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Greetings To Soviet Friends

THE Soviet delegation which visits our country on a goodwill mission this week will be warmly welcomed by the Indian people. We join our voice in offering our warm greetings to the Soviet representatives who bring with them the fraternal and friendly feelings of the peoples of the USSR for the people of India.

According to the original plan, Comrade K. E. Voroshilov, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, was to visit our country at the invitation of the Government of India. In his absence due to serious illness, the delegation will be led by other stalwart leaders like A. A. Andreyev, Member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and N. A. Mukhitdinov, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Soviet of Nationalities.

The friendship between our two peoples has grown with every year since India attained her independence. The barriers erected by the British were smashed in one single step and a fruitful era of cooperation and mutual help based on equality developed.

Economic development was free India's first concern. And it was the Soviet Union who by agreeing to build our first steel plant after independence, frustrated Western attempts to stall our industrial progress.

The erection of the steel plant at Bhilai stands as a monument to the living cooperation of the two peoples. More so the fact that the Soviet engineers have trained a whole team of Indian engineers who can now build new steel plants on their own. This easy mastery over the technical know-how could not have been possible without the disinterested help of the Soviet Government, people and technicians. This was followed by agreements for erecting machine-building enterprise, thermal power station, coal-mining, machinery-producing plant, an oil refinery and several other important projects with Soviet help and credit.

No country perhaps had got such easy terms from another country when it was struggling hard to build its economy from scratch. The Western Powers have imposed excessively onerous terms on India for similar or less strategic projects.

The help rendered by the USSR to our economy has been extremely precious. It removes the Western veto on our industrial progress and opens before us the rich prospect of increasing trade and exchange with the USSR and other Socialist countries. Such exchange will be to the mutual benefit of the two countries.

The policy of peace and defence of freedom pursued by the Soviet Union coincides with the interests and the ardent desire of the Indian people. The Indian people are against war, they are against the use of nuclear weapons, they support banning of all atomic tests; they are against colonialism and imperialism and demand complete freedom for all Asian and African nations.

The Soviet championship of the freedom of oppressed nations, its struggle for peace and against atomic war, are widely appreciated by the Indian people who stand for a policy based on the Panch Shila. The Indian people are happy to find that the Government has also contributed to the struggle for world peace and freedom.

The Soviet delegation is visiting this country just after the 21st Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which has announced its Seven-Year Plan of Communist construction. The Indian people wish success to the Plan. They know that every step forward in the economic advance of the USSR is a step which strengthens peace and friendship among nations. The Soviet people's desire for peaceful coexistence is fully shared by the Indian people.

Bonds of mutual help and mutual respect tie together the two peoples. They share together the desire to defend peace and freedom. They are both opposed to imperialism. Their friendship must grow warmer every day. Everyone in India will endorse what Comrade Khrushchov said in his greetings to the builders of Bhilai: "May the heat of this furnace warm up the friendship between our two great peace-loving peoples. May our friendship be as strong as the metal produced by this plant put up by the joint efforts of the Governments and the peoples of the Soviet Union and India."

(February 18)

[SEE PAGES 9 TO 12 FOR EXTRACTS FROM N. S. KHRUSHCHOV'S REPORT]

M. M. SHAH MISLEADS PARLIAMENT

False Production Figures

HELP TO U. S.
FIRM

SABOTAGE OF
SOVIET OFFER

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Sri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Commerce and Industry, in answer to a question by Sri P. Narayanan Nair in the Rajya Sabha on December 2, 1958, stated that "Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Pimpri, is concurrently manufacturing all the penicillin required by the country" and that "other units are also manufacturing 20 million mega units."

stood that licences for the same amount were issued for the first half of the year. Thus penicillin worth about Rs. 74 lakhs was imported during the year. At the present import price this must have amounted to about 20 million mega units of penicillin or more.

