CALENDAR FOR FEB.

		SUN Rise	SUN Set	MOON Rise	MOON Set
Sunday	10	6 34	18 13	17 46	6 1
Monday	11	6 33	18 14	18 34	6 39
Tuesday	12	6 33	18 14	19 22	7 16
Wednesday	13	6 33	18 14	20 8	7 52

PHASES OF THE MOON

Monday 11 Full Moon 8 58

THE HINDU

SUNDAY, FEB. 10, 1952.

THE "CARE-TAKER" MINISTRY

THE constitution of a "care-taker" Ministry in Madras is a makeshift necessitated by lack of explicit guidance in the Constitution on such a situation as has arisen here. Unlike in countries like Britain where the General Election is held throughout the country on one day and the results are available within a day or two thereafter, the spreading of the elections here over weeks and the need for postponing elections to the State Upper House until after the elections to the Lower House have been completed have combined to bring about an anomaly. While a new popular Assembly has been elected, the old Assembly, not having been dissolved, also continues to exist. Besides, while the Congress has failed to secure an over-all majority in the new Assembly and the Ministry itself has suffered severe and disabling losses of personnel in the elections, there is no obvious successor to whom it can hand over. But the government of the State must be carried on without interruption and the only alternative, under the Constitution, to a Ministry of some sort is President's rule.

The Kumaraswami Raja Ministry, in tendering its resignation though after a period of anxious cogitation and even doubt, has done the right thing. The verdict of the electorate amounted to an unmistakable repudiation of the Ministry, as we have already pointed out. We are glad that those who were responsible for the decision saw that in the circumstances the defeated Ministers must quit at the earliest possible moment, even if this was not obligatory under the law. But we cannot understand how they came to make an exception with regard to Mr. Kumaraswami Raja himself. In such a discussion personalities should have no place. If due regard is to be had for constitutional principle and propriety, it is obviously undesirable that when an unwanted Ministry quits, the Chief Minister who is identified in the public mind with the Ministry in an exceptional way, should remain in office. On the contrary, the fact that he too has been defeated at the polls strongly emphasises the undesirability of his continuing in office. By the device of accepting the resignations of only those Ministers (other than Mr. Raja) who have been defeated in the elections G.O. the Governor has made it possible for the others to continue in office for the time being even after having tendered their resignations. In no circumstances, this was perhaps the simplest way of filling the lacuna that immediate acceptance of the resignation of the Ministry as a whole would have caused. But neither for the retention of Mr. Raja who has been defeated at the polls, nor for the retention of Mr. Sitarama Reddi who has been elected to the House of the People and who has resigned his membership of the Madras Assembly do we see any such urgent reason. As the Ministry is to attend only to routine work, a team of four would have been quite sufficient and none of them could have been appointed Chief Minister for the interim period. We trust this will yet be done.

Far more important, however, are the permanent arrangements that are to be made for carrying on the Government of the State. The press communique announcing the appointment of the "care-taker" Ministry states that H. E. the Governor, while appreciating the action of the Ministers in offering their resignation, "felt that in no other Ministry was immediately possible all that it could do was to refer the matter to the President." We could think, judging from the context, that the matter proposed to be referred to the President is the situation created by the resignation of the Ministry, and not any difficulty about finding a permanent Ministry which may be supposed to be inherent in the confused picture of parties that has emerged from the elections. For, though no party has an over-all majority, that by itself cannot be regarded as sufficient justification for assuming that a stable Ministry is impossible. A workable arrangement between two or more parties may be found possible and all reasonable opportunity must be given to enable this to be done. The assumption that the only alternative to a Ministry drawing its support from a single political party which enjoys a majority in the legislature is President's rule is not warranted by anything in the Constitution. President's rule can be thought of only when all legitimate ways of carrying on democratic government have been explored without success.

We trust that the Congress Party's agreement to run a "care-taker" Ministry means and betokens its willingness to make a serious attempt to see whether as the largest single party in the legislature it can secure enough support from other sections of the House in order to be able to form a stable Government. That, we would emphasise, is a responsibility which no democratic party wedded to working the Constitution can properly shirk. We may or may not love coalitions; but the vast bulk of the electorate will any day prefer a coalition to President's rule with another election in the offing. And that is a fact which political parties will ignore at their peril. It has been said on behalf of the Congress that it would welcome non-Congress legislators joining it on the basis of its creed, policy and programme. But we frankly doubt the possibility of this happening. Nor would such facile shifting of allegiance make for political honesty or conduce to the growth of true parties. A coalition with the organised groups of dissident Congressmen and of those Independents who are averse to the politics of the extreme Left should be more feasible. It may be objected that the reported actions and utterances of some K.M.P. leaders have not been helpful from this point of view; but this may be partly at least a reaction to the stand-offish attitude which some of the Congress leaders in this State have thought fit to adopt. Those sections of the K.M.P. and other non-Congress groups who are coquetting with the Communists may some day sorrowfully discover for themselves the truth of the saying about cutting the nose to spite the face. But the fact that they are grumpy is no justification for the Congress sulking like Achilles in his tent. If, as seems likely, we in this State shall have permanently to reckon with more than two parties it is best to face the problem boldly at the very start. The probability that any coalition the Congress can head will be rather more stable and far more broad-based on agreement than any the Communists can bring about is a consideration which the Congress must take into account. It imposes a moral obligation from which the Congress must not shrink.

