

C 33/2/70

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Industrial and Labour Developments in January, 1946.

N.B. Each section of this Report may be taken out separately.

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Government of India:

Workmen's Compensation Act (Amendment) Bill,
1946.

The Government of India published on 12-1-1946 the draft of a Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

Under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, workmen earning wages exceeding Rs. 300 a month are not entitled to compensation. The term "wages" includes dearness allowances. As a result persons who would have ordinarily been entitled to the relief under the Act are being deprived of it when their total wages exceed Rs. 300 due to adding of dearness allowances. To remedy this, the Bill proposes that the present limit of Rs. 300 a month be raised to Rs. 400. As the amounts of lump sum compensation payable at death or for permanent, partial or total disablement vary with the wages, the amounts payable to those earning between Rs. 300 and Rs. 400 have also been fixed proportionately ~~higher~~ higher.

The proposal to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act has been supported by all the provincial Governments and has been generally agreed to by the Indian Labour Conference (vide pages 5-11 of the report of this office for August 1945) and the Standing Labour Committee (vide page 3 of the report of this office for August 1945).

Formally introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly on 21-1-1946, the Bill was passed by it on 8-2-1946.

(The Gazette of India, dated 12-1-1946,
Part V, page 16; The Statesman, dated
9-2-1946).

✓ Bill to Amend Indian Mines Act, 1923: Pithead
Baths for Miners.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Member for Labour, Government of India, introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly on 30-1-1946 a Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923. The Bill seeks to confer on the Central Government a power to make rules for requiring the maintenance at or near pit-heads of bathing places equipped with shower baths and of locker-rooms for the use of men employed in mines and of similar and separate places ~~for~~ and rooms for the use of women in mines where women are employed; and for prescribing, either generally or with particular reference to the numbers of men and women ordinarily employed in ~~mine~~, the number and standards of such places and rooms. The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill points out that the provision of proper pit-head bathing facilities for miners in coal mines is an urgently required measure and that the Advisory Committee of the Coal Mines Welfare Fund have agreed that it is the responsibility of mineowners to provide bathing facilities for men and women working in the collieries, (vide page 54 of the report of this office for August 1945).

The Bill was passed by the Assembly on 8-2-1946.

(The Gazette of India, dated 2-2-1946, Part I, page 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100).

Factories (Holidays) Rules.

The Provincial Governments of Assam and Bombay have gazetted during the month rules they have ~~framed~~ framed in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 35A of the Factories Act as amended by the Factories (Amendment) Act, 1945. The rules are termed 'The Factories (Holidays) Rules'. Reference was made to the draft of these rules at page 2 of the report of this Office for August, 1945.

The following are the appropriate gazette references.

- Assam: The Assam Gazette dated 23-1-1946, Part II, pages 166-167.
Bombay: The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary, dated 11-1-1946, Part IV-A, pages 8-13.

Bihar :

Fresh Draft Rule under Factories Act: Managers of Perennial Factories to submit Annual and Half-Yearly Returns and a Monthly Return Relating to Closing Days.

The Government of Bihar has gazetted the draft of a fresh rule which it proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 77 of the Factories Act, 1934. The proposed rule requires every manager of a factory coming under the scope of the rules to furnish to the Inspector of Factories or other officer designated by the Provincial Government in this behalf (a) an annual return in duplicate in a prescribed form on or before the 15th January each year, giving among other details the average number of men, women, adolescent males, adolescent females, boys and girls employed daily, the normal hours worked per week by men, women and children, the number of days worked in the year, the rest intervals given to adults and children and the sections of the Act from which the majority of its workers were exempted and the number of the workers affected; and (b) before the end of each calendar month, return giving notice of all the days on which the ~~manager~~ factory will be closed during the next ensuing month. In addition the manager of every perennial factory is required to furnish before the 15th July and 15th January of each year, a half-yearly return in duplicate relating to the half-year ending the 30th June and 31st December respectively.

The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 2-4-1946.

(The Bihar Gazette dated 2-1-1946, Part II, pages 4-5).

Weekly Holidays Act - to be enforced in Bihar Municipalities.

According to a notification issued by the government of Bihar, the Weekly Holidays Act, 1942, is to come into force in a number of municipalities in Bihar, listed in a schedule appended to the notification, with effect from 1-2-1946. The following types of establishments, however, have been exempted from the provisions of section 3 of the Act:- (1) All chemists and druggists shops; (2) all pan (betel) and biri shops; (3) shops selling country spirit; (4) shops selling portable foreign liquor except such shops as are licensed to sell foreign liquor for consumption off the premises only; (5) shops selling ganja, bhang and opium; (6) shops selling petrol; and (7) fruit shops.

