

in the air that the Government of Saurashtra would either permit exports of groundnuts to other States in the Indian Union or to Burma in the near future.

Linseed had no strength of its own and moved in consonance with

other oilseeds, Linseed oil, ruled steadier due to demand for shipments.

Kardiseeds are more or less steady on account of the export quotas as pointed out last time.

they are reproduced below.

Of the total geographical area of India which is computed at 810,4 million acres, the net area under cultivation for all crops in that area was 253,3 million. Of the rest, 347.5 million were not cultivated and were made up as follows:—

Export of Oilseeds and Oil
(For eleven months ending February)

	Quantity		Value Rs. '000	
	1949-50	1950-51	1949-50	1950-51
Seeds (in tons):				
Castor seeds	3,986	73,247	20,16	5,25,48
Groundnuts	111,378	29,255	7,91,27	2,65,04
Linseed	69,252	58,550	4,38,58	4,67,56
Oils (in gallons):				
Castor	853,616	4,888,806	51,47	3,43,30
Groundnuts	5,623,183	10,517,449	4,11,03	8,60,47
Linseed	1,558,626	1,164,569	1,124	82,61

(Figures in million acres)

	1948-49
Area under forest	83.4
Area not available for cultivation	96.7
Current fallows	64.9
Other uncultivated land excluding current fallows	102.5
Total	347.5

Three Quarters of an Acre

Martand Bhatt

HOW much land does a man need? Six feet of sod are enough for his last resting place but how much more to keep him going during his sojourn through this vale of tears? Obviously there cannot be an unqualified answer. How much land is needed per head will depend on so many things, e.g. on its quality, the skill with which it is cultivated, the relative demand of the produce raised on it and also sources of income open to him other than land.

The more highly industrialised a country is, the less will be its dependence on land and yet, by and large, the distribution of land per head of the population in the different countries of the world is in the inverse order of what this would suggest. In the Asian countries, arable land per head of the population is much lower than that in the United States or Soviet Russia. And if available statistics are to be believed, the position of China is really not as bad as is usually supposed to be. For though China has less arable land per head of the population than India or Pakistan, cultivation in China is much more intensive and much more efficient. There is, besides, more of forest land per head of population and also what our agricultural statistics would perhaps classify as "cultivable waste". This last item must be news to many since pressure of population has been so great in China, ancestor worship so widely prevalent, keeping up numbers such a national

virtue and the thrift, care, patient toil and perseverance of the Chinese farmer such bywords the world over. May be, the absence of large-scale development projects hitherto, especially of major irrigation works, accounts for what appears at first sight inexplicable, viz., that there should be so much cultivable waste left unutilised.

Also intriguing is the case of the other Asian countries which appear to have on an average more arable land per head of the population than any other country except USA and USSR. As most of the Asian countries have a very high concentration of population in the cultivable and therefore habitable parts, this high average would be understandable only if it includes the vast steppes of Siberia and other relatively undeveloped parts of what used to be Asiatic Russia.

The distribution of land alone and the high density of population in the Asian countries highlights the difference in the pattern of their development as compared to America or Soviet Russia; it also suggests that development has to be sought on different lines.

The latest figures of distribution of land in India were given the other day by the Food Minister in the Parliament during the question hour. They relate to the year 1948-49, for no later figures are available but that would not matter so much, had the figures been as reliable as one would like them to be. For whatever they are worth

This is rather a curious method of classification since the above total of uncultivated land includes current fallows but does not include cultivable wastes. Again, the total geographical area, taking together the net area under cultivation for all crops and the area lying uncultivated make up 347.5 + 253.3 = 600.8 million, leaving a balance of 210 million acres to be accounted for! Is this balance to be regarded as cultivable waste, however the latter might be defined? Or has the whole of it escaped classification, and has neither been surveyed nor been covered by the "village papers"?

If we have so much unsurveyed land, it would have done little discredit to our Minister for Agriculture to say so. For here is so much potential wealth for the fiction writer's imagination to play upon!

