

SAURASHTRA TAX ON PETROL SALE UP

Step To Offset Deficit In State Budget

RAJKOT, March 16.

THE Finance Minister, Mr. M. M. Shah, today proposed to increase the tax on the sale of petrol from two annas per gallon to six annas to offset a deficit of Rs. 47.60 lakhs, which he forecast in the State budget for 1954-55.

He told the Saurashtra Assembly that he hoped to realise about Rs. 5 lakhs from the proposed increase in the petrol duty.

Mr. Shah estimated revenue at Rs. 11,33,36,000 and expenditure at Rs. 11,80,30,000.

The Finance Minister stated that Rs. 388 lakhs would be spent on capital works. He proposed to float a development loan of Rs. 200 lakhs to finance development schemes during the next financial year.

He said that the increase in expenditure "represents the rise in the tempo of execution of the Five-Year Plan in its fourth year."

Mr. Shah was confident that at the end of the fourth year of the Plan 94 per cent. of the targets laid down for the first four years would have been fulfilled by the Saurashtra Government.

The following allotments have been made in the budget for the next financial year: Agriculture and rural development Rs. 169 lakhs; major and minor irrigation works Rs. 257 lakhs; roads development Rs. 166 lakhs; education and social services Rs. 165 lakhs; public health Rs. 95 lakhs; industries and port development Rs. 61 lakhs and electricity schemes Rs. 85 lakhs.

DEVELOPMENT WORKS

The Finance Minister thanked the Central Government and the Planning Commission for the allotment of Rs. 325 lakhs for development works in areas affected by chronic scarcity.

Mr. Shah yet hoped that the Central Government would make further allotments to the extent of Rs. 200 lakhs for executing special minor irrigation schemes.

He asserted that irrigation schemes were progressing ahead of schedule. He announced that five major productive schemes costing Rs. 325 lakhs were under way.

RURAL AREAS

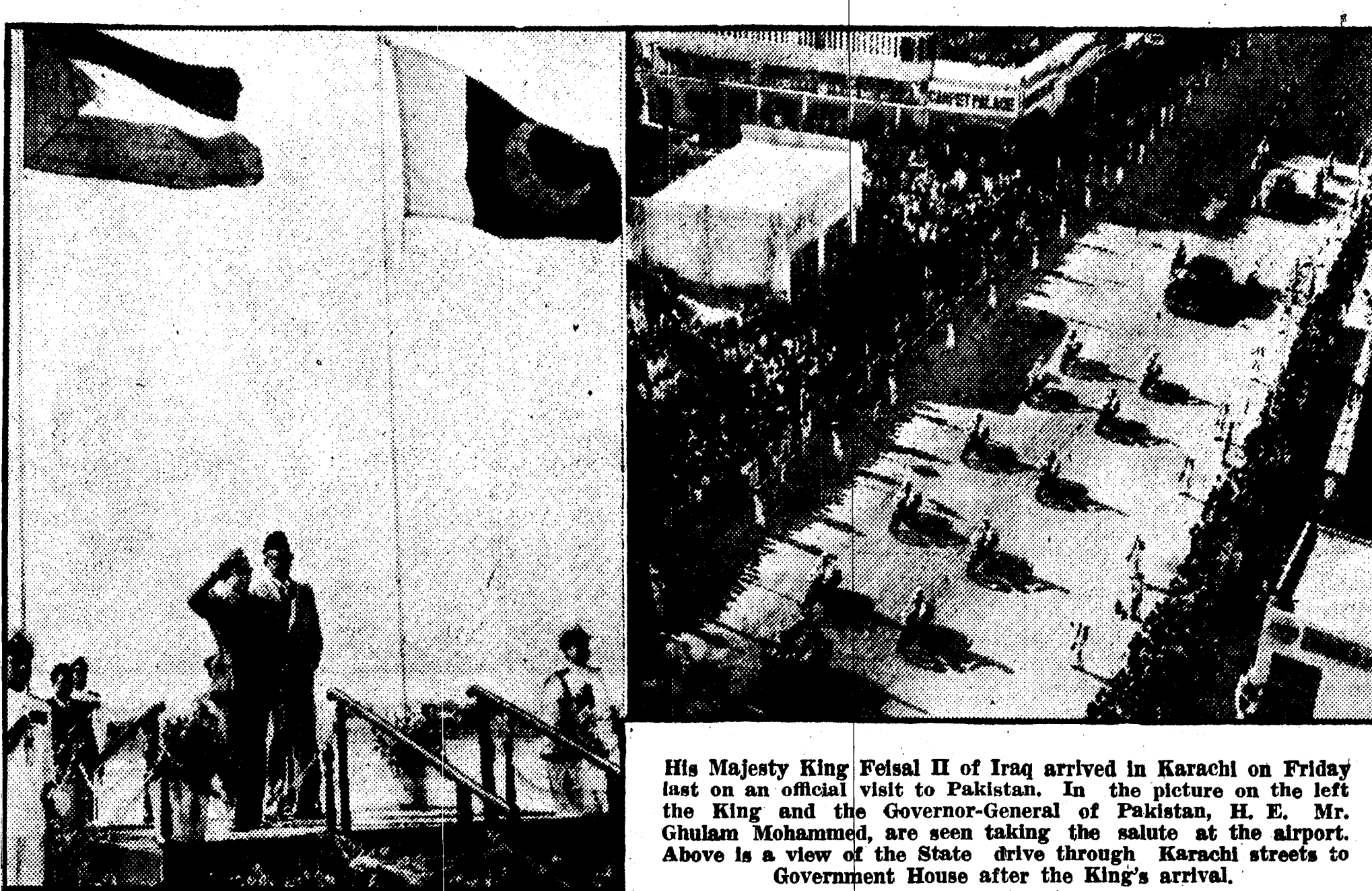
The Finance Minister said that the Government would continue to give priority to the development of agriculture and rural areas.