The Art of Film

THE Government of India is to be congratulated on the organisation of the film festival in the big cities of India where the best films of other countries enable the Indian public to get some idea of what the cinema is capable as a serious art medium. Inevitably, the organisation of such a festival has not been easy; only some theatres have proved willing to show the films and the allotted time is too short for even the keenest film fan to see all the pictures on view. Fortunately, the widespread popularity of American and British films in this country has always enabled the public to see at least one section of the foreign cinema and compare it with the local product. Though Hollywood is often described as the purveyor of sensational crime stories and musical extravaganzas, it does frequently combine mass entertainment with material of genuine significance and the British film industry has also, in recent years, found that it pays to turn the moving camera on the various aspects of British life and character. The most remarkable films since the war, however, have tended to come from Italy where a group of young directors of genius have made their studies of the post-war Italian scene famous throughout the world as examples of humanism at its best. In the cinema, as in the other arts, one can portray the poor and the oppressed without being either propagandist or sentimental and pathetic. It is possible to find beauty in the darkest slums and humour in the remotest villages. This the Italians have done and they deserve the acclaim they have won. On the other hand, the films from Russia, China and Eastern Europe are films with a purpose and the purpose is often avowedly political. The governments of these countries have decreed that art must not be 'formalistic'; it must not be art for art's sake or limit itself to invoking the sense of 'tears of things.' It must rouse the audience to the need for action. It is significant that the new Motion Picture Training School in Peking, which has been set up to train actors and writers begins its course with the history of the Chinese revolution, the principles of Marx and Lenin, and current history. The students are also expected to keep in touch with the people by visits to farms and factories. This preoccupation with the propagandist value of the film does not necessarily result in dullness; the best films are technically excellent and exciting but characters and stories do tend to become stereotyped and there is only one kind of heroism.

As Mr. P. V. Rajamannar pointed out the other day, the Indian cinema has made considerable progress in recent years, particularly on the technical side. But, as he also added, there is an unwillingness to experiment which results in conservatism and imitation. Despite the wealth of historical and social material, despite the opportunities offered by the variety of Indian landscape, there has been a surprising absence of creative activity. Set characters and set situations result in the production of endless melodramas which are of ephemeral value. There have been a few happy exceptions, but on the whole the fear of the box-office inhibits adventurousness. It is true, up to a point, that audiences brought up on the old musical dramas have certain expectations, but it does not follow that there is no way out of routine. As the example of Hollywood shows, a picture out of the ordinary often catches the popular imagination and blazes new trails for the art as a whole. Our film technicians and directors should study the foreign films now made available to them and try to appreciate their value. Many of these films were exceptions in their own country and have explored new ways in the development of the art of the film.

POSTAL BALLOT

RULES REVISED

NEW DELHI, Feb. 9.

A revised postal ballot form which will ensure in full the secrecy of the ballot has been prescribed by certain further amendments made to the Representation of the People (Conduct of elections and election petitions) Rules, 1951.

Under the amended rules, it will be possible now for an elector to get the attestation signed in advance of the actual marking of preferences. It will also be possible at counting time to detach the voting paper from the declaration made by the voter and attestation of his signature, without anyone being able to see how a particular elector has voted.

Another important amendment to the rules will enable an elector to deliver his postal ballot paper to the Returning Officer either by post or in person or by a messenger not later than the date fixed for the poll.

Voting by postal ballot is the system adopted for election from the graduates', teachers, and local authorities' constituencies to the State Legislative Councils of Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Mysore, Punjab, U.P. and West Bengal.

These and certain other consequential amendments to the Representation of the People (Conduct of elections and election petitions) Rules, 1951, have been notified in a Gazette of India extraordinary.

COMMUNIST GAINS IN S. INDIA

VINOBA BHAVE'S VIEW

FARUKHABAD, Feb. 9.

Acharya Vinoba Bhave said here to-day that there was no reason for anybody to fear if the Communists had come out successful in the general elections in the South.

The Acharya told a public meeting here: "Of course, you have to fear if you are determined not to serve the poor." He had toured Telengana without any fear and was welcomed by all. "What else can anybody give me except love? In spite of the hold of the Communists in the area, people were engaged in *kirtan* and *bhajan* from morning to evening. Ramnam filled the day throughout the two months I was there. I told them that Communists will come and Communists will go, but Ramnam will remain eternal in our land. Service of the poor is the only solution."—PTI.

