

Technical Training for DPs

A FIVE-YEAR programme of technical training for displaced persons at an estimated cost of Rs 1.80 crores, has been recommended by the Mehr Chandel Khanna Vocational Training Committee, according to a reply given in the House of the People by Shri Aji Prasad Jain, Minister for Rehabilitation. 20,000 persons will be given training during the period under the Committee's scheme, 15,500 in vocational trades and 4,500 in technical trades. Stipends are to be given to 13,000 trainees.

The Committee has recommended that the training centres should be run by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment, which should also take over control of the Nilokheri Polytechnic and the Arab-ki-Sarai Centre. Each vocational training centre should have a production centre attached and all trainee who pass out should spend at least a year in such production centres, which should be located as far as possible in new townships and run on a 'no loss' basis.

Ten thousand women should be trained without stipends at centres outside homes and infirmaries, and three thousand inmates in homes and infirmaries should also be trained. After they pass out, trainees should be given doles for one car and outright grants for rehabilitation and assistance in procuring raw materials and business.

The Government of India has taken some decisions on policy matters in this connection and these are under examination by the State Governments and the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment for the purpose of implementation.

Programme for US Shipping

Fifteen major American shipping companies operating passenger and cargo services on the East, West and Gulf coasts have issued a statement in which they say that only 40 new vessels had been built for American shipping lines since the war, while 2,700 ships had been added to the fleets of the rest of the world. There was not a single vessel under construction for US lines while there were 900 ocean going freighters and passenger ships under construction in other countries. These shipping companies have submitted an eight-point programme for the US mercantile marine which, they demand, must be implemented if the US is to remain a major sea

power.

1. Devise a workable formula for the use of Government funds in the construction of ships in terms of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, and launch a programme of orderly, progressive replacement of cargo and cargo-passenger vessels.

2. Scrap low speed and inefficient ships now in the laid-up fleet and strengthen this reserve fleet with transfers of ships retired from active service. Funds from the sale of scrap steel should be used to finance new ship building.

3. Continue the system of tax deferrals for shipping which encourages accumulation of funds for ship replacement and participation of private venture capital.

4. Strengthen inter coastal and coastwise fleets and expand the number of ocean going tankers and ore-carriers.

5. Strengthen research to ensure US leadership in ship design and propulsion, particularly in the development of atomic power for merchant ships.

6. Cooperation between Government and industry in assuring that a maximum amount of US foreign trade is earned on US ships. This would encourage a wealthy shipping industry and reduce use of tax funds in Government support of shipping through operating differential payments.

Aim at the elimination of discriminatory practices of other nations harmful to US shipping abroad.

7. Make savings in the use of taxpayers funds by withdrawing Government ships from trade routes where private shipping can provide service

TCA Agreement on East Bengal Hospital

An agreement between the Government of Pakistan and the Technical Cooperation Administration of the United States was signed in Karachi on April 23 for a TB hospital in East Bengal.

The project aims at equipping a modern tuberculosis hospital in East Bengal and developing the facilities and junctions of such a hospital with emphasis upon preventive medicine, the detection of cases in an early or incipient stage, the training of specialists and the promotion of hygiene and public health.

The Government of East Bengal will be responsible for the operation of the project in addition to constructing the hospital building. The

TCA contribution for the project is \$150,000 and that of the Government of Pakistan Rs 4,95,000.

Aerodromes in India

Of the aerodromes in India 186 belong to the Central Government, 105 to the State Governments, and 14 to private agencies or individuals.

The sources of income at Central Government aerodromes are

(1) landing and housing charges from the air transport companies,

(2) rents of lands and buildings leased out and rented to various parties,

(3) electricity and water charges, and

(4) revenues accruing from caterers, sale of grass-cutting lights, advertisement charges, etc.

The income derived from these sources is credited to General Revenues. The expenditure on the maintenance, etc. of aerodromes is met from the budget grant that is voted by Parliament from year to year.

The revenue realised during 1952-53 from foreign companies for their use of Central Government aerodromes was Rs 14,53,104 and that from Indian companies Rs 42,45,206.

Dutch Steel Goods Export Combine

Seven large Dutch engineering works, manufacturing tanks, steel structures for aircrafts hangars, sheds, etc. have founded an export combine called "Low lands Steel" with offices at The Hague.

A central bureau plans all the designs and orders are passed on to the member firm which can offer the shortest term of delivery.

US Synthetic Rubber Plants

President Eisenhower has recommended the sale of 550 million dollars' worth of Government-owned synthetic rubber plants to private industry.

In a special message to the Congress, asking the Congress to enact legislation authorising disposal of the Government plants, the President said:

I am in hearty accord with the policy determination of the Congress that the security interests of the nation will best be served by the development within the United States of a free competitive synthetic rubber industry, and I believe that now is the time to undertake plant disposal and added that

The programme recommended in the report of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) appears to provide basic outline of a satisfactory method to achieve this result."