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Hourly wages and working time in European industry

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DM 1 mn for the continuation of the projects "Agricultural irrigation area North- and Central Tunesia" as well as DM 4 mn for the construction of a dam across a valley protecting against high-water.

German Export to the USA Reaches Nearly \$ 3 Billion

In October 1968, too, German exports to the USA with \$ 251,3 mn remained at a high level. According to information given by the German-American Chamber of Commerce, in the first 10 months of 1968 German exports totalled \$ 2.25 billion, i.e. 44 per cent more than in the previous year's corresponding period.

Taking the voluminous export deliveries into consideration that are to be expected in December, according to the Chamber's opinion German exports to the USA this year should reach a total of almost \$ 3 billion vis-à-vis \$ 1.97 billion in 1967.

The Chamber believes that German exports to North America—even after the introduction of the new tax burden—need not decline considerably, if German exporters calculate thoroughly and, if necessary, look for a compensation of prices in other markets. The rising price level in the USA will favour them in future, too. At the same time the Chamber expects that cheaper German imports will clearly be reflected, in the German-American trade, by voluminous raw material receipts as well as by the trend in the field of special products. In October, 1968, German imports from the USA reached \$ 187.3 mn and thus did not show any noticeable upward trend but remained within the average of the first 10 months.

Aid for a Technological University at Madras

For eight years already the Federal Republic of Germany has supported the building-up of a technological university at Madras. This university is one of the five Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), whose task—as Federal universities—it is to train the country's technological experts and managers.

The German Federal Government promotes the IIT at Madras by sending German lecturers and experts, by making available part of the scientific and technical equipment, by granting in Germany scholarships to young Indian scientists and financing guest-professorships. The first agreement, concluded in 1958 between the Indian and the German Governments on their cooperation in the biggest project of German technological aid, in 1966 has been replaced by a new agreement marking the beginning of a new chapter of promotion.

The German group of experts at the IIT Madras at present comprises 19 lecturers, 17 scientific assistants and five technological experts. The sending of further 11 experts has been planned for the spring of 1969.

The building-up phase of the technological university at Madras on the whole may be considered to be completed. In the next years the IIT will concentrate increasingly on the promotion of advanced students and on the start of its own research work. Regarding the further promotion of this university the Federal Government co-operates closely with the technological high-schools at Aachen, Braunschweig and Stuttgart as well as with the technological university of Berlin.

Possible Compromise for the Port of Hamburg

As regards the statutes pertaining to the old Free Port of Hamburg in connexion with the directives covering the active processing of products and the free zones, a compromise has been found, that will make it easy for the Netherlands to withdraw their proviso. The Council of Ministers consented to a clause, according to which the area covered by the statutes of the old free port will be excepted from the EEC harmonisation. This will be valid as far as these activities do not prejudice the competitive conditions of a certain economic branch within the Community. Should, however, such a prejudice be found out in future, the Federal Government will not oppose a solution of the problems resulting from this situation, if the other member states believe in the necessity of such a solution. Thus Bonn has promised in this case not to harass the required unanimity with its veto.

Hourly Wages and Working Time in European Industry

In October, 1967, the Netherlands industrial worker earned—in nominal terms—7 per cent more than a year ago. The same applies to the French worker, while in the same period the hourly wages in Belgium rose by 6 per cent and those in Italy by 5 per cent. The German labourer reached a wage increase by about 3 per cent, while in Luxemburg it amounted to hardly 1 per cent.

In terms of real value, i.e. considering the cost of living, the Netherlands worker was still heading the list with 4 per cent, followed by the Frenchman (more than 3 per cent), the Belgian (2 to 3 per cent), the German (about 2 per cent), and the Italian (less than 1 per cent). During the same period the real-value wage of the worker in Luxemburg did not change at all.