

Behar Herald

ESTD. 1874

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR

The Damodar Valley Corporation was started more than fifteen years ago, full of hope of its becoming an improved edition of the U.S. project run by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Going through D.V.C.'s performance the Public Accounts Committee last year expressed among other things serious concern over the continued shortfalls in the utilization of the irrigation potential which was undermining one of the two main objects of setting up the Corporation. The other—generation of hydro-electricity—has also been greatly below expectation.

In the case of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation, bad and doubtful debts have accumulated to the tune of Rs. 2.5 crores, or 22 per cent of the loans advanced. As the Public Accounts Committee put it, this made "a dismal picture of the manner in which the Administration was conducting its affairs, resulting in avoidable loss of public money".

The Fertiliser Corporation of India disclosed that "despite an additional expenditure of over Rs. 1 crore, the actual production capacity would still be about 10 per cent less than the original targets". For payment of dividends, the Sindri undertaking transferred Rs. 68 lakhs from the Reserve Fund, an unusual accounting procedure, which drew the adverse comment of the Comptroller and Auditor-General and the Public Accounts Committee.

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission is an autonomous body in the public sector. One would expect that here the inspiration of the Father of the Nation and the idealism of those who strove to carry out the objectives might have proved an effective insurance against any lapses.

During the years 1957-61, the Commission disbursed by way of loans and grants a total amount of Rs. 72.96 crores. Of this, as at the end of 1960-61, utilisation certificates for an amount of Rs. 34 crores were reported to be still due in March 1963. The record of one of the Samitis—the Saghan Kshetra Vikas Samiti—appears to have been quite disturbing. "The disclosures made", observes the Public Accounts Committee, "make a dismal reading. The extent of irregularities indulged in by the officers of the Samiti and the malpractices that went on unchecked only confirm that there has been a total failure on the part of the Commission to safeguard the interests of the public exchequer."

NOTES & COMMENTS

PERPETUATING A FRAUD

Naik of Bombay has been severely reprimanded by the cranks in the High Command for daring to modify "prohibition" in Maharashtra. Among the Congress stalwarts S. K. Patil alone seems to have the courage to proclaim: "Where is prohibition? —it is only prohibition of revenue".

Some interesting facts about the working of so-called prohibition in Bombay have come out recently: The chairman of a Bombay Municipal Committee was told by a Congress member that liquor could be had without any difficulty. The statement was challenged; a bet was taken — the stake, resignation by the party losing the bet. The member was gone only for a few minutes and back he came with a bottle. The sequel is however at present unknown.

The extent of illicit distillation that goes on in Greater Bombay alone may be gauged from the statistics furnished by the prohibition police. During the week ended November 7, they registered 2,596 cases, arrested 827 people and seized 5,453 litres

of illicit liquor; for the week ended November 14 the figures were 2,378 cases, 878 people and 5,136 litres — a daily average of 355 cases, 122 arrests and 757 litres of liquor.

When the Teckchand Committee interrogated habitual prohibition offenders in Yervada prison in Poona a convict was reported to have stated that his daily income was Rs. 35 to Rs. 40, while a taxidriver claimed an earning of Rs. 75 a day from transport of liquor.

Such a lucrative business will always attract people, ignoring the consequences of detection. There too, a man who earns Rs. 2250 a month can well afford to pay Rs. 500/- a month to police to secure immunity.

FAR FROM BEING THE IDEAL EMPLOYER

Neither the *Socialistic Structure of Society* of old nor the *Socialistic Democracy* that has superseded it can claim to remove causes of friction in the public sector undertakings. The high hopes expressed in the first Five Year Plan about the Government's being a

model employer have not been fulfilled. The labour trouble at Heavy Electricals (India) Ltd. at Bhopal and the Heavy Engineering Corporation at Ranchi some time ago, the almost chronic disharmony at the Rourkela Steel Plant and the recent strike at the railway workshop at Lillooah suggest, that the Government has yet much to do to ensure smooth employer — labour relation in democratic socialism.

UNPLANNED PLANNING

In the First Five Year Plan, huge sums were spent on importing machinery which have been lying idle in some cases even up to the present day, for one reason or the other. Sometimes, for want of its know-how, sometimes spare parts, and, if both are available, then the lack of budget provision comes in the way. All this points to the need for a coordinated plan.

PALACE INTRIGUES

Mr. Nehru is reportedly distressed to find that his life-long effort to induce democratic sentiment in the country and his party has ended in feudal reaction towards his person and a resort to astrologers by top-ranking Congressmen. He is being treated as a ruling monarch and the question of succession discussed in dynastic terms.

NO AUSTERITY HERE

Living in lavish style is not confined to the Maharajas. Some of our rulers also live in palatial bungalows reportedly served by 135 persons: the Union Ministers it was found out during the "1,000 rupee water and electricity bill per month" disclosure had 6 to 16 servants in their "estates"; state after state has built up splendid quarters for M.L.A.s; in spite of adequate accommodation on North and South Avenues etc. M.P.s are to get a new multi-storied hostel in New Delhi (with a modern swimming pool); over and above all this, this new class has numerous perquisites which are paid for by the subjects. One such perquisite is, for instance, even an ex-M.P. or ex-M.L.A. can stay at any legislators' hostel by paying a nominal rent.

It is time that the politicians realised that slogans and speeches convinced people little about the virtues of their ideologies.

SUNSHINE FROM CUCUMBER

After painstaking investigation carried out at the request of the Planning Commission, the National Council of Applied Economic Research has found that the rapid progress of electrification has led to no appreciable diminution in the consumption of firewood.

In much the same spirit of disinterested inquiry the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, and the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, have discovered that seeds treated with sonic waves (music to the unscientific) do not give higher yields than untreated seeds.

These two items of news are offered by *Kataka* in rebuttal of the oft-repeated slander that Government-sponsored research has yielded negligible returns in the way of inventions and discoveries.

