "everything Asian", essentially remaining under the influence of religious, spiritualistic and passive traditions and extremely remote from problems of modern civilisation. Max Mueller, a well-known German Orientalist, for instance, urged the representatives of the colonial administration to study India in order to be able to rule it more effectively.

Imperialist Concepts

When I was in Leningrad I acquainted myself for the first time with basically new works of Russian Indologists whose approach was entirely different from the concepts of Western Orientalists. I discovered the works of Academician Shcherbatsky and other Orientalists on the history of Indian materialism, Indian logic, etc., in which they forcefully came out against the Western interpretation of the Indian heritage. Thus, Academician Shcherbatsky, who had belonged both to pre-revolutionary and post-revolutionary Russia, laid stress on the enormous contribution made by India to the development of human civilisation. The imperialist concepts that belittled the achievements of the peoples of the East were totally alien to him.

It was in Leningrad that I first got the idea of informing the Indian public about the development of the Russian school of Indology. Soviet scholars helped me to select the most important works by Russian and Soviet Indologists which were microfilmed and handed over to me. I consider publication of the works of Soviet scholars in India a part of Indo-Soviet relations and a new form of contact between our two peoples, for, I feel, by popularising such works and telling the people what has been and is being done in the Soviet Union in the field of Indology, much can be achieved. I should like to mention here the name of late Dr. Balabushevich, a

well-known Soviet Indologist, who from the beginning helped me considerably in the preparation and implementation of my plan.

Indian scholars, who have rallied round the Calcutta quarterly "Indian Studies—Past and Present," of which I am the editor, have undertaken the publication of these works.

Cooperation with Soviet scholars has opened for us new vistas of Soviet Indology. In the Soviet Union a new generation of scholars has come up for whom Indology is not merely a field of academic knowledge or just a hobby. They characteristic of the deep interest taken in that country in the vital problems and destiny of the Indian people and their struggle for a better future.

M. P. Anikeyev, a Soviet philosopher, had written a book entitled "Materialistic Tradition in Indian Philosophy" in which he also examined some problems connected with contemporary Indological studies from different points of view and explained its problems and tasks. We decided to start our series this work which is aimed at introducing the Indian reader to Soviet Indology.

Shcherbatsky's Work

Our second publication was a collection of works by Academician Shcherbatsky, the outstanding Orientalist, which had not been published before in English translation. From the start we were faced with the difficulty of translating these works into English. Mr. H. S. Gupta, who is in charge of the Russian department of the National Library in Calcutta, helped us a great deal in this work. The collection included works of this scholar devoted to those problems of Indian philosophy which had never been dealt with by Western scholars. The collection of Shcherbatsky's works has been a great success not only in India, but also in other countries, including the USA.

The third issue of our series was devoted to the Soviet study of the Kushan problem. The fourth was a paper by A. I. Vostryakov, a well-known Soviet scholar, entitled "Tibetan Historical Literature". It should be mentioned here that Yuri Roerich, a famous Orientalist, considered this work a valuable contribution to Indology. The fifth issue contained new translations of Shcherbatsky's work. The sixth was devoted to problems of ancient Indian history—it was a translation of G. M. Bongard-Levin's book "Studies in Ancient India and Central Asia". The seventh issue included a new series of articles by Academician Shcherbatsky.

The two last publications contained works by Soviet Indologists I. Serebryakov and K. Antonova on ancient Indian literature and on Akbar.

We in India maintain regular contacts with prominent Soviet Indologists. We discuss and plan our future

OLDEST CHURCH IN INDIA

★ By K. N. Nair ★

The St. Francis Church in the city of Cochin, the earliest European settlement in India, is the oldest European Church in the country. Built in the 16th century it is "the masonry cradle of Roman Catholicism" in this country. "From this Choir for the first time in Hindustan resounded the sonorous chants of Rome, as also from its pulpit was thundered out the grim gospel of Calvinism—Total depravity, particular redemption, Irresistible grace."

Like the city of Cochin this ancient Church has also passed through many vicissitudes. St. Francis' Church stands over the site of the St. Bartholomew, a wooden structure built by the five Friars who accompanied Alfonso da Albuquerque to Cochin in 1503. The present edifice was constructed by Franciscan missionaries who dedicated it to St. Antony in 1516.

