

are bound to be deceptive. There is no gainsaying the fact that long-term agreements have imparted a measure of stability to our exports. This was demonstrated in 1958 when Japan's imports declined, causing a fall in exports of all other countries, including those of Malaya which is by far the most important supplier, but Indian ex-

ports not only held steady but even improved a little.

Resides, Japanese assistance has not been inconsiderable in developing our exports. The agreement of March last which provides for export of four million tons of ore per annum for a period of 15 years from 1966 in addition to Japan's purchases under other agreements,

also makes available to India Japanese financial assistance for the development of mining in the area from which the ore is to be exported. The assistance covers purchase of mining machinery and equipment, construction of railway lines between the mines and Visakhapatnam as also mechanisation of loading facilities at the port.

Letter from Moscow

Trade Winds to Blow

Samar Sen

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THE biggest foreign exhibition in Moscow, British Trade Fair, has had a good start. There was a gasp of surprise among the invited when Mr Khrushchev appeared at the opening ceremony to-day. Every one was pleased. Commerce is a good ambassador and Khrushchev has always wanted trade winds to blow. The President of the British Board of Trade hoped that trade and other relations between the two countries would grow. It had been pointed out earlier that Anglo-Soviet trade had been up by 10 per cent in the last two years.

The British have not repealed the mistake the Americans made. They have organised the exhibition, riot to sell their way of life, but as honest brokers. In other words, they have devoted more attention to machinery than to lipstick. They have better understanding of what licks with the Russians. At the same time they have not forgotten that women in many ways are the same all over the world. A fashion parade has been arranged. Some Russians took the kilted Scotsmen as part of that parade.

The fair is impressive. Very clever use has been made of the space available. Getting out of one pavilion, one is immediately attracted to the next. There are 1,200 items on exhibit, including an installation connected with the production of scotch whiskey.

There is not the slightest doubt that the fair will be a huge success and that the volume of Anglo-Soviet trade will grow. People are looking forward to the Russian Trade Fair in London, which will open in July.

Shri G D Birla, with a formidable team of experts, is having a busy time in the Soviet Capital. His first impression was that the streets were the widest he had yet seen. Tashkent appeared to him too oriental to make a deep impact. But one of his team went into raptures over a textile mill there. It will be interesting to know their final impressions. At the beginning Shri Birla was rather cautious. He even refused to take lemon squash at the Indian Embassy, saying that he did not want to spoil his appetite for dinner.

Shri S K Patil, who arrived here yesterday, has already been to the U S S R Economic Exhibition.

Prospects of Indo-Soviet Trade are bright indeed. Tea, coffee, mica and shoes apart, there is a potential market here for our handicrafts.

Obligation to Work

The Russians have resumed the offensive against loafers and swindlers. It is said that the right to work guaranteed in the Constitution also entails the obligation to work. Parasites cannot be tolerated. If persuasion fails, they will be sent out of their habitats and forced to work at other places. They may not see their sweet homes for as long as two to five years.

Cases have come to light in which unscrupulous citizens cheated the Government of millions of roubles. In one, a surprise raid by security police revealed that enough grain had been hoarded to supply the entire population of Moscow with bread for a day. Speculation in foreign currency has increased. The mode of operation of a particular gang is described in the Press in detail. Big swindlers will have to

take big risks now. If caught, they may even be shot.

There is a theoretical basis of the new decrees. It is said that when the Soviet people are building communism, the struggle against anti-social elements must be intensified even if they represent an insignificant section. The State delegated large powers to public bodies in the dispensation of justice but, in view of an unjustifiable air of relaxation that has set in, it has to be strict, more so when colossal sums of money are in use in connection with the Seven Year Plan. In the thirties, when the Russians put through their first five year plans, the struggle against political enemies was stepped up. They were given no quarter. In the process, many fine people disappeared for ever. But the new decrees, calling for intensification of the campaign against anti-social elements, will not lead to aberrations. Socialist justice will be observed.

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Prof Nesmyanov, President of the Academy of Sciences for ten years, has been succeeded by Academician Keldish. A reorganisation of the Academy was announced last month. It will now concentrate on theoretical problems and much of its many-sided activities will be transferred to institutes and local academies. The aim is to cut red tape and ensure a rational development of science and technique. Academician Keldish, born in 1911, is known both as a brilliant scientist and a great organiser.

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The coming Khrushchev-Kennedy meeting, said a Russian, will be like the recent match between Botvinnik and Tal.