

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM.

The following notes are explanatory of the more important matters relating to the preparation of the balance-sheets and revenue accounts included in B.—1 [Pt. IV], 1937, which is prepared on an income and expenditure basis and present a more comprehensive statement of the financial operations of departments and services than is possible in the cash statements included in papers B.—1 [Pts. I and II].

(i) *Authority*.—Section 57 of the Finance Act, 1932, requires the preparation of these accounts and their presentation to Parliament.

(ii) *Capital*.—The amounts under this heading in the accounts usually represent the value of fixed assets at the conclusion of the financial year, and the amounts are divided to show loan capital separate from that provided from revenue or other source.

(iii) *Depreciation*.—Treasury Instruction No. 97 specifies various rates of depreciation based on an estimated average life for different classes of assets. The rates are computed usually on the original capital cost. If the nature of a Department's depreciating assets calls for special rates, these are approved as required.

(iv) *Exchange*.—Exchange on all remittances abroad is charged to the Consolidated Fund and appears in the State Income and Expenditure Account; it is not recouped from the various departmental votes in the Consolidated Fund nor from the various separate or special accounts as regards capital expenditure charged in the first instance to the Public Works Fund. Exchange on remittances abroad for purchases of materials and miscellaneous services is, however, recouped from the following separate or special accounts:—

Electric Supply.

Land for Settlements.

Main Highways.

State Coal-mines.

State Forests.

Unemployment Fund.

Accounts outside the Public Account (*e.g.*, Post Office Account, Government Accident Insurance Account, &c.).

No recoupment is made from separate or special accounts (either within or outside the Public Account) for exchange on remittances of interest.

(v) *Charges not subject to specific Appropriation*.—In pursuance of the general authority quoted in (i) above, certain charges such as administration, exchange of properties, assessed rental values, interest on capital and depreciation allowances, &c., are made through the Treasury Adjustment Account without cash payments or specific appropriation by Parliament.

(vi) *Interest*.—In the case of separate accounts such as Main Highways Account or State Coal-mines Account, the interest charge shown represents actual interest payable on the loans raised for those specific purposes. In the accounts of other Departments, an average rate, at present $4\frac{1}{4}$ per centum per annum, is charged.

(vii) *Rentals*.—Some Departments occupying private premises actually pay rentals. Others occupying Government buildings are assessed annually with rental based on the average rate of interest, the cost or valuation of the property, and the class of building.

(viii) *State Balance-sheet*.—A general balance-sheet and Income and Expenditure Account incorporating the financial transactions of all Government Departments and services is presented.

(ix) *Treasury Adjustment Account*.—This is the equivalent of a "Head Office Account" in branch accounting, and through it are passed inter-departmental transfers and the total of cash transactions for the year. Separate accounts (see vi) having their own cash balances do not utilize a Treasury Adjustment Account.

(x) *Values*.—When the provision of accounts and balance-sheets on a commercial basis by all Departments was first instituted about 1922, it was necessary to bring numerous properties and assets into account by means of a fair valuation. New assets since then, or additions, are usually recorded at actual cost with any depreciation provision shown either as a deduction or separately.