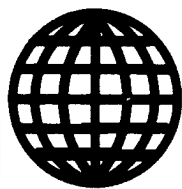


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Near East & South Asia

IRAN

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Near East & South Asia

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International Affairs

Italy Announces Readiness To Transfer Technology

92AS0861A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
18 Mar 92 p 4

[Boldface words as published]

[Text] Tehran. IRNA. 18 Esfand [8 March]. "Marco Mayer," the representative of the Italian Foreign Trade Center, during a cooperative exhibition of Iranians and Italians, announced the readiness of his country to transfer technology to Iran.

Speaking at the Center for Export Development, he described trade relations between Iran and Italy as being at an appropriate level and said: "The satisfactory volume of trade between the two countries in 1991 was \$3.5 billion, which has doubled in only two years."

The Italian official considered the transfer of a private hall to Italy, for which the agreement was signed in this gathering, a positive step in the development of trade between the two countries and said: In having access to such a hall, the Italians will have the opportunity to present themselves in the best light to Iranian companies and ultimately offer Iran advanced technology.

According to this report, in this gathering, the cultural adviser to the director general of the Center for Export Development expressed the hope that the transfer to Italy of a separate hall in the Tehran international exhibition will be a new beginning for trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Paris Bank To Fund Polyethylene Plant Construction

92AS0861C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
1 Apr 92 p 10

[Boldface words as published]

[Text] Rome. IRNA. The Paris National Bank was granted permission to pay \$18 million to build a polyethylene factory in Iran.

The above-mentioned amount is part of the \$600 million fund that will be paid gradually by the Paris National Bank to the Central Bank of Iran.

This report adds: The agreement to build a polyethylene factory in the Tabriz petrochemical complex was signed earlier between the Italian company of "Technologia Projeti Lavar" and Tabriz Petrochemical.

According to a report by IRNA from Rome, the Paris National Bank is the representative of a group of international banks that have signed an agreement to pay \$600 million to the Central Bank of Iran.

HOMA To Purchase New Planes From Airbus

92AS0982A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 29 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] News Service

The agreement to purchase two wide-bodied airbuses was signed by Engineer Shafti, the general manager of HOMA, and John Pearson, the general manager of the "Airbus" aircraft manufacturing company.

According to a report by our ABRAR correspondent, during the signing of the above-mentioned agreement, Engineer Shafti said: The two airplanes purchased are the A300 and 600RS airbuses, which have 267 seats and are to be delivered to Iran by the end of 1372 [20 May 1994].

The general manager of the airlines of the Islamic Republic added: Considering the increasing demand for the expansion of air transport in the country, and given that in the past years the necessary investments have not been made in this area, in the past two years, as part of a 20-year plan in the area of investment and air transport as well as replacing old airplanes, HOMA took certain steps, among which are the purchase of six (fuker) "F-100" planes last year.

He continued: HOMA has had a solid working relationship with the Airbus airplane manufacturing company for about 15 years. About a year and a half ago, preliminary steps were taken to buy two airplanes, and with the lifting of the embargo, the final agreement was signed between the two companies.

According to ABRAR correspondent's report, Mr. "John Pearson," the general manager of the Airbus airplane manufacturing industries, announced in a communique the sale of two airplanes to Iran and added: The signing of this agreement is an important step in expanding bilateral cooperation, and I hope such cooperation will increase in the future.

It is worthy of note that this is the first agreement signed between Iran and the "Airbus" company since the lifting of the U.S. embargo on the purchase of airplane parts made by U.S. companies.

Foreign Investors Given Ownership Rights

92AS1056D London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Jun 92
pp 1, 11

[Text] In order to improve its economic situation, the Islamic Republic changed its foreign investment regulations, and from now on foreign industrial and commercial individuals and establishments will be allowed to have 100-percent ownership of Iranian companies.

Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, the minister of industries of the Iranian regime, in a meeting with German industrialists who were invited by the union of the Chamber of Commerce, said in this connection: The present laws and regulations do not create any sort of restriction on foreign investments in Iran, and the regulations for supporting foreign investments in Iran are quite responsible.

Reuters from Nicosia reported: Following the ratifications of the new regulations, the representatives of the Islamic Republic travelled to countries in Europe and

the Persian Gulf region to explain the open-door policy for foreign investments in Iran.

Previous regulations restricted foreign investments at 49-percent ownership for foreigners. Political and economic experts believe that with the nationalization of the industries in Iran in 1979, foreign investors have ceased to show interest in investing and carrying on economic activities in Iran. According to Reuters, it seems that the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, after the defeat of the extremists in the Majles elections, intends to pave the way for foreign investment. The leftists and religious extremists in Iran have always opposed foreign investment, because they consider it a tool to waste the national resources and the return of foreign influence in Iran. But at present, Iran needs capital to rebuild the roads, ports, power plants, and factories destroyed during the eight-year war with Iraq.

The foreign currency revenues of Iran, which are mostly obtained from the sale of crude oil, do not even reach \$30 billion. Hence, of this money, which is only sufficient to procure medical equipment, food and raw materials for the population of 58 million in Iran, nothing is left for investment. Ne'matzadeh said: 100-percent of the ownership of the organizations, facilities and factories that are built with foreign investment shall belong to the foreign investors, and if any sort of political event occurs, the Iranian Government guarantees the reimbursement to their owners of the principle investment plus interest at the rate of 1,440 rials per dollar.

Internal Affairs

Minister on Efforts To Encourage Return of Doctors

92AS1013D London KEYHAN in Persian 28 May 92
p 2

[Text] Dr. Reza Malekzadeh, the minister of health and medical education of the Islamic Republic, said last week in Mashhad: We are trying to invite as many of the 6,000 Iranian doctors residing in Europe and the United

States as we can. According to Malekzadeh, these doctors are employed at high academic levels at the universities of Western countries.

Malekzadeh said: We have increased medical scholarships for studying at foreign universities. Malekzadeh added: We are trying to establish contact between the medical schools in the country and those abroad. Malekzadeh added: One billion dollars in foreign currency funds have been allocated to the purchase of drugs and medical equipment.

It must be mentioned that since the coming to power of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, many delegations have been sent abroad to encourage Iranian experts to return to Iran. But since they have been unable to guarantee any of their demands, these missions have not been successful.

Persian Gulf Termed Clean by International Standards

92WN0596Z JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 11 Apr 92
p 3

[Text] The level of pollutants in the waters of the Persian Gulf is still below the average of these substances in other waters, and this waterway is considered clean by international standards.

Qatar radio announced this statement, quoting the final communique of the Middle East environmental conference that ended its work today in Dubai.

This communique states: The high salt level of the Persian Gulf waters has helped prevent the accumulation of and residue from pollutants, including oil, in this heavily trafficked waterway. Another part of the above-mentioned communique offers suggestions and guidance to deal with the pollution due to the spillage of oil from tankers and other vessels in the Persian Gulf.

In conclusion, this communique asks for the signing of an agreement among all the countries in the region with other concerned countries to coordinate their efforts to fight oil pollution in this vital waterway.