ALL FOR AN "ISM",

Nationalization of banks and other industries has become the slogan of the near-Communist group of Congressmen. In so doing they overlook the interests of the general public who stand to lose civil and prompt service. LIC can be cited as an example. Admittedly its business has more than doubled and its benefits have been extended to the remote corners of our country, but the insurers are not at all satisfied.

Inefficiency and inordinate delay seem to be inevitable concomitants of Public Sector enterprises.

ADVICE GRATIS

Hanumanthayya, former Chief Minister of Mysore, has made the suggestion that Mr. Nehru should now retire from active politics and remain as an adviser to Congress, like Mr. Gandhi.

Hanuman did not agree with the view that India would go to pieces after Mr. Nehru. There were people who held positions because of Mr. Nehru and not on merit who clamoured for Mr. Nehru's continuation in office. It was these people who equated Mr. Nehru with the nation.

PAIRAVI ABOLISHED

There is reported to be a move to amend the Government servant 'rules' to ban 'Pairavi' and punish those who take recourse to it in Bihar.

When 'Pairavi' by those not in Government will be made punishable, it will be possible for Ministers, including State Ministers, and their Secretaries and departmental heads to order posting and transfers according to personal whims as well as requirements of the party. If they do not like an officer, they can post him anywhere and in any manner. The officer, according to a directive already issued, can protest only after joining by which it is meant that he will only invite trouble.

Those doing 'Pairavi' will never be penalised if they belong to the ruling party. Every Minister wants to oblige his friends and followers, and to win more followers by this method. If a 'Pairavi'-maker belongs to a hostile camp, the obliging Minister will try to please him, lest Pairavi-makers of his own group are penalised by other Ministers.

It is well-known that only politicians have easy access to Ministers through profession of friendship or threat of revenge. The system of 'Pairavi' like the curse of casteism, has been deliberately encouraged by the ruling group since independence. It is one of the many forms of patronage which some Ministers distribute in a reckless manner.

THE CKANKS ACTIVE AGAIN

The Chief Ministers of the States are going to meet to decide about Prohibition in their States. Before initiating prohibition in India did those concerned study the results of Prohibition long abandoned in the United States? Do they know that Prohibition only led to corruption, bootlegging, drinking by persons who never drank before and the making of harmful liquors by amateurs? Have they considered the facts

and statistics of Prohibition as it was tried and failed in the United States? Have they tried what other countries have found more effective, that is control of the sale of liquor?

Why must the country stumble through costly and harmful trial and error when the rulers of the country could learn the results of the experiment by consulting history? Have the rulers made any effort to learn what happened when the United States tried Prohibition and why Prohibition failed there?

Are they aware of the widespread corruption, manufacture of poisonous illicit liquor as a cottage industry and drinking by women and children that have come in the wake of the fraud of "prohibition"?

Congressmen, though they seem to have given up Gandhi for Marx long ago, still wish to salve their consciences with some offerings to the Mahatma. The enforcement of Prohibition and the renunciation of salt tax are the only two things which keep Mr. Nehru's Congress linked up with Gandhiji. All other Gandhian fads like Basic Education and Hindustani have been practically abandoned. There is naturally a great deal of unwillingness to cut off all ties with Gandhi and carry on as Marxists in full panoply. In spite of some sort of public opinion against the drinking of alcoholic liquors, India had failed to achieve Prohibition in the past. Megasthenes and Kautilya refer to the excise imposts on liquor and salt. They continued to be important elements in Indian taxation right up to the achievement of Independence in 1947. The enforcement of Prohibition therefore is something new in Indian history.

WHY SO?

According to newspaper headlines the Congress jamboree at Bhuvaneshwar this year has made a decision that is "momentous", "historic", "epoch-making", "of great significance", "memorable", "stirring", "truly impressive", "pregnant with possibilities". The choice of adjectives is fully justified. Scrapping the out-moded and worn-out Avadi decision to have a "socialistic structure of society", Gopbandhunagar has ushered in a "socialistic democracy". That the subjects did not lose their heads on reading this and threw their Gandhi caps in air in joy is understandable. Ever since Avadi, prices [of essentials and] taxes have been mounting higher and higher, and the foolish subjects imagine that more of socialism will mean still higher cost of living and still more crushing burden of taxation. Even the "socialistic structure of society" has made the rich richer and the poor poorer. Democratic socialism, it is apprehended, will continue the process with acceleration.

"9m. Hindus Absolutely Unsafe in East Pakistan"

-ATULAYA GHOSH

Mr. Atulya Ghosh said in a statement on Tuesday that the minorities were absolutely unsafe in East Pakistan. He urged on the Centre to arrange to rehabilitate all DPs — those already in Calcutta and those who might come in future from East Pakistan.

The following is the text of the statement :

The Home Minister, the Finance Minister and the Rehabilitation Minister Government of India, have come to Calcutta at this critical juncture and I extend them my hearty welcome.

We require the co-operation, help and sympathetic consideration from the Government of India and all our friends to resolve the very big problem which is facing us today.

In 1947 we agreed to Partition to make India free. We thought that free and independent Pakistan would also be able to look after the interests of its minorities and, bereft of all kinds of foreign domination, Pakistan would be able to make all the citizens happy and prosperous.

We ourselves have tried for the same ideal and we are happy that we have guaranteed the equality of all minorities in our Constitution and very scrupulously maintained the rights and privileges of the minorities on equal footing with all others in our country.

We are sorry and ashamed that some time there have been some lapses. But, by and large, the minorities in India have always enjoyed full freedom as all other citizens.

Unfortunately Pakistan has not been able to act like a civilized democratic government. So we find repeated instances of inhuman and inconceivable tragedy due to oppression of minorities. Eighteen months back near about 1000 Santhals had to come away from Pakistan as they had faced extreme tyranny in the hands of the majority community.

