

culture and Forest Department or his nominee, and a representative of the Irrigation Department.

Large blocks of land which have either gone out of cultivation or have never been brought under cultivation, afford greatest promise for increased agricultural production and their extent has yet to be determined.

Sugarcane Prices for 1959-60 Fixed

After a review of the factors relating to fixation of sugarcane prices for 1959-60 season, the Government of India have decided that the price of sugarcane to be crushed by vacuum pan factories during the 1959-60 season should be as follows :—

- (a) a basic minimum price of Rs. 1.44 per maund for delivery at the gate of the factory and Rs. 1.31 per maund for delivery at rail centres ; and
- (b) a deferred payment of an amount which may be found due under the formula prescribed by the Government of India, or under any alternative scheme applied in a State or region by the State Government concerned, with the previous approval of the Central Government for linking the price of cane with the price of sugar as realised by the factories concerned.

VILLAGE HOUSING SCHEME

The Central Government have decided to give to States Rs. 2 crores, 4 lakh and 90 thousand in the current financial year for the village housing scheme.

State	Number of Villages	Amount in Rupees
Andhra Pradesh	270	15 lakhs
Assam	90	6 lakhs
Bihar	360	25 lakhs
Bombay	300	21 lakhs
J & K	30	2 lakhs
Kerala	120	4 lakhs
Madhya Pradesh	210	12 lakhs
Madras	210	8 lakhs
Mysore	150	10 lakhs
Orissa	120	18 lakhs
Punjab	120	6 lakhs
Rajasthan	120	13 lakhs
		& 50 thousand
U.P.	510	46 lakhs
W. Bengal	180	18 lakhs
		& 40 thousand

Indian Delegation's Views on Chinese Irrigation

China has made "good progress" in the expansion of irrigation by the maximum utilisation of local resources. Main contribution to this increased irrigation is through the construction of channels that convey water to the farthest fields. Moreover, the cultivators are alive to the "fertility of the silt" that is invariably carried by the flow of water. They take great pains to remove the silt from ponds and channels and carry it over long distances to their fields.

These observations are made in the Report of the three-member Delegation sent by the Government of India in January 1959 to study irrigation and water conservancy projects in China.

The Leader of the Team was Shri Mahavir Prasad, Irrigation Adviser, Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Its members were Dr. P. Sen, Director of the Soil Conservation Department of the Damodar Valley Corporation and Shri D. A. Gadkari, Additional Development Commissioner and Joint Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Chinese peasants have been able to maintain the fertility of their fields over the ages and among their methods the silt of tanks, ponds and channels finds a prominent place. The Delegation states that this basic concept is extremely useful for the proper

The work of opening offices for this scheme, survey and selection of villages and farming rules etc. have been done to a great extent in all States except Jammu and Kashmir. Some States have started giving loans for constructing houses.

The amount which would be given to various States for this purpose is listed below :

maintenance of irrigation works. They recommend that in India the use of silt from tanks, pond-beds and irrigation channels should be encouraged on a very large scale. "Apart from giving valuable manure, this would also help towards proper maintenance of the irrigation works concerned," they point out.

According to the Delegation, China claims that its agricultural production had a "big leap forward" because of the Eight Points of the Agricultural Charter, which are : irrigation, use of manures and fertilizers, deep ploughing and improvement of soil, seed selection and seed breeding, close planting, plant protection and control of plant diseases and pests, reform of tools and farm management.

The Delegation observed that all these practices have already been generally accepted in India for intensive cultivation with the exception of deep ploughing and close planting. Deep ploughing and close planting need first to be tried out on an experimental basis and the validity of the claims made in their favour scrutinised and tested before they are recommended to cultivators, they state.

MANGO SHOW IN DELHI

An All-India Mango Show for the Northern Zone, organised by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, was held in New Delhi on July 14 and 15.

The ICAR had organised in Calcutta the 2nd All-India Mango Show for the Eastern Zone, where new and superior varieties were displayed. The aim in holding these shows was to encourage special efforts for the cultivation of India's premier fruit.