Comprehensive Study Details Manpower Situation

92AS1057A Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian

8 Apr 92 p 11

[Article by Behnam Maleki, faculty of the Free Islamic University]

[Text] Today, as one of the most basic elements of production, manpower has a special position in the production and social and economic growth of societies, so that for any economy to develop it needs intellectual, skilled, and specialist manpower. The importance of this element arises from the fact that manpower is no longer understood in its traditional sense (as a career), and in view of the complexity of the relations of production, the concept of manpower resources has dropped out of the literature of the advanced economies. A study of the concept of manpower is more acutely felt in the nations of the Third World, because of the fundamental malfunctions in the various economic dimensions (including the unsound and unskilled makeup of manpower). On the one hand employment (or the utilization of manpower) is considered to be one of the basic pillars of production, and unlike the other elements of production, it cannot be stored, and if it is not used, this manpower will disappear. The flip side of employment is unemployment. Unemployment is one of the greatest social,

economic, and political problems of the present century, and there is more of it to be seen in the Third World and in the developing nations. Moreover, unemployment in such countries (Third world and developing nations) is synonymous with lack of food, lack of housing, lack of identity, and the loss of their personality and human dignity. Unfortunately, the basic weak spot in the developing nations (unlike the Western and capitalist nations) and including Iran is the lack of scientific and academic research on employment of manpower, especially in the agricultural sector.

The first goal of this article is therefore a comprehensive study of the employment situation in Iran's various economic sectors (based on the use of official statistics and figures concerning aspects of manpower).

1 - Importance of the Subject in Iran

In our country one of the problems the nation's economy faces is the role of manpower as one of the elements of production in the total economy. This discussion has various dimensions, including employment and unemployment, the active population, the appropriate manpower makeup in the economic sectors, the utilization of the work force, manpower and its place in national development and other issues like this, and comprehensive research must be done on all of the above matters.

Table 1

Year	1335 [21 Mar 1956-20 Mar 1957]		1345 [21 Mar 1966-20 Mar 1967]		1355 [21 Mar 1976-20 Mar 1977]		1365 [21 Mar 1986-20 Mar 1987]	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	18,955	100	25,786	100	33,708	100	49,445	100
Active Percent of Total	6,067	32	7,841	30.4	9,796	29.1	12,853	25.9
Employed Percent of Active	5,908	97.4	7,116	90.8	8,799	89.8	11,035	85.9
Employed Percent of Total	5,908	31.1	7,116	27.6	8,799	26.1	11,035	22.3
Unemployed Percent of Active	159	2.6	725	9.2	997	10.2	11,118	14.1

Table 2

1,000 persons

Country	Total Population	Active Population	Activity Rate
Iran	40,437	11,727	29
West Germany	61,430	28,542	46.5
Italy	56,577	22,982	40.6
Yugoslavia	21,550	9,359	43.4
Czechoslovakia	15,283	7,849	51.4
Japan	119,300	58,890	49.4
South Korea	39,951	151,280	37.9
India	665,288	244,605	36.8
Argentina	27,231	10,815	38.3
Cuba	9,742	3,618	37.2

Table 3

1,000 Persons

Year	Women and Men			Men			Women		
	Popula- tion Total	Those Employed	Rate of Employ- ment	Popula- tion Total	Those Employed	Rate of Employ- ment	Popula- tion Total	Those Employed	Rate of Employ- ment
1335 [21 Mar 1956-20 Mar 1957]	18,955	5,908	31.1	9,645	5,334	55.3	9,310	572	6.1
1345 [21 Mar 1966-20 Mar 1967]	25,789	7,116	27.6	13,356	5,948	44.6	12,432	910	7.2
1355 [21 Mar 1976-20 Mar 1977]	33,708	8,799	26.1	17,356	7,587	43.7	16,352	1,212	7.4
1365 [21 Mar 1986-20 Mar 1987]	49,445	11,035	22.3	25,281	25,281	39.7	24,164	987	4

In the next stage it is necessary to study the dimensions of the above problem and its role in the nation's development model and in the region, and ultimately the responsibility of this element must be clarified so that it will ultimately lead to an understanding of the human element in the economy and an awareness of the relationships between the variables for the purpose of economic and social planning, to evaluate the needs of society, to determine productive power and capacity, and to anticipate future needs in order to set the course of national policy. In this regard the designers of the nation's economic programs must take note of the existing relations between variables that have a basic role in economic and social evolution (the relationships between economic variables and variables that have to do with manpower).

2 - Population, Distribution, Growth Rate

In the last few decades Iran has seen basic changes in population matters. A study of the four censuses that have been done shows that in the last 30 years there have been basic changes in the size of the population, the distribution of workers in the economic sectors, the geographic distribution of the population, the age of the population, and in the active and inactive populations. According to the first census done in 1335 [21 March 1956 - 20 March 1957], the population of Iran was counted at more than 19 million, of which 68.5 percent was in rural areas and the rest (31.43 percent) lived in the cities. Based on the census of 1345 [21 March 1966 - 20 March 1967], the population of Iran was more than 25,700 thousand people, of which 62.02 percent lived in the rural areas and 37.9 percent lived in the cities, and the average growth of Iran's population in this period was 3.1 percent. In the census of 1355 [21 March 1976 - 20 March 1977], the nation's population increased to 33,600 thousand, of which 46.9 percent lived in the cities, the rest in the rural areas (population growth in this period was 2.7 percent). In the latest census, done in 1365 [21 March 1986 - 20 March 1987], the nation's population had risen to about 50 million, of which 54.3 percent lived in the cities, the rest in the rural areas

(average population growth in this period was 3.9 percent). Based on the latest official studies, the population of Iran is now more than 58 million, of which 60 percent lives in the cities, the rest in the rural areas.¹

We will now examine the active, employed, and unemployed populations in the last three decades.

3 - Active, Unemployed, and Employed Population

When we look at population issues from the standpoint of employment, one of the chief topics of discussion is the active population and the study of it. National production (leaving aside the question of whether it is justly or unjustly distributed) bespeaks the rate of economic growth and the general welfare. This production, with regard to both quantity and quality, depends first of all on the active population. Therefore manpower, which strives and works to increase society's production and to produce and consume wealth, is the basic foundation for all activity.²

In table 1, the total population is shown based on the employed and unemployed populations in the last four censuses. As the table shows, of the total population in the year 1335 about 32 percent was active, of which 97.4 percent was employed and 2.6 percent was unemployed. In 1345, ten years later, with a growth rate of 3.1 percent the population of Iran increased to 25,789 thousand, of which 30.4 percent was active. Of the total active population, 90.8 percent was employed and 9.2 percent was unemployed. As will be noted, in 1345 the active population increased 1.3 times that of 1335 (an average growth rate of 2.6 percent per year). Despite the increase in the active population, the rate of active declined from 32 percent in 1335 to 30.4 percent in 1345. Moreover, the percentage of active women based on the 1345 census increased from 6.2 percent in 1335 to 8.3 percent, and on the other hand the percent of male activity decreased from 56 percent to 51 percent.