It is to be noted that be-

HE also mentioned that the production of Pimpri will soon be raised to 40 million mega units. He obviously claimed and gave the impression to the House that the current demand for the drug, which he assessed at 60 million mega units, is met by national production.

of the year 1958 the following licences for the import of penicillin:-

Serial No.	Licence No.	Name of the Firm	Value (Rupees)	Goods.
208	A-911883/58	Alembic Chemical, Baroda.	3,48,250/-	Bulk penicillin
239	A-911914/58	Glaxo Laboratories, Bombay.	12,10,300/-	-do-
228	A-911892/58	Dumex, Bombay.	13,82,400/-	-do-
299	A-911882/58	Sarabhai Chemicals, Baroda.	8,48,000/-	Penicillin of all sorts

All these statements are false and Sri Shah should have known it. The Hindustan Antibiotics Bulletin, February 1958, page 102, tells us that the Plant produced in 1958, 26.96 million mega units of certified and passed penicillin, and we know that this finished product was produced by the Plant from its own production and from first crystals which it imported from abroad.

(The above figures are taken from the Weekly Bulletin of Imports and Export Trade for the week ending 27-12-1958 issued from New Delhi on Saturday January 10, 1959).

sides this import of penicillin by private firms, Hindustan Antibiotics as said before, imported 10.5 million mega units of penicillin during the year. What the State plant and the private firms might do in future is still in the realm of guesswork, because both Standard Pharmaceuticals and Alembic Chemicals

*SEE BACK PAGE

Sri Shah should have known that Pimpri imported ten million mega units of first crystals of penicillin from April 1, 1958, to the end of the year. At this rate of import the Plant is likely to have imported a little more than three million mega units of first crystals during the first three months of the year also, putting the total import of first crystals during the year at 13 million mega units. This imported material must have yielded 10.5 million mega units of the finished product.

The above licences for the import of penicillin worth about Rs. 37 lakhs were issued for the second half of the year 1958, and it is under-

The Pimpri Plant itself produced no more than 16.46 million mega units of the finished drug during the year 1958.

Sri Manubhai Shah must also know that barring insignificant quantities of penicillin produced by Standard Pharmaceuticals, Calcutta, and Alembic Chemicals, Baroda, no other units produce any penicillin in the country. His own Department has issued during the second half

This Is What The Minister Said

This is what Sri Manubhai Shah said on December 2, 1958:

Question No: 196 (Rajya Sabha).

Answer to Supplementary by Sri Perath Narayanan Nair.

Manubhai Shah: As the House is aware, the Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Pimpri, is concurrently manufacturing all the penicillin required by the country. We are also undertaking an expansion which is going to take place very soon which will raise the production to about 40 million mega units. Other units are also manufacturing 20 million mega units. The entire demand is currently assessed at 60 million mega units of penicillin and this will be covered through national production.

KERALA: Budget Session Preview

● From C. UNNIRAJA

TRIVANDRUM, February 18

The third Budget Session of the Kerala State Legislative Assembly will open here this week-end with the Governor's address on February 21. The session is scheduled to last till April 1.

A PART from discussion on the budget, a heavy programme of legislation is before this session of the Assembly.

● The Select Committee on the Agrarian Relations Bill has almost completed its work and is expected to submit its report to the Assembly during the session.

● The Panchayats Bill now under consideration of the Select Committee may come up for discussion.

● Another Bill for the constitution of elected District Administrative Councils as recommended by the majority report of the Administrative Reforms Committee, is under preparation to be introduced.

● The Industrial Relations Bill which gives statutory validity to the labour policy the Kerala Government has been implementing during the past two years, is also expected to be introduced during the Budget Session of the Assembly.

The political significance of this session needs no emphasising. The Congress General Secretary, Sri Sadiq Ali, in a survey of the general elections of 1957, is reported to have stated, referring to the Congress defeat in Kerala, that the people of Kerala wanted

to bring about a stable Government either by voting Congress or Communists into power and that since they had tried the Congress and found it wanting, they had voted for the Communists.

After two years it will be difficult for anyone to deny that the Communists have lived up to the expectations of the people and given governmental stability to the State despite its precariously slender majority in the Assembly and despite the efforts of the Opposition parties to disturb that stability.

No previous Government here in our State since responsible Government was established in Travancore in 1948 has lasted long enough to present a third budget.