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

MAJORITY FOR CONGRESS

249 SEATS WON SO FAR

AZAD AND KESKAR RETURNED

BOMBAY, Feb. 9.

India has chosen a Congress Government for the next five years in the first general elections held under the Republican Constitution.

At midnight of February 9-10, the Congress party had claimed 249 seats in the 496-member House of the People to gain an absolute majority in the lower House of Parliament.

Results of 356 out of the 489 seats for which elections were held have been announced so far. The seve: other seats are to be filled by nomination by the President, six from the State of Jammu and Kashmir and one from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Three prominent Congress leaders were declared elected to-day from Uttar Pradesh. They were Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Education Minister, Dr. B. V. Keskar, Deputy Minister for External Affairs, and Mr. Satish Chandra, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister.

While the Congress gained all the three seats in Uttar Pradesh, election results of which were announced to-day, it suffered a setback in Rajasthan where Mr. Gokulbhai Bhatt, a prominent Congressman and a sitting M.P., was unseated by Maharaj Ajit Singh, an Independent. The winning candidate secured about 63,000 votes more than Mr. Bhatt.

The Congress also lost the Kotah-Bundi seat in Rajasthan, which was annexed by the Ram Rajya Parishad, which has now three of its nominees returned to the House of the People. The Congress, however, won the seat from the Banswara-Dungarpur constituency.

Another loss for the Congress was reported from West Bengal where Mrs. Renu Chakravarty, niece of the Chief Minister, Dr. B. C. Roy, contesting the election on the Communist ticket, was declared elected to the general seat from the Basirhat constituency. The reserved seat in this constituency was, however, won by the Congress.

UTTAR PRADESH

LUCKNOW, Feb. 9.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (Congress), India's Minister for Education, has been elected to the House of the People from the Rampur district Bareilly west constituency, in Uttar Pradesh.

Electorate 3,76,700. Votes polled 1,82,751.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (Congress)	1,08,180
Bishen Chand Seth (Hindu Mahasabha)	73,427
Invalid	1,144

SULTANPUR

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Congress), Deputy Minister for External Affairs, was elected to the House of the People from the Sultanpur (South) constituency.

Electorate: 3,62,900. Votes polled 1,36,213.

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Congress)	73,242
Mr. Ram Sumiran (Jan Sangh)	24,410
Mr. Suraj Bux Singh (Ind)	18,835
Mr. Abdul Wahid (KMPP)	18,567
Invalid	159

AZAMGARH

Mr. Algural Shastri, General Secretary of the U.P. Pradesh Congress Committee, was declared elected to the House of the People to-day from Azamgarh District (East) cum Balbia District (West) constituency defeating his four rivals.

GONDA

Mr. Keshav Dev Malaviya (Congress), former U. P. Minister, was also elected to the House of the People from the Gonda district east cum Basti district west constituency, defeating his Hindu Mahasabha rival.

COUNTING OF VOTES IN ALLAHABAD

ALLAHABAD, Feb. 9.

Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru is said to have secured over 20,000 votes in 20 out of the 243 polling stations in the Allahabad part of the Allahabad district east cum Jaunpur district west Parliamentary constituency.

His ballot boxes, third in order, were taken up 15 minutes before the lunch interval to-day, the second day of counting here.

The progress of counting was, however, hampered owing to rains. Only 62 ballot boxes of Mr Nehru covering 20 polling stations, had been disposed of by 2-45 p.m. when counting had to be suspended.

It started raining, making it difficult for the staff to continue counting under the temporary tent set up in the Allahabad Collectorate compound.

As no alternative seating arrangements could be made for the 100 election personnel, entrusted with the job and the agents of seven candidates in this double-member constituency, counting had to be postponed till 2 p.m. to-morrow.

As the ballot boxes of Mr. Nehru were brought to the tent earlier in the day, an objection was filed by the agent of Mr. Prabhu Dutta Brahmachari, an independent candidate for the general seat, to the effect that some of the boxes had not been properly sealed. He sought postponement of counting, pending decision on the point. The District Magistrate of Allahabad, who is the Returning Officer for the constituency, ruled out the objection on the ground that the complainant had failed to prove his case.

The ballot boxes of Mr. K. K. Chatterji (Independent) and Mr. L. G. Thatte (Hindu Mahasabha), two other candidates for the general seat, had earlier been disposed of. They were reported to have polled 24,600 and 23,703 votes respectively in this part of the constituency.—PTI.

FAIZABAD

LUCKNOW, Feb. 9.

Mr. J. B. Kripalani, leader of the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party, had polled over 65,000 votes out of the 2,75,000 estimated to have been cast for the genral seat in the Faizabad district (north-west) Parliamentary constituency, according to party sources at Faizabad to-night. Counting in this constituency is still in progress.