The rate of activity decreased again in the 1355 census, falling to 29.1 percent of the total population. Moreover, of the total active population in this year, 89.8 percent was employed and 10.2 percent was unemployed.

Finally, in the year 1365 the nation's active population reached about 13 million and the active population was 25.9 percent of the total. In ten years the active population grew at a rate of 29 percent. In this year, of the total population, 85.9 percent was employed and 14.1 percent was unemployed. A point that emerges from the censuses from 1335 to 1365 is that the daily increase in the active urban population is comparable to the active rural population. In other words, just as has been said, because of the migration of rural people to the cities, the percentage of the active urban population increased sharply compared to the percentage of the active rural population in the aforementioned period, and the cities were filled with unskilled manpower.

In table 2 the percentage of the active population is compared with that of several other countries of the world. Iran, with 29 percent of its total population active for the reasons given above and because women do not participate in economic activities and in the development of the educational system, has the largest number among the countries mentioned (the truth of the above claim is also confirmed by UN statistics. Based on UN population statistics, Iran is a country with one of the lowest levels of participation by women in economic activities).

Another point is the fertility of society based on the percentage of various age groups. Censuses show that more than 40 percent of the population is under 14 years of age, so that in the year 1335 this group was about 42.2 percent of the total. In 1345 it was 44.1 percent, in 1355 it was 44.5 percent, and in 1365 it reached almost 45 percent. This shows the high rate of Iran's burden of dependents compared with many other countries of the world. Based on statistics from the general censuses on general population and housing, the burden of dependents increased from 3.2 persons in 1335 to 4.5 persons in 1365.

In this regard the rate of employment (the employed percentage of the total population) over the 30 years decreased from 31.2 percent in 1335 to 22.3 percent in 1365. The fluctuations of the rate of employment of men and women are caused by various new reasons, the most important of which are:

1. The increase in population and the lack of proportionate employment creation
2. The favorability of social and economic conditions for the employment of women until the advent of the revolution and the scandalous decline in their employment after the revolution (table 3).

3. Basic changes in the foreign exchange and agriculture systems (the mechanization of agriculture and the lack of new employment to recruit rural people).

The Plan and Budget Organization estimates that in the year 1366 [21 March 1987 - 20 March 1988], two million of the nation's work force remained unemployed, mostly because of economic malfunctions and due to the war. On this basis, the unemployment rate of the nation's active population has reached 15.2 percent. This work force is mostly a menial and low-skilled work force. The work force that entered the labor market in the period 1335-65 was under the influence of a number of factors such as the high rate of population growth, the unfavorable economic conditions, and continued emigration to Iran by Afghan and Iraqi refugees.

4. The distribution of the employed population in the major areas of economic activity: in general economic activities are divided into the following three sectors:

A - Agriculture (farming, forestry, hunting, animal husbandry, fishing)

B - Industry (industries and mines, construction, electricity, gas, water)

C - Services (commerce, shipping, warehousing, communications, and others)

It must be realized that by studying the share of each of the economic sectors in the makeup of the active population in each area, its economic situation can be understood and also the necessary planning for the economic future of that area can be done. In other words, the appropriate indicator for understanding the economic basis of an area and its economic situation is a specified time. In general, it can be said that the more, better and faster the economic growth in an area, the higher the percentage of the active population in the industrial and service sector. On the other hand, to the extent that the agricultural sector employs most of the active population of an area, to that extent the economic and industrial backwardness of that area will be greater. In general, the structure of Iran's economic sectors in the last 30 years has undergone basic changes. Based on the 1335 census, about 57 percent of the people employed throughout the country were employed in the agricultural sector. This figure declined to 45 percent and 34 percent in the years 1345 and 1355, respectively, and it was reduced to half, or 29 percent, in 1365. At the same time, the service and industry sectors in 1335 were 24 percent and 20 percent respectively of those employed throughout the country.

In 1365 these figures increased to 46 and 26 percent, respectively, of those employed throughout the country.

Table 4

1,000 Persons
(Percent)

Major Economic Sectors	1335 [21 Mar 1956-20 Mar 1957]		1345 [21 Mar 1966-20 Mar 1967]		1355 [21 Mar 1976-20 Mar 1977]		1365 [21 Mar 1986-20 Mar 1987]		Rate of Employment Growth			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	1335-45	1345-55	1355-65	1365-75
Agriculture	3,326	56.3	3,168	44.6	2,992	34	3,209	28.8	-0.5	-0.6	0.7	-0.2
Industry	1,187	20.1	1,887	26.5	3,013	34.2	2,859	25.6	4.7	4.8	-0.5	0.3
Service and Other	1,395	23.6	2,061	28.9	2,794	31.8	5,110	45.6	3.98	3.08	6.22	4.42
Total Employed	598	100	7,116	100	8,799	100	11,178	100	1.87	2.14	2.42	2.14
Total Unemployed	159	-	725	-	997	-	1,877	-	3.38	3.23	6.53	8.57
Active Population	6,067	-	7,841	-	9,796	-	13,065	-	2.59	2.25	2.92	2.58

Source: Iranian Statistics Center—the general census of population and housing for various years, Statistics Yearbook.

Table 4 gives the changes in employment and the annual growth rate according to categories. Until the Islamic revolution the agricultural sector saw a decline in the number of workers, but after the revolution, for numerous reasons, the number of workers increased to 217,000 and there was an annual growth rate of 0.7 percent. In the decades 1335-45 and 1345-55 the industrial sector had annual growth rates of 4.7 percent and 4.8 percent, respectively, and in the decade 1355-65 there was a decline in the number of workers to 154,000, and there was a 0.5-percent decline rate. The main reasons for the stagnation of the industrial sector after the Islamic revolution could be the imposed war, problems caused by internal changes after the revolution, weak management, foreign exchange problems and the lack of a development model for the country.

As for the service sector, throughout the last 30 years it has seen positive growth, so that during the decades 1335-45, 1345-55, and 1355-65 it had growth rates of 4 percent, 3 percent and 6.2 percent, and its average growth rate over the last 30 years was 4.4 percent. The highest growth rates in the service sector occurred in the years following the revolution. The changes in each of the areas of activity are worthy of deep consideration. The basic question is, do the increases in the number of workers in the industrial sector and especially in the service sector and the decline in the number of workers in the agricultural sector really show economic growth in the country? Didn't this trend sometimes really have the effect of freeing manpower from the agricultural sector and employing it in industrial sector production and services? The existing indications do not suggest such a thing. It appears that at the moment the cultural of oil dependence penetrated the nation's economic structure, the culture of production, creativity, initiative and invention withdrew. A look at the statistical data from the past indicates that the more dependence on oil

revenues increases, the more evident are the concepts of consumption, laziness, useless activity and other such things. Throughout its inception and new development in the country, the industrial sector has aided this tendency tremendously, and its practices of importing capital-intensive technology, engaging in assembly production and making consumer goods all point to the truth of this idea.

