

Statisticians

India is the venue of a number of international gatherings of statisticians this year. The ILO Statistical Seminar which concluded its deliberation in New Delhi early this week was convened to discuss the special problem of compiling statistics of unemployment in Asian countries. The International Statistical Institute and the conferences built around it are now in session in the capital. This is the first time these august bodies are meeting in a non-Atlantic country. Discussions at these meetings are expected to pave the way for international agreement on statistical definitions and methods of measurement in such subjects as agriculture and industry, population and biometrics, national statistical systems, education and culture, labour, income, wealth and econometrics, and the techniques of statistical sampling. A short session of the Institute is also scheduled to be held in Calcutta when an opportunity would be afforded to statisticians from India and abroad to review the methods adopted for the Indian National Sample Survey. The United Nations Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling would begin its session in Calcutta immediately after these conferences are terminated. A series of seminars under the auspices of the International Statistical Institute would at the same time supply a critical review of recent advances in methodology.

The present session of the International Statistical Institute is the 27th in the series and the third in the post-war period. Dr Stuart A. Rice in his presidential address to the conference described this session as the session of *fulfilling* (he did not say *fulfilment* because he was referring to a process "that should never be completed"). For a number of years this organisation has remained an exclusively European and, more recently, North American affair. A beginning has now been made towards drawing the Asian countries into the folds of the Institute. That this process of wiping off geographical boundaries should have started in India is no accident. India has already made notable contributions to the development of statistical theory and its empirical use in pointing the way to needed economic and social measures and to the world's store of quantitative information.

These international gatherings should help the progress made

Confer

towards filling the gaps in official statistics. While a wide variety of numerical data have been lately compiled and released by official bodies in India, not much attention has so far been paid to examining their premises with a view to assessing the degree of reliance that could be placed on these various estimates

in their use for the framing of economic policy. Primary sources of date continue to be unreliable and disorganised in most cases. Contact with statistical experts from abroad it is hoped will restrain the Government from such a policy and induce them instead to concentrate their energies on improving the organisation for the collection and collation of primary data which, are woefully lacking.

on the road

on the land

on plantations

and in industry generally
cut costs - speed up work

with  **DUNLOP**

pneumatic and cushion tyre
equipment

ADVX-5