

Plan fulfillment in 1962

A bulletin of the Central Statistical Office on the plan fulfillment in 1962 was published in "Trybuna Ludu" of 21 February. As usual, it is divided into sections of greatly uneven length dealing with various sections of the national life. The most detailed are the sections on industry ($3\frac{1}{2}$ columns) and on agriculture (2 columns) - the shortest is the one on forestry (23 lines).

In industry the plan was on the whole fulfilled, though in much lower proportions than in the preceeding year, and in the case of some ministries it remained altogether unfulfilled. Thus in 1961 all ministries fulfilled the plan, while this year three did not (the Ministry of Food Industry and Purchasing, the Ministry of Shipping, and the Committee on Light Production). But even the ministries that fulfilled the plan did it on a more modest scale than last year. Thus, e.g. the Ministry of Heavy Industry fulfilled 101.2% of the plan, achieving 112.6% of the preceeding year's production. The figures for 1961 were 102.3% and 113.9% respectively; the Ministry of Communications achieved 100.4% and 106.7% in 1962 but 101.1% and 108.6% in 1961. A much greater gap appears in the achievements of, e.g., the Ministry of Food Industry and Purchasing whose data for 1962 are 99.1% and 106.2%, while for 1961 they were 105.3% and 108.2%. This indicates first of all that there was planned a great increase in the activities of the Ministry which could not cope with it - perhaps because of poorer crops this year.

Special mention is deserved by the Ministry of Building and of Building Materials, which fulfilled exactly 100% of the plan, achieving 107.3% of the preceeding year's production. These are slightly worse results than in 1961 (100.7% and 110.1%), but as last year and as in many earlier years, the Ministry has fulfilled the plan, though plans of production of various materials and plans of housing construction were, on the whole, unfulfilled. Thus the industry of building materials fulfilled only 98.4% of the plan or 106% of the preceeding year's production, while individual building materials fell still further behind the plan (86.9% to 96.7%). Only window-glass reached the required quantity (100.4%). Equally meager were results in house construction. The total number of rooms constructed (270,800) is 6.1% higher than in 1961, which in turn was 5.8% higher than in 1960. However, the houses built by the national councils totalled only 96.1% of those planned, as compared with 97% of plan fulfillment in 1961, while cooperative building reached 93.2% of the plan as compared with 100.4% plan fulfillment in 1961.

The lowest figure of plan fulfillment (or rather unfulfillment) is in the production of three-unit electric coaches (76.9%, being 90.9% of the preceeding year's production). But there are numerous more important goods in which the plan was not fulfilled. These are, first of all, various kinds of steel and iron, tin, some types of turbines, certain chemicals, almost all sorts of textiles and some processed food. These are all products in which in 1961 the plan was fulfilled

and production of which even in 1962 exceeded that of 1961. This would indicate that the main trouble was in inability to fulfill the new and higher targets. There are also some items in which the plans were not fulfilled for at least the second consecutive year. These are ship motors, lorries, railway coaches and trucks, sewing machines and radio sets, to say nothing of the building materials noted above.

For a non-economist the planning of agricultural production looks particularly singular. The last recorded year (1961) was a bumper year, which gave a production 10% higher than in 1960 and about 6% higher than planned. The year 1962, the second best post-war year, had yields 8.5% worse than in 1961, but 9.3% lower than planned. Thus there were crops planned higher than in the immediately proceeding bumper year.

Another observation should be made on the balance of payments in foreign trade. On the whole, both import and export rose in comparison with the preceeding year (by 9.5% and 11.8% respectively), the adverse balance of trade rose by 226 millions of hard currency zlotys, reaching 957 millions (almost 240 million dollars). Planned import and export targets were overfulfilled except in the case of exports to the "capitalistic countries" which achieved only 96.4% of the plan, though they amounted to 107.4% of such exports in 1961. Import from these countries were overfulfilled (109.8%), reaching barely 102% of the 1961 totals. This shows that plans for cutting down imports from and expanding exports to the West proved unrealistic in both respects. It is also worth mentioning that the high adverse balance of payments is much more acute in trade with the bloc than with western countries.

28 FEBRUARY 1963

Poland's Note to France

The Franco-West German treaty of cooperation was the subject of a Polish note to France, TASS reported on 26 February. In the note, released in English by the Polish Press Agency (PAP) the same day, the Polish government expressed its concern over West German militarism, inclusion of West Berlin into the Franco-West German Treaty and with the possibility of West Germany getting atomic arms. It especially found it impossible to ignore the latter threat to Poland's security and that of her allies and reserved right to take suitable steps in consultation with Poland's allies.

