

only undermine the prestige of the United Nations.

A year ago, Pandit Nehru had occasion to warn the Big Powers that if they persist in their united front against the small Powers and their legitimate political and economic rights, the Asian-Arab member-States may have to consider their whole attitude to the United Nations. Pandit Nehru issued this warning as the Asian-Arab member-States failed in their attempts to have a Security Council debate on the French policy in Tunisia.

At present, the Asian-Arab member-States are trying to hold a Security Council debate on the Moroccan issue. France contends that the United Nations have no authority to discuss Morocco. Her argument is that there is no dispute between France and Morocco; that, the change of Sultans there does not threaten world peace. Britain and America support France in her stand, and in her contentions.

It is not for France, America, and Britain, but for the United Nations, to decide whether the recent developments in Morocco threaten international peace. But, how can the United Nations come to a decision without initiating a

discussion on this issue? Due to voting strength, the Big Powers may be in a position to debar any such discussion by the United Nations. But the implications of any such joint action are grave and serious. The conceited move by the Big Powers is not only a blow to the moral prestige of the United Nations. Its racial and colonial implications are serious menaces to world peace.

The Doctor's Lament

DR AMBEDKAR'S bitter attack on the Constitution will come as a great surprise to those who know the part which he played in drafting it. His confession that he was acting merely as a hack at that time is certainly a reflection on himself. It would have been considered insulting had any one else cast this reflection on him. If he did not agree with the provisions of the Constitution, he should have brought his weighty influence to bear on the Constituent Assembly. And if he failed to do that, the more honourable course for him would have been to resign. Instead of that, by his vehement speeches in support of the Constitution he misled the nation and made it accept what he now condemns.

Dr Ambedkar has raised the bogey of communalism by demanding protection to the minorities. It is true that the mere declaration of the abolition of untouchability made in the Constitution is not sufficient to ensure the removal of the disabilities to which the Scheduled Castes are subject. It must be backed by remedies provided by law and the implementation of the law must be speedy and effective. It is true also that these disabilities continue to exist and the spirit of fraternity which the Constitution aims to foster has not yet become widespread. Nevertheless, a beginning has been made in the right direction and the law for the abolition of untouchability is likely to be taken up soon. In this context, the learned doctor's attack is unjustified and inappropriate.

That Dr Ambedkar should look for this protection to the Governors of the States in the shape of a Special Responsibility reflects, perhaps, the extent to which he is bound by the past, when the Governors represented an irresponsible executive dominating the administration. While the Governors are not exactly purely nominal heads of the States in all circumstances, to give them this special responsibility would be to destroy the de-

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mocratic character of the Constitution. That there is little likelihood of Dr Ambedkar's suggestion being accepted is a very welcome sign of the relative sanity which has come to prevail in the country on this question.

Iron And Manganese Ore

THE Government of India had recently announced its intention to revise the system of export licensing for iron ore and manganese ore from the middle of October, 1953. For this purpose, it had called upon the shippers to furnish full particulars of all shipments of these ores made by them since January 1950 upto June 30, 1953. In the light of information so far available, it has been decided as an interim measure, not to alter the existing procedure for the grant of export licences for the export of these ores from ports other than Calcutta and Madras.

Export from the ports of Calcutta and Madras will, for the time being, be allowed on the basis of past performance of the shippers and eligible shippers will be granted export allocations equal to 23 per cent of their best exports during any or the three financial years ending March 1953. The quotas allotted to individual shippers will be valid for shipment during the period October 16 to December 31, 1953. Shippers who are able to ship their allotment in full before December 31, 1953 can apply for additional allotment to the respective Export Trade Control officers.

The question is being considered of giving mine-owners, who are not eligible to receive export allotments as established exporters but would like to enter the export trade, an opportunity to export these ores. Mine-owners, who are interested, should submit their applications to the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, New Delhi, with documentary evidence to show quantities actually mined, quantities sold and royalty paid to the State Governments during each of the three financial years ending March 1953.

With effect from October 16, 1953, railway wagon allotments will be made only to holders of export allotments. Railways will register incidents in accordance with the usual procedure and make allotments pro-rata in order of registration.

" Public Charitable Purpose "

THE controversy in the House of the People over the definition of the phrase "public charitable purpose" in the Estate Duty

Bill, took an unexpected turn when the Finance Minister withdrew the official amendment on the subject and substituted another. According to the original amendment, any purpose expressed to be for the benefit of "any particular religious community" was excluded from the definition. The substitute amendment moved by Shri Chintaman Deshmukh states that, "public charitable purpose includes relief of the poor, education, medical relief and advancement of any other object of general public, utility within the territory of India." The new definition, then-fore, no longer excludes donations given for the benefit of any religions community from its purview.

The importance of the definition arises from the fact that while gifts are exempt from the duty if they have been made more than two years before the death of the owner, in the case of gifts made for "public charitable purposes", the time limit is reduced to six months.

The principle involved is, therefore, of wide significance. Our constitution aims at the setting up of a secular state. It has been provided, for example, that state funds shall not be utilised for the maintenance of any educational institution which restricts admission to any particular community. The earlier definition refused to countenance communalism of this type. That the Finance Minister eventually agreed to concede the point, however, may not be so surprising after all, considering that he was making a virtue of necessity, for the amended definition, incidentally,

ensures uniformity in this respect with the income-tax law. The Finance Minister, however, did not yield gracefully. For though he conceded on the present occasion, he did so with the warning that he wished to wage the battle "at another time and place".

Estate Duty Rates

AS a result of an amendment passed in the House of the People this week, the Estate Duty Hill will itself incorporate the rates at which the duty is to be levied. To enable this to be done, the House took the unusual step of suspending the operation of one of its rules of procedure. As the Estate Duty Bill has already passed through its first stage and through the Select Committee, the inclusion of the rates in it at this stage would have implied the acceptance of an amendment beyond the scope of the principal measure. By agreeing to suspend the rule, therefore, the House avoided further delay in the consideration of an important measure.

The inclusion of the rates of the duty in the principal measure will not, as has been suggested, put the measure outside the control of the Finance Minister while presenting the annual Budget. The income tax rates are subject to amendment by the Finance Hill annually and the rates of the estate duty can also be altered in this way. In the interests of equity, it would be unfair to change these rates frequently; but they should be stepped up slowly until they have reached levels comparable to those existing in other countries.

ESTATE DUTY RATES

Interest in Joint Hindu Family				Property of Any Other Kind						
Rate of Duty (per cent)				Rate of Duty (per cent)						
First	Rs	50,000	...	Nil	First	Rs	75,000	...	Nil	
Next	Rs	50,000	...	5	Next	Rs	25,000	...	5	
..	Rs	50,000	...	7½	..	Rs	50,000	...	7½	
..	Rs	50,000	...	10	..	Rs	50,000	...	10	
..	Rs	1,00,000	...	12½	..	Rs	1,00,000	...	12½	
..	Rs	2,00,000	...	15	..	Rs	2,00,000	...	15	
..	Rs	5,00,000	...	20	..	Rs	5,00,000	...	20	
..	Rs	10,00,000	...	25	..	Rs	10,00,000	...	25	
..	Rs	10,00,000	...	30	..	Rs	10,00,000	...	30	
..	Rs	20,00,000	...	35	..	Rs	20,00,000	...	35	
Balance of principal value of estate				40	Balance of principal value of estate			
				40				

Reduction of 25 per cent of duty in case of an estate consisting wholly of agricultural land where the principal value does not exceed Rs 2 lakhs.