

COMMUNIQUE ON NATIONAL ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN 1952

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1952 WAS the last year in the stage of rehabilitation of China's economy. A nation-wide patriotic campaign to increase production and practise economy was launched during the year. Industrial and agricultural output continued to increase greatly. The output of the principal industrial and agricultural products surpassed, in most cases, the highest annual levels of the past. Foreign and domestic trade continued to expand. Communications and transport developed also. In various fields of the national economy, particularly in industry, mining and water conservancy, the investments in capital construction were much greater than in the preceding two years. There was also considerable development in the fields of culture, education and public health. On the basis of the rapid rehabilitation and development of the national economy, the material and cultural life of the people showed a marked improvement. The following is a brief description of the situation in various fields.

1. Fulfilment of the Plan of Industrial Production and the Growth of Industrial Output

During 1952, on the basis of democratic reforms and reforms in production, state-owned factories and mines developed an enthusiastic campaign to increase production and practise economy. This ensured the overfulfilment of the state plan.

In factories and mines under the various industrial ministries of the Central People's Government, the value of output produced in 1952 was 12 per cent over the plan for the year. The Ministry of Heavy

Industry overfulfilled its plan by 18 per cent. Among its subordinate organs, the Administrative Bureau of the Iron and Steel Industry overfulfilled its plan by 22 per cent, the Non-Ferrous Metals Administrative Bureau by 15 per cent and the Administrative Bureau of the Chemical Industry by 16 per cent. The Ministry of the Fuel Industry overfulfilled its plan by 5 per cent. Of its subordinate organs, the Electric Power Administrative Bureau completed 96 per cent of its plan; the Coal Mining Administrative Bureau overfulfilled its plan by 4 per cent; and the Petroleum Administrative Bureau by 25 per cent. The First Ministry of the Machine Building Industry overfulfilled its plan by 8 per cent. The Ministry of the Textile Industry overfulfilled its plan by 8 per cent. The Ministry of Light Industry overfulfilled its plan by 7 per cent.

With only some few exceptions, the output of all staple products of the various factories and mines under the various industrial ministries of the Central People's Government for 1952 was in excess of plan. This is shown by the following table:

Output of Staple Products in State Industries
in 1952
(Planned Quota = 100)

Pig Iron	111
Steel	118
Rolled Steel	142
Electric Power	99
Amount of Power Sold	100.4
Coal	106
Crude Oil	110
Petrol	127
Coke	106

Copper	110
Lead	108
Sulphuric Acid	102
Nitric Acid	107
Caustic Soda	123
Soda	119
Ammonium Sulphate	104
Ammonium Nitrate	156
Cement	99
Plate Glass	120
Generators	73
Electric Motors	118
Metal-Cutting Machine Tools	112
Timber	102
Cotton Yarn	106
Cotton Cloth	109
Paper	103
Tyres	102
Rubber Shoes	105
Edible Oils and Fats	89
Sugar	156
Cigarettes	123

In comparison with the percentages for 1951, the output in 1952 of the principal products of the larger industries operated by the state and those operated jointly by the state and private interests was as the following table shows:

Output of Staple Products in Larger State and Joint State and Private Industries in 1952

(1951 Output = 100)

Pig Iron	140
Steel	140
Rolled Steel	149
Electric Power	133
Coal	129
Crude Oil	142
Petrol	212
Coke	138
Copper	150
Lead	140
Sulphuric Acid	129
Nitric Acid	176
Caustic Soda	195
Soda	138
Ammonium Sulphate	130
Ammonium Nitrate	169
Cement	123
Plate Glass	110
Generators	1,212
Electric Motors	312
Metal-Cutting Machine Tools	275
Timber	111
Cotton Yarn	144
Cotton Cloth	145
Paper	167
Tyres	220
Rubber Shoes	109
Edible Oils and Fats	201
Sugar	210
Cigarettes	172

The value of the total industrial output in 1952, in terms of unchanged prices, was 28 per cent above that of the total output of 1951. For state-owned industry alone, the increase was 45 per cent. Private industry also increased production to a certain extent.