RAJASTHAN

JAIPUR, Feb. 9.

Mr. Gokulbhai Bhatt (Congress) sitting Member of Parliament, has been defeated by Maharaj Ajit Singh (Independent), in the election to the House of the People from the Sirohi-Pali constituency in Rajasthan.

Maharaj Ajit Singh secured about 63,000 votes more than Mr. Bhatt, while two other candidates, one nominee of the Jan Sangh and the other an independent, lost their deposits.

MANIPUR ELECTORAL COLLEGE

IMPHAL, Feb. 9.

The Congress has failed to secure an absolute majority in the Manipur electoral college, having obtained only ten seats in the 30-member college.

The Communists got two and the Socialists one, the rest being shared by eight other local parties and an Independent.

The final party position in the Manipur electoral college is now as follows: State Congress 10; All-Manipur National Union 3; Praja Shanti Party 3; Kuki National Union 3; Achumba Pamba Congress 2; Communists 2; Mao Maram Union 2; Socialist Party 1; Gandhi Sevak Sabha 1; Manipur Zeliangrong Union 1; Mizo Union 1; Independent 1. Total 30.

ASSAM

GAUHATI, Feb. 9.

Mr. Debakanta Barua, sitting M.P. and whip of the Congress Party in Parliament, was declared elected today to the House of the People from the Nowgong constituency in Assam.

All the five House of the People results announced so far in this State have gone in favour of the Congress. Seven more results remain to be declared.

K.M.P. PARTY IN MADRAS

ATTITUDE TOWARDS COALITION GOVT.

PRAKASAM'S TALKS WITH KRIPALANI

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW DELHI, Feb. 9.

At the conclusion of the two-day discussions here between Mr. T. Prakasam, Mr. J. B. Kripalani and others of the Kisan-Mazdoor Praja Party on the question of formation of a non-Congress Ministry in Madras, the following statement was issued by Mr. Kripalani:

"Mr. T. Prakasam discussed with us the situation in Madras arising as a consequence of the recent elections. He informed us that the people of Madras were as much against Governor's rule as against Congress rule and also against immediate fresh elections. He, therefore, wanted to explore the possibilities of forming a coalition Government with an agreed programme. These possibilities were discussed.

"Non-Congress members of the new State Legislature are meeting in conference in Madras on the 12th instant. They will discuss the matter among themselves in all its bearings. So far as the KMPP is concerned, its final decision will be taken by the executive in the light of the proposals that emerge from the deliberations of the Madras conference.

"The KMPP in this early stage of its formation would prefer to remain in opposition. But if the situation in Madras is such that there is a public demand for taking over responsibility in co-operation with other progressive parties, it will not hesitate to do so in the best interests of the State, provided a common programme is evolved which is in consonance with the party's election manifesto."

CONGRESS PARTY'S POLICY CRITICISED

Mr. Kripalani was questioned (says PTI) about the possibilities of forming a coalition Government in Madras in the light of the opposition of the Krishikar Lok Party, the Muslim League members and the League-supported Independents to join hands with the Communists, and the Congress Party's decision to wait and see. Mr. Kripalani said: "It is unthinkable for a party which is the largest party to say that it is not prepared to form a Government in coalition with any other party and that it can only form a Government if it is in an absolute majority. I hear that the refusal of the Congress to form a Government is based on the idea that the other parties will try to form a Government and they will fail and in that event they (the Congress) can have a fresh election and have the majority suitable to them for the formation of the Government. This, I think, is not a very patriotic attitude to take. Failure of a Government may mean misery to lakhs of people and no party has a right to inflict such misery on the people."

Mr. Prakasam is returning to Madras to-morrow morning by air.

CONGRESS CANDIDATES TO MEET

MADRAS, Feb. 9.

A meeting of the Congress candidates who contested the election to the Assembly and the House of the People from Tamil Nad, has been convened by Mr. K. Kamaraj Nadar, President of the T.N.C.C., to review the election results. The meeting, which will be held on February 16 at Congress grounds, will also devise ways and means of strengthening the Congress in Tamil Nad. In all 186 candidates contested for election to the Assembly and 38 for Parliament.

On February 17 at 10 a.m. a meeting of Congress workers in the Tamil districts will be held for the same purpose.

ORISSA STATE ELECTIONS

CUTTACK, Feb. 8.

Orissa's seven and a half million electorate, about 49 per cent of whom exercised their franchise, has failed to give a clear verdict in the general elections.

The Congress, the party in power now, has emerged as the biggest single party, but without a clear overall majority. It has captured 68 seats in the 140-member Assembly, three short of an absolute majority.

Already, there are reports of some independents joining its ranks, including a few dissident Congressmen, who have won on independent tickets. One of the latter, Mr. Biswanath Tarida, has already signed the Congress pledge, so that the party strength is now 69.