The mortal remains of Vasco da Gama who died at Cochin in 1524 during his second visit to the city, were interred in the chancery of the Church with all pomp and fanfare. But it remained only a temporary sepulchre of the Portuguese leader. In 1540 sixteen years after the burial here, his body was taken to Portugal by his son Pedro da Silva da Gama.

From 1510 to 1663 this Church was officially called "the Conventional Church of the Order of St. Francis of Assis" by the Portuguese.

When it came under the control of the Dutch who professed the "Reformed Religion" they made some changes in the name and structure of the Church and did some restoration work in 1779. After the advent of the English it was the Government Protestant Church" from 1819 to 1846. It was only after the substantial restoration carried out by the English in 1836-87 that

publications jointly. We attach great importance to this joint work, as for the first time in India we have to deal with very weighty material whose publication, to our mind, is very important. As a Canadian Indologist recently said, our series is extremely useful for scholars all over the world. He added that no serious Orientalist can do without Vostryakov's book published by us. In Calcutta I once met a Sanskrit scholar. He embraced me and said: "Thank you for your publications. Without them we would have known nothing about Soviet Indology." Such good opinions are a great encouragement in our work. We are well aware of the great responsibility we have assumed, and are full of determination to continue with our publications. We intend to publish twenty more books. I am confident that we shall be able to realise our plans and thereby promote greater mutual understanding between the Soviet and the Indian peoples.

Courtesy: Soviet Land

MASCULINE WOMEN?

★ By Jyotsna Rout ★

Two interesting items of news have come from two different countries professing widely differing social systems. From the United States comes the news that the air wing of the United States Marine Corps—a wholly masculine preserve if there ever was one—has at last cracked up under the persistent blows of feminine besiegers, and has at last admitted a woman for training as a pilot. The woman said that she would "give it all I have got", and one does not doubt she will. The other news item comes from Soviet Russia, and despite the popular supposition that the Soviet system, along with all other 'socialist' systems encourages the razing to the ground of all barriers between men and women, the Soviet authorities have strictly banned soccer for women, despite its having proved popular in the Ukraine.

The reasons given by the Soviet authorities make interesting reading. The view soccer as injurious to the female anatomy, and feel that it is also derogatory to the Soviet conception of the aesthetic aspect of women's sports. It may help to view the Soviet ban in perspective, if it is mentioned that Yoga has been strictly forbidden for both men and women as being too idealistic.

This again throws up the old question: do women have to strive in fields for which

nature has not equipped them as well as it has men? A more important question is except the inevitable lunatic fringe, do women wish to do this, or is it forced on them due to the present wrong social attitudes?

It is possible, that in analogy with obviously unsuitable students crowding the universities to acquire a degree as a status symbol the ambitious woman strays into occupations obviously against her physical abilities and innate inclinations, because she has no outlet for her energies along channels more suitable for her both physically and aesthetically. The medals and encomas are showered on combatant soldiers, so it is understandable that ambitious and spirited women do not quite wish to be nurses, though the occupation is fitted for them and they do an important job, because it is not recognised as a first line job.

Considering the radical changes which will be ushered in—some of them of frightening potential—if women leave the cradle and clutch rifles and control columns of jet aircraft, society must do something about providing women with jobs which satisfy their demand to be recognised as individuals in their own rights—(A.B.P.)

this edifice became known as the St. Francis Church.

Inside the Church, on the ground to the southern side can still be seen the store from Vasco da Gama's grave enclosed by polished brass railings. A small brass plate inscription proclaims: "Here lay buried Vasco da Gama who died on the Christmas Eve of the year 1524 A. D. at Cochin, until his remains were removed to Portugal fourteen years later."

Other ancient grave stones mostly Portuguese and Dutch, taken from the floor of the grave, can be seen embedded in the walls most of them elaborately carved and with colourful family crests. Elsewhere can be seen brass tablets in memory of other Europeans especially British.

Some old 'Cadhan leaf' manuscripts preserved in this Church gives interesting information about the lives of Portuguese and Dutch settlers here. The St. Francis Church is even today in an excellent state of preservation and is one of the important tourist spots in Cochin.

The links of this religious institution with the eventful and romantic past have made the inhabitants of Cochin highly proud of their old Church.

The ancient Church, now an Anglican one within the Church of South India is a protected monument.

In the square near the Church one can see imposing cottages built in European style by the Dutch who destroyed all Catholic archives and buildings except the St. Francis Church.—(H. S.)

Sex and crime...

