

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

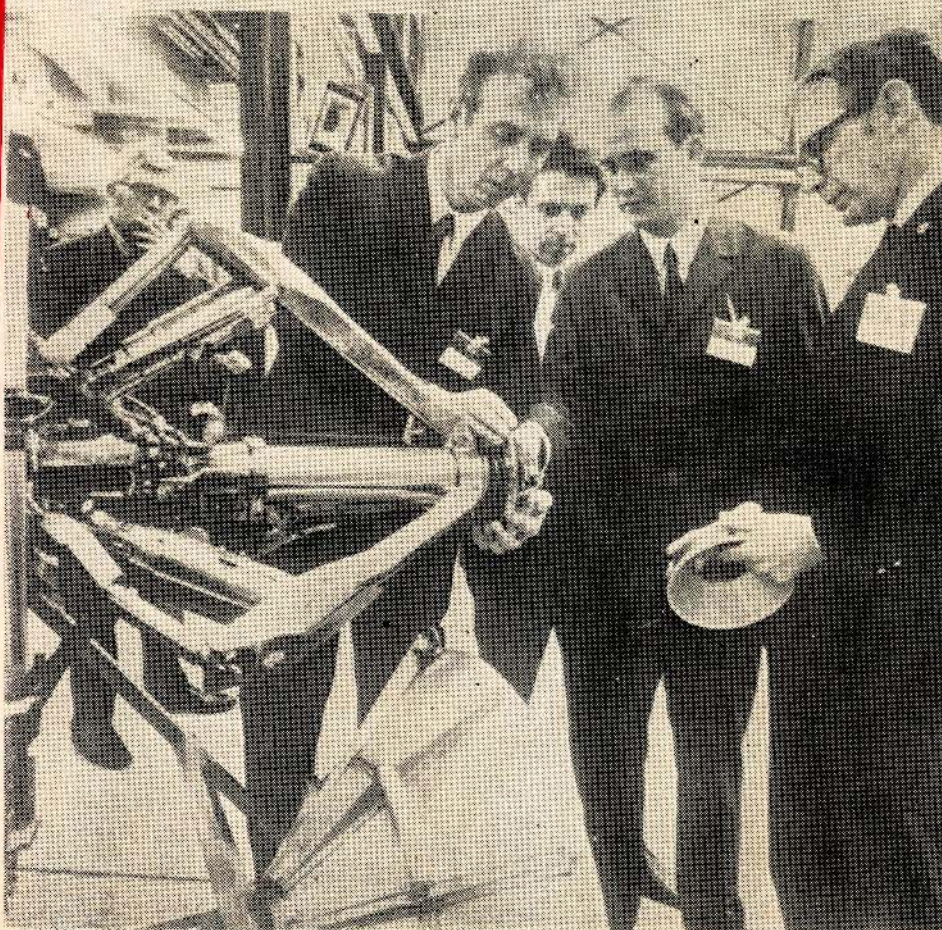
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- ◆ CEYLON'S MEAT SUPPLY
- ◆ GRAPE CULTIVATION
- ◆ MUSHROOMS
- ◆ BETTER MANURE
- ◆ SANITATION
- ◆ PM'S POLICY STATEMENT-2
- ◆ SOVIET SPACE CENTRE
- ◆ GOLD CRISIS
- ◆ SINO-LANKA COMMUNIQUE



WITH COMPLIMENTS

C. V. BHATT

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by PERTINAX

THE IMF team led by Dr. Savkar had met the Prime Minister on June 20 and there was universal expectation that the Cabinet would take decisions on the vital questions of devaluation, FEECs, food subsidies and the like before the PM had left for China on June 24. In fact it was thought that her Policy Statement tabled on June 23 in the National Assembly would contain some of these decisions on matters of high policy, but the PM side-

stepped them by stating that as these matters were within the province of the Minister of Finance he would deal with them in his Budget Speech. Whether one has to wait until October/November for these decisions it is not clear, but it must not be forgotten that the Rs 400 million gap of the last budget is still not bridged. In the UF itself there is a tendency to postpone decisions on some of these questions, and now everybody is awaiting the PM's return from China to make decisions. Would she get enough in Peking to say "boo" to the IMF? In the meantime, the weekly *Forward*, 17, 6 posed the question about the economic question very sharply in a frontpage editorial entitled **A TIME FOR DECISION**. The editorial stated:

"THE DISCUSSIONS between the Ministry of Finance and the I.M.F. team now in Sri Lanka over the possibility of a Rs. 150 million stand-by credit have apparently reached a decisive point. The I.M.F. has all along been pressing for a 55% devaluation of our Rupee as a necessary measure to set Sri Lanka's economy in order.

"Although certain officials in the Ministry of Planning and the Central Bank are known to agree lavishly with the I.M.F.'s demand for devaluation, Finance Minister N. M. Perera has publicly and categorically rejected devaluation out of hand. According to the newspapers, Dr. Perera's atti-

tude against devaluation is shared by the majority of his colleagues in the Council of Ministers. They point out that the devaluation of the rupee that the U.N.P. government carried out on the insistence of the I.M.F. brought no good to Sri Lanka. *It only helped foreign importers to get more for their imported products and to send up prices for the consumers.* The much promised and much-expected boost of the prices of our exports simply did not materialise. It is, therefore, no wonder that 'once bitten, twice shy' should be the reaction to the I.M.F.'s demand for a second devaluation of the rupee.

"But it is not enough not to do the wrong thing. It is necessary to do the right thing too. And it is here that the Government has to make up its mind. Half of 1972 is over. The Budgetary gap of Rs. 400 million is not bridged. The deficit in the foreign exchange budget is likely to reach Rs. 200 million by the end of 1972. So far the Government has drifted without any purposeful action.

"THE TREASURY has put an embargo on expenditures on new projects. This may save money. But it also brings economic development to a standstill. Nor will we get far by trying to ead off the anticipated Rs. 20 million deficit in the foreign exchange Budget through re-scheduling capital repaymen on foreign loans and credits, or by delaying and


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staggering the issue of licences for imports for the second half of 1972.

"The Finance Minister has often spoken of what he has done to repay the short-term loans negotiated by the U.N.P. government. And the newspapers are full of stories of the hopes of the officials to convince the I.M.F. team of the positive steps that the Government has taken to set its economic house in order.

"Conscious of the tight corner in which the government finds itself, it is no wonder that the I.M.F. team should try to drive a hard bargain. But as the Government has rejected the I.M.F.'s demand for devaluation, it must now decide what it intends to do instead. Recent speeches by some Ministers have raised suspicions that further inroads into subsidies and social services is contemplated.

"But apart from widening the gap between the government and people and creating a confrontation situation between the two, it is doubtful whether devaluation will have any marked positive effect on the economy. It is not enough to keep on stressing the irrationality of our subsidy schemes, or to emphasise the obvious—that champagne tastes cannot be sustained on toddy incomes. The main question that the government has to decide is whether it will seek to solve the economic crisis at the expense of the vested interests or at the expense of the people.

"IT IS AROUND the answer to this question that the present alignment of political forces is taking place. It is no answer to say that both rich and poor must be ready to make sacrifices. Especially when past experience has shown that the sacrifice that the poor are asked to make are in the immediate future; while the sacrifices demanded of the rich are not only small but matters of the indefinite future.

"If the government really wishes to carry the progressive forces and the people with it in a sustained drive for a solution of the economic crisis, it must begin with the sacrifices that the rich must make.

"The Land Reform Bill is yet to be tabled. The Capital Levy promised in the last Budget has not been introduced either in the past Parliament or the present National State Assembly. The ceiling on incomes and the ownership of houses, as well as other progressive measures promised in the Prime Minister's statement of November 9th 1971, are still to move from promise to performance.

"It is here that the government must now concentrate. The declaration of the Republic and the adoption of the new constitution have helped to create a new and more favourable atmosphere. They have re-kindled hopes that had tended to die down. The government should seize this new opportunity to go ahead with a programme of radical socio-

economic reform as speedily it can. This is the real answer to the I.M.F.'s attempts at arm-twisting."

In the meantime, different Cabinet Ministers have been thinking aloud (at public meetings) on various matters of economic significance. Perhaps this was one way of preparing the ground for calling upon the people to make greater sacrifices and calmly accepting more austerity. Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, Deputy to the Prime Minister, and Minister of Irrigation, Power and Highways whilst recently addressing colonists at Rajangane made it clear that some drastic measures were in the offing. As reported in the *Daily News* Mr. Senanayake had stated: "Before long the Government will stop import of rice. Rice import costs the country Rs. 240 million in valuable foreign exchange. It is indeed a crime to import commodities that can be produced locally in the face of the present economic position. Our concern is not about the next general election, but the country and its future. Hence we have to put the country in the correct course heedless of political repercussion."

THIS IS a clear and broad hint that subsidised imported rice would not be available much longer. This is something which is very welcome. *Tribune* has for a long time been advocating the ending of the food subsidies as a preliminary step in any attempt to revitalise our economy. With

the burden of food imports on our foreign exchange and the noose of food subsidies on our cash reserves, economic development could never get off the ground in this country.