Of the total value of industrial output in 1952, state-owned industry accounted for 50 per cent; joint state and privately owned industry for 5 per cent; co-operatives for 3 per cent; and private industry for 42 per cent. Of the total value of output of the larger industrial enterprises, state-owned industry accounted for 60 per cent; joint state and privately owned industry 6 per cent; co-operatives, 3 per cent; and private industry, 31 per cent.

In the output of the larger industrial enterprises, production of the means of production amounted to 44 per cent and articles of consumption to 56 per cent. In the larger state-owned and joint state and privately owned industrial enterprises, production of the means of production amounted to 54 per cent and articles of consumption to 46 per cent.

Taking the 1949 output of some staple products of industry as 100, the ratio of increase in the three subsequent years was as follows:

Increase of Output of Staple Industrial Products, 1950-52

(1949 Output = 100)

Product	1950	1951	1952
Pig Iron	394	574	764
Steel	383	566	846
Rolled Steel	288	496	848
Electric Power	106	134	164
Coal	132	164	202
Crude Oil	166	248	358
Cement	213	376	433
Metal-Cutting Machine Tools	200	362	650
Cotton Yarn	134	149	201
Cotton Cloth	154	197	287
Paper	130	223	331
Flour	93	143	220
Sugar	121	151	199
Matches	87	107	129
Cigarettes	116	116	151

Various branches of state-owned industry still showed defects in their rehabilitation and development. Many enterprises had not established fully satisfactory systems of production planning and management and systems of responsibility and were not able to carry on production systematically in accordance with their plans. Production costs in some enterprises were too high, and there was a tendency to neglect quality in favour of quantity. The proportion of second-rate and defective products was high. The reduction in costs of produc-

tion and the rise in the quality of products did not keep pace with the rising demands of economic construction and of the people. In the production of some items, no all-round consideration was given to the proper balance between production and distribution, so that while some items were in short supply, others were piled up in the stockrooms. The potential of production in many enterprises had not been fully exploited; their equipment was not fully used. Unreasonable over-accumulation of stocks of materials and liquid funds was still common and in many enterprises business accounting was not efficiently established. Safety measures in some enterprises had not yet received due attention.

2. Technical Improvements and Popularisation of New Working Methods in State-owned Industry

During 1952, the workers in state-owned industry continued to develop their creative initiative; campaigns were launched to create new records and promote rationalisation proposals; advanced Soviet experience was studied and popularised; and industrial technique and new working methods were further developed in many ways. The following are some outstanding examples:

In the iron and steel industry, the fast-charging and full-blast iron-smelting method and the high-speed steel-making method began to be popularised. This resulted in a conspicuous rise in the rate of utilisation of equipment. The utilisation rate of useful capacity of blast furnaces throughout the country increased by 21.8 per cent as compared with 1951. Average output per square metre of hearth area in open hearth furnaces in the Anshan Iron and Steel Company increased by 23 per cent as compared with 1951. The capacity of medium-size rolling mills in Anshan increased by 40 per cent compared with 1951. In the smaller rolling mills, production processes were made automatic, safety conditions were improved and output and quality were raised with the invention of the "reverse repeater" device.

In the machine-building industry, some enterprises began to adopt the Soviet high-speed metal-cutting method, the multi-cutter multi-edge cutting method was initiated and popularised, and rhythmic production according to a carefully charted schedule began to be practised. In making new products, trial production was begun on Soviet-designed medium-size lathes and universal milling machines, 3,000-kilowatt hydraulic turbine generators, 1,000-kilowatt electrical motors, 44,000-volt and 5,000-kilovolt-ampere transformers, 300 horse-power air compressors, 5-ton steam hammers, 1,000-metre drills, and locomotives.

In the power industry, the high-speed overhauling method and a regular system of overhauling were introduced; loads were readjusted and the experience of using low-grade coal as fuel was popularised. The rate of utilisation of equipment and its capacity of power supply were thus increased and costs of power generation reduced.