The Polish note is presently being studied by the French Foreign Ministry. Thus far France has not yet sent any answer to the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, who also sent similar notes. Observers in Paris did not believe that France would react to the Polish and Czechoslovak notes, but think France will limit her action to replying to the Soviet note. This opinion is based on France's behavior in respect to the bloc's premature recognition of the Algerian government. (RFE Special Paris 27 February)

Independently of the note to France, Poland has also intervened in London and Washington. Polish ambassadors in the two capitals called on Foreign Secretary Lord Home and Undersecretary of State Mr. Ball respectively. "Talks concerned the Polish stand in respect to the growing danger of letting the German Federal Republic have atomic arms, either directly or indirectly, especially through realization of the plan of a multinational atomic force for NATO now being discussed in the West, or by utilizing possibilities created by the French-West German treaty, signed on 22 January". (cf Radio Warsaw 27 February).

Information and the Press

Prime Minister Cyrankiewicz issued a new regulation on collecting information from state administration offices. The regulation was published in the recent issue of the Government's official bulletin "Monitor Polski", reported the "New York Times" of 19 February. The issue in question of "Monitor Polski" is not yet available here, but from the NYT article it appears that anybody, in order to obtain information from state offices, must submit in writing questions stating the purpose for which the information is desired. The letter asking for information must be signed

28 FEBRUARY 1963

by the top available official of the institution requiring information, in the case of a newspaper by its chief editor. A reply in duplicate (one copy for the files of the office giving the information) must also be signed by the top official available. The use of information thus obtained for a purpose other than that stated in the request will be considered as an infringement of the official secrets act. The regulation also includes a clause that the giving of requested data cannot interfere with the normal work of the office giving it. Thus, on top of all the obstacles made by the regulation, it is totally invalidated by this provision, as bureaucrats who are always reluctant to give any information, and particularly reluctant to give it in a written and signed form, can now safely declare that they are too busy to do so.

This is not a regulation dealing with the press alone. It applies to anybody with an official status needing information from anybody with an official status. Under the conditions of a Communist state, it can be said in short that everybody needing any information must pass through the whole of the bureaucratic mill. But, in practice, journalists will be hit the hardest.

A similar instruction, but of a scope limited only to the press, was issued over four years ago by Tadeusz Galinski on his assuming the office of the Minister of Culture (cf. *Express Wieczorny* 6-7 July 1958). It would be uncharitable to assume that only now have his efforts been properly appreciated, and we would prefer to guess that some of the new influential apparatchiki in the CC (Witaszewski?) have hit on the idea independently.

Polish-Italian Trade.

Polish-Italian trade talks ended in the signing on 27 February of the protocol on trade in 1963, Radio Warsaw reported the same day.

The talks began on 6 February with great ostentation, in the presence of Signor Preti and Mr. Trampczynski, the two Ministers of Foreign Trade concerned. (cf Situation Report 11 February 1963).

The results justified the efforts and the show. While the four-year Polish-Italian Trade agreement of 1960 stipulated a 10% increase in turnover for 1963, the present protocol introduces an increase of 25% (\$ 90 million of overall turnover), thus making Italy one of Poland's

28 FEBRUARY 1963

most prominent trade partners in Western Europe. Michal Kajzer, chairman of the Polish delegation, told a Radio Warsaw reporter that, apart from the protocol, another large independent exchange transaction is being negotiated. It would raise the turnover by an additional 10%. "We are pleased indeed" said Kajzer.

Apart from such normal items as food, and apart from goods such as china, glass or furniture, Poland will export increased quantities of tools and machine tools, as well as iron. Polish imports, again apart from the obvious olive oil and citrus fruit, will include machinery for the chemical, food and textile industries, ship motors and installations and precision instruments (cf. Radio Warsaw and Reuter of 27 February.) For interesting remarks on the relation of the Common Market and the Polish-Italian treaty, see the Rome financial daily "Ore Dodici" also of 27 February, which will be pouched.

Although the available reports do not enlarge on the details of the treaty we can safely assume that under the heading of machinery for chemical industry will fall some machinery for the Petrochemical Works in Plock, as the original 1960 agreement already provided for the participation of the Italian concern ENI in the construction of these works to the sum of \$ five to six million (cf Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung of 12 December 1960.)