(No.79-IF-9/46-L and No.80-IF-9/45-L; The Bihar Gazette dated 30-1-1946, part II, pages 50-51).

Madras:

Madras Weekly Holidays Rules, 1946: Draft.

The Government of Madras has gazetted on 22-1-1946 the draft of ~~'The Madras Weekly Holidays Rules 1946'~~ which it proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 10 of the Weekly Holidays Act, 1942. The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 1-3-1946.

The rules provide for the regular and periodical inspection of establishments coming under the scope of the Act by inspectors appointed by Government and for the maintenance by the managers of establishments in respect of the persons employed in their establishments of (1) an attendance register and (2) a register showing the rate of pay of each person and the pay drawn for each month with date of payment. The manager is further required to indicate in the attendance register the days on which every person employed in the establishment was allowed a holiday.

(The Fort St. George Gazette dated 22-1-1946, Rules Supplement to Part I, pages 22-23).

Certain Types of Establishments Exempted.- By a notification dated 18-1-1946, the Governor of Madras has exempted from the provisions of section 3 of the Weekly Holidays Act the following classes of establishments:- (1) All shops dealing mainly in vegetables, meat, fish, dairy produce, bread or flowers in so far as the sale of these articles is concerned; (2) all shops dealing mainly in medicines, surgical appliances, bandages or other medical requisites in so far as the sale of these articles is concerned; (3) all petrol bunks; and (4) all shops where the proprietor employs no assistant.

(G.O.Ms. No. 173 P.W.(Labour) dated 18-1-1946; The Fort St. George Gazette dated 22-1-1946, Part I, Page 68).

Sind:

Fresh Draft Rule under Factories Act: Managers of
Non-Seasonal Factories to submit Half-Yearly Returns.

The Government of Sind has gazetted on 17-1-1946 the draft of a rule which it proposes to make under 77 of the Factories Act. The proposed rule requires the manager of every non-seasonal factory to furnish to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Boilers and Smoke Nuisances half-yearly returns in duplicate in two prescribed forms for the periods January to June and July to December, on or before the 15th July and 15th January respectively of each year. The first form requires the manager ~~man~~ to furnish among other details, information as to the average number of men, women, adolescent males, adolescent females, boys and girls employed daily, the normal hours worked per week by men, women and children, the number of days worked in the year, the rest intervals given to adults and children and the sections of the Act from which the majority of workers were exempted. The second requires the manager to give details regarding the average number of women employed daily, the number of women who claimed maternity benefit under section 6(1) of the Act, the number of women who were paid maternity benefit for actual birth, the number of other persons who were paid maternity benefit and the total amount of maternity benefit paid.

The draft is to be taken into consideration three months after the date of its publication.

(The Sind Government gazette dated 17-1-1946,
Part I, pages 157-158).

SOCIAL POLICY.

Minimum Wage Legislation and Amendment of Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 discussed at tripartite Subcommittee Meeting.

Reference was made at pages 11 of our report (pages 7-11, proceedings of the Seventh Labour Conference, New Delhi, 27 and 28-11-1945) for November 1945 to the announcement by the Labour Member to the Government of India of the appointment of a Sub-committee consisting of two representatives of employers and two of employees to advise the Government in drafting legislation for fixing minimum wages for labour and for amending the Indian Trade Unions' Act, 1926.

At a meeting of this Sub-committee in New Delhi in the first week of January a substantial measure of agreement is understood to have been reached on the main features of the proposed legislation for the fixing of minimum wages for labour and amending of the Trade Unions' Act. It is learnt that some new suggestions, which the Government viewed with favour, were put forward in respect of the minimum wages legislation. It was suggested that the formation of a Central Advisory Board was necessary to stimulate and co-ordinate the work of Provincial and Local Wage Boards. ~~Fixing of wages in kind was discussed and, though there was some difference, it was felt that under the present conditions it should be allowed if provincial Governments were satisfied that it was customary and necessary, the ultimate aim being to abolish it. The inclusion of agricultural labour in the categories mentioned in the schedule was supported unanimously.~~

The sub-committee agreed to the proposal that rates of minimum wages fixed by provincial Governments for workers employed in Central Government undertakings should be subject to the Central government's approval.