Khulna/Dacca Killings

The recent happenings in Khulna and Jessore and also in Dacca, Narayangunj and other places in East Pakistan have put the Pakistan Government to utter shame. It has been proved beyond doubt that the Pakistan Government is unable to give any protection to the minority community. There are also cases which indicate that some time they have fostered it also.

We are sorry and ashamed for what happened in Calcutta and some parts of West Bengal as the natural reaction to the happenings in Pakistan. We are glad that the West Bengal Government with the co-operation of the citizens of West Bengal have brought the situation under control.

Apparently, the three Central Ministers are coming to discuss the present situation. In this connection, I think it is my duty to bring it to their attention that the present situation is not an isolated one. Since partition these things have been repeated very often. In one sentence, I may state, the minorities are absolutely unsafe in East

Pakistan. The Pakistan Government has failed to discharge their responsibility towards the minorities of Pakistan. So while discussing about the present situation we must keep in mind that there are still a little over 9 million members of the minority community in East Pakistan.

We cannot forget, though we are now inhabitants and citizens of different countries, that they are our kith and kin and the partition was made to make India free for which every citizen should realise their responsibility to these brethren. We cannot mention even that war is to be declared against the present Government of Pakistan. We also cannot suggest exchange of population because we think and religiously think that the minorities in India are as good Indians as we are. And we are pledged to protect and safeguard the minority community.

Sealing of Border

Next comes the question of sealing of border. It means we should forsake our responsibility about those people who are our kith and kin. It is impossible in human society. Under the circumstances, a world situation is to be created to force Pakistan to treat the minorities equitably, to make Pakistan responsible towards the minority community and to safeguard the security of life and property of the minority community.

In the meantime, India Government should make a plan to make arrangements to rehabilitate at least a million people for those who are likely to come away from Pakistan. After all the country is going to spend nearly 11,000 crores of rupees for the third five year plan. So it won't be difficult for the Government to make arrangement for the million people, but it must be kept in mind the arrangement for rehabilitation should be started immediately. This I am saying from my past experience.

Still now there are lakhs of refugees in Calcutta who have not received any help as rehabilitation grant. We are now referring about Calcutta only because our leaders are very anxious to maintain peace and security of this city. We feel that it is the responsibility of the Central Govt. and Central Govt. alone to make arrangement for rehabilitation of all the people who are still now in the city of Calcutta and also in many camps of West Bengal.

The Refugees

We may try to avoid this point by raising various technical things whether refugee certificates were brought in time or things like that. But in spite of everything the fact remains there are still nearly one million refugees in West Bengal who have not received any amount of rehabilitation benefit.

During debate in Parliament and also from the Central Ministers, we have heard a number of times that the refugees do not co-operate (Contd. on page 87)

GREAT SCIENTIST



Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, renowned nuclear scientist, recipient of the 1963 Enrico Fermi Award in last December. The highest award of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, it is given annually for "especially meritorious contribution to the development, use, or control of atomic energy." Dr. Oppenheimer, 58, has headed the Institute for Advance Study at Princeton University in New Jersey since 1947.

'Shoulmari Sadhu is not Netaji'

Patna,

Mr. Aurobindo Bose, nephew of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose categorically denied here this week that the Shoulmari Sadhu was Netaji.

He said this in reply to a question at a public meeting held here to celebrate 67th birth anniversary of Netaji Bose. He said: "The Shoulmari Sadhu is not Netaji Bose. Those who believed as such are fools."

"Some vested interests are making the propaganda with some ulterior motive," he added.

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Common Power Board For Eastern Region

From Our Correspondent Calcutta :

A meeting of the Ministers in charge of power of West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa presided by Dr. K. L. Rao, Union Minister of Irrigation and Power, decided on Wednesday to set up an electricity board for the eastern region.

The board will incorporate the power systems of these three States and the Damodar Valley Corporation.

In the preliminary study it was found that by the setting up a coordinated regional grid in eastern India there would be a saving of 270 MW in installed capacity on account of the diversity in load

demands and reduction in the standing capacity.

There would also be a saving of Rs. 220 million in capital outlay and Rs. 20.3 million in annual running expenses.

There are already regional grids in southern and northern India and it is expected that by the end of the third Plan regional grids will be established all over India and by the end of the fourth there will be an all-India super grid. The regional grids will give an additional load carrying capacity of about one million K.W without any extra expenditure by the end of the third Plan.

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EXHIBITION ROAD PATNA-1

Men Who Rule China Today :

PROFILE

TENG HSIO-PING

By Samuel Bunker

The appointment of Teng Hsiao-ping as the Acting Premier raised certain problems particularly for Chou-En-lai. For Chou has got one more rival in addition to Liu Shao-chi for supreme power after the exit of Mao Tse-tung. A scramble for power seems now inevitable in the Forbidden City.

Actually Chen Yun should have been asked to fill in this temporary vacancy because he had been doing so in the past. Not only that, he also occupies a senior position in the party's line towards "power center". The order in the line is : Mao Tse-tung, Liu Shao-Chi, Chou En-lai, Chu Teh, Chen Yun, Lin Piao and Teng Hsiao-Ping. But Chen Yun went out of favour because of his stiff opposition to the disastrous "Great Leap Forward". Chen Yun's influence consequently seems to be on the decline as he was not mentioned among leaders present at the meeting of National People's Congress held last year.

Whatever the appointment of Teng Hsiao-ping may mean to the Chinese it certainly is a significant development for the outside world.

Fifty-nine year old Teng Hsiao-ping joined the Chinese

Communist Party at an early age in a "capitalist" country, France. With Chou, he participated in the Long March (1934-35) as head of the propaganda section of the 1st Red Army Group.

It was in this march that Chou contracted inflammation of the liver which still bothers him very much. Teng also attended the historic 20th Congress of the CPSU in 1956 where Stalin was discredited.

