

future. The cow and her progeny, therefore, claim and should get our attention so that there may be not only a plentiful supply of milk which is such an essential item of balanced diet but also of strong and healthy bullocks necessary for efficient cultivation and other draught purposes.

Since its birth in 1929, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has performed great service to the people. Agricultural research in this country has provided high yielding sugarcane, wheats, cottons, and paddies to the cultivator but we must recognise that even in respect of these our production is very much less than what it is in other countries, as the following comparative statement will show.

Average yield per acre (in lbs.)

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	India	Argentina	U.S.A.	Canada	Italy	Egypt	Japan	Java	Peru
Wheat	636	780	846	972	—	—	—	—	—
Rice	851	—	1333	—	2797	1845	2124	—	—
Cotton	89	151	264	—	—	531	—	—	—
Sugarcane	388 (in maunds)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1446 (in maunds)	1160

We have, therefore, no reason to rest on our oars and further and more intensive work which will help the ordinary Kisan to increase the yield is necessary. I recognise, however, that but for the efforts of research workers the shortages in respect of some of these products that we are experiencing now would have been greater still.

The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research provides a meeting ground where Ministers of Agriculture of Provinces and constituent Indian States, representatives of Central Legislature, Indian and European Commerce

and of the Government of India, can discuss problems of agricultural research and guide, co-ordinate and promote research. One of the main functions of the Council is to place at the disposal of research workers throughout India experience of their fellow-workers in this country as well as scientific and technical information derived from foreign countries. The Council also acts as a clearing house of scientific knowledge on the problems of agriculture and animal husbandry. It has provided an organisation for pooling ideas and techniques so that the whole of India may benefit from the experiences of every part. Science cannot flourish in isolation. The best brains of the country must be brought together so that they may be able to exchange views and experience and to pool knowledge. On the Advisory Board of the Council and its Committee the scientific and technical side of agriculture and animal husbandry research in the country is represented, while the Governing Body controls policy and finance. By promoting, guiding and co-ordinating agricultural and veterinary research in India, by training research workers and collecting and disseminating information on research through its publications, the Council has been performing a useful function.

Ultimately, all research must be judged from the contribution it makes to the welfare of the masses. A poor country like India can ill-afford ivory-tower research divorced from the realities of life and the needs of its cultivators. It is the needs of the cultivator which research workers must always keep in view. 'Science in the service of the country' must be our ideal. It is generally admitted that investment in scientific research is the best investment which a nation can make as the returns which it provides are out of all proportion to the money invested. As an example we may cite the case of sugarcane development in this country which has saved the drain of millions of rupees to foreign countries. I can give you the assurance that this Council will have all my support and sympathy.

## NATIONAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES

INDIA'S scheme to set up four more National Laboratories at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 132 lakhs is being launched. The plans for these were approved recently by the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. H. Bhaba, Member for Works, Mines and Power in the Interim Government, laid the Foundation Stone of the Fuel Research Institute at Digwadih, near Dhanbad, on November 17. The capital cost of the Institute, is estimated at Rs. 14 lakhs.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member for Industries and Supplies, and President, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, laid the Foundation Stone of the National Metallurgical Laboratory at Jamshedpur on November 21. The initial capital expenditure on this laboratory will be about Rs. 43 lakhs.

The Foundation Stone of the National Physical Laboratory will be laid by the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President, Inter-

im Government, on January 4, 1947, at Delhi, during the Indian Science Congress Session. The estimated cost of this laboratory is about Rs. 40 lakhs.

The Hon'ble Mr. B. G. Kher, Prime Minister, Bombay, will lay the Foundation Stone of the National Chemical Laboratory at Poona sometime towards the end of January 1947. The Government of Bombay recently agreed to the location of this laboratory in Poona and the transference to the Council of the land required for this purpose. The Chemical Laboratory is expected to cost Rs. 35 lakhs.

The first of the five National Laboratories planned for the industrial development of the country was the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute costing about Rs. 12 lakhs. The Foundation Stone of this was laid by Sir Ardeshir Dalal, former Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, in last December at Calcutta.