The United Nations statistics makes a special mention of the fact that India shares the honour with Indonesia and Pakistan of having all her agricultural area in the form of arable land and has no land under permanent meadows and pastures. On this point the Food Minister's reply failed to throw any light. "The area occupied by grassy plots, marshy lands, railway lines and metal roads" he told the Parliament was "included partly under the area not available for cultivation and partly under other uncultivated land excluding current fallows." But separate figures under the different categories, were not available. He did not say, however, whether the area not available for cultivation also included pastoral lands or meadows.

It has been the perpetual wonder of foreign observers how an agri-

	(In Acres)		
	Arable Land	Forest & Woodlands	Total Agricultural Area
ASIA:			
India	0.77	0.24	0.77
Pakistan	0.68	0.10	0.68
Indonesia	0.34	3.77	0.34
China	0.49	0.45	1.53
Japan	0.18	0.74	0.21
Other Asia	1.02	2.29	1.85
USA	2.92	4.08	7.43
BRAZIL	0.94	19.83	7.59
USSR	2.82	7.88	4.38

cultural economy which depends so heavily on farm animals for so many things, including traction and motive power can subsist without pastures for grazing and raising cattle.

It certainly gives a point to those who want rapid mechanisation of agricultural operations, ploughing, threshing and traction, for all of which bullock power is now used.

Indo-Pakistan Financial Settlement

NO agreement was reached on any of the issues raised at the Indo-Pakistan Financial Conference. According to India's Finance Minister, the conference had to be adjourned to allow the parties to obtain fuller information in order to be able to determine more precisely the dimensions of the outstanding claims. It might have been thought that as most of the issues raised had been thoroughly thrashed out in correspondence and earlier conferences—the last of which was the four-day meeting at secretariat level held in December last—all relevant data were now available. Seemingly they are not, which would suggest either that preparatory work has still been insufficient or that obstacles to agreement do not lie in the inadequacy of factual data. Besides, there was difference over the interpretation of some of the existing agreements. These agreements, reached in 1948, relate to sterling balances settlement on account of payment made by HMG to Pakistan, third party claims between the two Bengals and payment by Pakistan for military stores received from India.

From Shri Chintaman's statement it would appear that Pakistan in pleasant contrast to her earlier insistence on a piecemeal settlement of individual items has now agreed on the desirability of reaching a "broad, overall settlement" of all outstanding monetary and financial issues. India is all the more eager for, a all-in settlement as from August, 1952 Pakistan is to begin paying India for her share of the pub-

He debt of Rs. 300 crores in forty instalments of roughly nine to ten crores of rupees a year.

The point that has apparently not yet received adequate attention but is likely to prove highly controversial arises out of the disparity in the par values of the two rupees. Is the final settlement of claims to be in terms of the Pakistan currency or in Indian rupees? The official pronouncements on the subject so far provide no clue to the views of either of the parties on this point.

The failure of the talks, however, has caused little surprise in the Capital. Such deadlocks have become hardy perennials and they are not fortuitous. Even if agreement is reached on the evaluation of claims, when the conference meets again in Karachi three months later, the implementation of the decisions taken may prove another difficult hurdle.

The aim of the conference, as stated by the Finance Minister in Parliament, was a comprehensive settlement of all the outstanding financial issues between the two Governments and also to assist in the finalization of the partition settlement between the two Punjabs and the two Bengals and the clearance of third party claims in these areas. The issues discussed at the conference included Reserve Bank items comprising transfer of divisible assets of the Issue Department, treatment of rupee balances held by the State Bank of Pakistan with the Reserve Bank, transfer of interest on securities falling to the share of

the State Bank, division of the profits of the Reserve Bank and payment by Pakistan for military stores.

The question of partition settlement related to the dues by West Bengal in accordance with the partition award, overall settlement between the two Punjabs and overall partition settlement between the two countries. As regards payment of third party claims Pakistan wanted settlement of compensation for property requisitioned in East Bengal in war time, and the claims of Provincial governments and local bodies in Pakistan. India desired the settlement of third party claims against undivided Bengal and undivided Punjab. Pakistan also raised the question of restrictions placed by India on the transfer of shares and securities held by Pakistan nationals, whereas India demanded the clarification of the position of Indian Banks in Pakistan and remittance transactions between the two countries.

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