It was not Mr. Maithripala Senanayake alone who has recently been campaigning on these lines. The Minister of Cultural Affairs, S. S. Kulatilake, has been making a number of speeches in the same strain recently. Speaking at a public meeting recently held in connection with the laying of a foundation stone for a new shrine at the historic Kazzangala Vihare at Halleluwa in the Kandy region, he did not mince his words about food subsidies and the difficulties in the way of achieving socialism.

This is how the *Daily News* reported the relevant portion of his speech. "The Government incurs a loss of Rs. 80 million a year on giving 'charity rice' (free rice). In the circumstances we may have no alternative but to do away with the issue of the free measure of rice. He said that apart from withdrawing the free measure of rice it might become even necessary to restrict the imports of sugar to ensure the well being of both the present and future generations. Socialism he remarked was not something that could be plucked from the air. It could be achieved only through hard work and a change of heart."

This is not the first speech in which Minister Kulatilake had spoken in the same strain.

He had quite clearly repeated at several meetings that the free measure of rice must go.

BUT the leader of the United National Party, Mr Dudley Senanayake, had other views on the subject. It was he who had introduced the free measure of rice. It was his father (and Sir Oliver Goonetilleke) who had first introduced food subsidies in 1946/7 as a means of securing a popular base among the voters about the time when this country gained political independence from the British.

Mr. Dudley Senanayake, whilst addressing a meeting after he had laid the foundation stone for a "Sangharamaya" at the Sugathasasana Vihara at Boyagoda in the Kurunegala area, stated very clearly that the free measure of rice was essential for the well being of the people. This is how the *Daily News* reported the meeting and what Mr. Dudley Senanayake had said: "The Leader of the United National Party and MP for Dedigama Mr. Dudley Senanayake addressing a meeting in Boyagoda on Sunday said that Government should not deprive the people of the free measure of rice. Mr. Senanayake said that it appeared that this Government was going to deny the people the free measure of rice. His father as Prime Minister had come to the conclusion this country could only be developed through agriculture and accordingly he too had been convinced of this view"

There is no doubt that the country could be developed mainly by concentrating on agricultural development. To the credit of Mr. Dudley Senanayake and also his father, Mr. D. S. Senanayake, it must be said that they had paid great attention to agricultural production. But their efforts to stabilise agriculture were set back considerably by the efforts to woo the voters by dangerous gimmicks like food subsidies and even free rice.

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The country is today paying a heavy price because food subsidies and the free rice mentality has completely undermined the integrity of large sections of the voters in this country.

SUBSIDIES have introduced a dangerous element of unreality into our economic system. Furthermore the heavy taxes which we levy has complicated matters more, especially taxes like the B.T.T. and the like which directly affect all consumer prices. It would be interesting for readers of *Tribune* to know what the IMF think of the situation which stems from the dual evils of food subsidies and unconscionable taxes, and they can draw their own conclusions thereafter.

This is what the IMF report stated on this vital matter.

"Ceylonese prices are now so thoroughly distorted by criss crossing taxes and subsidies that the Government can have no clear idea of what is happening in the economy; and the economy's needs and priorities are transmitted to economic agents only in a thoroughly distorted form. The resource mobilization effort itself goes a long way towards correcting the distortions of the price system. It should be complemented by measures dealing directly with these distortions. The parity between domestic and foreign prices must be revised so as to reflect the proper relationship of Ceylon's real wages to those of

other countries with similar productivity levels, and to stimulate exports and import substitution. If this was not done, then even if resources were made available they would continue to be misused; the export and import substitution potential would remain under-utilized; and the use of imported capital goods would remain excessively tempting relative to labor.

"Such a reform would deal with the major underlying cause of the distortions of Ceylonese price system, but others would have to be tackled directly. Most major commodities are now affected by an intertwined system of taxes, exchange rate distortions and subsidies. In the case of export crops, for instance, their exports do not receive FEEC's and are also subject to a tax proper; the use of some imported inputs such as fertilizer in many cases is encouraged by even larger subsidies while the use of that major domestic input, labor, is discouraged by the relatively high real wage rate. Only by correcting these distortions can one hope to achieve an efficient use of resources. A proper pricing of water, related to the quantities used, is an essential prerequisite to its efficient use, and therefore to a well-directed agricultural effort.

"The public sector already plays an important role and is to play an even more important one in the future. Improper accounting procedures tend to distort the prices of its products and information

about its performance. It is vital that these also should be corrected; the reports of the Auditor General highlight many of the needed reforms. Finally, a reform of budgetary accounting procedures is also indispensable to establish a link between budget proposals and their economic impact."

What all this amounts to is that unless this country froze wages and prices until production and productivity levels moved upwards, the economic *malaise* would get worse day by day.

The IMF Report thereafter went on to state as follows:

"WHAT CAN Ceylon achieve if all this is done? The road ahead will, necessarily be a hard one. As we noted above, almost 10 percent of national demand was financed by short-term borrowing in 1969. Much sacrifice is needed but is unavoidable—to restore a tenable balance of payment at least to its 1969/70 level, preparatory to actual growth. Overall consumption must therefore be compressed quite drastically, and the burden of that compression must be borne by those who are working. Therefore, the reduction in real wages must proportionately be even larger. When growth resumes, it must take on more labor-intensive forms. This can, and should, consist of employment for the unemployed, assured work for new entrants into the labor force, and also more and harder works by those who already hold jobs. All this

means that, when the growth of consumption resumes, it will in large part be distributed in the form of wage payments to more people. The real wage rate itself will have to remain compressed for quite some time to come.

"Of course, the harder the sacrifice borne by the people to generate resources for investment, the more important it is to ensure the proper sectoral allocation of investment, the technical and economic soundness of individual projects, and their competent management. The recommended price and income reform would fulfill the most important pre-condition of such improved orientation of investment, and better exploitation of the assets so created. Beyond that, there is no general recipe, but it may help to note that planners, managers and workers of individual projects are using the people's hard-earned resources and that this should be reflected in the rewards of success and the penalties of failure.

"The shape of future growth will be more easily defined when the price system has been corrected. Now, only rough indications can be given. Broadly speaking, the old export sectors must once again be vigorously promoted. Coconut and rubber face no specific demand limitation and are therefore worth exporting as long as they are remunerative at the existing prices. Those prices are very low today, but it would be rash to forecast their future recovery.

At least the replanting of tea should also be vigorously promoted, though the tea problem is a complex one. However, even if the volumes of these exports grow, it will not be prudent to count on more than maintaining their value, in the face of the possible future erosion of export prices.

"Import substitution, particularly in agriculture, needs continued promotional efforts; a reform of the price and wage systems is likely to ensure that it will get them. However for a small island with a single macroclimate, import substitution has its limits even in agriculture; and much tighter ones in industry. The vigorous promotion of exports, particularly of industrial exports, is a vital necessity. Exports are not only needed to procure foreign exchange but even more so to provide the market base for vigorous growth. In practice, Ceylonese industry can have either export-oriented growth, or none. Here again, prices play a crucial role, but one which needs to be supplemented with dynamic marketing, research, and promotion efforts and by the creation of a general climate in which exporting, whether by private or public sector, is recognized as a first class national service which deserves rich rewards."

WHETHER under a capitalist system, or a socialist system, it is essential for Ceylon to stabilise prices and wages—and this pegging down and freezing must go on until production

moves upwards. Inflation must be checked by austerity, and consumption kept down to a minimum.

People will be willing to accept austerity and sacrifices if they do not see Ministers, their relations, Corporation Chiefs, Heads of Departments and the like, move about in flashy limousines or in status-symbol invested Mercedes Benz cars. At the moment, no rules seem to exist for the ruling *elite*. They are all running around in 6 Sri cars, and many of them are privately-owned having been bought at the knock-down import prices. The argument that these persons are doing valuable national work does not hold much water. They are a great many parasites who are flamboyantly running about in the latest models—and most of these elements are in or are close to the Establishment.

Before Government calls upon the people to accept more austerity and make more sacrifices, the guillotine has to be applied at the top to cut down wasteful and extravagant consumption expenditure.

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Ceylon's Meat Supply, Grape Cultivation, Compost-Making, Mushrooms

down the development of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. The Symposium will attempt to identify the principal constraints and forge a synthesis of the methods that might be used to step up the pace of development."

Apart from the Inaugural Address and the remarks of the Chairmen, (one for the morning session and another in the afternoon), there were about eleven papers on various questions of importance. In this issue, *Tribune* has the first instalment of the paper entitled *Problems of Meat Supply and their Resolution* by Mr. R. H. de Mel who is the Chairman of the Livestock Development Board. The concluding part of this paper will appear in our next issue.

Additionally we have smaller articles on grape cultivation, on the mushroom and on compost making.—*Editor*

CEYLON'S MOST URGENT NEED — I

Beef, Mutton, Pork Poultry, & Eggs

by R. H. de MEL
Chairman, Live Stock Development Board

IT IS of course obvious that the shortage of meat is due to an insufficiency of slaughter stock, and as importation on

the sale necessary would be beyond our means, the only solution would be the breeding of a sufficient number of animals within the country. Fortunately, this is by no means impossible.

It would be as well to start by examining the present production position as regards beef, mutton, pork, poultry meat and eggs, and consider the factors that have prevented the production of these from keeping in step with the demand, and then to see whether the restrictive factors can be removed and, if so, how.

Of course, Livestock production must be profitable if it is to be expanded, and it will be generally agreed that any project if it is to be viable, calls for three basic requirements. There are (1) the necessary breeding stock; (2) the feed for the stock; and (3) efficiently organized marketing facilities.

