

Notes & News

Third five year plan—while the country is in the midst of the second five year plan, thoughts are extended to the undertaking of the third plan. The chronic food shortages in the country has to be tackled and agriculture is to be given its due prominence, which was long overdue. This will also arrest the drainage of foreign exchange for import of food stuff. Side by side with agriculture, cottage industry, small scale industry and heavy industry may also grow. Per capita earning of the people, majority of whom (70%) dwell in villages, will increase through agriculture and animal husbandry if science and atomic power come to aid. Cottage industry will offer scope to villages, during off season. To lead the country, gradually to a classless society in socialistic pattern, attention has to be focussed on the people of low income group. The third plan should, therefore, be of mixed economy, embracing agriculture and industry. The foreign exchange of hard currency area, at credit to Govt. has dwindled during last few years. Loans cannot prop up a nation. We have therefore to aim at self sufficiency and endeavour to earn by exporting. Comments are there that in India the economists Plan, the Engineers execute. For the third plan, the Planning may be vested on the Engineers. We hope this would yield better result.

Eleven years course—Secondary education in the country has undergone another change. Now the intermediate course in Science will be abolished. Hitherto admission to Engineering institutions was open to Intermediate Science students. Now the admission has to be thrown open to certificate holders of the Board of Secondary Education. The schools will undertake the aptitude test and train the students in humanities or science or technology. Simultaneously with the changes in secondary education, the syllabi of the Engineering institutions have also to be reviewed, so that students with school leaving certificate may Engineering institutions set to adopt the syllabus. It is high time, the not find it difficult their brain to this task.

Smoke nuisance—smoke nuisance is a proverbial truth for congested cities like Calcutta. The attempt of West Bengal Government to provide gas for industrial and domestic purpose from cokeoven plant at Durgapur, is therefore welcome. It would be a great relief household economy, it would be great achievement for removing smoke nuisance.

National productivity Council—Though productivity movement had its impetus on the wake of world war II, in India, the movement is still in its infancy. Productivity is not synonymous with production. One is the cause, the other is the effect. It is the efficiency of producing the maximum from given resources and not the volume of production. In the year 1958 National productivity council was set up, under the aegis of the Government. The council has undertaken to publish books for dissemination of information on productivity. The Association of Engineers offers co-operation in the activity of the council.

Rank in service—In Govt services there are four ranks in service e.g class I, II, III & IV.. In commercial spheres, there are ranks on similar lines. In these days when mass education is being aimed at when underemployment of qualified men is the order of the day, when we are aiming at establishing socialistic pattern of society, this class distinction in service should go. A class IV man may be as qualified as any class III men or a class II officer discharging just the same responsibility as class I officer. In the interest of administration, this class distinction should be a thing of the past. We can rename the ranks as seniors & juniors.

Book Review

The manager—monthly Journal 36A Jatindas Road, Calcutta-29

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