The Congress set up candidates for 137 seats and polled 39 per cent of the valid votes to win 48.6 per cent of the seats. Six Ministers were returned. Mr. K. P. Nanda, Minister for Local Self-Government, was the only Minister defeated. The Speaker, Mr Lal Mohan Patnaik, was unseated from a Ganjam constituency.

31 SEATS FOR GANATANTRA PARISHAD

The Ganatantra Parishad, under the leadership of the Maharaja of Patna, has emerged as the second largest party with a membership of 31. The Maharaja of Patna has himself been elected to the House of the People. The Parishad had as its stronghold the merged State areas, from where it won 21 seats. The Parishad entered into a pact with the Anti-Hirakud dam party of Sambalpur and won another three seats in the area that would be submerged on the construction of the dam, Koraput district, near Kalahandi, also give support to the Parishad.

The Parishad entered 58 candidates and won 31 seats, polling 20.4 per cent of valid votes. Eight of its candidates forfeited deposits.

The Socialist contested 77 seats. Ten were elected and 42 lost their deposits. A total of 11.5 per cent of the votes were cast in their favour.

The Communists with 63 candidates won seven seats, although 14 of them failed to poll the minimum for retaining the deposit. Five per cent of the vote went to them.

The Independent People's Party, with 13 candidates, captured four seats, polling 2.3 per cent of the votes.

K.M.P. PARTY'S FAILURE

None of the seven candidates set up by the KMP party succeeded. The Forward Bloc, contesting six seats, won a solitary seat. The Adibasi Mahasabha, which advocates a separate province for the Adibasis, failed to get any support, all their three candidates losing their deposits.

Of the 619 candidates who contested the 135 seats, five having gone to the Congress unopposed, 187 entered the list as Independents. They found little support. Ninetecn were elected and 123 candidates lost deposits. In all, 20.3 per cent of the votes were cast in favour of independent candidates.

The Orissa Assembly will have 15 members drawn from ex-Rulers and zamindars' families. Four of these will owe allegiance to the Congress, three to Ganatantra Parishad. Eight are Independents.—PTI.

PANDIT PANT ELECTED

CHIEF MINISTER OF UTTAR PRADESH

CONGRESS GAINS IN STATE

LUCKNOW, Feb. 9.

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, has been declared elected to the State Assembly from the Bareilly municipality constituency.

Out of his six opponents, four including the Socialist leader, Seth Damodar Swarup, lost their deposits.

Pandit Pant who polled 21,828 out of over 52,000 votes cast in the constituency beat his nearest rival, Mr. Manmohan Mathur (Jan Sangh) by oved 7,700 votes.

The U. P. Congress Committee President, Acharya Jugal Kishore, was declared elected to the State Assembly from Mathura (South). He polled over 14,000 votes out of more than 31,000 cast in his constituency. All his six opponents lost their deposits.

A Harijan woman, Mrs. Ashalata Vyas (Congress), who was elected from Ramgarh district will be the first Harijan woman member of the State Assembly, there being no other Harijan woman member so far in the U. P. legislature. Mrs. Vyas polled over 19,000 votes. Two of her opponents—a KMPP and an Independent—lost their deposits.

Mr. Gopal Narain Saksena, Deputy Leader of the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party, the main opposition in the U. P. Legislative Assembly, was defeated by Mr. Pulin Bihari Banerjee in a twelve-cornered contest from Lucknow city (West). Mr. Saksena lost his deposit. He is among the half a dozen leading members of the KMPP in this State who have lost their deposits in the elections to the State Assembly or the House of the People.

The Congress has so far annexed 191 out of the 210 seats in the State Assembly, election results of which have been announced.

Of the 27 results announced to-day, 25 went in favour of the Congress and two to Socialists.

BAREILLY

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant was declared elected to-day from the Bareilly municipality constituency.

Electorate: 1,04,200. Votes polled: 52,218.

Pandit G. B. Pant (Congress)	21,828
Mr. M. L. Mathur (Jan Sangh)	13,122
Mr. A. Rauf (KMPP)	11,951
Mr. R. Prasad (SCF)	2,609
Seth Damodar Swaroop (Socialist)	1,286
Mr. T. Sahay (Hindu Mahasabha)	720
Mr. Akshaya Brahmachari (Ind)	663
Invalid	39

The last four candidates forfeited their deposit.

NARENDRA DEV DEFEATED

LUCKNOW, Feb. 9.

Mr. Madan Gopal and Mr. Narain Dass, both Congress, have been declared elected to the U. P. State Assembly from the general and reserved seats respectively of the Faizabad (East) constituency.

Electorate: 125,100. Votes polled 1,00,530.