A suggestion that only persons of the status of a High Court Judge should be appointed judges in the Industrial Court was received with general approval. It was agreed also that the decision of the Industrial Court on the recognition of a trade union should be accepted by the Government.

(The Statesman, 7-1-1946).

Legislation for Fixing Minimum Wages: Views of Employers' Organisations.

According to Mr. Gautam Sarabhai, who attended the Labour Sub-committee meeting at Delhi in January 1946 as the representative of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers the proposed legislation fixing minimum wages for unskilled labour needs to be modified in respect of some important details if it is to be acceptable to employers.

Demand for Wage Boards and Equal Wage for Equal Work.- The employers' organisation, according to Mr. Sarabhai, was opposed to giving provincial Governments the power to fix the minimum wage without consulting representatives of workers and employers. As in Great Britain, it

should be the statutory obligation of provincial Governments to appoint Wage Boards, consisting of an equal number of representatives of workers and employers and their recommendations on the question of minimum wage should be binding. There should be equal wage for equal work, irrespective of whether it was done by a man or woman. The minimum wage would vary from place to place depending upon local conditions; but the Wage Boards should adopt a uniform basis for computing the minimum wage for different localities throughout India. As the minimum wage was the wage to be paid to the lowest paid unskilled worker, it would have to be the same for different industries in the same place.

(The Hindu, dated 14-1-1946).+

CONDITIONS OF WORK.

Hours of Work and Weekly Rest Etc.

Indore State Government Orders 9-hour day: Sequel to Mill workers' demand.

In response to the demand of the Mill Mazdoor Sangh, Indore, the Government of Indore has ordered the mills in the State to make 9 hours a day instead of 10 hours from 4-1-1946. It is understood that the Sangh had threatened a strike if the demand for reduction was not met.

(The HindustanTimes, 7-1-1946).+

8

Industrial Health and Safety.

Protection of Health and Sanitary Arrangements for C.P.W.D. Workers:
Central Government Framed Model Rules.

Model Rules have recently been framed by the Government of India for protecting the health of the workers employed by the Central Public Works Department or its contractors and for ensuring adequate sanitary arrangements at the work places. These rules apply to all construction works in charge of the Central Public Works Department and provide for facilities for first aid, drinking water, washing and bathing places, latrines and urinals, shelters during rest, creches and cooked food canteens at every workplace.

First Aid.- As regards first aid the rules prescribe that at every workplace, there shall be maintained in a readily accessible place first-aid appliances including an adequate supply of sterilized dressings and sterilized cotton wool. In addition, at large workplaces remote from any regular hospitals where on an average 500 or more persons are employed an indoor ward shall be provided with one bed for every 250 employees.

Drinking Water - Washing and Bathing Places.- The rules further prescribe that in every workplace, there shall be provided and maintained at suitable places, easily accessible to labour, a sufficient supply of water fit for drinking. Adequate washing and bathing places shall be provided, separately for men and women, and such places shall be kept in a clean and drained condition.

Sanitary Arrangements.- As regards sanitary arrangements the rules prescribe the form and standards according to which latrines and urinals shall be provided, constructed and maintained.

Shelters during Rest - Creches.- In addition, the rules lay down that at every workplace there shall be provided, free of cost, two suitable sheds one for meals and the other for rest, for the use of labour. At every workplace where 50 or more women workers are ordinarily employed there shall be provided two huts for the use of children under the age of 6 years, belonging to such women. One hut shall be used for infants' games and play and the other as their bed-room. At such creches there shall be two dais (midwives) in attendance.

(Indian Labour Gazette, December, 1945,
Legislative Supplement). +

Wages.

Working of Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in U.P. during 1944.

According to a summary of the Report on the Working of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in the United Provinces for 1944, published in the "Labour Bulletin", U.P., for July-September 1945, the Act applied to factories registered under Section 2(j) of the Factories Act, 1934, and printing presses. Out of 925 factories coming under the Act, only 859 worked during the year, and of these only 827 furnished information in time. The average number of workers employed daily was 242,413, while the total amount of wages paid including deductions was Rs. 109,877,383; of the deductions which amounted to Rs. 39,665, Rs. 23,220 were on account of fines, Rs. 16,426 due to damage or loss and Rs. 19 for breach of contract. The corresponding figures for 1943 were 236,727, Rs. 97,385,722, Rs. 53,110, Rs. 19,165, Rs. 27,223 and Rs. 6,722 respectively.

