

is equally true that every year the coverage of these statistics has been wider than in the previous year and also that there is evidence every year of the Ministry's attempt to improve on the quality of statistics. Still, if one were to try to correlate the two sets of available statistics, one published by the Central Statistical Organization giving the pro-

duction data of selected industries and the other of capacity published by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in its annual report, the task would be well nigh impossible.

Statistics, particularly those of industrial capacity, being what they are at present, it is not difficult to find fault with anyone who attempts to read sonic meaning into them.

This is a state of affairs which cannot be allowed to continue. It is very necessary in an economy suffering from acute shortage of capital that this scarce resource is put only to the best or what may be socially the most remunerative use. How could this be ensured unless one has got all the facts about the existing capacity and its pattern of use?

## Maharashtra and Gujerat

BOTH the new States of Maharashtra and Gujerat will come into being from the 1st of May. Five days' celebrations beginning from the 27th, the supposed date of Shivaji's birth, heralds the birth of Maharashtra. On the mid-night of 30th, Pandit Nehru will swear in the new cabinet for Maharashtra, while Ravishankar Maharaj, the venerable leader of Gujerat, will formally inaugurate the State of Gujerat. The illuminations in Bombay at least on the first two nights did not attract the crowds expected. Smaller-than-expected crowds to watch the illuminations is itself perhaps significant. There is a greater sense of participation in the Maharashtra quarters of the city, where at every street-crossing, forts have been erected, complete with turrets, gates and a watch tower, with paper, bamboo and strings. The very crude workmanship of the structures indicates the degree of participation of the people of the neighbourhood in the celebrations.

To have shared a common historic past, to have fought and struggled together, to be fired by the same inspiration and ideal—this is an important, perhaps the essential ingredient in the making of a people. The basic idea behind the inauguration of the two States is to bring together the people who speak the same language. The unity of language, however, is not by itself a sufficiently cohesive force. The emotional integration of a people needs much more and it would be foolish to underestimate what remains to be done in Maharashtra to bring about that integration. \*

Bombay City, which had hitherto been the bone of contention, is isolated from the rest of the country. It has a cosmopolitan character which has to be preserved. Vidarbha is distant and had remained administratively separate so long that despite the appeal of a common

language, the assimilation of the people of Vidarbha into those of Maharashtra will call for broad-mindedness on the part of everyone as well as delicate, carefully thought out and imaginative administrative measures. Though the Nagpur Pact by which Vidarbha's special interests and its place in the new set up had been sought to be safeguarded has not been incorporated in the Act by which the new State is to be established, it has been accepted without any mental reservation by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. This augurs well for the new State but Vidarbha is not the only problem of integration that the new State has to face. There is similarly Marathwada and above all, the caste-composition of the people of Maharashtra and caste conflicts which gave rise to and sustain a vigorous non-Brahmin movement even today.

Gujerat also will have its own problems of integration, though these appear in a different setting. Until very recently, large parts of the new State were under the princely order, which has left behind a legacy of administrative deficiencies in such things as roads and public services which have not been completely remedied in the last few years. There is, again, the distinctiveness of Saurashtra with several features which cannot be dismissed as merely parochial or even regional. If Maharashtra's major problem of integration is social and caste-based, that of Gujerat springs from the superiority of Ahmedabad in its economic life and the economic dislocation inevitable from the administrative separation of the State from Bombay City. The leaders of Gujerat have forestalled some of the anticipated difficulties by deciding in advance to have a new capital, so that the Government may not be identified too closely, with Ahmedabad, the ascendancy of

which in the economic life of the State creates a problem.

Both the States start under most favourable auspices. Both have ambitious programmes of economic development. It is not that Gujerat is so much better endowed with natural resources that it can count upon rapid economic development with any great confidence. But the leadership in commerce and industry which the people of Gujerat have always enjoyed is the best asset that the new State can draw upon. There is already evidence that the industrial and business talents available are putting their heads together to plan development and to execute it with determination and competence.

Leaving out Bombay city, the rest of Maharashtra is largely agricultural. It has its ambitions also for building industries, and the establishment even of heavy industries, has been mentioned among the 'Guiding Principles of Maharashtra State.' It would be in the sphere of agriculture, however, and agriculturally based industries, that Maharashtra should be able to set up a model for the rest of India. The socialistic aspirations of the people, untrammelled by vested interests or even much experience of running industries, should stand it in good stead in achieving this aim.

The enthusiasm released by the inauguration of the two States will undoubtedly enrich and strengthen the Indian people. The aspiration for statehood under the present Indian Constitution has never been and can never be a disintegrating factor in the life of the nation. The manner in which the two States have been coming up and the reaction it has produced in the minds of the people concerned are a convincing proof of the shortsightedness of the view that the formation of linguistic States can ever weaken the fundamental unity of India.