Astute negotiator as he is, he headed the Chinese Communist Party delegation to the ideological talks in Moscow in summer last year.

Besides being the Acting Premier, Teng is also the Secretary-General of the Chinese Communist Party, a Vice-Premier of the State Council of the Central People's Government and a Vice-Chairman of the National Defence Council which is not responsible, even in theory, to the National People's Congress.

He is an exceptional Chinese leader who has many foreign visits to his credit. Can it be hoped that his contact with outside world has broadened his vision, and made him more sociable and humanitarian? Time alone will answer this query.



"First Spring"—a painting portraying Lenin by artist Merzlyakov. On Lenin's 94th birthday next April, Russia is reportedly planning to launch a spectacular space shot.

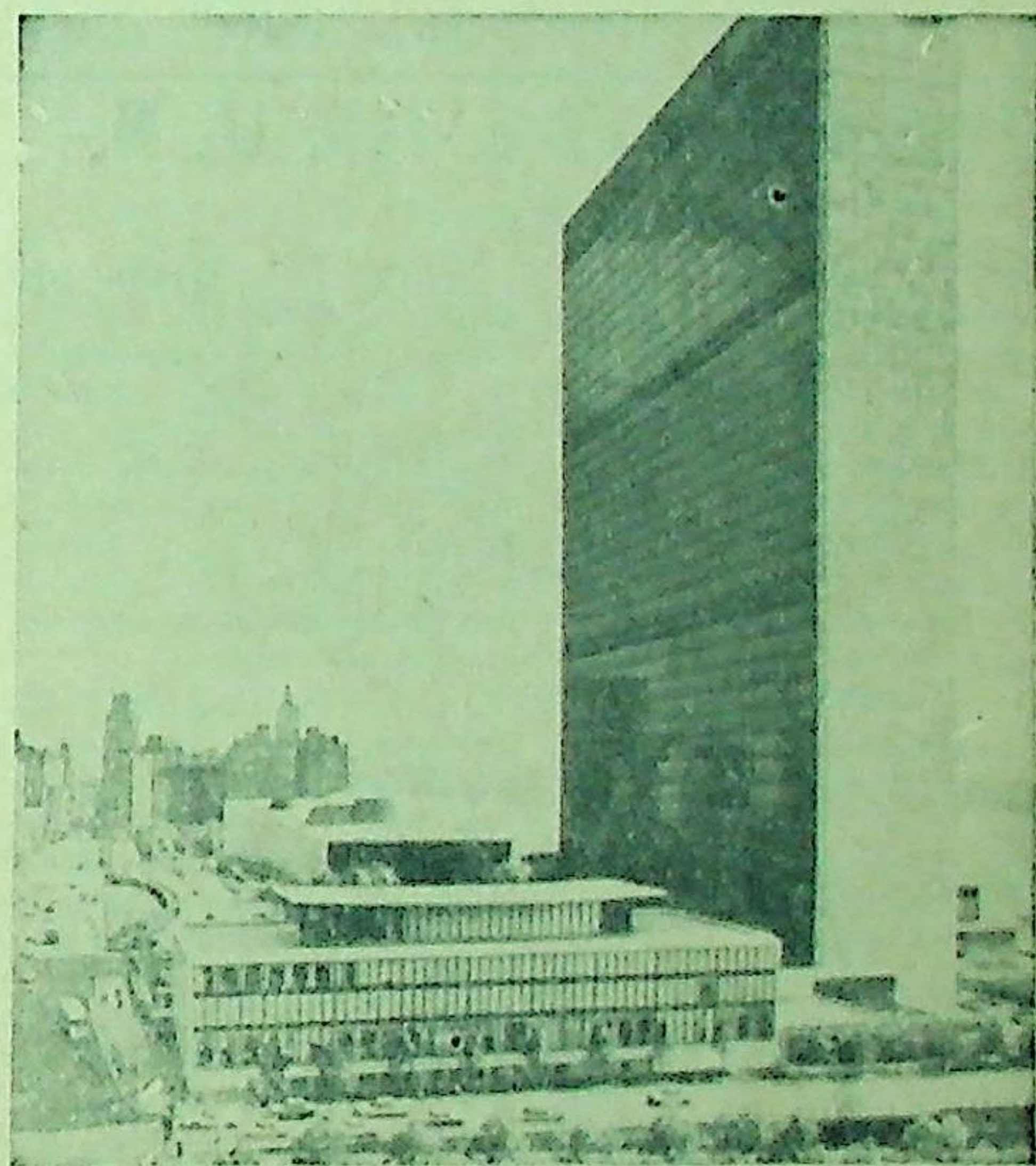
9m. Hindus.....

(Contd. from page 85)

—that there are some technical mistakes. These things may be true but this also is true that a State cannot function properly by keeping one million frustrated human beings as the citizens."

People of West Bengal have shouldered the responsibility to their maximum limit. Now our economic structure is going to collapse due to pressure of population on land as well as high percentage of unemployment.

Over and above the socio-economic problems, if West Bengal is again to be burdened with the lawlessness due to the happenings in Pakistan. I think the whole socio-economic structure of West Bengal will collapse. I know that the Central Govt. is also anxious to solve the problem permanently and I am sure the Home Minister, the Finance Minister and the Rehabilitation Minister will apply their mind keeping in view the problem in its entirety and adopt measures for its final solution.



Agenda for U.N. Body Meeting on Kashmir

United Nations (New York) Jan. 30: The agenda was published today for Monday's scheduled meeting of the Security Council on the Kashmir issue.

The first item is the adoption of the agenda which is listed as : "the Indo-Pakistan question; Letter dated 16 Jan. 1964 from the Minister of External Affairs of Pakistan addressed to the President of the Security Council."

"Letter dated 24 January 1964 from the Permanent Representative of India addressed to the President of the Security Council".