He pointed out that the allotment under this head had been raised from Rs. 100 lakhs in the last budget to Rs. 167 lakhs for the next financial year.

Mr. Shah announced that 700 more primary schools would be opened in 1954-55 employing 1,200 additional teachers.

"Another special feature of

IRAQ KING'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN



Ceylon Mission In Delhi

ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT

"The Times of India" News Service NEW DELHI, March 16: Mr. Gordon Walker, formerly British Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, today favoured frequent and regular exchange of views between top civil servants of Commonwealth countries.

He was speaking at Delhi University on the "Constitutional Theory of the Commonwealth."

He was opposed to formulating a Commonwealth Constitution as that would make the existing relationship rigid. The essence of the Commonwealth was its ability to cope with changing conditions. If rigid formulae replaced organic growth, it would spell the end of the concept of Commonwealth as it was now understood, he stated.

Mr. Gordon Walker referred to the Commonwealth as a "unique constitutional structure," which was held together without any alliances or treaties. Yet, he said, it was not a random collection of States but a conscious grouping of peoples related politically with one another.

U. S. Food Surplus

"ASHINGTON, March 15: United States war-surplus were bulging with thousands of tons of unwanted butter, cheese and dried milk and unless customers were found, the Government might have to impose production controls, Mr. Ezra Benson, Secretary of Agriculture, said today.

Andhra Govt's 'Improper Action' Criticised

"SECRET" VISIT OF OFFICER TO MYSORE

"The Times of India" News Service BANGALORE, March 16.

THE Chief Minister of Mysore, Mr. K. Hanumanthaiya, today described the reported action of the Andhra Government in deputation, without the permission of the Mysore Government, a special officer to collect data about Telugu-speaking people in Mysore State as "highly improper and the height of discourtesy."

When members of the State Legislative Council urged him to act, Mr. Hanumanthaiya said: "These are matters on which action cannot be taken. After all, if an officer comes incognito and goes away the same way, that is not an invasion. You need not, therefore, take serious notice of it."

The Chief Minister made his statement on certain points raised by Mr. D. Venkatarani (Ind.) during his speech on the Budget.

Mr. Hanumanthaiya said he had information about the activities of some Ministers and legislators of Andhra. He was sorry that without informing the Mysore Government, they were reported to have "done things which should not have been done."

If the Andhra Government wanted any facts and figures, it could easily have obtained them from the Census report, Mr. Hanumanthaiya added. The Mysore Government was not withholding any information.

LETTERS TO CENTRE

Mr. Hanumanthaiya said he had addressed letters to the Government of India regarding the manner in which "some of our Andhra friends are going about this business without taking any Constitutional proprieties into consideration."

The Chief Minister declared that he wanted to smoothen the feelings between one section of the people and another.

"I have said in Dharwar and Hubli and other places, where the desire for the formation of linguistic States is intense, that we are Indians first and Indians last. It is only for administrative convenience that we may rearrange our boundaries."

The Andhra Government, he said, was proceeding with the idea of forming a State only on the basis of language. "I want to say here and now quite clearly, both personally and in view of the high office I hold, that I oppose that proposition tooth and nail inside and outside the State" (Cheers).

Mr. Hanumanthaiya said Mysore had not evolved its political or other policies on the basis of language. It was not the right policy and should not be pursued by the people of India.

CALL FOR PATIENCE

Appealing to members to be patient with the Andhra Government, he said that there might be certain improprieties. It was human to err.

Mr. Venkatarani earlier drew the attention of the House to a statement made by the Andhra Chief Minister in regard to the collection of data to be placed before the High Power Commission.

The Government of Andhra, he said, was going about ascertaining whether the population of fishermen and the Telugu-speaking people in adjoining areas was a subject of vital interest to Mysore State.

He also referred to the recent visit by a special officer of the Andhra Government to the Kolar District. The people of Kolar, he said, did not want to merge with Andhra. He urged the Chief Minister to present a correct state of affairs.

No Domination By Any Power

U. S. REPLY TO MR. NEHRU

NEW HAVEN (Connecticut), March 16: The primary aim of U.S. policy in Asia "is to ensure that no nation in the area need fear domination by any other," the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, Mr. Walter S. Robertson, declared here today.