(Contd. from page 90)

of which some 330 million copies were distributed in 1966-67 though it's fair to say it was all part of a literary as well as a political drive.

Lenin's works may sell in 222 languages, Simenon's in 143 and Enid Blyton's in 123, but the Bible remains the biggest continuing best-seller, the world's Bible Societies selling over 100 million copies a year in some 1,300 languages and dialects.—(H. S.)

USSR...

(Contd. from page 91)

The Soviet state is interested in the increase of the personal property of its citizens. This stems from the very nature of socialism which considers its main aim that of most fully satisfying the material and spiritual requirements of man. The Ninth Five-Year Plan (1971-1975) envisages a considerable rise in the cash incomes of Soviet people—wages of factory and office workers will on the average increase by 22 per cent and the incomes of the peasants—33 per cent. The manufacture of consumer goods during the current five-year period will advance to even a greater degree.

Any encroachment on the personal property of citizens is punishable by criminal law as well as by the USSR administrative and civil law.

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THIS WEEK IN INDIA

To 'casual' summit with Bhutto

External Affairs Minister Swaran Singh ruled out "casual or courtesy" meeting between the Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan for an informal exchange of views... The shooting down of a Libyan civilian plane by Israel was condemned by India... The Union Cabinet has decided to exclude the State of Assam from the purview of the proposed legislation to set up a Central university in Shillong... Prime Minister Indira Gandhi says that she is against Government take-over of any newspaper or news agency... The continued linking of the rupee with pound sterling is, in Government's judgement, in the best interest of the country...

India has offered to help Tanzania develop a small-scale industries' complex for manufacturing 34 different items... The Bihar Government has decided to create a buffer stock of at least seven lakh tonnes of foodgrains... The Planning Commission is considering "suitable changes in the administrative structure" to ensure effective implementation of the Plan... India will extend the fullest co-operation to restore lasting peace in Laos... The N. C. D. C. is likely to be merged with the newly formed Coal Mines Authority... The Centre will shortly set up coal depots in different cities of the country for supply of coal for domestic use at fair prices...

External Affairs Minister Swaran Singh says that there is "some indication" that China is considering the question of normalisation of Sino-Indian relations... India has taken adequate steps to ensure security to her chanceries abroad... Direct participation by the Government in a big way in industrial activity during the last 15 years had made the public sector the dominant factor on the industrial scene... Everest conquerors from all over the world will assemble at Darjeeling in May to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the first ascent on the world's highest peak... The General Medical Council, Britain, has lifted the decrecognition of the degree of the Prince of Wales Medical College, Patna...

The Punjab Government has taken up with the Centre the question of extending telephone facilities to rural areas... The people of Punjab last year consumed country liquor worth Rs. 26 crores, according to Minister for Development Rattan Singh... A 12-million (Rs. 9-crore) international crop research institute for semi-arid tropics (ICRISAT) will be set up at Ramachandrapuram, near Hyderabad... A major breakthrough in prolonging the life of an isotope useful in diagnosing cancer and other diseases has been made by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Bombay... The President has given his assent to the Constitution (Thirtieth) Amendment Bill as passed by both Houses of Parliament...

A proposal to set a "Tourism Finance Corporation" for disbursing loans to hotels and other segments of the tourist industry is under the consideration of the Union Government... India expects to receive debt relief of about 140 million for 1972-73 following a decision taken by the Aid India Consortium in June last year... The Union Government is totally opposed to any move for a fresh reorganisation of States, according to Home Minister Uma Shankar Dikshit... The State Chief Ministers have unanimously agreed to implement the Centre's decision to take over the wholesale trade in wheat from the rabi crop... Maharashtra tops the list of States in industrial activity...

India has placed an order on Yugoslavia for three more tankers of 24,000 dwt each... Two new railway lines, one from Hassanpur to Sakri and the other from Jhanjharpur to Laukaha Bazar, both in Darbhanga district of Bihar, would be constructed this year... The Government has decided to raise the upper age limit for the Indian Forest Service Examination to be held by the Union Public Service Commission in 1973 from 24 years to 26 years as on July 1 this year... An 18-month-old girl, sleeping by the side of her mother, was carried away by a wolf from Bukhara village on the outskirts of Bijnor town...