In the coal industry, the speed of tunnelling was greatly raised with the popularisation of the multi-tunnel and deep-tunnel methods and a new shot-firing method. The amount of coal mined by the new methods accounted for 74 per cent of the total coal extracted.

In textiles, the Ho Chien-hsiu spinning method and the 1951 weaving method were further popularised. Efficiency in production was raised. Technical improvements were carried out, such as the use of less starch in cloth finishing and the elimination of starching for printed cloth.

In the paper industry, inventions enabling straw to be used in pulp opened up a great new source of raw material supply for the industry.

Some enterprises, however, did not pay enough attention to advanced Soviet experience and the rationalisation proposals put forward by the workers. There was lack of ideological guidance and overall planning in the popularisation of advanced experience.

3. Rehabilitation and Development of Agriculture

Land reform was in the main completed throughout the country in 1952. The Government's fair price policy; its active leadership and assistance to agriculture; the continual development of the patriotic emulation campaign to increase output; the mutual aid and co-operative movements in farming; and the improvement in farming technique—all these, together with timely rainfall and an absence of serious natural calamities, resulted in the third year's bumper harvest since China's liberation.

In 1952, the area under food crops amounted to over 122 million hectares, and the area under industrial crops amounted to over 12 million hectares. The total yield of food crops reached over 160 million metric tons, and the total yield of cotton reached 1,290,000 metric tons. Taking 1951 as 100, the percentages of the yield of major crops in 1952 were as follows:

Production of Major Crops in 1952
(1951 Output = 100)

Rice	116
Wheat	108
Cotton	124
Jute	180

Sugar Cane	153
Sugar Beet	156
Peanuts	117
Rape Seed	126
Tobacco (Cured)	88

Taking the total yields of food crops and cotton in 1949 as 100, the figures for the three years following were as follows:

Increase of Food Crops and Cotton, 1950-52			
(1949 Output = 100)			
	1950	1951	1952
Food Crops	117	128	145
Cotton	160	235	291

State farms and the movement to organise mutual-aid teams and co-operatives continued to develop in 1952. There were 2,219 state farms in the country, of which 52 were mechanised; 3,663 agricultural producers' co-operatives; and over 8,300,000 mutual-aid teams of various types. In 1952, in the old liberated areas, more than 65 per cent of the total number of peasant households and in the newly liberated areas, about 25 per cent were organised into mutual-aid teams and co-operatives. The per-unit-area yield of peasant households organised in mutual-aid teams and co-operatives was normally higher than that of unorganised peasant households.

In 1952, the Government did a great deal and achieved certain successes in the building of irrigation and drainage projects; enlarging the irrigated acreage; organising peasants to control plant diseases and insect pests; supplying insecticides, spraying apparatus and chemical fertilisers; popularising new types of farm tools and good strains of seed; introducing advanced experiences and rewarding those who stood in the front ranks of agricultural production.

In regard to animal husbandry in 1952, the incidence of various kinds of livestock diseases fell sharply as a result of effective veterinary services. The total head of livestock in the country showed an increase over the previous year. The increases in the numbers of various animals were approximately 9 per cent for cattle, 7 per cent for horses, 19 per cent for sheep and 15 per cent for pigs.

Afforestation throughout the country continued to advance in 1952. A total area of more than 280,000 hectares was planted with shelter belts. Of these projects, the shelter belt in the lower reaches of the Yungting River in Hopei Province and the sandbreaks in western Hopei Province and eastern Honan Province were in the main completed or near completion. Work continued in establishing the gigantic shelter belt in the western section of Northeast China and on other belts.

