

present rate 'of' population increase, it seems unlikely that India will ever be able to feed her people well from her own soil exclusively", Dr Lewis says in this article.

From this basic premise, Dr Lewis goes on to draw a number of inferences. "If India has to import agricultural products, she will have to export manufactured products in exchange. This is the fate of all countries whose population is large relatively to their cultivable area; Britain, Japan and India are in the same class.

"India has already become a major exporter of cotton textiles. She is now also entering the market for metal goods, which she is well equipped to do because of her large reserves of iron ore, and of coal. Her future lies probably in the same direction as that of Britain and Japan."

Land Mortgage Banks to Charge 7 1/2 Per Cent

THE Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act is to be amended in order to raise the maximum rate of interest charged by the banks from 6 per cent to 7-13/16 per cent.

The increase in the rate of interest is considered necessary because the borrowing rate of the Provincial Land Mortgage Bank is now around 4.4 per cent. The Provincial Land Mortgage Bank lends to the Primary Land Mortgage Banks at the sunbargo of 1 1/2 per cent to cover their expenses. This means that the borrowing rate of the Primary Land Mortgage Banks is about 6 per cent. The latter have to cover their working expenses which work out on an average at 1 1/2 per cent.

Similarly, wherever the Provincial Land Mortgage Bank operates directly in the area of the Primary Land Mortgage Bank, it has to incur expenses on supervision and inspection roughly on a par with those of the Primary Land Mortgage Banks.

Hence the higher rate.

Andhra Constitutional Provisions

ONE step in the establishment of Andhra State was taken with the submission to the Government of India of Mr Justice Wanchoo's report on the financial and other implications of the formation of the State. There are a number of problems involved and after these have been considered by the

Government of India, the report will be placed before Parliament and the Government will indicate the attitude it intends to take up on the various recommendations made therein. It is proposed to obtain approval of Parliament before bringing forward necessary legislation. The Government is to make a statement on the subject shortly.

According to the Constitution, "Parliament may by law [a] form a new State by separation of territory from any State. . . ." A Bill having this object has, however, to be recommended by the President before it is introduced in either House of Parliament. Where it affects the boundaries of any Part A or Part B State, the President has to ascertain previously the views of the Legislature of that State on the question of the introduction of the Bill and the provisions made in it. The Madras Legislature will thus get an opportunity to discuss these provisions first.

This Bill will have to amend the First and Fourth Schedule to the Constitution. The First Schedule contains the names of the various States and the Fourth Schedule provides for the Allocation of Seats in the Council of States. Article 368, which provides for a special majority for any amendment of the Constitution and for a ratification

of such amendment by State Legislatures in certain cases, is not, however, applicable to this amendment of the First and Fourth Schedules by virtue of a provision in Article 4. The Bill can therefore be passed by simple majority.

Power Cut in Madras

THE cut in power supply in 13 districts in Tamilnad and Malabar imposed by the Madras Government one year after Bombay City had to suffer a similar fate comes as another reminder of the danger of depending upon a purely hydro-electric system, however balanced the latter may be. It is poor consolation for Madras that its grid system is better balanced than that of Bombay in that it is not dependent on any one rain belt. Shri D C Kothare, Vice-President of the South Indian Mill Owners' Association, has complained that his Association had drawn the attention of the Madras Government to the need for a thermal station long ago. This suggestion had been rejected on the plea that inter-state movements of coal were difficult. This would not, however, be a valid objection if the thermal station was looked upon only as a stand-by and a peak supplier of power.

What is to be most deplored is the lack of any forethought on the part of the Madras Government,