GENERAL	
Mr. Madan Gopal (Congress)	18,574
Acharya Narendra Dev (Socialist)	18,136
Acharya Madhusudan (RRP)	10,148
Mr. Jawahir Nath (Ind)	6,649
Mr. Janki Saran (Ind)	1,946
RESERVED	
Mr. Narain Dass (Congress)	19,839
Mr. Bhairagi (Socialist)	14,491
Mr. Mohan (RRP)	4,728
Mr. Mahavir (Ind)	2,022
Invalid	3,997

BIHAR

PATNA, Feb. 9.

The Congress captured seven out of the nine seats whose election results were announced till 10 to-night, thus increasing its overall strength to 218 in a House of 330.

Srimati Janak Kishori Devi (Congress) defeated her nephew, Mr. Rajendra Narain Choudhri (Independent) in the Hariakhi constituency (Darbhanga) by over 5,000 votes.

The Lok Sevak Sangh captured both the General and Reserved seats in the Barabazar cum Chandil constituency in Manbhum district. The Congress nominee, who was defeated by over 12,000 votes in the General seat, forfeited his deposit.

PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT

AID TO AIR INDIA INTERNATIONAL

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW DELHI, Feb. 9.

The proposal for the grant of a loan assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs to Air India International towards the purchase of latest type aircraft was agreed to by the Standing Advisory Commitee of the Communications Ministry which met here yesterday evening, with Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Minister for Communications, in the chair. Mr. A. V. Pai, I.C.S., Secretary, was present.

As all the important foreign air transport operators intend introducing the newest type of aircraft on the route to the United Kingdom, it is considered essential by Air India International to have comparable types in order to continue competing successfully with these airlines. The company proposes to acquire two super-constellations, with spares, at a cost of approximately Rs. 2 crores. Of this it will be able to find about Rs. 1.5 crores from its own resources and has sought the assistance of Government in respect of the balance of Rs. 50 lakhs. The Committee agreed to this amount being advanced as a loan to the company on the security of the aircraft, half of the amount being paid in 1952-53 and the other half in 1953-54, with interest at 4.5 per cent per annum, to be repaid over a period of eight years.

BARRACKPORE AIRPORT TO BE DEVELOPED

The Committee recommended the acquisition, for the development of the Barrackpore airfield, of additional land measuring 282.65 acres of which 171.08 acres belong to the Defence Ministry and the rest to private parties. The air traffic at this airfield has increased far beyond expectations in recent years, and it is now the second busiest aerodrome next only to Dum Dum. It has, therefore, become necessary to review its land requirements, particularly with a view to providing parking and manoeuvring facilities for aircraft. For the present, the proposal involves cash payment to the extent of Rs. 11,86,434, being the cost of land measuring 111.57 acres owned by private parties, which will be met from the sanctioned budget grant for the year 1951-52 and subsequent years.

MADRAS-COIMBATORE 'PHONE LINK

Due to the steady rise in telephone traffic in India since partition, the Committee approved of the installation of 12-channel carrier systems, between Bombay and Indore, between Indore and Delhi, between Madras and Coimbatore and between Bombay and Nagpur. The initial capital outlay on these four schemes, which is expected to be remunerative from the very beginning will be Rs. 26.48 lakhs. Besides, the Committee recommended expansion of the Amritsar and Poona telephone exchanges, which are at present working practically to their full capacities, at estimated costs of Rs. 34.89 lakhs and Rs. 5,52,300 respectively.

MADRAS STATE ASSEMBLY

POSITION OF PARTIES

ELECTION RESULTS ANALYSED

MADRAS, Feb. 9.

The Congress, which has come out as the largest single party with 152 seats, about 40 per cent of the total in the 375-member Madras State Assembly has polled about seven million or roughly thirty-five per cent of the votes recorded. While the Congress contested 365 out of the 373 seats so far decided, it forfeited only 15 deposits, all in Andhra. The Congress has won 43 out of the 143 seats (Circars 21, Rayalaseema 22) in Andhradesa, polling about 2.2 million votes, 4 out of 29 seats in Malabar (polling about 487,000 votes), 96 out of 190 seats in the Tamil area, including Madras City (polling 3.9 million votes) and nine out of 11 seats (polling 280,000) in South Kanara.

STRAIGHT CONTESTS

There were 37 straight contests and three unopposed returns. In the straight contests, the Congress won seven, beating five Independents, one Socialist, and one KMP candidate. It lost in turn 28 seats, six to Independents, six to members of the Tamil Nad 'Toilers' Party, four to Socialists, two to Communists, six to K.M.P., one to K.L.P., two to Commonweal and one to the Scheduled Castes Federation. In the other two straight contests a Socialist beat an Independent at Vizianagaram and an Independent beat a KLP at Pathapatnam, the Congress not contesting either of the seats.

MULTI-PARTY FIGHTS

The following four paras deal with contests in which more than two candidates took part.