The Communist Party and the Kerala Government can justly claim that the financial year that is coming to a close has been a period when their popular policies have begun to bear fruit in spite of the heightened political tension deliberately created by the Congress and other Opposition parties during the first half of the year.

It was during this period that the Administrative Reforms Committee completed

its work and submitted its report; the Master Plan for development of the water resources of the State was prepared; the recommendations of Pay Revision Committee upgrading the salaries of low-paid employees in Government services were implemented.

It was during this period that a really State-wide mass movement was unleashed for people's participation in national reconstruction during the Irrigation Week in the last week of January when nearly 500,000 people came forward to contribute free labour to construct nearly 400 new minor irrigation works which when completed will irrigate 15,000 acres of paddy fields and increase food production by about 7,000 tons annually.

The task facing the Party and Government in the coming year is to learn the lessons of the experiences of the last year and devise ways to apply them for enlisting popular

cooperation on a far wider scale for increasing the tempo of development.

The central question is the question of resources. Non-Plan expenditure is comparatively higher in our State because the Government meets the entire cost of education, per capita expenditure on other social services is comparatively higher, better salaries are being paid to the Non-Gazetted employees, teachers, police constables, etc.

Hence the physical targets of the Plan have to be achieved with the least financial outlay and mainly with the cooperation of the people.

In the intensive drive to increase agricultural, especially food, production this has become an urgent necessity. What is needed for this is a big movement to bring as many small and middle peasants into better farming or joint farming cooperative societies. In addition to increased irrigation facilities,

the peasants have to be enabled to use better seeds, improved cultivation methods, etc.

In the field of industrial development, there is nothing much yet to show to the credit of the Government or the Party. Experience has shown that just depending on big industrialists to start new industries will not take us a long way. The question that has to be tackled now is how to make industrial development also a mass movement by mobilising the small capital scattered in many thousands of hands and start a large number of small new industrial units in all parts of the State.

These are some of the problems which will have to be discussed by the Budget Session of the Assembly. And the question of questions is: will the Opposition parties take an attitude of constructive criticism and helpful cooperation to solve these problems?

Warrants Against Communist and Kisan Leaders

FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS

—THE KAIRON WAY

THIS is Sirsa, a tehsil of Hissar District in the Punjab. Scores of policemen, armed with lathis and rifles, are parading the town since February 11. A contingent is sitting in front of the offices of the Communist Party and the Kisan Sabha. The local police have raided over twenty places in search of Communist and Kisan Sabha leaders, arrested over a dozen including one ordinary kisan, and warrants are said to be pending against over a dozen comrades.

Why have the Communist Party and the Kisan Sabha been made virtually illegal in this one tehsil? It cannot be because satyagraha against betterment levy is going on here, since the movement is on in the rest of the province also. Nor can it be because the Provincial Kisan Conference is scheduled to be held at Sirsa next month, for such conferences have been held at other places without local officials running amuck as they have done here.

These organisations and their entire cadre have been made the target of attack just because a by-election is pending in the Sirsa double-member constituency and Chief Minister Kairon's righthand man, Chaudhri Devi Lal, is the Congress candidate. In the general elections he was not given the Congress ticket as there were grave charges of corruption against him. One of his men, L. Sant Lal, got the ticket but was defeated by an independent. This independent has been unseated as a result of a petition filed against him.

This time Kairon, with his group dominant in the Provincial organisation, has made sure that Chaudhri Devi Lal

gets the Congress ticket. But it is not so easy to get him into the legislature. Hence the attack on these organisations for it is their activities that Chaudhri Devi Lal and his henchmen fear will be a danger to his success.

Chaudhri Devi Lal is a Congressman, notorious for interference in the administration, for bossing over the local officials, giving his patronage to all anti-social elements and for using all weapons against his political opponents and even rivals inside the Congress. For some time he has been feeling very uneasy over the rapid growth of the kisan movement in this area and when the Provincial Kisan Conference was announced to be held at Sirsa, he did not like it but could do nothing except creating some obstacles. Then the by-election was announced.