These were the letters submitted by Pakistan, requesting an immediate meeting of the Council, and India, stating that Pakistan's initiative was "purely propagandist".

In a report to the President of the Council, U. Thant, the Secretary-General, said he had received a telegram dated

January 25 from the Prime Minister Nehru, stating that Mr. Mahomedali Currim Chagla, Education Minister of India, had been appointed India's representative, and Mr. B. N. Chakravarty and Mr. C. S. Jha, alternate representatives "to participate in meetings of the Security Council on the question of Kashmir".

The 11-member Council is scheduled to meet at 20:00 GMT on Monday (1-30 a.m. IST Tuesday. Mr. M. C. Chagla, Indian Education Minister, who is leading his country's delegation at the forthcoming Security Council debate on Kashmir, called on the British Prime Minister, Sir Alec Douglas Home on Thursday.

Indian sources said the Indian leader explained to Sir Alec their country's stand on the Kashmir issue.

CASTE CANNOT TO BE EQUATED WITH "CLASS"

SUPREME COURT RULING IN MYSORE CASE

From Our Correspondent

The Supreme Court, on Wednesday, held by a majority judgment, that the Government, while fixing the backwardness of a class, should not equate "class" with "caste", though caste may be considered along with other relevant factors.

The court dismissed the appeals preferred by two students, of the Mysore Medical College, against the order and judgment of the Mysore High Court directing fresh selection of students for technical education in Mysore State.

The Government appointed a selection committee to admit students for the medical and engineering colleges. By a subsequent order, it defined certain communists as "backward" and directed that 30% of the seats be reserved for them. A few days later it ordered the director of technical education to increase the marks obtained by the candidates of backward classes by 25%.

Miss Chandrekha challenged the validity of the mode of selection in the High Court in a written petition. She contended that the Government had arbitrarily defined certain castes as backward classes without considering their economic and educational factors.

She also pleaded that admission to professional colleges should only be on the basis of marks secured by a student in the pre-university class and that the selection committee had discriminated against her by refusing her a seat.

Allowing the petition the

High Court had held that the definition of backward classes and the criteria for the selection were valid. But since the selection committee had abused its powers, the High Court set aside the list of selected candidates and directed fresh interviews to be held.

Against that order, Chandrekha moved the Supreme Court by a special leave to appeal on the ground that the Government while determining backward classes, should not consider the caste of an individual or group of individuals.

Mr. Justice Subbarao said: "We do not intend to lay down any inflexible rule for the Government to follow while determining the backward classes in a State, because ascertainment of social and educational backgroundness of a class is a complex problem depending upon many circumstances which may vary from State to State."

But, he said if in a given situation caste was excluded in ascertaining a "class" within meaning of Article 15 (4) of the Constitution it did not vitiate the classification if it satisfied other tests.

Mr. Justice J. R. Mudholkar in his dissenting judgment, held that merit in the written examination should be the sole criteria for a candidate to enter professional or technical institution.

The appeals were heard by Messrs Chief Justice B. P. Sinha, Justice K. Subbarao, Justice Raghubar Dayal, Justice Rajagopal Ayyangar and Justice J. R. Mudholkar.

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CIVIL LIBERTY....

(Contd. from page 88)

Article 3 states that everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.

Article 8 provides that everyone has the right to an effective remedy by competent national tribunals for acts violating the Fundamental Rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9 states in unqualified terms that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10 provides that everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal in the determination of his rights and obligations of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11 provides that everyone charged with a penal offence has a right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

The same Article in sub-clause (2) provides that no one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law at the time when it was committed.

Article 12 provides that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation and that everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13 provides that everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.

Article 19 provides that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Article 20 provides that everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association and that no one may be compelled to belong to an association.

The importance of this Universal Declaration of Human Rights cannot be exaggerated. International Law has so far taken cognizance of disputes between Nations; it has refused to consider the grievances of the individual against his own State. Man, the individual, has been left, in international Law, to the tender mercy of his own government. The Charter of the United Nations for the first time recognized that tyranny and oppression in a particular State may ultimately disturb the peace and tranquility of the world. It no doubt had in mind the tyranny and oppression which was exercised in Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy over their own nationals. Man, the individual, has, for the first time, acquired a status in international Law.

I should mention that the General Assembly passed and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948. Following this historic act, the Assembly called upon all the member countries to publicise the text of the Declaration and to cause it to be disseminated displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and in other educational institutions without distinction based on political status of countries."

★ Nagaland Elections In Retrospect ★

From A Correspondent

Exactly after forty days of the formal inauguration of Nagaland, the people of this youngest but strategically important State went to the polls to elect their representatives to the State Legislative Assembly to shape their destiny. The first General Elections, based on adult franchise, generated unprecedented enthusiasm among the people. Despite threats held out by hostiles, voters in thousands turned up to exercise their right of franchise.

Within a short time, the State machinery was fully geared to election preparations. An electoral roll was prepared, amended, and finally approved. Officers were specially trained to handle the job with tact and imagination. The location of polling stations had to be decided quickly. Schools, Post Offices and even a cinema house were converted as polling stations.

Two hundred and six polling stations — 109 in Kohima District and 97 in Mokokchung District — were set up. Forty constituencies were created in two districts — Kohima and Mokokchung. The only other District, Tuensong, elected six representatives by the Regional Council to the State Legislative Assembly. Because of the comparative backwardness of the area, there will be no general elections in Tuensong for a period of ten years.

The total voters' strength in Kohima and Mokokchung districts, was 123,156, out of a total population of 235,804 in two districts.

The election campaign in Nagaland had all the salient features to be found elsewhere in the country. Public meetings and a door-to-door approach by contesting candidates and their supporters were a normal part of election propaganda. Posters and hoardings, with names of candidates and their symbols, were on display in main thoroughfares and prominent places.