Of the seats for which more than two parties contested, the Congress won 12 in Andhra and 22 in non-Andhra areas with an absolute majority over all rivals. It also won 31 in Andhra and 72 in non-Andhra areas, without however securing an overall majority. The Socialists secured five seats by a minority of votes and two by a majority in non-Andhra areas, while they got one by a minority and five by a majority in Andhra. The Communists secured 13 seats by a minority and 7 by a majority in non-Andhra areas, while they gained 22 by a minority and 17 by a majority in Andhra. The Independents won 27 seats by a minority of votes and 17 by a majority in non-Andhra areas while they got 13 by a minority and 8 by a majority in Andhra. The K.M.P. won 12 seats by a minority of votes and 3 by a majority in non-Andhra areas while they got 8 seats by a minority and 12 by a majority in Andhra.

In the non-Andhra areas of the State, the Congress lost the contest for 29 seats in constituencies in which the K.M.P. as well as other parties fought it. Of these, 15 were contests in which the victors belonged to parties other than the KMP. The combined votes of the defeated Congress and KMP candidates were less than those polled by the winners of 10 of these seats; while with regard to the other five seats, the votes gained by the successful third party candidates were fewer than the combined votes of the defeated Congress and KMP candidates.

The other 14 seats in which the Congress lost in the conditions described in the previous para were won by the KMP, but only one of their winners got an overall majority.

In the Andhra area, the Congress lost seventy-four contested seats in constituencies in which the KMP and K.L.P. as well as other parties, contested. In winning 24 of these seats candidates of parties other than the K.M.P., or K.L.P. secured a majority which was greater than the combined total of the votes polled by the defeated Congress, K.MP. and (or) K.L.P. rivals. Of the balance 23 also went to candidates other than K.M.P. or K.L.P., but they got fewer votes than the combined total polled by the defeated Congress, K.M.P. and (or) K.L.P. candidates. The Congress lost 13 seats to the K.L.P. For 7 of these, there were no KMP contestants. The Congress lost 12 to the KMP in constituencies where the KLP did not contest, though other parties and Independents did. It lost two seats to the KMP in constituencies where the KLP was the only other contesting party.

PERCENTAGES OF WINNERS' VOTES

The average percentage of the votes polled, secured by the successful candidates of the different parties works out as follows for the various parties: Congress 44 per cent. Socialists 51.9 per cent, Communists 55.4 per cent, K.M.P. 49.9 per cent, K.L.P. 39.6 per cent, T.N.T. 49 per cent and Independents 45.4 per cent.

The political affiliations of the Independents who form the second largest group with 63 seats are not clear. A few of them were supported by Communists. About 650 Independent candidates contested about 300 seats polling over five million votes. About 350 lost their deposits.

COMMUNISTS' SUCCESSES

The Communists who number 59 in the new Assembly have scored their major victories in Andhra (39 seats out of 62 contested (of which only five came from Rayalaseema) and Malabar (7 out of 14 fought for). In Tamil Nad, they secured 13 seats out of 53 contested by them. South Kanara has not returned a single Communist, though the Party contested two seats. The total poll of the party throughout the State is nearly 2.3 million, secured by 131 candidates in all, of whom 19 forfeited their deposits.

The Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party (K.M.P.) with a total of 35 seats, gained 20 of them in the Andhra area (out of 77 contested); it got 7 in Tamil Nad, where it fought for 53 seats, and eight out of sixteen contests in Malabar and South Kanara. Its total of 149 candidates polled in all over 1.7 million, 68 of them forfeiting their deposits.

The Krishikar Lok Party (K.L.P.) scored in 15 out of the 61 constituencies contested by it (all of them in Andhra), while it forfeited deposits in 27. It polled over 6,30,000 votes. The leader of the Party, Mr. N. G. Ranga, was defeated in the fight for the Parliamentary seat in Guntur.

The Socialists won only 13 seats from about 160 contests though they polled about 1.2 million votes. They forfeited nearly a hundred deposits. Their 13 seats are made up of six wins in Andhra, three in Tamil Nad and four in Malabar and South Kanara.

The Tamil Nad Toilers' Party, contesting only 33 seats in an almost contiguous belt in the Tamil area, won 19 of them, polling in all 8,50,000 votes. In South Arcot it obtained 13 out of the 19 seats for the Assembly contested by it. The Party formed an electoral alliance with the K. M. P. Party and the Communists in South Arcot and had also enlisted the support of the Dravida Kazhagam and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

Of the other parties, the Commonweal (also confined to Tamil Nad) accounted for six seats in the North Arcot district. It fought in thirteen constituencies (including one in Chingleput where it lost), polled over 2,15,000 votes and lost one deposit. While the Scheduled Castes Federation was beaten in 30 of the 32 constituencies it contested, the Muslim League secured five of the 13 it fought for, all its gains being confined to Malabar. The S.C.F. polled over 300,000 votes while the League obtained 186,000 votes.

