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NATIONAL INCOME OF INDIA

Communication dated 4 September 1963 from the Permanent Mission
of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary of the
Committee on Contributions

I enclose a publication brought out by the Central Statistical Organisation of the Government of India, entitled "Estimates of National Income 1948-49 to 1961-62". I am forwarding this for the consideration, in due course, by the Committee on Contributions, for it may decide, taking into account the figures given in the enclosed paper, to revise further India's scale of assessment. This paper will, in short, indicate to you the following:

1. According to the latest available estimates, the annual average of India's national income at constant (1948-49) prices for the years 1957-58, 1958-59 and 1959-60 comes to Rs. 114,666 million showing an increase of 8 per cent over the annual average of Rs. 105,533 million for the years 1954-55, 1955-56, and 1956-57. The annual average per capita income during the three year period 1957-58 to 1959-60 was Rs. 275.5, showing an increase of less than 2 per cent over the annual average of Rs. 270.4 for the preceding three year period.
2. The estimates for 1960-61, place the national income at Rs. 127,500 million and the per capita income at Rs. 293.7. Compared to the estimates for 1959-60, these show an increase of 7 per cent in national income and of 4.9 per cent in per capita income over the year.
3. Estimates for 1961-62 are still preliminary. According to these, the national income for the year was Rs. 130,200 million and the per capita

income Rs. 293.4. Compared to 1960-61, though the national income increased by 2.1 per cent, the per capita income showed a fall - from Rs. 293.7 to Rs. 293.4.

4. Including probable estimates for Manipur, the North East Frontier Agency and Nagaland, the population of India, according to the 1961 census, was 438 million - as compared to 362 million according to the 1951 census thus showing an annual average increase of 2.1 per cent or 21 per cent during the decade 1951-61. According to recent estimates, the country's population has lately been rising at a rate higher than the expected 2.2 per cent annual increase. The faster rate of growth of population makes the difficult task of raising the per capita income even more difficult.

5. The continuing foreign exchange difficulty of India is reflected in the fall of foreign exchange reserves from Rs. 6,811 million at the end of 1956-57 to Rs. 2,951 million at the end of 1962-63. Details are given in the table below:

India's Foreign Exchange Reserves
(In Rupees million)

<u>End of</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Decline over the previous year</u>
1956-57	6,811
1957-58	4,212	2,599
1958-59	3,789	423
1959-60	3,629	160
1960-61	3,036	593
1961-62	2,973	63
1962-63	2,951	22

6. It will be observed from the data given in the preceding paragraphs that though there has been an increase in the national income, this has not been commensurate with the needs of a growing population.

(Signed) S.K. SINGH

ANNEX

NATIONAL INCOME
 (At 1948-49 prices)

Year	National Income (Rs. million)	Per Capita Income (Rupees)
(1)	(2)	(3)
1954-55	102,800	267.8
1955-56	104,800	267.8
1956-57	110,000	275.6
Annual Average	105,533	270.4
1957-58	108,900	267.3
1958-59	116,500	280.1
1959-60	118,600	279.2
Annual Average	114,666	275.5
1960-61	127,500	293.7
1961-62*	130,200	293.4
Annual Average	128,850	293.5

* Preliminary.

Note: The per capita estimates are based on the rate of growth of population as revealed by the 1951 and 1961 census figures.