Veterinary services and drugs are equally essential, but these are being provided and can be expanded as required, so that no failure in production due to lack of these need be anticipated. Applying these three criteria to cattle breeding, we get the following results:

1. The breeding stock available in the country has been adequate to supply our beef requirements since 1930, when the importation of cattle for slaughter from India was prohibited. Of course, the national

THE NATIONAL Agricultural Society of Ceylon organized an interesting and useful Symposium on the Development of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry under the Five Year Plan on June 10, 1972. It was held at the C. I. S. I. R. Auditorium and the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Mr. H. S. R. B. Kobbekaduwa delivered the inaugural address. The background to the Symposium was outlined as follows in the official programme. "It is clear that an accelerated development effort is necessary to achieve the targets of production set out under the Five Year Plan. There are also growing indications that a careful investment in Agriculture can strengthen the demand for labour and provide new sources of employment. But there are many factors biological, economic, social and managerial which either alone or in combination have tended to slow

herd is now showing signs of depletion, but effective action can reverse this trend. It should be noted that the bulk of the national herd is in the Northern Dry Zone, that is, in the N. W. P., and E. P., and a recent survey made of the animals passing through all the slaughter houses in the country has revealed that about 90% of the slaughter stock are Sinhala animals, mainly reared in the Dry Zone. It is rather surprising that the European breeds of the Up-Country, and the Indian breeds of the Coconut areas have not made a greater impact on the meat supply.

2. The feed for these Dry Zone animals is the high rough pastures of the sparsely wooded areas, and the rather better pasture in the villus, which are strictly limited in area. This pasture is excellent immediately after the rains, and as productive as any tropical grasslands, but during the long dry periods, the picture is very different, and this results in a great set back to production.

3. The marketing facilities are deplorable, and the stock owners are at the mercy of middle-men, who themselves complain that they are compelled to pay substantial illegal gratifications to numerous persons between the village and the slaughter-house, all of which represent deductions from the price paid to the breeder, who therefore does not get the full price he is entitled to receive. There is little or no

incentive for him to expand his activities, but he accepts this price and persists in this traditional occupation, and has remained the principal source of the beef supply. Today, the consumer pays a very fair price for beef, but only a small portion of this goes back to the producer, a situation that must be changed and quickly.

To summarise, the breeding stock is available but the feed, particularly the dry weather feed, is inadequate, and the marketing facilities require complete re-organisation.

AS REGARDS the mutton supply, drawn from goats and sheep: 1. Imports for slaughter of about 25,000 animals from India ceased in 1966, since which time the national resources have been drawn upon for the entire supply. Goats and sheep too are reared mainly in the Northern Dry Zone, but the area extends into the Northern Province and the Jaffna Peninsula. That the national herd and flock is declining fairly rapidly is shown, by the ever decreasing size of the animals passing through the slaughter houses, but there still remains a sufficient number to restore the position, particularly if imports for breeding from India are permitted for some years. 2. They feed on much the same pastures as the cattle, except that the goats being browsers would use shrubs that are of no interest to sheep or cattle. 3. The marketing is not particularly well

organized, but the breeder gets a bigger share of the price the consumer pays.

COMING to Pork, 1. The breeding stock is no great problem as pigs breed so rapidly. Government makes periodical imports of good quality breeding stock, for distribution to breeders, and some large breeders import good stock themselves. 2. The feed represents a major problem. Pigs need a diet with a low fibre content, and their rapid growth rate calls for a high protein diet. Therefore, in the major pig rearing countries of the world, pigs are fed on cereals, usually maize or barley, reinforced with high protein oil seed cake, and fish meal or meat meal. It will be soon that Ceylon is quite unable to produce the cereals needed for even human consumption, and the only oil seed cake available is coconut poonac, and even this fluctuates so much in price and in availability that it creates serious problems for the breeder. Attempts have been made to grow cassava to supply the fibre free carbohydrate portion of the diet, but this is only economic if the cassava is grown by the breeder himself, and even then he could make more money selling the yams for human consumption than by feeding his pigs. It will be clear that the lack of suitable feeding stuffs makes the expansion of pig breeding rather problematical.

3. The marketing represents few problems normally, as the bacon curers pay fair prices

for well reared pigs, and such pigs are always saleable. The rest, particularly the slow growing swill fed pigs, got to the pork butchers, who run their pig-collecting services, but the total consumption of pig meat is not high, as is evidenced by the fact that only about 10,000 pigs pass through the Colombo slaughter house annually, that is, less than 30 per day as against 250 head of cattle a day.

MUCH the same applies to Poultry. 1. The breeding stock presents no problems; a few hatcheries with annual importation of good parent stock are all that is necessary. 2. The feeding stuffs are the problem, as poultry too require cereals in quantity, together with good quality protein, all of which are in short supply locally. 3. Marketing facilities are reasonably good.

The production of eggs is restricted by the lack of feeding stuffs of good quality and would prevent the industry from expanding unless and until some solution can be found to the feed problem. Marketing facilities for eggs are fairly good, but from time to time temporary gluts arise with a consequently low price level.

Thus it would seem that the most likely solution to the meat supply problem lies in the expansion of cattle, goat and sheep breeding, where there is no major obstacle to development. The present time is particularly opportune for such a development, as the price level

that had been maintained at a very low level on account of the cheapness of the stock reared on the natural pastures of the Dry Zone, which meant that production costs were incurred only in the herding, has now risen as a result of the shortage of these cheaply reared animals.

It is therefore now possible for stock breeding on more commercial lines to develop, both in the Dry Zone and elsewhere. As pointed out earlier, any livestock must be profitable and at the current price level, provided a fair share of this is handed down to the breeder, he would be able to devote both time and money to improve his stock, or by better breeding and better feeding, produce larger and quicker maturing animals, and so increase his profits.

TO DEAL with cattle first, and starting with the Dry Zone where most of the cattle are reared, the first step would be the introduction of *fresh blood* into the village stock, to improve both the size and the growth rate. This is already being done on a fair scale by establishing Livestock Centres where Hariana Stud Bulls are made available, and the cross bred should prove to be both larger and quicker maturing, and capable of surviving in the rather arduous conditions of the dry season. In any case, sufficient data will soon be available of the growth rates, as well as the mortality rates, of these cross bred, as compared with

the local stock, which will enable any change found necessary to be made.

Of course, this cross breeding by itself will not be sufficient. The feeding must also be improved, and the most economical way of doing this must be found. There is an excellent pasture grass available, *Brachiaria brizantha*, the value of which has been proved in Tamankaduwa, but though the establishment of pastures is simple enough, their management is not so easy, particularly where the grazing animals belong to numerous small holders. Besides, even a specially planted pasture is subject to the same limitations as the natural pastures, in that the dry weather production is only a fraction of the wet weather production.

Hay making is possible, and in view of the very high productivity of the fodder grasses, particularly Pura Giant Napier, the most practical way of providing fodder for the dry season may well be the cultivation of fodder grass, heavily fertilized with nitrogen, together with the basic requirements of phosphate and potash, during the rainy season, for conservation for use when the natural pastures become unproductive.

This would mean that the cheapness of the natural pastures would be utilized to the fullest extent as at present, and these would be supplemented by the conserved fodder when the need arises. Of course, this

must be economic, but here again data on the weight gains of the animals fed in this manner, and especially of the cross bred animals, when balanced against the cost of the conserved fodder, and the value of these weight gains at the higher prices that can now be paid for slaughter stock will indicate the profitability or otherwise of the project.

To be concluded

GRAPE CULTIVATION

Why not in our Dry Zone?

GRAPE is one of the most remunerative fruit crops and has been receiving attention of growers recently. By selecting suitable early varieties it is now possible to grow grapes commercially in different areas in Ceylon. There are possibilities of commercially growing grapes in certain dry zone areas in Ceylon.

Grapes require warm, dry, rainless summer and a cool "winter." Rain during fruiting season (May-June) is harmful, resulting in loss of sweetness, uneven ripening and cracking of berries. Well drained soils are suitable for grape cultivation. Grape can be grown on a wide range of soils. Even

sandy and gravelly soils have yielded good crops of grape with adequate fertilisers and attention. Early maturing varieties which ripen during June are recommended for this region.

Pits of 75 cm broad 75 cm deep are dug in December and filled back with 1 to 1 mixture of top soil and farm yard or organic manures. One of super phosphate (single) and $\frac{1}{2}$ kg of potash may preferably be added to it. The soil should be allowed to settle by irrigation if there are no rains.

One year old rooted cutting is planted in each pit in the month of January. Spacing of grape depends on the type of training. Various systems of training are practised in different parts of the country depending on the vigour of the variety.

PRUNING can be done any time from the middle of December to the end of January. Pruning of vines for bearing is generally done about 2 or 3 years after planting. Until then the pruning of shoots is done only to train the plant to the desired shape. Since grape bears its bunches on the current season's shoots, it is customary to prune the previous year's cane to a definite length. The particular level depends on the variety.

Besides the initial dose of manure and fertiliser applied in the pit, one may fertilise the vines in March with a mixture of $\frac{1}{2}$ kg of potassium sulphate,

$\frac{1}{4}$ kg of super phosphate and $\frac{1}{4}$ kg of ammonium sulphate per vine. The vines require to be manured and fertilised regularly every year soon after pruning at the following rate per vine.