MISCELLANEOUS PARTIES

Token fights were also put up by other miscellaneous parties like the Ram Rajya Parishad, the Hindu Maha Sabha and the Jan Sangh; all the twelve candidates put up by these were routed at the polls, deposits being forfeited in all cases. The Justice Party won one seat out of eight fought for, while the Forward Bloc gained 3 seats from 12 contests. One representative of the "Agriculturists' Group" and another of the Progressive Group also fought in the elections without success.

Another feature of the elections has been the poor show put up by women candidates; though as many as 24 women candidates belonging to various parties contested, only two, both of the Congress Party, were returned, one from Guntur, and the other from Madurai. Three of the sitting women legislators from Bellary, Gudivada and Ambasamudram have been unseated.

Nearly 20 million votes were cast in all the booths in the States in the elections which began on January 2 and were completed only on February 7 when the last constituency, namely Kakinada, went to the polls. The total electorate in Madras State is over 26.9 millions, according to the latest official figures. Since 66 of the constituencies are double-member ones, the exercisable votes must be considerably higher. Even so, it may be roughly estimated that between 50 to 60 per cent exercised their franchise.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CARE-TAKER GOVERNMENT

Sir,—The formation of a 'Care-taker' Government composed of the defeated Chief Minister and the other undefeated Ministers of the present Cabinet must be deplored by all who are interested in the evolution of sound conventions of party government. There is no provision in our Constitution for the establishment of a 'Care-taker' Government. Either we have a Ministry enjoying the confidence of the legislature or we have Governor's rule in default of it. The intrusion of a 'Care-taker' Government in between the two is calculated to mystify the man in the street and bring the Constitution into disrepute with those who are able to think for themselves. If a defeated Minister could continue in office under one alias or another, what is there to prevent the other defeated Ministers from keeping him company? What the public wants is not a change of labels, but a change in the complexion of the ministry so that it may reflect more accurately than before the true complexion of the new legislature. The longer a solution of this problem is evaded for any or no reason, the worse it would be for those who are responsible for the delay.

If a Care-taker Government is meant in fact as in name, then the more honest and courageous thing to do would be to call the leaders of the groups which have emerged from the elections and tell them to carry on with a minimum of politics until such time as a majority party crystallises. There are obvious risks involved in such a course; to avert them it would have been more prudent to allow the present Ministry to continue for a few more weeks rather than make a pretence of bringing in a new Ministry when, in fact, it is merely the old turned inside out—if so much.

It is above all very disappointing to find the Congress High Command countenancing such dubious tactics. In the present context of public feeling, any impression that the Congress is anxious to stick on would be more damaging to it than even the reverses in the elections. Whatever is done, there should be no fraud on the public or on the Constitution itself! The directive to the present Ministry to resign is thus shorn of all its grace and virtue. It is hoped that better counsels would prevail and the action taken by the Congress in Madras would be in accord with the highest standards of political correctitude.

P.M.

"THE CONGRESS IN MADRAS"

Sir,—In your editorial entitled "The Congress in Madras" in the issue of February 3, which I appreciate very much, you have made an observation about the spread of communism "in the poor soil of Malabar and in the arid desert of Telengana". The narrow west coast region from Tapti to Cape Comorin receives the full force of the current of the monsoon from the Arabian Sea and therefore the rainfall is over 100 inches. Agriculturally the most important soil is the alluvial and the western coastal lands of the Deccan are alluvial. The population is always dense where the soil is fertile because of agricultural possibilities. The natural productivity, agricultural, mineral or industrial, is the basis of population concentration. Malabar is neither highly industrialised nor is it endowed with mineral resources. It is purely agricultural and for that the climate and the soil are deciding factors. In Malabar, the density of population is the highest in India and there can be no doubt about the fertility of the soil.

One special feature in connection with agricultural production is that the fertility of the soil diminishes after each cultivation. Consequently production decreases year after year. This is a general principle and Malabar is no exception. This does not mean that the soil is poor. This tendency towards diminishing returns may be checked to a certain extent by the application of manures and the introduction of rotation of crops.

You have seen a parallel to Malabar in the arid desert of Telengana. In regard to the fertility and productivity of the soil, Malabar and Telengana are poles apart. The smiling fields of Malabar, the thick and luxuriant vegetation, the rich variety of crops including rice, spices, rubber, coconut, tea etc., which require a deep fertile soil, are striking illustrations of this fact.

E. P. George.

POINTS FROM LETTERS

A Democratic Educationist refers to Mr. R. Srinivasa Aiyangar's letter entitled "Headmasters as Teachers" which appeared in the issue of THE HINDU dated January 29 and says that it is because efficiency in schools is the result of co-operative effort that the circular from the Director of Public Instruction has requested Head