Moreover, the cancerous growth of the service sector clearly shows that this is true. This phenomenon has led to the evacuation of the villages and a flood of unemployed people pouring into the cities, so that between 1335 and 1365 the population has decreased continuously. In other words, the number of people employed in the agricultural sector has declined, so that it reached its peak in the year 1351 [21 March 1972-20 March 1973] at 3,700 thousand, but when talk began about an increase in world oil prices, then the increase in oil revenues in the country and the growth of assembly and consumer industries, it began decreasing again so that in the year 1356 [21 March 1977-20 March 1978] it reached its minimum at 2,966 thousand (32 percent of all employed people). After the revolution, because of some of the land and agricultural policies that had been adopted, the stagnation in the industrial sector, the drop in the price of oil and the rise in the spirit of independence in the economic body of society arising from the fervor of the revolution and other factors, the number of people employed in the agricultural sector began to rise and we saw an increase of 200,000 in the number of people employed in the sector.

Study of the Productivity of Manpower

Productivity consists of the amount of added value per number of people employed. With this in mind we will study the productivity of manpower in the nation's various economic sectors.

The agricultural sector, because of the mass of surplus people in it as well as its traditional structure and its consequent low productivity, has low manpower productivity. The productivity of the labor force in the year 1338 [21 March 1959 - 20 March 1960] at 1353 [21 March 1974 - 20 March 1975] prices was 49.4 per thousand. For the years 1345, 1355 and 1365 respectively, this figure was 59.5, 109.5 and 170.9 per thousand. In these last 30 years the productivity of the labor force has grown very little. There are various reasons for this, including the concentration of surplus agricultural people, the traditional structure and makeup in agriculture (the work force in the agricultural sector, because of its advanced age, its severe illiteracy and its lack of skills and creativity, thwarts any kind of hope for marked change in the sector), the failure to use modern technology (mechanization) and other things. Moreover, the matter of productivity in the agricultural sector becomes more painful when we compare it with the other sectors. In the year 1338 the productivity of the industrial sector was 40.5 per thousand and the productivity in the oil and services sector was 8,823.3 and 127.4 per thousand, respectively. In other words, the productivity of the oil sector was 178.5 times as much and the productivity in the services sector was 2.6 times as much as that of the agricultural sector. Up until 1342 [21 March 1963 - 20 March 1964] the productivity of the agricultural sector was greater than that of industry, but after 1343 [21 March 1964 - 20 March 1965] the productivity of industry and mines moved ahead of that of agriculture, and remained higher until about 1365. The lowest level of manpower productivity in the agricultural sector was in 1353, when it was 87.1 thousand rials. On the other hand, the highest level was in the oil sector, at 26,550 rials.

Thus in this year the profitability of the work force in the oil sector was 304.8 times that of the agricultural sector. In the same year, the productivity of the work force in the service sector was five times that of the agricultural sector, and in industries and mines it was 1.82 times that of the agricultural sector. The source for the statistics and indicators of profitability is the National Accounts of Iran, published by the Central Bank of Iran.

This situation remained stable in subsequent years, although in the year 1365 the profitability of the work force in the agricultural sector is 110.4 thousand rials at 1953 prices, showing a growth of about 26.8 percent. Even so, the lowest productivity figure is still in the agricultural sector. Of course productivity in the industries, mines, and service sectors declined after 1365 (the basic reason for that was the massive movement of the work force into these two sectors as the result of the developments of the war). In short, it can be said that the productivity of the nation's work force, which is itself the result of all the economic, social and cultural factors in society, has mostly declined in recent years, because of the lack of proper management, the lack of suitable and sufficient equipment and training for the work force, the lack of sufficient investment, the existence of inappropriate executive and administrative regulations, the

failure to make appropriate and effective use of specializations and skills, the concentration of specialists in one place, pressures arising from the growth in population and the spread of basic needs and the decline in real purchasing power for vast sectors of families, and especially wage-earning families. In sum it can be said that in 30 years the productivity of the labor force in the oil sector is in first place with a very high figure compared to the other sectors, followed by the service sector, the mines and industries sectors and then the agricultural sector in last place (a point worth mentioning is that the employment population figure in the sectors has much influence on productivity, and if the labor force figures in these sectors were proportionate to need, the productivity levels would also be very different).

Summary and Conclusions

The basic element in economic and social development in general and in the development of the various economic sectors specifically is manpower. In countries whose production has a backward structure, the necessity of this factor is felt more. Manpower plays the primary role in economic change and development planning, and it is necessary for achieving quantity, proportion and finding the best way to plan for the economic and social development of every country and region. Iran has been no exception to this rule and will not be.

In view of the characteristics of Iran's population, the manpower factor has not been limited, but wrong planning in the last 30 years has caused the misdirection of employment in the sectors. In other words, the basic obstacles have been the low level of productivity and manpower in the first instance, and the inappropriate makeup in the second of these very limiting factors such as education (literacy), the shortage of investments in the basic sectors, depending on traditions especially in the agricultural sector, and disproportionate planning, especially in the government sector, which caused growth in the service sector compared to the agricultural and industrial sectors.

In this regard, the government's transfer payments in urban areas can be mentioned, which are themselves a basic cause of emigration from the rural areas to the cities.

Footnotes

1. The source of the statistics given above is: The censuses on general population and housing for the years 1335, 1345, 1355, and 1365.
2. The active population is that group of the population that has the ability to work and is in practice active in the production of the necessary economic goods and services (the opposite point is the inactive population).

Petrochemical Industry Production Increases

92AS0861E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
1 Apr 92 p 10

[Boldface words as published]

[Text] Tehran. IRNA. The products of the National Petrochemical Industries Company reached 4.3 million tons this year, an increase of about 44 percent compared to 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991].

According to a report by the publications office of the National Petrochemical Industries Company, the above-mentioned products include 1.2 million tons of shale chemical fertilizers, 850 tons of nitrogen fertilizer, and 350 tons of phosphate fertilizers. The total value of the products of the company in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], based on international prices, was about \$600 million.

This report adds: In the first Five-Year Plan for petrochemical industries development, 10 projects are under way, among them the Bandar Eman petrochemical project, the Arak petrochemical project, the Esfahan petrochemical project, the Tabriz petrochemical project, and the Khorasan chemical fertilizer project. So far, the Shiraz methanol project, the Razi ammonium phosphate project, the first phase of the Bandar Imam petrochemical project, and the building of the residential units of Mahshahr and the Mahshahr Airport have been put into operation.

This report adds: The Esfahan petrochemical project will also be operational in the first quarter of 1371 [21 March-21 June 1992], and the huge Arak petrochemical complex will be operational by the end of 1371 [20 March 1993].

This report indicates that the National Petrochemical Industries Company exported 970,000 tons of petrochemical products, at a value of \$100 million, in 1370 [1991-92], which indicates an increase of 172 percent in weight compared to the previous year.

According to IRNA, in keeping with the policies of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to privatize the national petrochemical industries, this company this year transferred 12 petrochemical production projects to the private sector.