The major defect in agricultural work was the failure to take full account of the actual conditions of production in a small peasant economy. In leading the movement for mutual-aid and co-operation in farming, in the promotion of the use of new types of farm tools and advanced farming technique, in irrigation, drainage and other work in agriculture, this resulted in such shortcomings as impetuosity, the use of compulsory means instead of persuasion, failure to consider actual conditions and the tendency to deal in generalities in leadership. As for state farms, management was poor. Quite a few state farms had low yields and high costs of production and were wasteful in operation, thus failing to educate the peasants satisfactorily and fully serve as a good example for them. In forestry, the improvement and reafforestation of timberlands, the appropriate settlement of questions of utilising privately-owned land in planting shelter belts and the giving of adequate technical guidance in afforestation did not receive sufficient attention. Furthermore, too strict a control was exercised over privately-planted forests, and this hampered the peasants' initiative in afforestation, and the cultivation and protection of forests.

4. Capital Construction

During 1952, eighty-five per cent of the total plan of investment in capital construction by 11 ministries of the Central People's Government was fulfilled.

Altogether 1,264 capital construction projects were involved in the investment by these 11 ministries in 1952. Of these, 336 were new projects and accounted for 33.1 per cent of the total investment; 787 were reconstructions of existing enterprises and accounted for 60.4 per cent of the total investment; 70 were rehabilitated enterprises and took up 4.4 per cent of the total investment; and 71 were other projects, which took up 2.1 per cent of the total investment.

There was a considerable increase in the total investment made by six industrial ministries in 1952 as compared with 1951, the 1952 figure being 310 per cent of the previous year.

Increase in Capital Investments by 6 Industrial Ministries in 1952

(1951 = 100)

Iron and Steel	356
Non-ferrous Metals	240
Power	399
Coal	255
Petroleum	173
Cement	251
Light Industry	154

Of the total investment by the 11 ministries during 1952, investments by these six industrial ministries took up 56 per cent; the Ministries of Agriculture and Water Conservancy made up another 16 per cent; and the Ministries of Railways, Communications, and Posts and Tele-Communications accounted for 28 per cent.

Among the big up-to-date factories completed and put into operation in 1952 were the Fuhsin Power Plant, the Harbin Linen Mill and the Northwest No. 1 State Cotton Mill; among the big up-to-date mills and mines under construction were the Anshan Heavy Rolling Mill, the Anshan Seamless Tubing Mill, the Taiyuan Heavy Machinery Plant and the Fuhsin Open-Cast Coal Mine.

A total of 480 kilometres of railways were newly built in 1952. The Chengtu-Chungking Railway and the Tienshui-Lanchow Railway were completed during 1952 and 742.5 kilometres of railways were repaired.

Further great advances were made in the construction of water conservancy projects during the year. By the end of the year, 1,050 million cubic metres of earthwork and 7 million cubic metres of stonework had been completed. Work continued on the great project for the complete harnessing of the Huai River. Work completed in 1952 on the Chingkiang Flood Detention Project included the strengthening of the 133-kilometre-long dyke along the Chingkiang section on the left bank of the Yangtze River and the construction of a 1,054.4-metre-long headgate at the entrance and a 336.8-metre-long regulator at the outlet of the Flood Detention Basin.

In building work during 1952, the well-developed streamlined system of work introduced by Wang Sun-tzu (whereby teams of workers of various trades work simultaneously on each of several parts of a building—Ed.), the new brick-laying method of Su Chang-yu and the streamlined wood working system of Hsieh Wan-fu were popularised, thus increasing the efficiency of labour and raising the tempo of construction.

But there were also shortcomings in capital construction work in 1952, and the plans for many projects were not fulfilled. The chief reasons were over-anxiousness to do too much and impetuous activities carried on without full knowledge of the arduousness and complexity of the work of capital construction; inadequate personnel and facilities for surveying and designing; lack of planned management and absence of a system of responsibility during construction, which resulted in slow work at the early stages and a rush to finish towards the end of operations, and in poor quality and high costs.

5. Development of the Railways, Communications, Posts and Tele-Communications Services

Railway freight tonnage in 1952 was 4 per cent above the planned quota, or 19 per cent more than in 1951 and 32 per cent more than in 1950.

In terms of ton-kilometres, the total freight was 96 per cent of the planned quota, or 17 per cent more than in 1951 and 53 per cent more than in 1950.