Farm yard manure or other organic manure at 25 kg and fertiliser mixture of 250 gms ammonium sulphate, 150 gms super phosphate and 150 gms potassium sulphate. The doses of fertilisers may be increased per vine after the attainment of bearing age. A dose of 0.5 kg of ammonium sulphate per vine may be applied in April for berry development.

Irrigate the vines soon after planting. Irrigation is also necessary after the application of manures and fertilisers. Subsequent irrigation should be given at bi-weekly or weekly intervals and this is particularly important, when berry development is in progress.

Gibberellic acid increases the size of the berries to almost double in seedless variety. The strength of the solution is 75 ppm and applied either in spray or dip at post-bloom stage.

Harvest grapes when they are fully ripe. Premature harvest of green bunches should not be done. Unlike mangoes, grapes do not sweeten after harvest. The time of harvest of bunches depends on the variety and the sweetness that is expected to be attained.

Better Manure, Better Sanitation

by V. K. SRIVASTAWA

THE existing method of composting in rural areas involves collecting cattle litter and garbage and dumping it into heaps in and around the village. This indiscriminate throwing causes communicable diseases. This health hazard can be checked by the method of sanitary composting which not only improves the sanitary conditions but also provides better manure.

Sanitary composting means accumulating the wastes in compost pits and sealing the pit with a layer of earth. A compost pit is a simple masonry hole dug in the ground. Its size is 6x4x3 feet. For full decomposition of the refuse, it is necessary that the depth of the pit should not exceed three feet.

During winter season the usual practice is to store vegetable refuse, grass, leaves, straw etc., in the cattle sheds and to use it as a mattress for cattle. When soiled with cattle dung and urine it becomes rich in manurial potential. This cattle litter is usually not removed to pits everyday but at inter-

vals of several days. It is better to remove it every day.

FOR SANITARY disposal of cattle litter, it should be moistened first with some water, dumped into the pit and then covered with a 4 to 6 inches of hard layer of earth. During monsoon, no fuel cakes should be prepared so that the pit receives almost all the cattle dung everyday in addition to house refuse and garbage. In rainy season after a layer of cattle dung in pits a layer of house refuse should follow. This process of layering is to be repeated for a week and then the pit is sealed with a half to one inch of earth. When the pit is completely filled, it is rammed with a 4 to 6 inch layer of earth according to the procedure recommended for winter season. Sealing of the pit regularly, prevents insect and fly breeding. Experiments have revealed that the manure obtained in this manner is more rich than the one derived from usual heaps.

MUSHROOMS

The Edible Fleshy Fungus

A DELICATE fleshy fungus is fast becoming the cultivable specie designed to reach the dining table in every home. It has become an object of

intense attention by scientists and food technologists. Their study is already a problem of food and protein balance. Alarmed by ever increasing number of mouths to be fed as against the diminishing food production, they are out to find such substitutes in the realm of flora and fauna whose use as an item of human consumption has either been unknown so far or very limited. One of such species is *mushroom* which has revealed amazing nutrition values. It is an ideal protein-rich dainty food, both for vegetarians and non-vegetarians.

Much has been said about mushrooms in legends and superstitions. Mushrooms have been worshipped in many primitive cultures. The Mayans' culture, which flourished in Mexico around 2500 B. C., regarded these as divine. The Romans described mushrooms as "food for the Gods". According to Greek and Roman myths these strange plants spring from strokes of lightning. The Red Indians believe that mushrooms are born as a result of sexual intercourse between a bolt of lightning and the earth. The New Guinea women eat mushrooms to prevent conception. These are also used for inducing hallucination and other sensual pleasures.

MUSHROOMS, known in India as 'Kukarmutta, or 'Khumb' often grow in the open fields, grasslands and in the humus deposits during the rainy season, thriving best in

FOR THE RECORD

PM's Policy Statement - 2

hilly areas, especially in moist and shady places. Not all mushroom are edible. There are some poisonous varieties which are generally termed as 'toadstools'. *Agaricus campestris* is the commonest-known edible variety. *Amarita* is the deadliest of poisonous toadstools.

The edible mushroom *Agaricus* consists of two parts. The part above the ground bears stalk and cap. Stalk is the main edible portion. Mushrooms vary in shape, size and flavour. Most of them look beautiful by their peculiar shapes, which can be likened to a mini-umbrella, or a lump of jelly, or head of bear or a huge ear or a trumpet. Likewise they possess delectable colours which could be yellow, red, brown, green, blue, violet, white or black. In flavours too, they have a range of best to worst.

Mushroom dishes are quite popular in Europe and America, and lately other countries have also taken up their cultivation. Mushrooms are a valuable source of nourishment. They contain: water 88 per cent, proteins 4 per cent, and carbohydrates 8 per cent. Mushrooms are also rich in folic acid, vitamins B and C and minerals. Being devoid of starch they form a good substitute diet for diabetic patients. The cultivated *Agaricus bisporous* variety has more than twice the protein value of spinach or potatoes and a much higher protein content than cabbage.

This is the second and concluding part of the PM's policy statement tabled in the National Assembly on June 23, 1972.

ONE of the major innovations that have been brought about has been the setting up of the Territorial Civil Engineering Organisation which will speed up engineering construction in the country. During the last financial year, the Territorial Service has provided irrigation facilities for 8,350 acres of new land and improved facilities for 7,600 acres. In the current year, it is proposed to provide irrigation facilities to 12,440 acres. Approximately 10,000 village tanks will be restored during the next five years. Work on two major projects, Lunugawehera Reservoir Scheme in the Hambantota District and Wahalkada Reservoir Scheme in the Anuradhapura District will be commenced shortly to bring under cultivation 21,800 acres of new land. Sri Lanka is participating in the Asian Highway project which aims to establish a trunk road from East to West, across Asia. A new Highways Act to meet modern requirements will repeal and replace the Thoroughfares Ordinance.

Five major Water Supply Schemes in the south-west coastal area for towns north of Colombo, Ambalangoda, towns south of Colombo, Kalutara Stage 1, Galle and Ratnapura together with 20 Urban Water Supply Schemes and 100 Rural Water Supply Schemes with UNICEF assistance will be inaugurated during the next five years.

Legislation will be introduced for the establishment of a National Water Supply and Drainage Board to develop, provide, operate and maintain efficient and co-ordinated water supply and sewerage systems.

Phase 1, Stage 1, of the Mahaweli Development Project is under way. At the conclusion of this programme, 84,500 acres of new lands would be developed under irrigation. In addition, 102,000 acres will have improved irrigation facilities. The project is envisaged as a multi-purpose project and will generate 36 Mega watts to the national grid. Under the Rural Electrification Scheme 125 villages will get electricity in 1972 and another 75 villages in 1973.

A fresh five-year programme covering another 50 villages is proposed to be undertaken.

A major development project of the Electricity Board is the Maskeliya Oya Project, Stage II, to generate 100 Megawatts of hydro electric power. On completion of Stage II of the Maskeliya Oya Project in 1973 the present installed capacity of 261 Megawatts would be further augmented by 400 megawatts. It is also planned to construct the Samanalawewa Hydro-Electric Project with a capacity of 120 Megawatts. The Government has set up the State Development and Construction Corporation to undertake all major works including the Mahaweli Development Project.

DURING the last two years the Government has been responsible through the Ministry of Housing and Construction for constructing or helping to construct nearly 7,000 housing units for lower or middle income groups. 470 acres of land have been acquired for Housing Societies and this has enabled 2,840 members of Housing Societies to build their own homes. The contractor system has been replaced by direct labour and the Department of Buildings and the State Engineering Corporation have completed approximately Rs. 200 million worth of construction work. A Building Materials Corporation was set up in June 1971 to help in organising procurement, production and distribution of building materials. A new Rent Act which extends rent restriction to all residential premises and which benefit

nearly 100,000 families in tenanted houses has been passed and is being implemented. As announced earlier, a law to regulate the ownership of house property will be introduced shortly.

A National Housing Development Authority will be established to acquire and develop buildable land and stimulate house construction. Measures will be taken shortly to provide new incentives for private sector investment in housing and to help smaller tenants to purchase the houses they occupy.

Channelled Consultation Practice for doctors in Government Hospitals which was allowed from 1964 as an intermediate step in the total abolition of Private Practice for Medical Officers was abolished within the District of Colombo with effect from February this year. Dental services were extended to several areas of the island with the opening up of 17 branch units. The Family Health Programme which covers Family Planning and pre-natal and post-natal health services is being expanded. A White Paper incorporating the proposed changes in the Ayurvedic system of medicine in this country will be published shortly.

A MEDIUM-TERM plan for the development of education has been prepared and will be implemented during the period 1972 to 1977. This programme will assist pupils in developing favourable attitudes

towards occupations in their communities. University education has been re-organised by the establishment of a single University with five Campuses. Further Campuses in the South, North and East of Sri Lanka will be established in accordance with the United Front Manifesto. Increasing emphasis is being placed on science and technical education throughout the educational system.