Pamphlets and leaflets were widely distributed among voters. Big processions, composed of men, women and children, paraded the main streets, shouting slogans, and at times, accompanied by music. To impress voters, indigenous methods were also adopted. As for instance, in one of the constituencies a big size elephant made of straw, mud and a tarpaulin was put on show — the symbol of a candidate. The campaign was conducted in a true democratic spirit. It was indeed significant that the election slogans of almost all the parties were: "We want Peace"; "We want Democracy".

The Chief Election Commissioner did not recognise any political party for the purpose of allotment of a party symbol. However, six free symbols — Minhu; Cock; Tiger; Elephant; Horn Bill; and Mug — were used by contesting candidates.

The ruling party, the Naga Nationalist Organisation, was led by the Chief Minister, Shri P. Shilu Ao. The newly formed Democratic Party, led by a retired Indian Administrative Service Officer, Shri A. Kevichusa, who was defeated in two constituencies constitu-

ed the Opposition. There were Independent candidates also.

Fourteen candidates supporting the ruling party, which included four Cabinet Ministers, were returned unopposed to the Assembly; and six were elected by the Tuensang Regional Council. For the remaining 26 seats, 59 candidates contested the election.

The polling commenced on January 10, 1964. In many constituencies in Mokokchung District, it was spread over three days, because of the difficult terrain. The polling which was to conclude on January 22 ended a week ahead of schedule as candidates from some of the constituencies were returned to the Assembly without any contest.

On the polling day thousands of Naga men and women turned up at polling stations to cast their votes in favour of their representatives. Neither inclement weather, nor threats from hostiles, deterred them from choosing their representatives through the ballot.

In fact, it would be no exaggeration to say that whole villages came to polling stations to watch and take part in this great experiment in parliamentary democracy.

The children, though they were not voters, saw their elders line up in a queue for their turn to come. The election aroused so much interest that even a 115-year old village headman, shaking off the burden of his age, came to a polling station, assisted by his sons and grand-sons, to cast his vote.

Many of the voters who were above 90 were unmindful of the biting cold. Many Naga women, dressed in their traditional colourful costumes, waited patiently, with babies on their back. The remarkable discipline and orderly manner of the voters impressed anyone visiting any polling station.

The Chief Electoral Officer for Nagaland, Shri I. Sashimeren Aier, who is himself a Naga, and who can claim sizeable credit for the grand success of the elections, explained the reason for the large number of women exercising their franchise and in some constituencies even outnumbering men.

For the first time in the history of Nagaland, women were given equal powers with men to choose their representatives. In the tribal Village

Council, women are not allowed to participate in deliberations along with men as Naga society is based on a patriarchal system. This was the main reason why women took a keen interest in the election.

The rate of polling in Nagaland would perhaps be a record. In some constituencies in Mokokchung District, it was as high as 95 per cent. In most of the rural areas, polling was heavy — about 80 to 85 per cent. Even in urban areas, where voters are usually indifferent, the rate of polling was between 55 to 60 per cent.

Not a single case of impersonation was reported. There was no incident to mar the elections which were conducted all through peacefully and in an orderly manner.

The ruling party bagged 33 of the forty-six seats of the Assembly. The newly formed Democratic Party secured 11 seats. The Independents got two seats. They have joined hands with the ruling party, thus increasing its strength to 35.

The free and fair elections provided an interesting sidelight. Many tribal people instead of thinking in terms of their own tribes worked for the return of as many candidates as possible from their own party. This new outlook marks a revolution in tribal life, the Chief Electoral Officer observed.

It was clear that the hostiles had been completely isolated by the popular verdict of the people, which had gone overwhelmingly in favour of the ruling party. With the election of the new representatives of the people, the State will continue to march towards peace, progress and prosperity.

CAR ACCIDENT

Staff Reporter

Patna :

A son and a son-in-law of Mr. Govind Misra, the erudite and popular Secretary of the Bihar Legislative Assembly were involved in a car accident between Chatra and Bodh Gaya on Thursday. While trying to by pass a stray cattle, car turned turtle. Luckily, the occupants got away with minor injuries though the car got badly damaged.

Merit Scholarships For Bihar Students

Patna :

Twenty-nine candidates from Bihar have been provisionally selected for the award of Government of India Merit Scholarships for the children of Primary and Secondary School teachers during 1963-64. The candidates are required to contact the Director of Public Instructions, Bihar for completing the formalities.

The following is the list of successful candidates :

Secondary School Examination — 1963 Sarvashri Jagannath Rai, Daya Ram Choudhary, Braj Mohan Singh, Saif Rahmani, Himangsu Sheikhar Paul, Uday Mukherjee, Rajendra Yadav Prasoan, Ramawtar Pandey, Madhusudan Jha, Basudeo Narain, Pradyumna Narain Mishra, Navin Kumar Verma, Kamal Kishore Prasad, Suryadeo Pandey, Shyama Kant Pattak, Bhupendra Prasad Singh, Abinash Yadav, Muneshwar Singh, Shivsharan Sharma, Ram Lakan Mishra, Dinbandhu Prasad Singh, Ram Ekbal Prasad, Ram Suresh Tiwary and Md. Abu Saleh.

Higher Secondary Examination — 1963 Sharvashri Jitendra Nath Mishra, Rajendra Prasad Ranjit Kumar Goswami, Brij Mohan Prasad and Ram Suresh Sharma.

Bihar's Exquisite Handicrafts....

(Contd. from page 90)

crafts. Later, talking informally with newsmen, Mr. Shroff felt confident that if production and marketing is organised properly, export possibilities are "great".

Mr. Upendra Maharathi, an acknowledged genius in the sphere of fine arts and handicrafts who has spent perhaps the best years of his life in Bihar building up the Institute of Industrial Designs of which he is the Director, was present with a rich display of some of the products from the Institute.