Movement of Wages.- The general increase in total earnings during 1944 was mainly due to the grants of dearness allowance to meet the increased cost of living. The textile industry alone registered a decrease, the reason for which, as given in the report, is that since July, 1943, the textile mills have been paying dearness allowance on the basis, not of the general cost of living index number, but of the subsidiary cost of living index number, the latter being always considerably less than the former on account of the fact that it is based on prices of certain commodities sold at concessional rates by the employers. The cash value of such concessions does not appear in the average annual wages.

The following table gives the average annual earnings for the whole of the province, their percentage rise as compared with 1939 and the average annual cost of living indices (general) for Cawnpore:

| Year | Average annual earnings | Percentage increase as compared with 1939 | Average annual cost of living index for Cawnpore. |
|------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | Rs. A. P. | | |
| 1939 | 175 4 2 | .. | 100 |
| 1940 | 223 2 11 | 127.3 | 111 |
| 1941 | 241 13 6 | 137.9 | 123 |
| 1942 | 303 1 0 | 172.0 | 181 |
| 1943 | 411 6 2 | 234.7 | 306 |
| 1944 | 453 4 3 | 258.9 | 314 |

The report points out that the increased average earnings of workers have not fully compensated for the increased cost of living, but adds that (a) many firms are selling foodgrains at concessional rates, (b) the cost of living throughout the whole of the province has not necessarily been so high as in Cawnpore, and (c) many industrial firms have granted bonus out of profit to their employees at various rates, and the amounts of bonus, not being wages do not appear in the average annual earnings.

Wages in different Industries.- The following table shows, for 1939, 1943 and 1944, the average annual wage in different industries, arranged in descending order on the basis of average income in 1939:

| Industry | Average Wage in | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----|----|------|----|----|------|----|----|
| | 1939 | | | 1943 | | | 1944 | | |
| 1 | 2 | | | 3 | | | 4 | | |
| | Rs. | a. | p. | Rs. | a. | p. | Rs. | a. | p. |
| Textile..... | 254 | 4 | 5 | 561 | 8 | 11 | 557 | 4 | 6 |
| Government and Local Fund. | 250 | 10 | 3 | 440 | 14 | 6 | 495 | 13 | 7 |
| Engineering | 233 | 4 | 6 | 411 | 3 | 7 | 470 | 0 | 4 |
| Skins and hides | 229 | 6 | 3 | 548 | 1 | 10 | 609 | 8 | 2 |
| Paper and printing .. | 206 | 5 | 4 | 326 | 1 | 9 | 377 | 9 | 10 |
| Chemicals, dyes, etc... | 153 | 1 | 8 | 296 | 4 | 7 | 359 | 6 | 10 |
| Food, drink and tobacco. | 143 | 8 | 0 | 350 | 5 | 7 | 358 | 0 | 11 |
| Minerals and metals ... | 143 | 7 | 10 | 356 | 11 | 5 | 495 | 12 | 10 |
| Wood, stone and glass... | 141 | 12 | 8 | 249 | 8 | 9 | 308 | 0 | 10 |
| Miscellaneous..... | 141 | 7 | 6 | 256 | 3 | 2 | 531 | 12 | 4 |
| Gins and presses..... | .. | | | 206 | 9 | 4 | 258 | 4 | 7 |

(Amounts paid as bonus out of profits are not included in these figures.)

Inspections, Complaints and Prosecutions.- 813 inspections and visits were made during the year to see if the provisions of the Act were being observed. 225 complaints in respect of non-payment and delayed payment of wages or illegal deductions were received and enquired into. In a majority of cases settlement was reached without recourse to the "Authority" (vide section 15 of the Act). Only five cases had to be referred to such "Authority". 14 prosecutions were launched for non-display of notices and non-maintenance of registers properly. Convictions were obtained in 8 cases.

("Labour Bulletin", U.P. July-September, 1945).

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Forced Labour.

Alleged move in Jodhpur State to legalise Forced Labour.

According to reports published in the Hindustan Times and the Vanguard, forced labour which has hitherto been extracted from artisans and untouchables on the plea that it had been prevalent from the medieval ages is now sought to be legalised in the Jodhpur State. An act known as the Beggar Act has been published for eliciting public opinion. The proposed Act will compel labourers and artisans to place their labour under the Royal family, jagirdars and Government officials. Refusal to work will be punished with fine and imprisonment. It ~~fixes~~ fixes a scale of wage, which read with other clauses, reduces the maximum wage now being available. The draft, it is further alleged, is intended to axe the principle of collective bargaining.