Speaking at Yale University, Mr. Robertson emphasised this point because of what he described as an "understandable misinterpretation" by Mr. Nehru of a comment made by the Assistant Secretary during a Congressional hearing.

Mr. Robertson today stated: "It is only the Asians who can hold Asia. I should like to put special emphasis on that statement. It is one I made a month ago in an address in New York. Subsequently, it was reported that Prime Minister Nehru of India, in a perfectly understandable misinterpretation of an answer I gave to a question at a Congressional hearing, took me to task for having declared that the United States must dominate Asia in order to combat Communist China. Were I of any such opinion, Mr. Nehru would be wholly justified in criticizing me for it. But no American in his right mind would propose such a fantasy."

TRUE INTENTIONS

"The one all-important object of our policy in the Far East is to ensure that no nation in the area need fear domination by any other. If the Asian peoples enjoyed that security today, nothing would be rarer in Asia than an American soldier. There are three Asian countries in which at one time or another during the past 10 years the United States has had a predominant position: the Philippines, Japan and Korea. The peoples of those countries have had the best opportunity to gauge our true intentions. For our part, we should be well content to rest our case in Asia upon their testimony."

Hindu Endowments Act's Sections Held Void

SUPREME COURT RULING IN MADRAS CASE

NEW DELHI, March 16.

A CONSTITUTION Bench of the Supreme Court today held several sections of the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951, to be "ultra vires" of the Constitution by reason of their being in conflict with the Fundamental Rights guaranteed under Articles 19(1) (F), 25 and 26 of the Constitution.

Sections of the Madras Act invalidated by the court were: 71, 30 (2), 31, 55, 58, 63, to 69 as being in conflict with Fundamental Rights, while Section 76 (1) was void as it was beyond the legislative competence of Madras State.

The decision was given on a petition questioning the validity of the Madras Act which sought to consolidate the law relating to the administration and governance of Hindu religious and charitable institutions and endowments in the State of Madras.

HIGH COURT RULING

The Madras High Court, on a petition under Article 226 from the respondent, who was a "mathadhipathi" (head of religious institutions), held a number of sections of the Madras Act, besides those that were invalidated by the Supreme Court, as unconstitutional.

The Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowments, Madras, preferred the present appeal to the Supreme Court on the strength of a certificate under Article 132 (1) of the Constitution granted by the High Court.

The main respondent before the court was Shri Lakshminarayanan Thiruvannamalai, "mathadhipathi" of Shriur Math, which was one of the eight maths situated at Udipi, in the district of South Kanara in Madras.

The Board of Hindu Religious Endowments, functioning under an earlier Act of 1927, served a notice on the respondent, stating that the Board was satisfied that in the interests of proper administration of the math and its endowments, the settlement of a scheme was necessary. A draft scheme was sent along with the notice to the respondent pending a final order on the scheme to be passed on February 15, 1951. The respondent fled a petition before the Madras High Court on February 12, 1951, praying for a writ of prohibition to restrain the Board from taking further steps in the matter of settling a scheme for the administration of the maths.

The main contention of the respondent was that, having regard to the Fundamental Rights

Iranian Oil Talks

LONDON, March 16: The eight major world oil companies in conference here have run into difficulties over the allocation of shares in the proposed consortium to market Iranian oil, usually well-informed quarters said here today.

The oil companies held no meeting here yesterday. Today the chiefs of the eight companies were in consultation with representatives of their own firms.

It was now uncertain whether the oil companies would be able to despatch a mission to negotiate with the Iranian Government by March 21.—Reuter.

College Of Mining

"The Times of India" News Service CUTTACK, March 16: The Central Government is believed to have sanctioned the Orissa Government's scheme for opening a college of mining and metallurgy.

A department of geology is also likely to be created in Utkal University. The proposal has been accepted by the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Sleep thinking

BOMBAY, March 16: The Governor of Bombay received the following: Shri Navnit Parekh, Shri J. A. Gaitonde, Shri P. K. Malkani, Shri E. R. Desai, Shri A. A. Inamdar, Shri S. P. Khars, Shri S. K. Patil and Shri M. T. Nurie.

LT-Gen. Sir Gennett Hance came to tea.

INDONESIA AS MEDIATOR

Kashmir Dispute

JAKARTA, March 16: Indonesian diplomats from centres in Asia, Australia and Africa meeting at the mountain resort of Tugu near here are said to be discussing proposals that Indonesia should try to use her influence to settle the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan.

Sources here report that the Government would like to see Indonesia act as mediator in the dispute and are sure that with this country's good offices some settlement could be reached.

The Government would regard any settlement as a diplomatic triumph for Indonesia and also as an important step towards the strengthening of the Asia-Africa "middle of the road" bloc which is trying to steer a course between Communism and the West.

Foreign office experts in Jakarta do not attempt to hide their concern over the state of relations between India and Pakistan.

Government quarters believe that Indonesia should take a greater part in the direction of Asian affairs and will probably urge that this line be adopted at the Colombo Asian leaders conference in April.—Reuter.

The Ratnagiri Police are on the look out for Bhiku Malu Powar, who is absconding. It is alleged that he murdered his wife by hitting her with a stone.

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