Imam Khomeyni International Airport Plan Detailed

92AS1051B Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
9 Apr 92 p 2

[Text] The public relations unit of the executive office of the Imam Khomeyni International Airport Project announced: Under a contract that has been signed for a two-line rapid transit passenger train between Tehran and Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him) International Airport, the question of the study and supervision of phases one and two of the construction of the route for the two-line rapid transit electrical passenger train from Tehran to the Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him) International Airport will be studied over an 18-month period by Iranian consulting engineers with limited cooperation by foreign experts, including all related matters, such as: bridges, tunnels, repair shops, parking and stations. Moreover decisions will be made in the matter of selecting the route, method of construction and

all the related economic and technical matters. This will facilitate connecting the national railroad network and the metro to the new Tehran international airport.

It is worth mentioning that adding road capacities to the Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him) International Airport will provide sufficient guarantees for giving passengers rapid access to the airport in the future. At the same time, another part of the executive operations for the Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him) International Airport Project has begun, and this project includes concrete aircraft parking areas with hangars for the airline companies with an area of 150,000 square meters, and a shuttle taxi from the north part of the airport to the south via four large concrete bridges, and a runway 60 meters wide.

It should not be left unsaid that the amount of the contract under discussion, to be carried out over a period of 44 months, is more than 13.4 billion rials. Likewise, a contract valued at 13.3 billion rials was signed with the pertinent contractor to build one of the aircraft parking areas for Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him) International Airport, and was then implemented. The aforementioned parking area, with a reinforced concrete surface and an area of 300,000 square meters, will be built for the purpose of parking 30 aircraft of various types, and it is expected to be completed in 38 months.

Strategic Highway To Become Operational in 1994

92AS1013E London KEYHAN in Persian 28 May 92
p 2

[Text] The distance between Esfahan and Ahvaz will be reduced by about 250 km with the operation of the Esfahan-Shahr-e Kord-Khuzestan strategic highway. According to a report in newspapers published in Tehran, the length of the above-mentioned road is 260 km and is supposed to be operational by the end of next year (1372 [20 March 1994]). Karim Farajzadeh-Halva'i, the technical and road building deputy minister of roads and transports, made the announcement about the building of the new Esfahan-Khuzestan road and pointed out that the road in question will cost more than 2.5 million tomans to build. The above-mentioned official told reporters that the 950 meter "Harding" tunnel, which connects the provinces of Chahar Mahal and Bakhtiari and Esfahan, will be operational this year at a cost of 900 million rials. He emphasized that with the shortening of the distance between Esfahan and Ahvaz by 250 km, land travel from Esfahan Province to Khuzestan will be better than before, which will help improve the transport of goods and aid economic expansion in the region.

Rural Water, Road Expansion Plans Detailed

92AS0982F Tehran ABRAR in Persian 4 May 92 p 14

[Interview with Engineer Karim Karimi, deputy minister for development of the Ministry of Construction Jihad, by the press on 3 May 1992; place not given]

[Text] News Service. Essential and fundamental services such as roads, water, electricity, and improvement will be provided to 4,500 villages of the country, affecting a population of 3 million people.

Engineer Karim Karimi, the deputy minister for development of the Ministry of Construction Jihad, made this announcement yesterday in a press conference and said:

This year, about 1.5 million people will receive safe drinking water; 300,000 people will benefit from suitable roads; 800,000 people will enjoy electrical energy; and more than 500,000 people will be covered by the transportable water outreach.

He added: In the meantime, the implementation of improvement and leading rural projects is being carried out in 220 villages, and 210 villages are being considered for improvement.

According to Engineer Karimi, also for the implementation of 470 rural projects and other projects, as a result of the notes of the budget law and the seven national projects, 227 billion rials have been allocated, of which 95.5 percent will be spent on a provincial and 4.5 percent on a national basis. The projected foreign currency funds from various sources is \$110 million.

Pointing out that this year, more than 2,200 km of rural roads have been built with technical specifications, Engineer Karimi said: In addition, another 2,000 km will be improved and asphalted, and more than 60,000 km of rural roads will be maintained and receive snow removal.

Engineer Karimi said: At the same time, the work on equipping 12 road-keeping stations has been completed, and they will be put into operation. He added: Also, in order to provide the electrical energy needed by villagers, 1,200 villages will be given electricity, and, considering the allocation of \$20 million in foreign currency to electrify the pumps of the agricultural water wells, with the implementation of 2,000 km of medium-voltage transmitting lines and the installation of 2,000 transfer motor pumps, the plan is to also bring electricity to 2,000 agricultural water wells.

In conclusion, he said: Although a significant number of the villages in the country still need primary fundamental services, considering that a large segment of the rural population enjoys the necessary substructure for expansion and employment development, the necessity

to pay more attention to the programs of production, in particular employment, in order to stabilize the rural population and make the villages thrive is quite tangible.

Price of Chicken, Eggs Increase

92AS0982C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 29 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] The Ministry of Construction Jihad announced the delay in the payments of rial subsidies as the reason behind the increase in the price of chicken and eggs.

According to the explanations of the above-mentioned ministry, the change in the foreign currency rate from 70 to 600 rials (competitive) to procure one-day-old chickens, seeds and other necessary materials; the increase in personnel costs by 100 percent as a result of the labor law and other issues; the increase in transportation costs by at least 200 percent; and the lack of a distribution network for livestock products have been announced as the factors contributing to the increase in the price of chicken and eggs.

The Ministry of Construction Jihad also announced that the reason for the delay in paying rial chicken and egg subsidies to the people was the problems in providing 55 billion rials in funds for the first phase of subsidy payments by the Central Bank, the Protection Agency, and the Ministry of Commerce.

Medicinal Costs Rise as Much as 500 Percent

92AS1013C London KEYHAN in Persian 28 May 92 p 1

[Text] For the second time in the past two weeks, the price of medicine has been increased tremendously by the government of the Islamic Republic, causing clashes and quarrels between patients and pharmacists. Without prior warning, the government raised the price of 487 drugs. In some instances, the increase is fivefold. The list of drugs that have become more expensive includes ordinary medicine as well as drugs for severe illnesses. Following this increase in price, many of the drugs have become scarce in Tehran.

Two weeks ago, the price of 30 kinds of drugs had increased, which angered the needy people. According to SALAM newspaper, the pharmacies also complain about the increase in the price of medicine without official announcement, saying that this has caused clashes between them and their customers.

Phase I of Dezful Water Project Completed*92AS0982D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 29 Apr 92 p 9*

[Text] Dezful, ABRAR correspondent. Phase I of the implemental operations for the Dezful water project was completed on 190,000 square meters of land.

Seven billion rials were spent on the implementation of this project, which at the present time includes the construction with concrete of two reservoirs with a capacity of 10,000 cubic meters each and two other reservoirs with a capacity of 5,000 cubic meters each. Also, in addition to the two pumping stations built, 10 deep wells and about 5 km of 56-inch water pipes have been completed, and much of the equipment of the project has been purchased. With the operation of the above-mentioned project, water will be provided for more than 10,000 residential, administrative, commercial and business units in that city.