The 24-year-old owner of a printing press in Jama Masjid in New Delhi allegedly killed the five-year-old daughter of his employee' packed her body in a wooden case and sent it to him... A parcel service between India and Bangladesh has been introduced from March 1... The decision for formation of a full-fledged Katihar district has been finalised... Indian exports during the first nine months of the current financial year rose by 22.4 per cent, compared to the corresponding period in 1971-72... A father of 18 children, underwent vasectomy operation at a family planning camp in Nadoali village of Bharatpur district... Bajaj Auto Ltd. has cut the ex-factory price "Bajaj 150" scooters and "Bajaj" three-wheeler by Rs. 75 per vehicle...

For the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, Governor Bhagwan Sahay read his opening address in Urdu in the Assembly... The overall loss to the Railways on account of recent language riots in Assam and agitation in Andhra Pradesh is estimated at Rs. 20 crores so far... Pay hike for Central staff may cost Rs. 200 crores... The price level is over 13 per cent more than what it was a year ago... Prime Minister Indira Gandhi rules out release of Pakistani POWs "without the concurrence" of Bangladesh... Finance Minister Y. B. Chavan presenting his budget for 1973-74 told the Lok Sabha that the deficit at the current level of taxation next year would be Rs. 335 crores... The new excise and customs levies, announced in the Central Budget, came into force from midnight of Wednesday.

Tailpiece: A century old letter written on a piece of deer skin holds out the possibility of a hidden treasure worth about Rs. 5 crores near the town of Wani, 110 km from Yeotmal (Maharashtra). — *News-item*

17000 VILLAGES HIT BY DROUGHT IN BIHAR

Ranchi, Mar. 2: Vast tracts of dry land, vultures in the sky, herds of emaciated cattle and groups of hungry people—these are the familiar sights in many drought-affected villages of Bihar.

A news agency correspondent, who visited the affected interior villages of the State last week, saw hunger had no regard for age. Thousands of people were leaving their hearths and homes in search of a place under the blue sky where they could find out a livelihood.

According to reports available, out of 67,000 villages in the State, about 17,000 are affected by drought. The situation in 3,000 villages is described as 'Alarming.' About 1.60 crore of the State's 5.63 crores population have been affected by drought. Out of 29 districts, eight are badly affected.

Sixty-year-old Lallu Oraon told the correspondent in Palamau district in his local language: 'My youngest son has died last week. I could not give him anything to eat except Gora Konda (wild root). I have also lost one of my cattle.'

A district official said that unless effective measures were taken immediately, the district would face a 'real famine' within a month. "The symptoms are identical with those of the 1976-68 famine in the State" he added.

At Talaburu village, about five km from Chaibasa, some cattle were seen searching fodder in the dust. They were being taken to their final destination—a slaughter house—as the owners were not in a position to look after them.

Drinking water has become the immediate problem in the village as the ponds and other sources of water have dried up.

The people of Chotanagpur, mostly Adivasis, live on wild roots and fruits. Vegetables are a luxury for them. An old Adivasi said if the present trend continued, it would be difficult for them to cultivate Aghani and Gora paddy. Poor villagers were selling whatever they had. Even seeds could not be spared, he added.

About 160 irrigation schemes have been completed in the State at a cost of Rs. 73 crores. This figure would rise to Rs. 86 crores by the end of the Fourth Plan.

Sources close to the department alleged that some of the irrigation schemes, meant for the areas, were planned, only on 'paper'.

One source which preferred to be unidentified, said that there was no scarcity of anything in the state. 'If the hoarded foodgrains are unearthed, the entire population can be fed for one year without any outside supplies', it added.

Fair price shops in the rural areas are practically few. There are 1200 FPS in 67,000 villages in the State and majority of them have been located in urban or semi-urban areas.

People in the affected

areas alleged that most of the FPS operated only on paper. Twenty five per cent of such shops had no stock of food-grains. The supplies would come when the people had no money to buy. Thus the stocks were really shown in books distributed to the card-holders but the stocks actually passed into the black market, they further alleged.

The situation in Simdega was however good. Deputy Commissioner Mr. Sachindanand Sinha said that in spite of the fact that wheat cultivation was unknown to the Adivasis, they sowed wheat in irrigated areas this year and the crop was likely to give a good yield. The villagers had formed co-operatives for this purpose, he added.

A tribal leader, who wants the creation of a separate Jharkhand state, said 'while the Government continues to present a rosy picture of the situation, the fact is that thousands of Adivasis are actually starving.'

Bottom insured

Sydney: A 21-year-old Sydney nightclub dancer has insured her bottom against injury or disability for £A100,000.