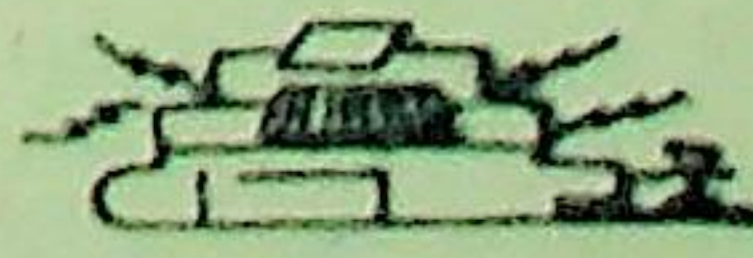
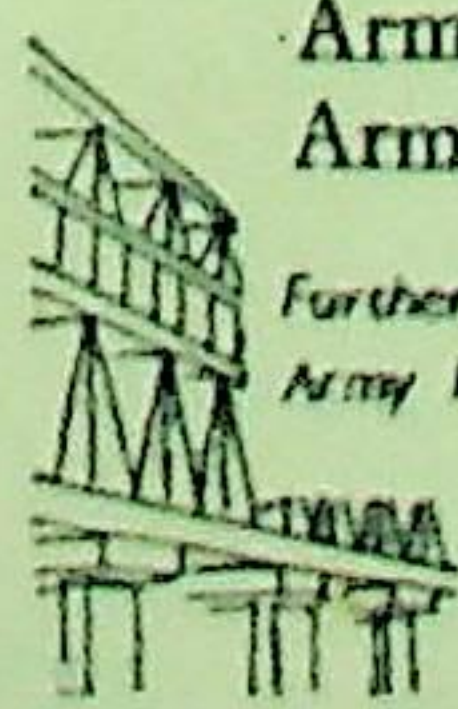
There was spontaneous appreciation of many of the items displayed and at least one of the visiting dignitaries wondered why with such products Bihar is no where in the export trade. Bureaucracy has not yet made a cynic of Maharathi but he is too quiet, a little too peace loving a man to provide correct answers to these and allied questions.... However.

Mr. Deo Narayan Yadav informed that the Small Industries Corporation would now endeavour to make Bihar a leading exporter in certain selected handicrafts items.

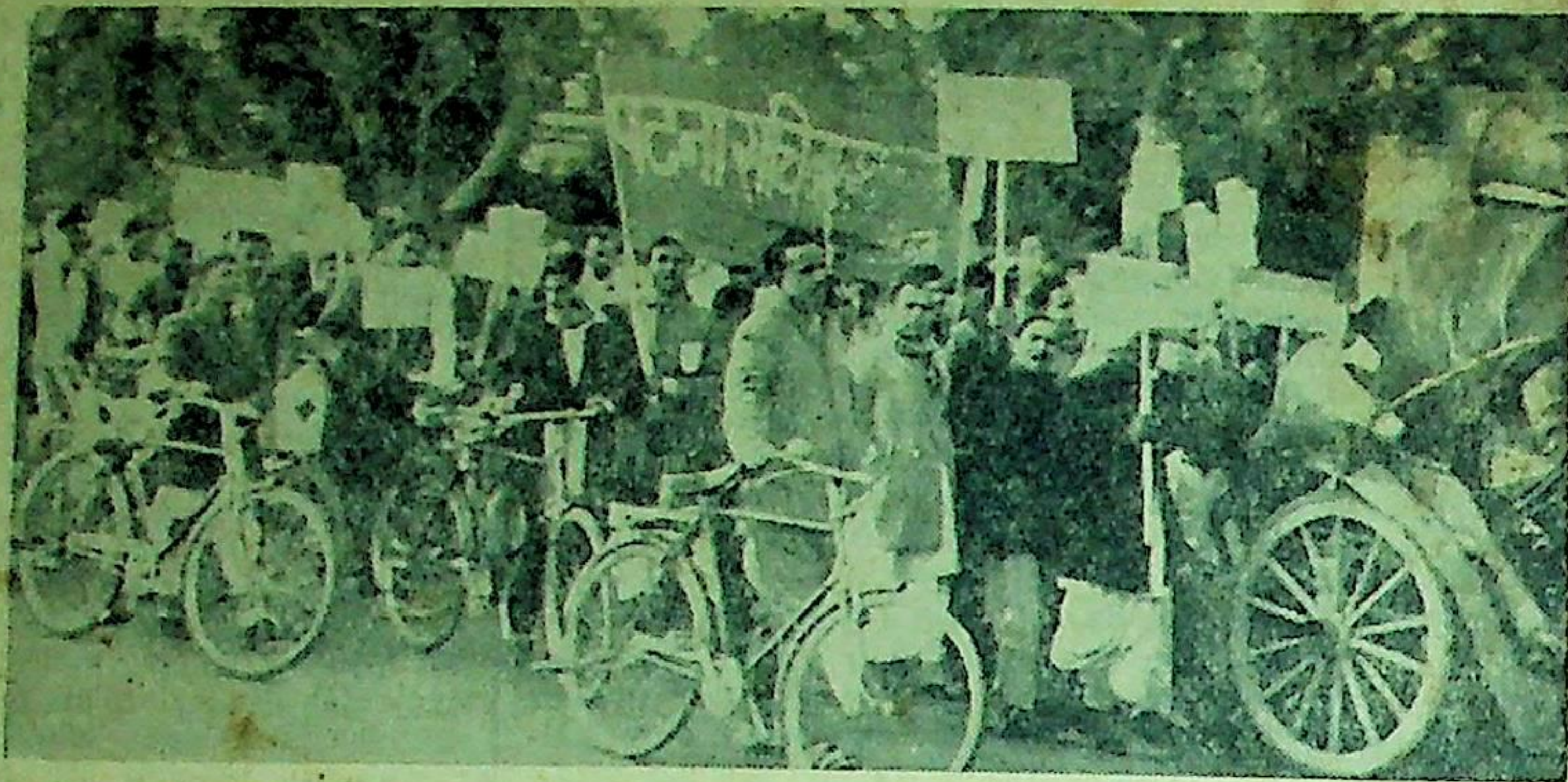
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NON-GAZETTED STAFF ORGANISE IMPRESSIVE RALLIES



A sectional view of one of the procession at Patna.