The studies, facilities and building of the Dezful water project will be handled by the experts, specialists and workers of our country.

Announcing this report, the general manager of the Dezful Water Agency said: Seven hundred billion rials, provided by the banking facilities and the developmental and provincial funds, have been spent.

New Center Begins Study of Yazd Salt Desert*92WN0596Y JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian
14 Apr 92 p 10*

[Text] Ninety-six percent of the province of Yazd is desert, and despite the constant efforts to prevent the advancement of the desert, unfortunately, because of the climatic condition of the region, so far, the desert has been victorious over man.

The deserts of the province of Yazd are mainly flood plains and dry salt or marsh surfaces. Among these is the desert area of Siah Kuh, which is considered one of the most terrifying desert areas of the world.

Of the 73,000 square km of Yazd Province, more than 10,474 square km are desert, which is 14.3 percent of the total area in the province.

Also, 6.3 percent of land is low salt desert, 3 percent sand dunes and sandy areas, and 35 percent prairies and pastures.

On the other hand, 4 percent of the area of the province is comprised of heights over 3,000 meters, which are mostly in the areas of Shirkuh Khara'eq and Behabad.

In order to harness and prevent the advancement of the desert, in the past few decades, the Central Provincial Office of Forest Management, which name changed some time ago to the Central Office of Natural Resources, has engaged in planting draught-resistant plants and shrubbery that requires little water on more than 100,000 hectares of the dry desert areas of the province through the Construction Jihad, which has reduced the movement of sand toward the cities to some

extent. But the defiance of the sand is a constant, serious threat to the desert dwellers.

The plant coverage of the desert areas includes (buteh-ye daq), calligon, zygophylle, salt wort, wormseed, manna tree, mountain almond, fig, and Persian turpentine trees, which are suitable to the desert climate.

Recently, the desert research center, affiliated with the University of Tehran, has been established in Yazd and has taken steps to offer research projects on sources and ways to confront the desert.

The head of this center offers the following definition of a desert: A desert is a low, barren land in which the level of rainfall is irregular and less than 250 millimeters annually, and evaporation is at least 10 times the level of rainfall.

He says: In fact, the situation of the Province of Yazd, considering that its rainfall has been estimated at 71 millimeters annually, is very worrisome.

Every day one sees and hears that a village at the edge of the desert has been abandoned by its residents, who have migrated to other cities. In this connection, the abandonment of 2,193 of the total of 3,344 villages in the province of Yazd in the past few decades signifies the impotence of man against the desert.

While the province of Yazd makes up 4 percent of the total area of the country, due to its particular natural conditions, it has only 2 percent of the population of the country. Because of its low population, there is a strong possibility of the abandonment of more villages, and it can be projected that in the future years a large number of the villages will be abandoned or new villages will be created [as published].

Many natural restrictions have resulted in only a small amount of land being used for agriculture, and a major portion of the rural population, which is in fact 34 percent of the total population of the province, has engaged in nonagricultural activities or has created the phenomenon of migration from villages to cities.

An expert of the Central Office of Natural Resources of Yazd pointed out that the main deserts of the province include the Siah Kuh, Rig Zarrin, Allahabad, Saghand, Anjir, Mehdiabad, Marvest, Abrkuh and Taqestan deserts, and considered the creation of the existing sand deserts in and at the edges of the deserts of the province due to the climatic changes and geomorphic conditions.

He believes that a major portion of the sand deserts and sand dunes in the desert pastures or the edge of agricultural lands in the province are the result of uncontrolled activities of man and the destruction and elimination of native plants, which has caused the erosion of the land.

In addition to the unsuitable natural conditions, the uncontrolled use by the inhabitants of the limited plant coverage, such as digging out bushes, charcoal production, uncontrolled grazing, and failure to observe proper

agricultural principles, contribute to the lack of plant coverage in the region and expedite the advance of the desert.

Here it is necessary, while preserving and revitalizing the plant coverage of the region, for all the concerned organizations and offices to join hands and, by seeking help from international experts and by mobilizing all resources, to rise up to fight the expansion of the desert and prevent the gradual destruction of this region.

In this connection, recently the Iranian Center for Desert Region Research affiliated with the University of Tehran held its first elementary training and long-distance evaluation course in Yazd, in which 35 experts from various fields of natural resources participated.

In the opening ceremonies, the head of the Iranian Center for Desert Region Research announced: At the present, the Yazd research station has six research projects under way.

He added: The first seminar on desert problems in Iran will be held in Ordibehesht of 1371 [21 April-21 May 1992].

In addition, with the efforts of Yazd University, the field of desert, pasture and water management studies at an expert level has been established in this university for the first time.

Efforts Needed To Counter Advancing Salt Desert
92WN0596X JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian
15 Apr 92 p 10

[Text] The province of Kerman, with 19 million hectares, has various climatic conditions: deserts and semi-steppe and steppe deserts and high mountains. On the whole, it can be divided into three areas: desert, warm and cold climate, and highlands. It has areas with very little rainfall and areas with relatively good rainfall of more than 400 millimeters.

The different climatic conditions have resulted in the establishment of particular plants in that province. Of the 19 million hectares of land in the province, 5 million hectares lack any sort of vegetation and are mostly sand and salt deserts without any plants.

Various plants grow on 14 million hectares of the province of Kerman, of which about 9 million hectares can be called highlands. On the remaining 5 million hectares, the vegetation is so sparse that it cannot be used for pastures and cannot be called pasture land. The above statistics indicate that the greatest part of the province of Kerman is comprised of desert areas with unfavorable climatic conditions, and its proximity to other areas has made the ecosystem very fragile. It has a very weak revitalization capability, so that even slight damage to the natural resources of the province cannot be easily repaired.

This negative factor is much more intense in the marginal areas of the desert, where the forests and pastures are for the most part threatened. The destruction of

hectares of forest in such areas as the southern Shahdad Plain, which has been followed by destructive sand, is the result of this negative factor.

(Here, the role of the regions neighboring the desert in preventing the advancement of the desert and the importance of paying more attention to these regions become clear.)

The inability to revitalize as a result of the unfavorable climatic conditions is not only true of the areas on the edge of the desert but the close proximity of highlands to the desert has caused forests and pastures in these areas to be incapable of preserving and revitalizing themselves against the destructive elements, considering that they are comprised mostly of slow-growing varieties.

Now nowhere in the vast province of Kerman are saplings younger than 20 years to be seen in the Persian turpentine tree forests, and the valuable juniperus forests are being diminished.

The vast spread of the forests over about 3 million hectares, where at the present in many areas only single trees are seen (such as Sarcheshmeh in Rafsanjan), indicates the existence of dense forests in the past. Uncontrolled use by man and livestock in the past along with unfavorable climatic conditions in the province have resulted in forests, or rather pastures with trees, only on the highlands around Baft, Jebal-e Barez, Jiroft and part of Sirjan Heights. The forests of the province in the cold areas and highlands are mostly juniperus, wild almonds, olives, and acer, and in moderate climates, mountain almonds, a kind of Persian turpentine tree, and zygophylle trees. In the warm regions, too, there are forests of various types of manna tree, prosopis, lotus tree, milkweed and in the desert areas forests of various types of halloxylon.