The average turn-around rate of wagons was 8.8 per cent speedier than the planned target (the reduction being in the main due to an increase in short-distance freight transport and a shortening of the distance of transportation); the actual turn-around rate was 2.9 days, which was 0.32 days less than in 1951.

The average daily milage of a freight train locomotive was increased by 12.5 per cent compared with 1951; the average total tonnage of haulage capacity of freight trains was increased by 14.8 per cent compared with 1951. These increases resulted from the campaign for a 500-kilometre-run per day with a full load and above-plan freight, and the popularisation of Cheng Hsi-kun's system for a 500-kilometre-run per day by heavily loaded trains with above-plan freight; Yang Mou-lin's loading system and Li Shih-kuei's marshalling system. The average net loading capacity per freight train was 8 per cent above the planned quota, or 8.6 per cent more than in 1951.

The total lengths of railways open to traffic in the country in 1949-52 were as follows:

Length of Operating Railway Lines (Figures refer to end of year)

Year	Distance
1949	21,715 km.
1950	22,238 km.
1951	23,063 km.
1952	24,232 km.

The Chengtu-Chungking Railway and the Tienshui-Lanchow Railway were opened to traffic in 1952. These provided favourable conditions for national economic development and the development of communications and transport in the Southwest and Northwest.

State-owned maritime shipping enterprises in the year 1952 overfulfilled their plans for freight tonnage by 4 per cent, the actual gross tonnage being 158 per cent compared with 1951 and 639 per cent compared with 1950; the planned freight ton mileage (nautical miles) was overfulfilled by 8 per cent, the actual gross ton mileage being 158 per

cent compared with 1951 and 1,234 per cent compared with 1950. The plan for state-owned shipping enterprises in freight tonnage along the Yangtze and Sungari Rivers was overfulfilled by 10 per cent, the actual freight tonnage carried being 161 per cent compared with 1951 and 188 per cent compared with 1950; the plan for freight ton mileage (nautical miles) was overfulfilled by 10 per cent, the actual freight tonnage carried being 162 per cent compared with 1951 and 194 per cent compared with 1950. After the adoption of the Soviet one-line towing method in shipping along the Yangtze and Sungari Rivers, the capacity per horsepower of tugboats was on the average about tripled.

The freight tonnage carried by state-owned lorries in 1952 was 240 per cent of the 1951 figure and 264 per cent of the 1950 figure; ton-kilometres carried were 185 per cent of 1951 and 207 per cent of 1950.

The freight tonnage carried by civil aviation in 1952 was 123 per cent in comparison with 1951 and 267 per cent in comparison with 1950.

The number of posts and tele-communications offices in 1952 was 114 per cent compared with 1951 and 132 per cent compared with 1950; the total volume of posts and tele-communications business was 117 per cent in comparison with 1951 and 153 per cent in comparison with 1950. In long distance calls, the speed of telephone connections and the effective utilisation rate of the equipment were considerably improved with the adoption of advanced Soviet experience and the systematisation and popularising of the Kuo Hsiu-yun working method.

The defects that appeared in the work of the various communications and transport departments were as follows: in railway transport—there was a lack of co-ordination between the transportation plan in certain sections and the actual consignment and flow of goods. In sea transport—harbour work was not carried out in sufficiently close co-operation with shipping; there was too much red tape involved in entering ports, and efficiency in loading and unloading was not high. In inland water transport—the potentialities of transport along the Yangtze River were not fully developed. In highway transport—there was no obvious improvement in methods of managements. In posts and tele-communications—there was a tendency to employ inappropriate methods in soliciting business.

6. Growth of Domestic and Foreign Trade

Total purchases by state-owned domestic trading enterprises in 1952 were 156 per cent compared with 1951 and 383 per cent compared with 1950.