There has been a substantial increase in the funds allocated for Public Assistance both totally and individually. A Children's Charter will shortly be presented to the National State Assembly. Amendments to bring the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance up to date will be introduced. An Act to re-organise the National Archives will be presented to the National Assembly shortly. A Folk Museum has been established at Anuradhapura. With a view to propagating the Dhamma, action has been taken to expedite translation of the Tripitaka into Sinhala and work in connection with the Buddhist Encyclopaedia is in progress.

Action has been taken to establish six new Wages Boards and 13 new Remuneration Tribunals for different trades and industries. The Shop and Office Employees' Act has been amended to afford wider statutory protection and it is intended to introduce further legislation as a greater measure of protection to working people particularly women and young

persons. The negotiation of 34 collective agreements between unions and employers over the last two years has helped considerably to maintain industrial peace. By an Act of Parliament, termination of employment in the private sector without permission has been prohibited. In the coming year the Factories Ordinance will be amended to promote the safety and welfare of industrial workers.

WORK on the Galle Inner Harbour Development Scheme has been completed. Work on the development of the Ports of Colombo and Trincomalee is in progress. A Coast Protection Law to safeguard the foreshore and to reduce pollution will be introduced shortly. Improvement in the efficiency in the Port has resulted in considerable savings in demurrage on food cargo. A major reason for this improvement is the establishment of Workers' Councils in the Ports of Colombo, Galle and Trincomalee which has resulted in closer co-operation between workers and the management in these Ports.

The Ceylon Shipping Corporation acquired three ships in the last two years and is now the sole charterer for all Government Departments and Corporations. A Joint Shipping Service Agreement with the People's Republic of China concluded in April this year has provided Sri Lanka with two more cargo vessels of about 5,000 tons each. These ships will be manned mainly by Cey-

lonese crews. It is proposed to operate a Tanker Service jointly by the Ceylon Shipping Corporation and the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation to carry the country's requirements of crude oil. A new law for the carriage of goods by sea will shortly be introduced.

Greater emphasis will be placed on the propaganda work and publicity for *wild life conservation*. The first phase of the Bentota holiday resort has been completed with three hotels in operation. The Sigiriya camping complex has been completed and the Polonnaruwa resort and three hotel projects therein are under construction. The hotel capacity of the country now consists of 1,669 rooms, 637 of which were brought into operation in 1970 and 1971. Eleven hotels with over 800 rooms are under construction and are to be completed in the current year. Domestic tourism is being actively encouraged. The tourist industry remains a field open for active private sector participation with the State Agencies playing a complementary role.

Steps are being taken to improve radio reception in the Northern, Eastern, Sabaragamuwa, and Uva provinces where Medium Wave reception is poor. A State Film Corporation has been established and is now responsible for the import and distribution of films and the development of the local film industry.

A Press Council Bill will be introduced in the National

State Assembly shortly. A law will be introduced to broaden the ownership of shares in the *Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd*, and to prevent persons found guilty of Exchange Control malpractices from controlling the affairs of the company.

IN PURSUANCE of its policy of encouraging and developing sports activities throughout the country, especially in rural areas, the Government conducted over 200 coaching camps in all fields of sports and over 40,000 young people have benefited from these Camps. Schools, Clubs and Community Centres in remote areas are regularly visited by Sports Officers attached to DRO's offices.

The number of buses available to the C.T.B. has been increased from 5,734 in June 1970, of which approximately 1,645 were off the road, to 6,045 buses at present, of which 997 are new vehicles. Steps were taken to close down uneconomic railway services and to re-organise the operations on the remaining lines. In civil aviation, the domestic air services were increased in frequency. A new agreement was signed with UTA to enable Air Ceylon to purchase a D.C. 8 aircraft and to fly it under the Ceylon flag with almost entirely Ceylonese crews. Postal facilities have been substantially extended and improved. Subscriber dialling has been extended and will be extended in 1972 to cover the

Western and Southern Provinces. A new Telex Service with Western countries has been opened. A Communication Earth Station with an automatic international telephone exchange is being installed with assistance from the Asian Development Bank.

In keeping with the election Manifesto of the United Front, full trade union and political rights have been accorded to State Officers: Advisory Committees have been set up in all Government Departments; Employees Councils in factories and work places; and People's Committees in selected areas. Dissatisfaction over transfers has been reduced by the institution of Transfer Boards with trade union representation.

The functional decentralisation of the District Administration in order to bring it closer to the people is being actively pursued. Many new administrative districts and DRO's divisions are being established. With the co-operation of the Bank of Ceylon, Banks have been set up in Katchcheries.

PAST INJUSTICES to state officers during the period 1965 to 1970 by victimisation for political and trade union activity have been redressed. A law constituting the office of Ombudsman will be introduced. A commission will be appointed to re-examine boundary demarcations in order to ensure that all local authorities will be financially viable and truly representative. In ac-

cordance with the United Front Manifesto, the proposals to place local government service employees on a par with State Officers are being examined.

The Criminal Justice Commission appointed to investigate and punish offenders in connection with the insurgency in April 1971 has commenced

NUMBER OF PERSONS GIVEN EMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS

1. Ministry of Defence & External Affairs —			
Regular employment	...	5,329	
Volunteers	4,150	
		—	9,479
2. Ministry of Planning & Employment —			
Graduate Trainees	4,000	
Development Councils Projects	9,556	
		—	13,556
3. Ministry of Irrigation, Power & Highways			4,718
4. Ministry of Foreign & Internal Trade			5,845
5. Ministry of Education		17,000
6. Ministry of Shipping & Tourism			4,986
7. Ministry of Labour		7,310
8. Ministry of Public Administration, Local Government & Home Affairs	...		4,728
9. Ministry of Industries & Scientific Affairs —			
Public Sector	7,100	
Private Sector	5,000	
		—	12,100
10. Ministry of Finance		1,414
11. Ministry of Communications	...		12,414
12. Ministry of Plantation Industry	...		350
13. Ministry of Constitutional Affairs			5
14. Ministry of Justice		370
15. Ministry of Agriculture & Lands —			
Youth Settlement Schemes	2,000	
Co-operative Group Farms	600	
		—	2,600
16. Ministry of Fisheries		53
Fisheries Co-operatives	3,692	
		—	3,745
17. Ministry of Housing & Construction			8,477
18. Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications			959
19. Ministry of Health		5,363
20. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting			820
21. Ministry of Social Services		568
22. Ministry of Cultural Affairs		319
23. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs & Sports	...		54
			997,180

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sittings. Another Criminal Justice Commission to inquire into foreign exchange offences that are being investigated will be appointed shortly. The laws and procedures relating to bribery and corruption will be amended to deal with offenders effectively and speedily and to furnish a real deterrent. Legislation will also be introduced for the punishment of State Officers found by a Commission of Inquiry or by the Auditor-General to be guilty of fraud or of irregularities resulting in financial loss to the Government.

The legislative programme of the Government for the year 1972 will simplify legal procedures and render recourse by the litigant to the Law Courts less expensive. Laws will be introduced to amend appeals procedure. Non-summary proceedings will be abolished. Suspended sentences will be introduced for certain types of crime. Conciliation Boards will be given wider powers. New laws for the settlement of debts and to clear land titles will be introduced. An office of Director of Prosecutions under the Attorney-General will be established. A new Courts Act will also be introduced to replace the old Courts Ordinance. Steps are being taken to provide for the use of Sinhala in Courts throughout the Island and for the use of Tamil also in Courts situated in the Northern and Eastern Provinces in accordance with the Provisions of the Constitution.

On the Soviet Space Centre

by JOHN NOBLE WILFORD

ZVEZDNY GORODUK,

U.S.S.R.

AVISIT to the place where the Russian astronauts live and train produces the clear impression that the Soviet Union is actively and optimistically expanding its space program. At a time when the American program is contracting, construction is under way here on a large complex of buildings that the Russians say will house new training equipment for manned earth-orbiting laboratories, a high-priority Soviet effort. The facility should be completed this year.

A one-day visit to Zvezdny Gorodok, which means Stellar Town but is usually translated as Star City, was the first by a Western correspondent. It included a long interview with Maj. Gen. Vladimir A. Shatalov, the 44-year-old astronaut of three Soyuz missions who is now chief of astronaut training. The Russian astronauts speak of preparations for forthcoming missions to test man's endurance during even longer periods of weightlessness. They do not discount their chances of landing on the moon, perhaps as early as 1975.

After the interview, General Shatalov volunteered a toast to the Soviet Union and the United States, "working together in space." Permission for the visit itself was another of several recent gestures toward warmer relations between the two nations, once intense space rivals. The visit to Star City and the interviews with the astronauts were arranged by Novosti Press Agency, the authorized channel between foreign newsmen and official Soviet institutions.

STAR CITY, which in many respects is the Soviet equivalent of the manned spacecraft Center in Houston, is situated about 25 miles northeast of downtown Moscow near the industrial town of Shchelkovo. It is not identified on any public maps and is hidden from the highway by a forest of fir, pine and birch.

There is no sign at the guarded gate to suggest what lies down the narrow road into the forest. In a broad, snow-covered clearing less than a mile from the gate, there is a dark bronze statue of Yuri Gagarin, the first man to go into space. About a dozen modern buildings are in view—high-rise apartments where the astronauts and technicians live, a school where their children attend, a hotel and small shopping center, the "house of culture" and the construction site of the new training facility.