The Marwar Lok Parishad (People's Assembly) has decided to start an agitation against this proposed legislation.

(The Hindustan Times, 21-1-1946;
The Vanguard, dated 29-1-1946).+

Industrial Disputes.

Panels of Employers' Assessors in Bengal: Technical Advice to Adjudicators of Industrial Disputes.

Reference was made at page 7 of our report for August 1945 to the Bengal Government's proposal, as an experimental measure, to appoint assessors to advise the adjudicator of trade disputes on technical matters. These assessors were to be selected for each adjudication case by Government from panels of employers and workers constituted for different industries -- with the maximum number on the employers' panels extending up to 20 persons. The Government of Bengal had, in this connection, addressed employers' associations requesting them to suggest the names of persons with the requisite knowledge and experience who might be included in the employers' panels.

In response to this move, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, has prepared the panels of employers' assessors for (1) the tea industry, (2) the jute mill industry, (3) the jute pressing industry, (4) the engineering industry, (5) the paper-making industry, (6) the flour mill industry, (7) ocean shipping, (8) inland shipping, (9) river transport, (10) stevedoring, (11) oil installations, (12) public utilities, (13) the cotton mill industry, (14) light railways and (15) miscellaneous or isolated industries. In the case of the paint manufacturing industry, it has been arranged that the Association of Paint, Colour and Varnish manufacturers in India will suggest suitable assessors to Government should the need arise. The Indian Mining Association deferred the formation of a panel pending the outcome of its suggestion to the Bengal Government that, since coal mining is a Central Government responsibility, the provincial Government should first ascertain whether the ~~Sanitary~~ Central Government had any objection to the application of the adjudication procedure to the industry in Bengal.

(Pages 12-13, Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the months of September, October and November, 1945).

Textile Workers' Strike in Central Provinces and Berar, 16-1-1946 to 28-1-1946.

The Central Provinces and Berar Textile Workers Federation launched a general strike of the textile workers in the Province on 16-1-1946 ~~was~~ consequent on the refusal of the millowners to grant a number of demands made by the workers and the failure of the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar to refer these demands to adjudication or arbitration. The demands put forward by the Federation on behalf of the workers included 40 per cent increase in basic wages, 25 per cent extra night-shift allowance, regularity bonus on a monthly basis, a 48-hours week, provident fund, confirmation of temporary workers who put in three years' service, abolition of the contract system, compensation for involuntary unemployment and victory bonus. ~~Refusing~~ Refusing the demand for arbitration the Central Provinces Government maintained

that it did not appear to Government that there were any major questions demanding arbitration and that there were no indications that the present rates of wages did not amount to a fair wage. The Government also pointed out that as price levels and conditions in the textile industry were still abnormal, there was clearly no case for revision of basic wages. The strike which began on 16-1-1946 at Nagpur, also affected six other textile centres in the province, but was called off on 28-1-1946 as during the later stages it took a communal turn and led to tension between the Harijans and caste Hindus at Nagpur.

(The Trade Union Record, January, 1946;
The Times of India, dated 17-1-1946;
The Hindustan Times, dated 28-1-1946).+

General.Conditions of Labour in Burma: Government appoints
Inquiry Committee.

A strike of about 430 Indian workers in a saw-mill, in which 80 Burmese clerks and technicians have also joined, has led to the appointment, by the Government of Burma, of a labour inquiry committee to go into the questions of recruitment and employment, housing and medical facilities, adequacy of present rates of wages, food and clothing concessions and methods of payment. The committee has been asked to submit recommendations to the Labour Member in two months.

(The Statesman, 6-1-1946).

Permanent Machinery to Settle Disputes and Statutory
Minimum Wage: Demands of C.P. Mine Workers.

It is understood that the Central Provinces Government has deputed Mr. S.R. Deshpande, Director, Cost-of-Living, to inquire into the conditions of labour in the C.P. coal mines. The Secretary, C.P. Mine Workers' Union, has placed before Mr. Deshpande 22 demands on behalf of the workers. These include demands for (1) a permanent machinery for the investigation and settlement of trade disputes, (2) a weekly holiday, (3) annual leave of one month, (4) a statutory minimum wage of Re. 1/8/- per day, (5) the institution of provident fund and old-age pension, (6) the application of the Payment of Wages Act to mine areas, and (7) arrangements to prevent accidents.