(Staff Reporter)

Patna :
A large number of non-gazetted employees of the State Government staged massive and peaceful demonstrations all over Bihar demanding, principally, an interim relief of "at least Rs. 25/-" per month pending receipt, processing and acceptance of the Pay Revision Committee's long awaited recommendations. Their second demand was honest and swift action to combat the spiralling price line.

By a conservative estimate, something like a hundred thousand employees joined together on January 29 to hold rallies, demonstrations and meetings all over the State except those towns where section 144 was promulgated earlier to control students' hooliganism. At Patna the number of men who marched through the main roads or assembled at the Chief Minister's residence numbered over thirty thousand. Important office-bearers of the Federation of non-gazetted employees were seen in furious locomotion to co-ordinate long processions of employees who walked down to Patna from fringe towns like Fatwa, Bihta, Dinapur, Poon Poon etc; many cycled down, avoiding the more rigorous 'padyatra'.

The original plan of the employees to present a memorandum to the Chief Minister personally at his residence did not work as Mr. K. B. Sahay had left Patna before the encounter. Some of the employees were disappointed to learn about Mr. Sahay's absence and raised slogans before they were calmed down by their more cool-headed colleagues. Their memorandum was taken delivery of by the Chief Minister's Private Secretary.

Hundreds of placards and festoons with catchy slogans demanding relief were carried along by the demonstrators at Patna. In an ancient convertible-tourer, the General Secretary of the Federation

and the President, soft-spoken Ram Ekbal Singh, covered meeting-points and controlled ruffled tempers. Members of the public and newsmen thought the processions organised by the non-gazetted employees was one of the largest at Patna in recent years.

At a meeting held later, in the evening, a resolution "deploring the Chief Minister's action" in leaving Patna without meeting the demonstrating employees personally was unanimously carried. Another resolution was also unanimously passed, alleging the Chief Minister had not kept his earlier promise to announce an interim relief of Rs. 25/- per month. The evening's meeting also criticised the State Government for refusing to recognise the Federation of non-gazetted employees and their organisation-mouthpiece: "Sevanjali", operative part of another resolution asked the executive committee to convene a meeting of the General Council of the Federation in February next to consider its future course of action.

A spokesman of the Federation informed late in the night of Wednesday that demonstrations held in other towns "were completely peaceful and unexpectedly successful". According to him, the number of employees who participated in demonstrations and rallies were as follows: Aurangabad: 1500; Dalmianagar (including Sone Barrage workers) 3000; Dumka—1500; Giridih—800; Hajipur—1000; Jamui—1500; Gaya—1000; Khagaria—3000; Madhipura—500; Madhubani—400; Muzaffarpur—8000; Gopalganj—1600; Siwan—1500; Jabana—2000; Samastipur—2000. Trunk-call messages from Ranchi, Monghyr, Arrah, Darbhanga, Purnea, Monghyr with details were being anxiously awaited till late in the night.

The employees were critical about the Pay Revision Committee's speed. Issue of

"32 fresh questions" to Secretaries and Heads of departments, the employees believe, will delay the latest deadline: February 29 by which date the pay Revision Committee has been asked to submit its report to the Government. While the employees interpreted the issue of fresh questions by the Pay Revision Committee as a "move to delay action", a highly-placed Govt. functionary, asked to give his interpretation preferred to withhold comment.

A spokesman of the Pay Revision Committee told this correspondent that the committee, set-up in July, 1961

had "almost finished" its work and—"Inshallah"—the Report will be presented soon".

Another authoritative source; replying to specific queries by the *Behar Herald*, detailed "various causes leading to the delay in finalising the report". He listed the migration of the first Chairman, Acharaya Badrinath Verma to the Bihar Cabinet after a few months of his stewardship and the consequential gap, before the present Chairman took over; frequent absence from Patna of an eminent member of the Committee: Prof. Gorakh Nath Singh, a highly peripatetic director of many government bodies stretched between Bombay, Kanpur and Patna; frequent absence from Patna on important state duty by the Labour Secretary, who is also a member of the Committee and, among other things, the sudden heart-attack of yet another member. Some departmental heads, this source enlightened, had also taken an inordinately long time to return the filled-in, original questionnaire of the committee. The cumulative consequence of all these factors, he said, has caused "some delay". He agreed that during 1962-63, if the Government has taken effective steps to bring prices of essential commodities down, employees "would not have become so restive".

BIHA'S EXQUISITE HANDICRAFTS DENIED EXPORT INCENTIVE

Not One Name From Bihar In Exporters' List of 1500

Staff Reporter

Bihar's exquisite handicrafts with tremendous export potential, is far behind other Indian States in the international export market. This unequivocal view is held and was blatantly expressed by no less a person than Mr. M. L. Shroff, Chairman of the Indian Arts & Crafts Exporters' Association at a meeting held here on Thursday.

Important officials from the All India Handicrafts Board, the Chairman and Mr. Bharadwaj, Managing Director of the Bihar State Small Industries Corporation and Mr. Shroff discussed various ways and means to boost handicraft goods export from Bihar. Mr. S. Shah, a leading exporter from Bombay was also present at the meeting.

Reportedly, Mr. Shroff attributed Bihar's poor performance in the export market to lack of incentive and the necessity of additional and appropriate efforts to make the trade in Bihar export conscious. Mr. M. S. Puri, a deputy director of the All India Handicraft Board regretted that there was not a single name from Bihar among 1500 registered exporters of handi-

(Contd. on page 89)

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