Pastures, about 9 million hectares, cover a large part of the south central area of the province of Kerman. These pastures are mostly inferior; a good pasture is rare.

In the province of Kerman, pastures, too, are on the decline. At the present, plants such as wormseed, goat's thorn, (karfich) and wild rue have replaced edible plants. Unfortunately, in most of these areas, the dominant plants make up the pastures. Edible plants have been totally destroyed because of excessive grazing or are found in isolation among the thorn bushes where the livestock cannot graze. Most of the edible and nutritious plants have become extinct or are about to become extinct, because every year they are grazed before they come to seed.

It is worthy of note that with proper planning the capacity of the pastures can be doubled.

The excessive pressure of the livestock along with the cutting of shrubs by the villagers and tribes have caused many of the winter land pastures to be destroyed or to become very sparse. The pastures of the province are

now found almost exclusively in the summer and moderate areas, such as the aquiferous area of Helil, Sarduiyyeh, and Jebal-e Barez, the aquiferous area of Arzo'iyyeh Plain in Jiroft, and parts of the Sirjan Heights.

Tehran Mayor on Municipality's Past, Future Plans

92AS1051A *Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian*
13 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] Mr. Karbaschi, in an interview with 25 foreign press correspondents, discussed the municipality's past and future plans.

He said: My work program for the city of Tehran, in a word, is to solve the city's problems, with emphasis on three areas, improving the environment and correcting the environmental malfunctions in the Tehran environment, urban traffic and transportation, and urban building and new construction in Tehran.

Concerning the municipality's revenue sources, he said: The municipality's revenues, like that of other municipalities in the world, are from taxes collected from the public, as well as the added value of municipal measures taken in various parts of the city through revenue-generating programs. The municipalities of various cities have tried to become independent from the government's budget and subsidies.

The mayor of Tehran added: Because of improper policies, the former regime obtained more than 60 percent of the budget of the municipality of Tehran from oil and the government's budget. This is something that is also done by other nations with underground resources, but we think that it is not sound economic policy to manage the economies of large cities through oil money or subsidies and goods from the national public budget. Rather, we must procure these funds by taking the lawful wages of the municipalities from the people in each city.

In answer to a question from a foreign correspondent concerning the amount of the budget of the municipality of Tehran, the mayor of Tehran announced that the budget for the new year for the municipality of Tehran, which began about 20 days ago, is expected to be about 500 billion rials.

Concerning the construction of sewers for Tehran, he said: The municipality has a program for sewers in Tehran, but building sewers is a very difficult task, and with the studies that have been done, we have no problem with getting started, and the construction of the sewers will begin in 1371 [21 March 1992 - 20 March 1993].

The mayor of Tehran discussed public criticism of the municipality of Tehran. He said: The mayors and municipalities of the world have many urban problems, and they are criticized because each person looks at his individual problems and for example the breakdown of a machine, the unauthorized destruction of a building or a

polluting unit are unwelcome to individuals, but this is in the interest of most of the people.

He was asked by one of the correspondents about the problem of integration. He said: The population of Iran has at least doubled over the last 20 years, but in the last 10 years, and especially in the last five years, the rapid growth in the population has been reduced, and already the growth caused by emigration is under control.

He said: The municipality of Tehran does not encourage the creation of false work and employment that could create added value with the economic motivation in the city, and this has removed the motivation for much of the emigration.

The mayor of Tehran noted: The population of Tehran is now 6.7 million, and another million people live on the fringes of the city, and the municipality does not provide full services to them.

The mayor of Tehran added: This year a factory that converts garbage to fertilizer will go into operation, and following that other units will also be built.

Mr. Karbaschi added: The city of Tehran is still a long way from being the ideal Islamic city in terms of organized management and cleanliness, and God willing in the future we will make Tehran a model city.

Mr. Karbaschi discussed bribe taking in the municipality. He said: These violations, which are the result of improper economic relations, are fewer than in the past. An approach to dealing with bribery was adopted a year ago, and since I became mayor a great many cases have been investigated.

Water Rationing Begins in Shiraz

92AS0982E *Tehran ABRAR in Persian* 29 Apr 92 p 9

[Text] The Fars (Shiraz) Regional Water Agency issued a communique announcing that, with the arrival of the warm season and in order to ensure just distribution, water will be rationed in the west and southwest areas of the city of Shiraz. Hence, the residents of these regions are requested to take measures to provide water reservoirs in their homes.

According to our ABRAR correspondent, in this communique, the areas to be included in water scheduling (rationing) were announced. It is worthy of note that this announcement comes at a time when there has been continual rainfall in Shiraz for several days. Also, in accordance with the announcement by the general manager of the Fars Regional Water Agency, for the first time since the Dorudzan Dam was built 100 km from Shiraz, the water overflow in this dam is 50 cubic meters per second, and the Province of Fars is enjoying a desirable water supply this year.

Tabriz Power Plant Converted to Gas Fuel

92AS0982B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 29 Apr 92 p 9

[Text] The project to convert the 32-megawatt [MW] unit of the 700-MW power plant of Tabriz was completed and put into operation in Farvardin [21 March-20 April] this year.

The director of this power plant told the IRNA correspondent: The goal of this project is to reduce environmental pollution, reduce the attrition rate of equipment and machinery of the power plant, and ultimately increase output.

The director of the 700-MW power plant of Tabriz said in regards to the electricity production of this power plant: Last year, this power plant produced more than 4 billion kilowatts of electricity to contribute to the network.

Also in this connection, he referred to the role of fuel in and its effect on the output of this power plant and said: This power plant could not work at full capacity last year due to the shortage of fuel.

He mentioned that the amount of fuel needed was 3.5 million liters per day and added: The amount of fuel delivered by the organizations connected with the Ministry of Petroleum was 1 million liters less than the amount needed, and this problem contributed significantly to escalating the blackouts in the region.

He said: The officials of the Ministry of Petroleum blame transportation problems for the shortcomings in the delivery of the fuel needed by this power plant.

Condition of Ilam Province Roads Detailed

92AS1050A Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 12 Apr 92 p 5

[Text] The inadequate and poor roads in the province of Ilam, in addition to perpetuating the weak economy of the region, have caused this province to always be at a standstill.

According to a report by IRNA, the unfavorable condition and poor quality of the roads in Ilam Province are such that the transportation of goods, building materials, livestock and agricultural products and even passengers is handled contractually.

In Ilam Province, which borders the provinces of Bakhtaran, Lorestan and Khuzestan, only the asphalt Ilam-Bakhtaran road is good, and although the other two roads regarded as vital to providing the primary food, agricultural and fuel needs of the inhabitants of the province appear to be asphalted, because most of asphalt was destroyed during the imposed war and as a result of floods, the disrepair of bridges destroyed by flooding, and the narrowness of the roads, they are not usable.