(The Hindustan Times, 5-1-1946).

Conditions of Labour in Mica Mining Industry: Report of
Professor Adarkar.

It is understood that Professor B.P. Adarkar, who had been appointed by the Government of India to report on the conditions of the Mica Industry in Bihar and the welfare measures necessary in respect of the labour employed therein, has submitted his report. The following details regarding the labour conditions in mica industry, and Prof. Adarkar's recommendations for their improvement are taken from a report by the Patna Correspondent of the Amrita Bazar Patrika, Calcutta. Professor Adarkar observes:-

Insufficient of enforcement of the Indian Mines Act.- The principal evils prevalent in the mines, which affect the labour employed, arise from the insufficient enforcement of the Indian Mines Act, on the one hand, and the extremely inadequate attention paid to labour matters in the framing of that Act itself, on the other. The mining inspection is utterly inadequate. The Act does not apply to 'uparchalas' which constitute a considerable section of the industry.

Conditions around Mines.- The labour conditions in and about the mines are most deplorable. In the first place, the mica fields are situated in malaria-infested jungles far from civilization. There are few good roads. A large number of mines are situated at considerable distances from the roads, and miners cannot be transported to their places of work, except in a few cases. The miner has to walk several miles daily to and from his village home. No housing worth the name is provided by the mine-owners near the mines. In some cases, a few temporary huts are built, which are no better than cattle-sheds, in which a large number of miners and their families and even ~~stagnant~~ strangers are made to stay, packed like herrings in a barrel. There is hardly any privacy in these houses, and as regards the state of sanitation, the less said the better. Fires are often caused in these huts and the workers' property and lives are lost in the grass-thatched cottages when these are gutted by fire. Fresh water is extremely rare, and, usually, miners have to quench their thirst at stagnant and dirty ponds. As a consequence, they suffer very largely from hookworm, dyspepsia and anko-stomiasis. When the worker comes out of the mine, he has to plod his way home through lanes, and by ways, often in complete darkness. When a worker falls sick or suffers from an accident, it is not possible for him to avail himself of hospital facilities as easily as in industrial towns or some of the other mining areas. Only one concern has a private hospital of its own, but with insufficient equipment of drugs and apparatus. The nearest public hospitals are miles away. There are no ambulances available and very often the worker has to be borne 10 miles at a stretch ~~on a horse (bad)~~ to the nearest hospital for treatment.

Hours of Work and Conditions inside the Mines.- As regards hours of work, the law seems to be infringed quite openly and the shifts are so arranged that the miner often works for nine shifts in the course of 6 days. On three days in the week, a miner puts in 16 hours of work per day (2 shifts each day) and in the remaining 3 days he works for the usual 8 hours a day. Sometimes, the same miner is employed in two consecutive shifts under different names. Inside the mica mines, conditions are not at all comfortable. Whatever be the depth of the mine, it has to be negotiated by wooden ladders; lighting arrangements are miserable, as not a single mica mine is electrified. Men carry burning candles with them while negotiating a mine and often these candles go out; where kerosene lamps are used, the atmosphere becomes stuffed with kerosene fumes and carbon monoxide, and it is in such atmosphere that workers have to work for several hours continually. The roofs of strikes are very low, and men of an average height have to bend themselves before they can walk safely. As one approaches the depth of a mine, one hears the droning of drillers at work. When one approaches the actual spot where drilling is being done, one witnesses a none too pleasant sight. Men with only one loin cloth round their waist are seen at work, piping heavy hammers, in the dim light of kerosene lamps, or candles. Mostly the process is that of dry-drilling, which causes a lot of dust and is responsible for a considerable amount of silicosis amongst the mica miners. Only in a very few mines wet-drilling is in use.

Accidents.- The incidence of accidents in mica mines is said to be lower than coal mines, as these mica mines are not gassy. This is borne out in the report by the Chief Inspector of Mines. Labour leaders, however, allege that accidents are fairly large in number, but only a few of them are reported. As in the parallel case of factory accidents, very often lump sum compensation is prescribed under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Sometimes accidents are not even reported, and all information about them is suppressed by hook or crook. Accidents are

caused by falls of sides, or of shafts, or things falling down a shaft or by explosives. When the shot-firer charges holes with explosive, connects the fuse, ignites, and then rushes for shelter, his candle often goes out and darkness surrounds him with the result that he cannot proceed further and very often he is a part of the debris caused by the explosion. It is surprising that even for such dangerous operation electric torches are not provided. Most of the uparachallas workings, being less than 20 ft. deep are not covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act and hence many of the accidents which take place there, are not compensated.

