

### **Pakistan's First Plan**

SKETCHY newspaper reports indicate that like India's first Plan, the Pakistan Five-Year Plan for 1955-56 to 1959-60 prepared by the Pakistan Planning Board under the chairmanship of Mr. Zahid Hussain lays special emphasis on agriculture. Such an emphasis certainly appears to be justified for considerable difficulties in practice have arisen from the concentration of effort in that country, since Partition, on development of industries to the relative neglect of agriculture. To rectify this situation, the Plan gives first priority to village aid and agriculture, with one-third of the total expenditure of the public sector devoted to programmes of irrigation, village aid, reclamation and drainage. Industry claims about 27 per cent, of the public expenditure on development, in addition to a large investment programme in the private sector. Transport and communications absorb about one-fifth of the total expenditure of the public sector.

The total cost of the Plan is estimated at Rs 1160 crores, of which its 800 crores is for the public sector and Rs. 360 crores for the private sector. The estimate of financial resources for the Plan shows a substantial dependence on foreign assistance; foreign aid and loans are expected to provide Rs. 380 crores and foreign investment is expected to amount to Rs 40 crores, the total accounting for 47.5 per cent of the Plan. Of the balance, Rs. 150 crores will be public savings and Rs 590 crores private savings. Of the latter, about its 270 crores will be drawn into the public sphere.

The Plan aims at bringing about an increase of 20 per cent in the national income of Pakistan, which, allowing for a 7.5 per cent increase in population, will raise the per capita income of the country by 12 per cent. Among its principal targets are the creation of two million new jobs and a 13 per cent increase in food grain production. To achieve these targets, it is proposed to carry the agricultural and industrial development programme to 26,000 villages. Three million additional acres will be irrigated; the target for generation of electrical energy is \$80,000 kilowatts; 250,000 new houses are expected to be constructed.

As the Planning Board calculates the foreign exchange component of the Plan at Rs. 530 crores, it calls

for a special effort at improvement of the balance of payments situation. It visualises an increase of exports to the extent of Rs 40 crores per annum and a reduction in imports of Rs 10 crores, thus increasing foreign exchange earnings for the Plan by Rs. 50 crores per annum.

The Planning Board has shown recognition of the need for a certain measure of austerity and has recommended strict control over luxury imports. It has also emphasised that 'resources that can be devoted to improvement of social services are limited by the need to provide a solid base of agricultural and industrial progress upon which further social services depend. Whatever else may be said about the Plan, the Board cannot therefore be accused of showing lack of realism.

Apart from schemes directly included in the plan, a provision of Rs 100 crores is made for new productive programmes in East Pakistan which have still to be prepared, such as flood control and small irrigation and drainage works. A similar reserve of Rs. 40 crores is provided for West Pakistan.

While India's First Five-Year Plan was published a few months after the commencement of the period which it was to cover, the Pakistan draft comes in the second year of the Plan period. Knowing how difficult it is to step up expenditure, this does not augur well for the achievement of the fairly ambitious targets set up by Pakistan's first Plan. It is something that a start has been made, however, for the Board that has prepared the present Plan is the third body to have been set up for the purpose. If political developments in Pakistan do not again prevent concentration on the urgent economic tasks that face the country, this Plan should mark the first step in the process of bringing rapid economic development to Pakistan.

### **France Seeks Friends**

MOLLET, the Socialist Premier of France, can claim much to his credit during the short time he has been in office. He and his Foreign Minister have not been unsuccessful in their efforts to create better understanding between East and West. They have been honest in their criticism of the Western Powers policy to Russia. Their emphatic comments on the Western Powers' exclusive reliance on security have

been widely appreciated. M. Mollet and his Foreign Minister are now in Russia for friendly discussions on world problems. At the recent meeting of the NATO Council, France took the initiative for a more positive approach to Russia in order to settle the world issues in dispute. Peace-loving peoples and nations will welcome the French Socialist Government's attempts to create greater understanding between the Western Powers and the Communist bloc.

No exception will be taken to French efforts to win friends. Even as Russia is interested in ensuring French or British co-operation for an agreed solution of European problems, French or British co-operation for an agreed solution of European problems. France is not uninterested in securing Russian help and co-operation in solving French problems in west Asia and in French North Africa. France is one of the three powers who, along with America and Britain, have a responsibility to maintain peace between Israel and Arab states. France has been eager to accept Russia's demand for consultations on west Asian issues. She has openly requested Russia to co-operate with efforts to solve France's disputes in North Africa. France hopes to enlist Russia's support for dissuading Cairo from fomenting trouble in French North Africa. France has the world's sympathy in her gesture in granting independence to Tunisia and Morocco. France claims that the situation in Algeria is different. Few accept her instance that Algeria is a Department of France. Even moderate nationalist Algerians have now turned hostile to the idea of Union with France. Algeria is one of M Mullet's blind spots. For the prestige of France as also of her Socialist Government, an agreed solution of the Algerian problem is to be devoutly desired.

### **Dream and Reality**

THE conflict between idealism and realism would seem to be nowhere more glaring than in the Congress attitude to prohibition. On one side, there are those who would have prohibition at any cost, irrespective of the other factors involved and regardless even of considerations of practicability or success. To these it would seem to matter little if in trying to cure one evil more evils arise in its place. Prohibition is a creed with them; and having convinced themselves of its soundness, they have no qualm in forcing