Asked how many people live here, the Soviet guide replied: "As many as are neces-

sary for the fulfillment of our space program." The Russians do not release statistics on the money and people involved in their space program. From the size and number of the apartment buildings however, a rough estimate might be 1,500 to 2,000 inhabitants at Star City. The place is smaller than the Houston space center because it does not also serve as the mission control complex and apparently has no primary responsibility for the management of spacecraft design and development.

But like Houston, Star City is where the astronauts undergo physical and technical training for their missions. Off in the forest, behind a green wood fence are the training facilities—an office and classroom building, spacecraft simulator building, medical center, central heating plant, gymnasium, indoor swimming pool, athletic field, and living quarters, where the astronauts rest and are examined after a flight.

THE TRAINING area is closed to nearly all visitors. "Nothing secret about it," General Shatalov said. "We just don't want journalists to interfere with the working atmosphere of the astronauts."

However, General Shatalov said that the medical center contained the centrifuge, a device that revolves and spins to test a person's ability to withstand the high gravity forces of launching and re-entry. The astronauts call it the "devil's merry-go-round."

In another building, there is a rotar, a cylinder chamber, in which the space men learn to maintain their orientation in the most extreme conditions. The inside walls are painted with diagonal black and white stripes. When the chamber rotates around the stationary chair in which the astronaut is seated, he must keep upright and learn not to lose his balance.

Like American astronauts, the Russians train in aircraft that make deep dives to create the effects of weightlessness for a short while. More Soviet emphasis is also placed on parachuting as a test of one's ability to handle high-stress situations.

American space officials who visited Star City last year and were permitted to see the training area report that the computerized simulator of the Soyuz, the present generation of Soviet manned spacecraft, followed "principles similar to ours." The big round simulator, which has all the control panels of the real Soyuz, is designed so that an operator outside can introduce possible flight problems that the astronauts must react to and overcome.

The Soviet simulator was described by American engineers as less sophisticated than Apollo training machines, more comparable to those for the earlier Gemini program.

The astronauts have no full-scale simulator for Salyut, the large space station that is

launched unmanned and then visited by astronauts in Soyuz vehicles. The first Salyut was launched nearly a year ago, and then was the object of rendezvous and docking exercises by Soyuz 10 and a 24-day visit by Soyuz 11.

General Shatalov said that a Salyut simulator would be a major facility in the new training buildings. Since the facility will not be completed until the end of the year, this could mean that no major advance beyond the present version of Salyut should be expected until well after the simulator is ready.

AT PRESENT, General Shatalov said, there are about 50 astronauts in the program, about the same size as the American astronaut corps. A third of the Russians are civilian engineers, many of whom live in Moscow near the laboratories where they also work. The others are Air Force pilots, who live at Star City.

General Shatalov became training chief last year when Col. Gen. Nikolai P. Kamanin retired. Other veteran astronauts who help direct the training are Maj. Gen. Georgie T. Beregovoi, Maj. Gen. Andrian G. Nikolayev and Lieut. Col. Aleksei A. Leonov.

Although the only woman to go into space, Valentina Tereshkova, was Russian, General Shatalov said that no women are currently preparing for missions. "In the future, especially in long space flights, women will take their places in our spaceships," the general

explained. "They will be going as specialists. We have many women who specialize in meteorology and medicine, which are professions necessary on the orbital stations."

From General Shatalov and Aleksei S. Yeliseyev, a civilian astronaut and engineer, it was possible to piece together an outline of the preparations for a space mission. They differ only in details from those for American manned missions.

Russian astronauts are usually assigned to specific missions about a year before the planned launching. This is said to be about the time it takes to assemble their spacecraft, an enterprise they follow closely with many visits to the production plant at an undisclosed place. For each mission there are two back-up crews, as there are for Apollo.

CREWS are chosen by a "commission" of about 20 members. These include medical and spacecraft engineering experts, as well as General Shatalov. Most of the year is occupied with classroom work, learning the mechanics and electronics of the spacecraft and the various experiments, and with practice in the simulator.

About three weeks before the launching, the crew goes to the Baikonur Cosmodrome, which is Kazakhstan. This is the Soviet Cape Kennedy, the site of all manned, lunar and planetary launchings.

At Baikonur, the crew completes its training

in the spacecraft itself. The men check the instruments, stock the compartments with food, adjust the couches to suit themselves and recommend minor housekeeping changes in the cabin. Unlike Cape Kennedy, Baikonur has no simulators where the crew can have a last minute practice of mission manoeuvres.

In the last two days before launching, after the state commission approves the spaceship's readiness, the space men relax, exercise and see movies, usually light comedies. The identity and scope of the state commission has never been disclosed, but it presumably incorporates many functions similar to those of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

On the morning of the launching, much as the Apollo astronauts do, the Russians undergo a brief medical examination, have bio-medical sensors attached to their bodies and don their space suits.

In the Russian tradition, before a journey, the men gather in one room of their living quarters and sit silently for a few moments. The silence is then broken by shouts of "off we go," and the men sign their names on the door as they leave for the launching pad.

During the flight, the families remain in Star City. The wives of other astronauts join the "waiting wives" to help relieve the tension. Mrs. Shatalov, who is working on her doctoral thesis in agronomy,

said she was kept so busy baking cabbage pies for her guests that she had no time to worry.

THE WIVES also gather to celebrate the landing and, as General Shatalov complains, "Usually break all the China—I have had to buy new china three times."

After the mission, the astronauts return to Star City for medical examinations and briefings with program directors. For the short flight, this takes about three to five days. For the 18-day Soyuz 9 in 1970, the two pilots stayed in virtual confinement for two weeks while their bodies re-adjusted to earth's gravity.

Mr. Yeliseyev, a 37-year-old engineer, went back to work at his "design bureau" after his three flights. In fact, most of the civilian engineers in the corps devote more time to engineering than the astronaut training. This is a striking difference from the American program, where some scientist astronauts complain of not being allowed enough time to keep up with their professions.

Both Mr. Yeliseyev and his wife work at a laboratory—called a design bureau—in Moscow, where automatic control systems for space-craft are developed. The bureau consists of theoretical scientists, who design the systems, as well as engineers who "put them into metal," testing technicians and people who prepare the prototypes for assembly-line production.

Even while he was training for a flight, Mr. Yeliseyev remained on the design bureau's payroll. "I was considered on a business trip," he said with a smile.

Russian astronauts are expected to give some time each month to "social work"—appearances at schools, collective farms and factories. In addition to her work at Star City, Miss Tereshkova, who is married to General Nikolayev, serves as chairman of the Committee of Soviet Women, a group to foster ties with women's organizations around the world.

IN THE interviews, General Shatalov and Mr. Yeliseyev adhered to the usual Soviet practice of declining to discuss specific timetables of future missions. "We don't announce the dates," the general said, "because we don't want to bind the people who are preparing the flight."

But he suggested that new missions were possible in the next few months and that they should represent advances over past ones. Explaining the Soviet emphasis on earth-orbiting laboratories, General Shatalov said:

"The space flights of the last 10 years showed that space may be very useful to mankind, and that the most valuable uses lie nearest to earth. That's why you must create near-earth satellite laboratories. But first we have to learn how long man can live up there. That's why we are going to go a slow way and with each expedition try

to extend the length of stay. This aim is at the core of our program."

The chief of astronaut training said that Salyut represented "just the first step" in the space-station work. If the Soviet Union plans a much larger orbiting laboratory, however, American space sources in Washington think it could not be launched until a more powerful rocket is successfully tested. Such a rocket, larger than the Saturn 5, is understood to have encountered serious difficulties before a planned test in 1969.

A larger rocket would also be required for the Russians to attempt to land men on the moon, a goal they apparently once sought vigorously, but then moved to lower priority in the wake of the American successes. Mr. Yeliseyev said that moon flights were not planned "in the nearest future."

Asked if 1975 might be a realistic projection, he replied: "Yes. By that time we will probably send our people to the moon."

But at a long, late-afternoon luncheon at the Shatalovs, winding up the day at Star City, there was more talk of enlarging the kindergarten than of reaching the moon, more reminiscences of Sundays gathering mushrooms in nearby forests than of orbiting earth.

Their 13-year-old daughter, Yelena, shyly practiced her English. The mother beamed

FRANCE

Trade with China :
Politics from China

Paris,

If a successful formula exists for trading with the new China, France ought to know what it is. France has been seeking it since 1964. In fact, last year, the eighth since diplomatic relations were re-established, France did sell \$124 million worth of goods to China, 38 percent more than the year before.

Or rather, China bought that much from France. Discussions with the leading French exporter, with French trade experts, and with firms specializing in the China trade indicate you don't sell to China. China buys.

Even so, a firm able to supply suitable goods in one of the six product classes today welcomed by China has a lot to do. First the seller must come up with a minimum of 20 sets of a complete technical and photographic presentation of

AN AMERICAN REPORTS
from P. 18

as guests took second helpings of pelmeni, a spicy Siberian dish something like ravioli. Then they offered vodka toasts to peace and man's future in space.

his product (and another 20 sets in English if the first one isn't). Then he must either lure an official guild mission or representative to visit his factory or must himself get in touch by going to the Canton Fair, held twice each year.

These all-powerful guilds—the Chinese word, I'm told, could also be translated "corporation" or "department"—are entrusted, each in its own field, with an export-import monopoly, the state itself being the sole source of all rights to buy or sell abroad.