The people of the cities of Darrehshahr and Dehloran, who comprise more than one-third the population of the province, constantly suffer because these roads are not up to standard and are mostly inclined to carry on their relations with the neighboring Lorestan and Khuzestan

Provinces and avoid coming to the capital of the province because of lack of vehicles and the excessive bad condition of the roads.

As a result of the substandard condition of the main roads, especially the Ilam-Darrehshahr road, the fastest vehicles travel this distance in nearly three hours, and heavy trucks take much more time.

On this road, the narrow pavement has also doubled the problems. It is impossible for two trucks to pass each other going in opposite directions; one must stop at the side of the road and let the other vehicle pass.

The Ilam-Darrehshahr road, which connects more than 120 villages, three districts, eight rural towns, and Darrehshahr, with a population of more than 100,000, to the capital of the province, has always been problematic for the people of this region, because basic road-building techniques have not been observed. People travel on this road only with a few minibuses from outside; the road is mostly used for government cars that have to travel in this region.

In terms of connecting roads, the city of Shirvan has the worst roads among the rural towns, the districts and the capital of the province. Some of the rural towns, including Zardelan, use livestock roads.

Of course, the Ilam-Mehran-Dehloran road up to the start of the security zone of Khuzestan Province is no exception. The destruction of the bridges on this road during the imposed war and the disrepair so far have resulted in only reconstruction vehicles traveling to this region; private cars rarely use this road.

The unpleasant condition of the main roads in the province of Ilam, in addition to perpetuating the weak economy of the province, have caused drivers to demand higher fees to transport cargo and passengers to the capital of the province, stating that the roads are substandard and wear out their vehicles.

On the other hand, due to the special situation created during the imposed war, most of the secondary roads built behind the front that pass through the cities of Malekshahi, Meymeh and Zarrinabad were constructed without prior studies and are not properly engineered.

With the passage of four years since the end of the war, the province of Ilam continues to be deprived of a strong, organized road network and remains an isolated province. Lack of a road network has naturally prevented contact between the cities of the province. For example, the 225-km Ilam-Dehloran road is in such disrepair that vehicle owners do not want to travel on it because of the wear and tear on their vehicles. For this reason, there is a very weak link between Dehloran and Ilam. Only one bus travels this route.

If the Ilam-Mehran-Dehloran, Ilam-Darrehshahr, and Ilam-Shirvan roads are not urgently repaired, they will soon turn into rural, tribal and farm-to-farm roads.

In this connection, in order to prevent the waste of funds allocated to the province and ensure that these funds are

absorbed in the province, the grounds for the creation of a strong road network must be provided.

To accomplish this important task, there is only need to repair 425 km of roads in the province. The central office of roads and transports can bring the province out of this standstill and achieve this long-time wish of the people of Ilam.

Since the building and repair of roads is one of the most important duties of the central office of roads and transports of the province, unfortunately, this office, despite the allocation of huge amounts in funds last year, due to the shortage of specialized and technical forces and the necessary resources, has not been successful in repairing and expanding the road network of the Province of Ilam.

Also, the central office of roads and transports of the province has not so far taken any effective steps to attract the consultants and study groups of the Ministry of Roads and Transports needed to study the secondary and main roads, and this important job continues to face numerous problems.

Most of the projects of the central office of roads and transports underway from last year are merely studies, and during this period, the important reconstruction project of building the secondary Mumuri-Dasht-e 'Abbas road, at a length of 53 km, with 3 billion rials in ratified funds, has been opened for bids once again, because there is a severe shortage of contractors.

Also, the national project underway by the Ministry of Roads team, which is being carried out throughout the province of Ilam by the Ministry of Roads and Transports, is studying the Ilam-Darrehshahr road, but only 85 km of it has been studied.

On the other hand, in the first Five-Year Economic and Social Plan, in order to strengthen the communications network of the province of Ilam, two large national projects to build the Ilam airport and the Freedom Tunnel, which will be 1,370 meters long, are being implemented. But the implementation of these projects, also due to lack of funds and technical forces last year, did not make desirable progress.

The building of the Freedom Tunnel will reduce the 195 km distance between Ilam and Bakhtaran by about 60 km.

By the end of the first plan, the operators of these two projects, in addition to bringing the province out of a deadlock, will also play an effective role in providing the specialized and technical forces and absorbing consultants and study groups.

Even though the government, in its first and second Five-Year Plans, includes large projects to revitalize the economy, expand industry and higher education, and raise the standard of living in this border province, these plans can only be achieved with the creation of an expansive road network.

Anzali Port Activities Detailed

92AS1051C Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
14 Apr 92 p 6

[Text] During last year's fishing season more than 3,000 tons of various kinds of fish were caught by 12,000 fishermen in the waters of the Caspian Sea.

Rasul Lahijanian, executive director of the Iran Fisheries Company, who went to Gilan with the Minister of the Reconstruction Crusade to take part in the celebration of the end of the fishing season, announced the above on Sunday in an interview with IRNA's correspondent. He said: With regard to increasing the size of the catch, efforts are being made to increase the number of fishing vessels to 36.

He discussed this year's fisheries development credits of 30 billion rials. He said: This year steel vessels are being built in Gilan and Mazandaran. Fisheries programs for the current year also include the procurement of fishing implements and supplies, the construction and completion of fishing docks, increasing the size of the catch, and continued programs in research and education.

Dr. Amin, chief of the Fisheries Research and Education Organization, also said: Likewise, 1.2 billion rials has been allocated to create and complete research and education centers.

Among the programs in research and education, he cited the construction of a research center in the north and south of the country and a higher education center for fisheries science and industry with a 400-student capacity.

According to the same report, Foruzesh, Minister of the Reconstruction Crusade, announced in an interview with IRNA's correspondent: The dock at the port of Anzali, with a length of 120 meters and at a cost of 3.5 billion rials, will go into operation by the end of the current year.

He added: With the completion and utilization of this dock, which is equipped with a factory to build and repair fishing vessels, there will be a change in the construction and repair of vessels on the Caspian littoral.

In conclusion, he noted: To expand industrial fishing in the Caspian Sea, a contract to build 24 fishing boats to catch sprat has been signed with a foreign country. Two of the vessels will be built jointly and 22 of them will be built by Iranian specialists.

Chabahar Port Operations Begin

92AS0861B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
1 Apr 92 p 10

[Interview with engineer Hojjati, the governor general of Sistan and Baluchestan, by reporters; place and date not given; boldface words as published]

[Text] Zahedan. IRNA. The free port of Chabahar will start its commercial operations from Farvardin [21 March-20 April] of this year.

Engineer Hojjati, the governor general of Sistan and Baluchestan, made the above announcement in an interview with reporters and declared the readiness of the executive officials of the province to provide services to individuals who intend to invest in fundamental affairs, such as hotel management and building housing. He then referred to cultural activities in the

province and said: At present, 40 percent of the 13,000 students in the universities and institutions of higher education in this province are native, and we hope that the help of the educated individuals in the province and the financial and spiritual support of the government will be important steps in the elimination of deprivation in the region.

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