Said Susan O'dear, "I got thinking that it's my most valuable asset, so I decided to insure it."—Reuter.

New Taxes.....

(Contd. from front page)

9. The scheme for differential rates of interests on bank loans has been extended to over a hundred districts more.

10. A hundred crores rupee crash programme for the educated unemployed has been announced.

Bihar's Share In Central Taxes

The statement showing Bihar's share in the distribution of income tax, basic and additional Union excise duties and estate duty — Percentage share and guaranteed amount under the recommendations of the fourth and fifth Finance Commission.

- Income tax — percentage share 9.04 per cent (4th), 9.99 per cent (5th).
- Union excise duties: Basic percentage share 10.03 per cent (4th), 13.81 per cent (5th).
- Additional duties of excise:—
 - guaranteed amount — Rs. 130.16 lakhs (4th), Rs. 130.16 lakhs (5th).
 - percentage share of balance 6.17 per cent (4th), 8.40 per cent (5th).
- Estate duty on movable property percentage share 10.76 per cent (4th), 10.80 per cent (5th).

Statement showing Bihar's share in the distribution of income tax basic duties, additional excise duties, additional excise duties and estate duty in the budget estimates for 1972-73 revised estimates for 1972-73 and budget estimates for 1973-74.

	Revised		
	1972-73 (in lakhs)	1972-73 (in lakhs)	1973-74 (in lakhs)
1. Income tax	46,90	47,96	49,81
2. Basic excise duties	60,37	58,76	64,65
3. Additional excise	19,11	9,68	19,20
4. Estate duty	77	46	90

Girl dies to "save" dolls

Krishnagar: A seven-year-old girl gave her life in an attempt to save her favourite toys from fire, reports PTL.

Rupashree Roy rushed inside the hut which was ablaze to rescue her dolls. She was over-powered by the flames and died of burn injuries.

The accident occurred at Goalpara Sardarpara, six km from here on February 21.

Reports of another four fires were received in Nadia district during the last 48 hours in which thatched huts and other property were lost.

Soviet Help

(Contd. from front page)

Union will co-operate in geological and exploratory work. This was announced at the end of today's discussion between the visiting Soviet delegation, headed by the Soviet Deputy Oil Minister, Mr. D. A. Takoev, and the Petroleum Ministry.

The talks were held in accordance with the decision of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission on Economic and Technical Co-operation.

Both sides felt that the most modern technology should be applied for increasing the recovery of oil from existing wells. Methods should be devised for reducing the number of idle wells and increasing utilisation of oil-bearing wells.

The two countries have agreed to co-operate in scientific research in the problems of the oil industry. The base of research in India will be expanded, and Soviet help will be provided for this purpose.

Soviet experts will help in joint assessments of oil reserves and in preparing detailed plans for exploring sedimentary basins.

3rd March, 1973.

No Room For Biharis In Bangladesh

Natore (Bangladesh), March 2: The Prime Minister, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, has proposed that Bangladesh and Pakistan should immediately swap hundreds of thousands of unwanted civilians. He has indicated that if Pakistan does not agree, he might dump 3,00,000 non-Bengali Muslims in the lap of the world community.

In an interview with Associated Press yesterday, the Sheikh said that Bangladesh had no room for members of the Urdu-speaking Bihari minority who had told his government that they wanted to go to Pakistan.

If Pakistan rejects them, he said "the world community should purchase an island for them".

The Sheikh's proposal envisages exchange of the dissatisfied Biharis, still living in refugee camps 15 months after Bangladesh was born, with as many as 400,000 Bengalis stranded in Pakistan.

"This can be done even before Pakistan recognises Bangladesh," he said.

The offer went beyond a proposal already under consideration by India, Bangladesh and Pakistan to repatriate about 6,000 Pakistani women and children held in India in exchange for 10,000

Bengali dependents in Pakistan.

Sheikh said the offer would not apply to the 70,000 Pakistani military personnel held in India, although he did not rule out the possibility that the 20,000 civilian and paramilitary internees might be involved.

Some of the military men, he said would be put on trial "very soon" for war crimes. He did not specify when or how many.

The Sheikh appeared angry that India and Bangladesh were being criticised abroad for having detained the prisoners so long.

Sheikh Mujib said he wanted friendly relations with all countries, even China, but not at the cost of self-respect. He said: "It is China who used the veto in the United Nations against my poor country. How can I be friendly with it now? We are sorry about the attitude of China toward Bangladesh. The Chinese say they are for the oppressed people of the world but in our case they are with the oppressor."