THE aspiring French exporter can make preliminary contacts with the commercial counselor of the Chinese embassy in Paris and the commercial counselor of the French Embassy in Peking. But, according to the relatively few successful exporters, the Canton Fair is the surest, and most interesting, major step. A French company dealing in special steels, for example, visited the fair largely out of curiosity and has built up a very valuable trade.

The most important of all French exports to China, however, has depended on Chinese initiative, the supply of heavy Berliet trucks for the north-

south roads. These roads carry about 40 percent of all the transport of China, as they bring coal from the north and bring back grain from the south.

China's 18,000 or 19,000 miles of railways do not meet this need, and the 100,000 miles of waterway, though carrying a tenth of the nation's traffic, are chiefly east-west. A quarter of a million miles of roads exist, but most are difficult, and powerful trucks are needed. Ten years ago, even before diplomatic recognition, China decided on Berliet, and today just over 10,000 Berliet trucks are in use.

Of France's \$124 million of sales to China in 1971, nearly all of \$76 million worth of vehicles were from Berliet. What do they do with them, exactly? How are they serviced? "We haven't the slightest idea," a Berliet official said. "We see their technical representatives. We supply the trucks. They keep absolutely to their promises to receive and pay. The rest is mystery."

THIS comment on Chinese reliability was universal among French firms who had dealt with China, including two firms who specialize in making up orders of miscellaneous goods on Chinese instructions. Negotiations, they say, are very slow, very friendly, very painstaking. But everything is clockwork once the deal has been signed.

Of the remaining \$48 million worth of French goods bought

by China in 1971, half were in boilers and iron and steel goods, \$4 million in chemicals, the same amount in nickel, \$2 million in synthetic textiles, and \$14 million in miscellaneous supplies that included consumer goods—some cycles and about \$100,000 in jewelry and ornaments. The \$19 million worth of wheat in 1970 vanished in 1971, just as did Australia's sale of wheat to China, when the Chinese shifted to Canadian wheat.

How important is the Chinese market? According to France's China experts, Peking is successfully beating import down to the exports level. The market for foreigners is therefore precise and not over, at present, a possible \$2 billion total. Even this must be balanced by Chinese exports. The success of China export control is proved by the fact that China's foreign-trade deficit of \$220 million in the first half of 1970 was cut to \$35 million in the first half of 1971.

THE SIX classes of products sought by China today, according to French experts, are: (1) locomotives—Alstom has received a \$40 million order for 50—and trucks, which appear to be firmly in Berliet hands; (2) agricultural machinery; (3) equipment for petrochemical and chemical plants; (4) machine tools in general; (5) nonferrous metals; and (6) a very few kinds of consumer goods.

The best approach to the market is still through the submission of documentation

and by visits to the Canton Fair, followed by visits from Chinese representatives. The number of full scale missions is limited, there having been a total of two in 1970, five in 1971 and two so far in 1972, to France. American firms, it has been suggested, might begin by making inquiries of the guild concerned with their products—for example in the case of machinery, to the Chinese National Society for the Import and Export of Machinery, Peking.

The potentiality of the market is vaguely indicated by its 800 million population, increasing about 15 million a year. A clearer idea is given by figures of estimated annual production, such as 17 million tons of chemical fertilizer, 21 million tons of gasoline, 246 million tons of cereals and 9 billion yards of cotton cloth.

THOUGH there is much enthusiasm for China in the sphere of trade, there is a great deal of confusion in the political arena, especially among leftwingers who had deified Mao in recent years. In the sidewalk restaurants of Paris where the vocal leftwingers foregather new quips have arisen about Chinese and their "cooking." It is said that the Chinese have world renown for their cooking. Even Marco Polo had not been able to hide his wonderment at the most unexpected combinations of the sweet and sharp-tasting dishes of the Chinese cuisine, at the ability of the Chinese

cooks to prepare wonderful dishes out of such materials as swallows' nests, shark fins and other victuals which Europeans would normally consider inedible. Even the French who have a reputation for eating such unorthodox dishes like the legs of frogs are often repelled by some dishes turned out by the Chinese, earth worms for instance, even if they are richly garnished by soya bean sauce and washed down by the fiery *mao tai*.

Leftwinger wits now crack that similar repulsive attitudes have grown in Europe towards the new dishes created by China's political cuisine on the recipes of Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai. These dishes have become especially unpopular at the moment—though this may sound paradoxical—among leftwingers who until recently had hailed the "evolutionary course" of Peking as the infallible wisdom of the supreme helmsman.

There is, it must be mentioned, great disappointment in French leftwing circles about developments in Vietnam. These one-time Maoists seemed to be convinced that the Americans had started the bombing of North Vietnam with Chinese collusion. The French have great interest in Vietnam—it was one of their former outposts—and it is felt that the bombing had prevented an offensive in Vietnam at the time of Nixon's visit to Peking. Much significance is attached to the fact that the North Vietnamese Information Agency

reprinted in its news bulletin a report from the French magazine *L'Entreprise* to the effect that in exchange for military and economic assistance in 1972, the Chinese demanded that the Vietnamese do not start an offensive in South Vietnam. Whether the *L'Entreprise* story had any basis of truth is not known, but it was significant that an official North Vietnamese agency should have cited it.

ONE-TIME French and other European Maoists are bitter about the current attitude to Vietnam. When Nixon was in Peking, the Chinese press had imposed a blackout on the Versailles conference on Vietnam, but no sooner Nixon had left, China had reverted to the formula that "China was a powerful rear for Vietnam." The Chinese turns and twists seemed inexplicable, but it is clear that they did not like Nixon going to Moscow so soon after his Peking visit. Chinese propaganda insist however that their present policies and dishes are prepared from old formulae of unfailling vailldity: that they are from time-tested recipes. This is to convince Mao's admirers that there is nothing wrong with the current Sino-American *detente*; that the fundamentals of Marxism allow temporary compromises, tactical manoeuvres and so on. It should be remembered that Peking and Mao had won the support of these leftwingers in France and in Europe primarily on the basis of ultra-revo-

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

On Space: The Gold Crisis: Sino-Lanka Communique

ON THE COVER this week we have a picture depicting the collaboration between the United States and the Soviet Union on space technology. It will be recalled that one of the agreements signed

lutionary anti-American slogans. The new Peking rapprochement with the USA undermines the very foundations of these pre-Maoist organisations in Europe and cuts the ground from under the feet of the extremist ultra-revolutionaries who had thrived on uninhibited anti-Americanism.

The last has not been heard about these outpourings in the ultra leftwing circles in Paris and in other cities in Europe. Will these elements be damned by Peking as supporters of the ultra 516 Group which had distorted the Cultural Revolution? The 516 Group is now anathema to the current leadership in Peking; and the 516 Group has been made the scapegoat for many of the bizarre caricatures which had emerged from the Cultural Revolution. Will it be made the whiplash to chastise European pre-Maoists who persist in their *ultra-ism*?

in Moscow when President Nixon visited the Soviet Union in the last week of May was one to have a joint space programme culminating in a joint flight in 1975. The USIS picture on our cover entitled US-SOVIET DOCKING STUDY shows three Russian space specialists (centre) examining a docking mechanism under evaluation at the manned Spacecraft Centre in Texas. Teams from the United States and the Soviet Union have begun studies aimed at developing compatible systems for their craft to rendezvous and dock in space. At right is D. C. Wade, head of the US group. The Russians from the left are: Y. G. Bobrov, V. I. Bagne and B. S. Chizhkov, all of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

In this issue we have included an article from the *New York Times* about the Soviet Space Centre written by an US journalist. The article is headed HOPE AMID EXPANSION and it provides a fitting background to the new US-Soviet collaboration on space technology. Furthermore, we have so far not had any detailed description of the Soviet Space Centre and this article written by an American,

drawing comparisons with the US, is a very interesting study. Also included in this issue is the first instalment of a paper read by the Chairman of the Live Stock Development Board, Mr. R. H. de Mel, at a recent symposium on Animal Husbandry on the question of meat supply in Ceylon. The concluding part will appear in our next issue.

THE WORLD is now again in the throes of a fresh round of a monetary crisis. The price of gold has kept soaring and the result was that the British Government decided to float the pound on the international market. It is not clear how this crisis will be resolved, but the bankers of the leading industrialised countries have expressed the hope that a way could be found out of the current crisis. Whatever is done there is no doubt that the price of gold has to be revalued in terms of the dollar. This will mean serious repercussions within the USA, and also outside the USA for the dollar. But the floating of the pound will force a decision to be made on this question.

The last monetary crisis which led to a revaluation of gold really hit the developing countries of the third world. It was the poorer countries which were most adversely affected. As a result of the currency crisis the developing countries had lost \$1,000 millions in reserves and only gained \$300 millions as a result of gold re-

valuation—a net loss of \$700 millions. All this was caused by a crisis, in which they were neither consulted nor in any way responsible. Under the new currency arrangements the pound sterling and the French franc had a curiously prestigious position. As a final settlement by the Group of Ten (the world's leading monetary countries) the American dollar for the first time in its history had been devalued, while the Japanese yen, the West German mark, the Swiss and Belgian francs had all become more expensive. In the middle were the pound and the franc. In the monetary seesaw they had gone neither up nor down.