Total sales were 162 per cent compared with 1951 and 397 per cent compared with 1950. Taking 1951 as 100, the amounts of the major items purchased in 1952 were:

Major State Purchases in 1952

(1951 = 100)

Food Crops	175
Cotton	143
Peanuts	132
Tobacco Leaves	222
Tea Leaves	160
Industrial Equipment	151
Articles of Daily Use	210

Taking 1951 as 100, the amounts of the principal items sold were:

Major State Sales in 1952

(1951 = 100)

Food Crops	191
Cotton Cloth	134
Coal	129
Cement	116
Lumber	227
Salt	113
Edible Oil	207
Kerosene	232
Industrial Equipment	153
Articles of Daily Use (Sugar 156; Paper 156)	206

Retail sales by supply and marketing co-operatives and consumer co-operatives in 1952 were 22 per cent above the plan, and represented 265 per cent of the 1951 and 557 per cent of the 1950 sales. Fertiliser was supplied to the peasants during the year in the following amounts: oil cake, over 2,600,000 tons; chemical fertilisers, over 290,000 tons. The purchase of agricultural products and by-products was 99 per cent of the plan for the year, 225 per cent of the 1951 total and 721 per cent of the 1950 total. Membership of supply and marketing co-operatives and consumer co-operatives rose to over 147,900,000, or 169 per cent compared with 1951 and 499 per cent compared with 1950. The total volume of co-operative share-holdings was 235 per cent compared with 1951 and 695 per cent compared with 1950.

Private trade in 1952 maintained its previous level.

Over 50 per cent of the total volume of the business turnover in 1952 in the domestic market was handled by state and co-operative trade (not including transfers and transactions between state trading companies). State and co-operative trade accounted for about 32 per cent of the total volume of retail sales in the eight major cities of Peking, Tientsin, Shenyang (Mukden), Shanghai, Wuhan, Canton, Chungking and Sian.

The domestic market in 1952 was stable, and prices of commodities were kept steady. During the *san fan* and *wu fan* movements, the state systematically increased its processing and purchasing orders with private enterprises, developed the movement for stimulating exchange of goods between town and countryside, readjusted prices for processing work and purchases, adjusted the differences between wholesale and retail prices and between prices in various regions. These measures were of great effect in stabilising the market and activating the economy.

Foreign trade showed a further growth in 1952. In particular, there was a rapid growth in trade with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies.

Nevertheless, the following defects were apparent in the work of state-owned domestic trade: lack of a clear understanding of the policy of developing production and guaranteeing supplies and lack of knowledge of production conditions and the needs of society; insufficiently expert control of prices of certain goods; slow capital turnover and waste in administrative expenditure.

7. Increases in Labour Productivity in State Industries and Improvements in the Life of Workers and Employees

The restoration and development of the national economy in the past three years have provided conditions for increased employment and improvements in the life of the people. 1952 saw a rapid increase in the number of workers and employees in various branches of the state economy. In enterprises under the industrial ministries, 22 per cent more people were, on the average, employed in 1952 than in 1951.

Labour productivity per worker in enterprises under the industrial ministries rose rapidly in 1952 as compared with 1951: in iron and steel, by 37 per cent; non-ferrous metals, 7 per cent; chemicals, 42 per cent; power, 12 per cent; coal, 24 per cent; petroleum, 35 per cent; machine building, 29 per cent; textiles, 32 per cent; paper, 23 per cent and rubber, 18 per cent.

Average wages of workers and employees in enterprises under the industrial ministries rose by 11 per cent in 1952 as compared with 1951 in addition to the allowances for house rents, electricity and water. Average wages of government employees rose by 15 per cent compared with 1951.

In 1952, the number of workers, technicians and employees enjoying labour insurance benefits in the country totalled more than 3,300,000.

8. Developments in Cultural and Educational Work

During the past three years, great successes have been achieved in the restoration, reformation and development of cultural and educational work throughout the country.

In 1952, an overall reorganisation was carried out in three-fourths of the country's institutions of higher education. A preliminary reformation of teaching methods and courses was made at all educational levels. All living expenses for students in colleges and universities, technical schools, teachers' colleges and workers' and peasants' middle schools are borne by the government.