He said that the U. S. support to Pakistan during the war was a different story. "I have good relations with America."

BUDGET MAY HAVE Rs. 45-Cr. GAP

Patna, Mar. 2: The Bihar budget for 1973-74 is likely to show a deficit of over Rs. 45 crores, according to indications available after the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

Although informed sources believe that there won't be any fresh taxation proposal to cover the gap, they don't rule out the possibility of enhancing a number of existing levies.

The sources, most likely to be tapped for the purpose are those covered by the flood protection and assured irrigation schemes.

Users of entertainment houses, owners of auto vehicles, and power consumers may also have to pay more during the next financial year.

At the same time the Government is thinking in terms of launching an intensive drive to enforce commercial taxes and realise royalties from mine owners to make up the deficit.

The total budget will be of the order of Rs. 635.86 crores with receipts amounting to about Rs. 600 crores.

The Cabinet on Tuesday discussed and finalised the annual budget to be placed before the Bihar assembly in the first week of March.

It decided to recommend to the Governor the name of Dr. S. C. Mandal, Director of Agricultural Research, for his posting as Vice-Chancellor of the Agriculture University.

There were 50 items on agenda, but only two of them could be taken up due to paucity of time because budget consumed the entire time.

Bihar Gets Rs. 13-Cr. For Drought

New Delhi, Mar. 2: The Minister of Revenue and Expenditure Mr. K. R. Ganesh, on Monday gave figures in the Lok Sabha of the Central drought assistance for states. The ceiling adopted by the Ministry of Finance totalled Rs. 193.82 crores.

The ceiling for various States are: Andhra Pradesh Rs. 28 crores, Maharashtra—Rs. 94.09 crores, Bihar Rs. 13.40 crores, Gujarat—Rs. 6.90 crores, Nagaland Rs. 0.08 crores, J. and K—Rs. 0.08 crores, Mysore Rs. 7.75 crores, Orissa Rs. 14.66 crores, Rajasthan—Rs. 6.60 crores, Tamil Nadu—Rs. 1.50 crores, Tripura Rs. 0.88 crores, Uttar Pradesh—Rs. 9.19 crores, and West Bengal—Rs. 10.08 crores.

Of the total ceiling of Rs. 193.82 crores, Central Government has already released Rs. 117.09 crores—Rs. 76.20 crores as loans and Rs. 40.89 crores as grants.

PANCHAYATI RAJ IN BIHAR FROM APRIL

Raxaul, Mar. 2: A revolutionary change would be brought about in the administrative set-up of the Bihar districts for ushering in Panchayati Raj from April next, the Chief Minister, Mr. Kedar Pande, said here on Tuesday.

Mr. Pande told a largely attended public meeting at the Congress Ashram at Sugauli that the entire administration of development activities would be separated and entrusted to Zilla Parishads.

He said the Land Ceiling Bill after enactment would be enforced within three months and about seven lakh acres of surplus land procured under it would be distributed among landless families through village committees. He said the procedure of distribution of land would be finalised in consultation with the Sarvodaya leader, Mr. Jaya Prakash Narayan.

"cow", retains molybdenum-99.

Hospitals using chemical procedures can easily "milk" pure technetium-99M from the "cow" before use. Moreover, the procedure can be repeated several times.

The Trombay "cow" differs from others used in advanced countries. It uses low specific activity molybdenum-99 and is claimed to be an improvement on other "cows" used in advanced countries.

RETAIL WHEAT TRADE UNDER LICENCE

New Delhi, Mar. 2: The scheme for the take-over of wheat wholesale trade was announced in Parliament on Monday. According to it, a ban will be imposed on private wholesale dealers in wheat all over the country. Retailers will operate under licence.

FCI and some other specified public agencies will buy whatever comes to the market. A central pool of wheat will be formed and releases will be made to states from this pool.

Inter-state movement of wheat and wheat products will be allowed only to FCI and any other public agency that may be designated by the central government. Single state wheat zones will be formed and within each state wheat surplus and heavy deficit areas will be cordoned off separately. The issue and procurement price will be so fixed as to keep the food subsidy within "reasonable limits."

All marketable surpluses will not be taken over but only such of the wheat as "marketed."

Announcing the salient features of the scheme Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, union food minister, said chief ministers had endorsed it on Saturday and that the take-over would begin with arrival of rabi wheat.