At the same time, the Kisan Sabha organised a kisan rally at Sirsa from which the first kisan jatha was to march for satyagraha against the betterment levy. This was on February 11. All this was too much for the powers-that-be. If there was a satyagraha on and the provincial kisan rally was also held at Sirsa, this could jeopardise the chances of Devi Lal's success.

So the police acted. They acted in order to prevent the rally and the satyagraha and to put the leading Communists behind the bars. In the early hours of February 11 they carried out a number of raids in search of Avtar Singh Malhotra, member of the National Council of the Communist Party, and Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Provincial Kisan Conference; Lila Dhar Dukhi, Secretary of the District Council of the Communist Party, and a number of other leaders. The Deputy Superin-

tendent himself led the police party and a Sirsa Congress leader was accompanying them.

When they could not find the leaders, they began to arrest all kisan workers whom they could lay their hands on. The hundred armed policemen were posted in the town and in village Vaidwala from where the first satyagrahi jatha was to start. But all this proved of no avail. The Communist leaders escaped the clutches of the police and the satyagraha jatha reached the meeting place and offered satyagraha.

Exasperated at this, that same evening, they arrested the local trade unionists and the agent of the *Nawan Zamana* (daily). Three Kisan Sabha workers of Bhatinda District who had attended the mass meeting addressed by S. V. Parulekar, M.P., were also arrested. The satyagrahis and the arrested comrades are reported to have been beaten up in custody and put in irons.

The police have continued their offensive in the subsequent days and arrested seven other Communist and Kisan Sabha workers from their homes. The police harass anybody who approaches the offices of the Communist Party and the Kisan Sabha and have carried out more raids. Armed police are parading Sirsa town. And now after having done all this, the Ministers have started touring the constituency. This is called "fair and free elections"! The kisans of Sirsa have given a fitting reply to all this police offensive by continuing the satyagraha and giving protection to their leaders now hounded by the police, aided by some local Congress bosses. The voters of the area will get their chance to give their reply when polling takes place next month.

FALSE FIGURES

*FROM FRONT PAGE

were given licences to make about ten million mega units of penicillin several years ago, and they have so far done very little to produce penicillin in the country. The fact remains that at present the country is largely depending on import of penicillin from abroad.

The question naturally arises, why is Sri Manubhai Shah interested in purveying false information to Parliament and the people, and possibly to the Cabinet as well? What is the purpose of this manoeuvre?

There seems to be little doubt, from the whole history of the handling by the Commerce and Industry Ministry of the proposal of the Soviet experts to make India self-sufficient in important basic drugs, that this is a dodge to sabotage the national project offered by the Soviets, which included the putting up of an additional antibiotic plant to produce not only a large quantity of penicillin, but also to make streptomycin, tetracyclines and other new antibiotics.

He is trying to create an atmosphere by giving false information, to justify his Department's rejection of this additional antibiotic plant, in order to keep in private hands the manufacture of as much of antibiotics as possible, to the great damage of the public sector and the people. This is borne out by the fact that the first team of Soviet experts had in 1956 suggested

immediate extension of Hindustan Antibiotics to manufacture larger quantities of penicillin and also to undertake production of 85 tons of streptomycin, aureomycin and other new antibiotics.

And though the Government invited a second team of Soviet experts to come to India to finalise this project, before they could get here, the Commerce and Industry Ministry entered into an agreement with the American firm of Mercks to enlarge Hindustan Antibiotics just to make streptomycin only, leaving the import and sale of aureomycin and other new antibiotics in the hands of private enterprise. This in spite of the fact that Prime Minister Nehru in a public statement said that in 1956 aureomycin was being imported at about Rs. 1.20 a gramme and was being sold to the public at more than Rs. ten a gramme.

The sale price must be much higher now. An average case needs 15 grammes of aureomycin, which means Rs. 150 per case, while the Soviet experts had suggested that they could help India to make this drug at only eight annas a gramme.

Now the construction of an additional antibiotic plant in the public sector is being obstructed. It is, therefore, obvious that Sri Shah is interested more in the huge profits of the private sector than in the well-being of our teeming millions.