Little had been written about the currencies of a host of small countries. Many Commonwealth countries had taken the opportunity presented by the crisis to align themselves with the dollar and thus quietly devalue. Among these are Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Ghana and Nigeria, also Zaire (Congo Kinshasa) and Ethiopia, while Liberia had stayed with the dollar. South Africa had actually devalued by 12.88 per cent more than the dollar.

Gold, which has been worth \$35 an ounce since 1944, has been given a new official exchange rate of \$38 an ounce. The Americans thought that they would lose face if they devalued against the smaller monetary nations, but not if the world acknowledged that it was necessary to change the

gold-dollar relationship. The agreement implied that the dollar can only be devalued in terms of gold and that they both have a special monetary status.

So gold had earned another reprieve and countries like America and France with large gold stocks have benefitted as well as the gold producers like South Africa, Russia, Canada and Ghana.

When UNCTAD proposed that the developing countries should be allowed to participate in the creation of a new international monetary order last September, almost every nation in the Group of Ten (who held all monetary decisions in their hands) voted against the proposal. It was left to Mr. Manuel Perez Guerrero, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, to cable Mr. Pierre Paul Schweitzer of the International Monetary Fund putting the developing countries' view. He said that developing countries had already lost \$1,000 millions, in the value of their reserves owing to currency re-alignments. He estimated that a 10 per cent. rise in gold would increase the dollar value of reserves in non-socialist countries by \$3,600 millions, but of this the developing countries would only get \$330 millions.

Since he had cabled, gold has been revalued by nearly 8 per cent; so if Mr. Guerrero's figures are right the rich countries will gain nearly \$3,000 millions, while the whole of the poor world shares little

less than \$300 millions. As a result of the whole crisis developing countries are about \$700 millions down.

THIS WAS the situation in the last quarter of 1971 when the price of gold was revalued. What the new revaluation, which is inevitable, will bring is hard to say. But the developing countries which hold their reserves in convertible and other allegedly "strong" currencies will lose and only those rich countries which hold gold stocks or produce gold will benefit.

The Prime Minister has returned from China after a triumphal visit. The official communique released at the end of the visit sets out the position arising from the visit quite clearly.

This is the full text of the communique:—

"The Prime Minister of the Republic of Sri Lanka Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike paid a state visit to the People's Republic of China from June 24 to July 5, 1972 at the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

"During the visit, the Chinese people's great leader Chairman Mao Tse-Tung met Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike and had a cordial and friendly conversation with her. Acting Chairman of the People's Republic of China Tung Pi-wu and Vice-Chairman of the People's Republic of China Song Ching Ling respectively met Prime Minis-

ter Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

"During their stay in China the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and her party visited Peking, Shenyang, Tientsin and Shanghai and went to people's communes, factories, a water conservancy project and other places of interest and historical monuments. The warm and enthusiastic reception accorded to the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka by the Chinese people proved a visible and impressive reflection of the friendship and affection with which the Chinese people regarded the Prime Minister and the Government and the people of Sri Lanka. In the course of her visit Prime Minister Bandaranaike noted the immense progress which the Chinese people, under the inspiring leadership of Chairman Mao, had achieved since her last visit to China.

"During the visit, Premier Chou En-Lai and Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike had talks in a friendly, cordial and candid atmosphere on a wide range of subjects covering important international issues, the further development of relations and co-operation between Sri Lanka and the People's Republic of China and other questions of mutual interest. Both the Prime Ministers expressed deep satisfaction with the talks.

"In the review of bilateral relations, the two Prime Ministers felt that they had every reason for satisfaction over the

steady and progressive strengthening of the relations between the Republic of Sri Lanka and the People's Republic of China. It was noted that co-operation between the two Governments and peoples had expanded and advanced over a wide spectrum of areas, including political, economic, trade as well as in the fields of culture and sports.

"The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka expressed her deep personal appreciation and that of her own Government for the assistance China had rendered Sri Lanka over the years, particularly after the forming of her Government in May 1970: she also expressed her deep appreciation of China's Eight Principles in providing aid to developing countries, including the principles of equality, friendship and mutual benefit.

"In discussions on continuing economic co-operation between the two countries Prime Minister Bandaranaike acquainted the Chinese Premier with the broad objectives and strategy of the Five Year Plan of her Government. She stressed the determination of the Government of the Republic of Sri Lanka to pursue the twin goals of economic independence and economic growth despite many obstacles and hardships. The Chinese Government expressed admiration for the active efforts made by the Government of Sri Lanka under the leadership of Prime Minister Bandaranaike in building the country. In order to support Sri Lanka in developing her

national economy, the Chinese Government decided to provide the Government of Sri Lanka with a long-term loan free of interest.

"The Chinese Government expressed its sincere thanks to the Government of Sri Lanka for its support for the restoration of the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations. Prime Minister Bandaranaike expressed, in particular, her gratification over the role the Republic of Sri Lanka was able to play in bringing about the historic vote in the United Nations General Assembly at the 26th Session.

"The two leaders considered that the international situation is continuing to develop in a direction favourable to the people of the world. The countries of the Third World are playing an increasingly great role in international affairs. Prime Minister Bandaranaike stated that, as a non-aligned country, Sri Lanka had consistently stood for peaceful co-existence on the basis of the Five Principles between countries of different social systems and ideologies. The Chinese Government reaffirmed its firm support for the policy of independence, peace, neutrality and non-alignment pursued by the Government of Sri Lanka.

"The two leaders reviewed the problem of the constantly widening gap between developed and developing countries and agreed that developing countries should strive unitedly

to achieve an equitable international trading system. They particularly considered the difficulties of small developing countries and jointly took the view that a special responsibility exists on the part of developed states to ensure that the economic weakness of these countries is not exploited to encroach on their sovereignty and territorial integrity and to undermine their political independence. They also stressed the duty of developed states to support the economic independence of these countries.

"Referring to Sri Lanka's proposal for declaring the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, Prime Minister Bandaranaike conveyed the thanks of her Government for the support of the People's Republic of China and, in particular, for the assistance provided in ensuring the successful adoption of the Declaration at the United Nations General Assembly in December 1971. The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka acquainted the Chinese Premier with the further steps and initiatives that have been taken by her Government pursuant to this Resolution with a view to its speedy implementation. She expressed the hope that all nations concerned would take necessary action as envisaged in the Resolution to bring about its early realization. The Chinese Government held that the proposal put forward by Sri Lanka reflects the urgent desire of Afro-Asian countries to safeguard national independence and state sovereignty

and to oppose the aggression and expansion of the super powers. The Chinese Government and people expressed their resolute support for this just proposition. The Chinese Government complimented the Government of Sri Lanka and Prime Minister Bandaranaike, in particular, for her personal initiative on behalf of this proposal and held that the Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 16, 1971 at the 26th Session, entitled 'Declaration of the Indian Ocean, as a Zone of Peace,' should be respected.

"The two sides expressed their firm support to the Indochinese peoples in their just struggle for national liberation. They held that the Indochina question must be settled by the Indochinese peoples themselves in accordance with their own desires and free from foreign interference, and that all foreign armed forces should withdraw rapidly, completely and unconditionally from this region.

"The two sides expressed their firm support to the Palestinian and other Arab peoples in their just struggle against Israeli aggression supported by imperialism.

"The two sides expressed their concern over the present tension in the South Asian sub-continent and re-iterated that the outstanding issues in the region should be settled through peaceful negotiations on the principled basis of

complete equality, mutual respect for national independence and unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and mutual benefit and accommodation, and without resorting to the use or threat of force.

"In a review of the developments in Southern Africa, the two Prime Ministers reiterated their strong condemnation of colonialism and racism. They expressed firm support to the peoples of Asia and Africa in their national independence movements and the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and foreign aggression.

"The two sides reiterated that China and Sri Lanka would, together with all peace loving countries, continue to struggle for the objective of complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons on a world-wide scale

"The two sides deemed with satisfaction that the state visit to China paid by Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike of the Republic of Sri Lanka and the exchange of views between the leaders of the two countries had made an important contribution to the increase of the friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries and the promotion of the Afro-Asian people's cause of unity against imperialism.

(Signed)

Sirimavo Bandaranaike
Prime Minister of the
Republic of Sri Lanka

OPEN FORUM

The Role of the Aththa

Dr. Stanley Wijeyaratne of Peradeniya Road Kandy has sent us the following letter:

The two interesting letters on the role of the *Aththa* paper you published in your issue, (10. 6. 72) gives two diametrically opposite views regarding its role. As an enthusiastic supporter of this Government, I wish to say that the *Aththa* should take a stand between these two views.

It should not only be a dutiful U. F. supporter, as stated by one correspondent, but it should also try to guide the Government along a progressive and clean political path. We should profit from the lessons of the old *Lake House*, which gave unequivocal support to the UNP regime and covered up all its sins. *Lake House* did this with the genuine intention of giving a long lease of life to the UNP, but as everyone knows, this policy boomeranged to bring about the ultimate downfall of the UNP.

(Signed)

Chou En-Lai

Premier of the State Council
of the People's Republic
of China.

July 5, 1972.

The mistake the old *Aththa* made was that it did not give adequate publicity to the progressive steps taken by this Government, and also did not give adequate coverage to the various difficulties which this Government faced. Had it performed these functions too, its hard hitting exposure stories would have carried more weight and also borne the stamp of sincerity.

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