The food minister recalled that towards the end of last year, the government had, in consultation with state chief ministers, decided to take over the wholesale trade in wheat and rice from 1973-74 rabi and kharif seasons respectively. On February 24, a conference of chief ministers and food ministers was held to discuss and finalise the steps.

The minister said he was happy to announce that this conference unanimously approved of the steps and agreed to implement this decision.

The following basic objectives underlying the take-over of wholesale trade were fully endorsed:

(1) Effective public control over the marketed surplus so as to eliminate speculation and the distortions in price and availability resulting from it.

(2) Remunerative prices to growers so as to provide them with incentive to expand production and market it to the public agencies.

(3) Assured availability to consumers, particularly the vulnerable sections of the population, at reasonable prices.

(4) Economy in the costs of wholesale trading by elimination of unnecessary intermediaries and by other improvements in the efficiency of the system.

"Since the take-over of wholesale trade by the government is introducing a major structural reform in the marketing of wheat, keeping in view the basic objectives, it has been decided that the system should operate by and large on the marketed surplus as distinct from the marketable surplus".

The food minister said that the salient features of the final scheme, as it had emerged after discussion in chief minister's conference, were as follows:

Imposition of ban on private wholesale dealers in wheat all over the country.

Institution of single state wheat zones; cordoning, in addition, of wheat surplus zones in the producing states as well as cordoning of major consuming centres and heavily deficit zones; inter-state movement of wheat and wheat products to be allowed only by the FCI and or other public agencies in accordance with the orders of the central government.

Retailers should be permitted to operate under appropriate conditions to be specified in the licence.

Definition of a retailer should be functional, depending on the situation in each state, laying down the area of operation, specifying the maximum quantity they could deal in and stock, and the retail points they could cover. Such licensed retailers and the consumers will be permitted to buy directly from the growers.

Purchases for the government will be undertaken by the FCI, the state co-operative marketing federations and the state departments of food and civil supplies and any other public agencies designated by the state governments. The procured stocks will be taken into the central pool and releases would be made to the states to meet their reasonable requirements.

"Cows" That Milk Isotope

Bombay, Mar. 2: The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has developed "cows" which can be milked of Technetium 99 M—an isotope which is a boon to hospitals for nuclear medicine.

The cows are, in fact, generators which are an improved version of those used in advanced countries. Six such "cows" have already been supplied to hospitals in the country.

Short-lived isotopes have been found useful for diagnostic procedures, including the scanning of the brain, bone, liver, lung, thyroid and placenta.

Among these isotopes, Technetium 99 M, with a half-life of only six hours, is most widely used and accounts for 30 per cent of all diagnostic applications of radio isotopes in advanced countries.

Technetium 99 M can be separated in pure form from its parent—Molybdenum 99—which is readily produced in a nuclear reactor. The pure Technetium 99 M thus separated can be supplied straight to hospitals but since its life is very short, the isotope can be made available only to hospitals which are near the production centre.

Even then, the decay losses are very high. It is, therefore, supplied in the form of a generator or a "cow" which is a device to retain Molybdenum 99. Hospitals using chemical procedures can milk pure Technetium 99 M before use. The process can be repeated several times.

Realising the importance of Technetium 99 M in nuclear medicine, isotope division of the BARC, Trombay, has

developed a simple "cow" using indigenously produced materials.

The generator yields Technetium 99 M in the form of Pertechnetate using a simple solvent extraction process. The Trombay-developed "cow" differs from the Technetium "cows" in use in many advanced countries.

The Trombay "cow" uses low specific activity Molybdenum 99 which can be produced in large quantities in any research reactor. The pertechnetate milked from the "cow" is of high purity and concentration.

Another breakthrough

A major breakthrough in prolonging the life of an isotope useful in diagnosing cancer and other diseases has been made by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre here.

The isotope, called technetium 99 M, has, ordinarily, a life of only six hours. The new device, made completely at the Centre, prolongs the life of the isotope to a great extent.

Six leading hospitals in the country are already utilising the new device.

Till now, a major handicap in supplying the isotope to far-away hospitals was the short life of technetium-99M. The Centre's new device is a generator which prolongs the isotope's useful life. Hospitals situated at distances can now use the isotope.

Technetium-99M is separated in pure form from its parent molybdenum 99 in a nuclear reactor. The Centre's new generator, which is called a

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