In 1952, there were over 203,000 students in institutions of higher learning throughout the country (including over 3,500 post-graduate students). Of this number 34 per cent were engineering students; 19 per cent were students at teachers' colleges; and 12 per cent were medical students. The total number of students in institutions of higher learning was 130 per cent compared with 1951 and 142 per cent compared with 1950.

Last year there were over 3,280,000 middle school students throughout the country, or 164 per cent of 1951 and 208 per cent of 1950. Of the middle school students, over 298,000 were in technical schools, which was 183 per cent of the 1951 figure and 305 per cent of the 1950 figure.

In 1952, there were more than 55 million primary school pupils throughout the country, which was 129 per cent of the 1951 figure and 193 per cent of the 1950 figure.

More than 2,300,000 workers attended workers' and peasants' spare-time schools throughout the country in 1952, or 116 per cent of the 1951 figure and 307 per cent of the 1950 figure. Over 27 million peasants attended such schools, or 175 per cent compared with 1951 and 777 per cent compared with 1950. During the winter of 1951 to 1952, more than 48 million peasants attended winter classes, which was 220 per cent of the number in the previous winter and 376 per cent of the 1949-1950 winter figure.

Last year, during the experimental drive to promote the quick method of learning Chinese characters, more than 7 million people attended the courses.

The intellectuals of the country last year enthusiastically developed a movement for political study. They educated and reformed themselves by way of criticism and self-criticism and thus raised their political understanding to a higher level.

New strides in public health were also made last year. The nation-wide people's patriotic sanitation campaign smashed the U.S. imperialists' germ warfare, and raised health work among the masses to a new level. The general health of the Chinese people is being improved.

Hospitals under the Ministry of Public Health last year had a total of 139,000 beds, or 135 per cent compared with 1951 and 217 per cent compared with 1950.

In 1952, there were 2,120 county health centres, serving 97.8 per cent of the counties in China. There were, throughout the country, 7,699 district health centres; 161 mother and child care centres, representing an increase of 144 per cent above 1951; 2,112 mother and child care clinics, an increase of 357 per cent; and 27,400 modern maternity stations, an increase of 54 per cent.

There were 186 anti-epidemic teams and stations throughout the country in 1952, or 144 per cent compared with 1951.

Free medical service was started for all government employees in 1952.

In 1952, scientific research work in co-ordination with national construction was carried on by 28 research institutes of the Academia Sinica. The number of research workers was 148 per cent of the number in 1951.

In the same year, publication work was expanded, and the quality of publications raised. Larger amounts of popular reading matter were provided, and more books and magazines were published in the national minorities' languages and foreign languages.

There were 276 newspapers, with a total circulation of some ten million per issue, published for areas above the level of administrative regions in 1952. The circulation was 157 per cent of the figure for 1951 and 279 per cent of the figure for 1950. In 1952, there were published 356 magazines, with a total circulation of some 200 million copies, or 118 per cent of the figure for 1951 and 593 per cent of the figure for 1950. Books were published to a total of over 760 million copies, which was 109 per cent of the figure for 1951 and 279 per cent of the figure for 1950.

New achievements were also recorded in film-making during the year. There were 2,439 mobile film projection teams operating in factories, mines, villages and army units and a total of 771 state-owned and private cinemas.

A national drama festival was held in 1952 for the first time in China's history. Twenty-three types of local drama were performed, with over 1,000 actors taking part.

Except for a few of the most remote counties, 2,402 centres of culture, the basic organisations for mass cultural and recreational activities, were set up in all parts of the country in 1952.

A number of shortcomings existed in the work of restoring and developing cultural and educational work, namely, lack of planning and foresight; lack of adequate co-ordination with the rehabilitation and development of the national economy; a tendency to over-hastiness as well as to emphasise quantity rather than quality as shown in the literacy campaigns, primary education, and the setting up of health centres and cultural centres; and finally, in circulating books and other publications, there were such cases as forced sales, and the lack of a strong ideological and organisational leadership.