Maternity Benefits and Welfare Measures.— Not a single case of maternity benefit being paid came to Mr. Adarkar's notice. Although the Indian Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941, applies to these mines, the Act remains a dead letter, although a large number of women, of the child-bearing age are employed not only on the surface but sometimes also underground. In the mining areas, welfare activities are conspicuous by their total absence. Canteens, creches, entertainments, washing or bathing facilities and such other things are entirely unheard of in this area. Some of the bigger firms like Crestien Mining Company, Chaturam Holiram Ltd., and the Indian Mica Supply Co., have made, however, inadequate arrangements for medical aid. There are no arrangements anywhere for child or adult education.

Professor Adarkar suggests the following remedial measures: (1) The enforcement of the Indian Mines Act through wholetime inspectors stationed throughout the year in the area itself; (2) extension of the Payment of Wages Act; (3) provision of medical facilities (both hospitals and dispensaries) on a very large scale, including prevention work (e.g., antitubercular measures); (4) introduction of wet-drilling compulsorily in all mines; substitution of ladders by cage-lifts, and provision of better lighting arrangements; (5) temporary free housing facilities to be provided by the mine-owner as a condition precedent to starting work of a mine,—in the alternative, housing schemes by Government in the mining areas; (6) provision of drinking water by Government or mine owner at the mines and better sanitation; (7) supply of cheap grains and other consumers' goods at controlled prices in sufficient quantities at the mines; (8) regulation of wages and hours of work on a uniform and rational basis; (9) Education for children and adults; (10) control of liquor; (11) strict enforcement of the Indian Mines Maternity Benefit Act; and (12) early introduction of social security measures.

In the ~~manufacturing~~ manufacturing section the principal evils noted by Prof. Adarkar are those arising from low wages, absence of regulation of factory labour, overcrowding etc., and of indebtedness. The employment of child labour in defiance of the law is another acute problem of this section of the industry. To remedy these he suggests: (1) The creation of a special factory inspectorate ~~for mica factories~~ to deal with mica factories; (2) enforcement of the Children Act (amendment) 1939; (3) provision of facilities for education and training, especially of child labour; (4) extension of Factories Act, Section 5, to these factories, or, preferably enactment of a special measure like the C.P. Unregulated Factories Act., 1938, which deals with certain aspects only of factory life and labour; (5) control of liquor and gambling; (6) regulation of wages and hours of work; (7) provision of medical facilities and sanitary arrangements; and (8) provision of cheap grains and consumers' goods at controlled rates.

Immediate Demands of Workers: AITUC's Circular to Constituents.

In a circular addressed to the Provincial Committees, the Regional Councils, the affiliated unions and the members of the General Council, the General Secretary of the A.I.T.U.C. has suggested that trade unions should, for the present, concentrate on the following five demands: (1) The maintenance of at least the present employment ~~level~~ level; (2) the consolidation of dearness allowance with the basic rates of pay and fixation of the minimum wage; (3) an eight day and a forty hours week; (4) the speedy enforcement of social security measures such as health insurance and unemployment benefit and old age pensions; and (5) the recognition of Trade Unions under proper conditions consistently with the complete freedom of the workers.

The circular, *inter alia*, observes that the reduction of working hours will be helpful in keeping up the level of employment and the fixation of a minimum wage will make the social security schemes, especially the health insurance scheme, financially less heavy. Similarly, a high level of employment will mean so much less burden on the scheme of unemployment benefit, and the recognition of free and genuinely-representative organisations of workers will result in considerably less friction and smoother working of the industrial system.

("Trade Union Record", January, 1946).

Working of Factories Act in U.P. during 1944.

The following information on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the the United Provinces for 1944, supplements the information already given at pages 14-16 of ~~the~~ our report for October 1945.

Number of Factories and Operatives.- The number of factories subject to the Act during the year under review was 1005, as against 934 in the previous year, and the average daily number of workers employed was 278,238, the corresponding figure for 1943 being 254,839. The total number of women, adolescents and children employed was 4667, 2031, and 909, respectively, as against 4454, 932 and 1867 in the previous year. In 1944 ~~the~~ the percentage of ~~women~~ women, adolescents and children to the total number of operatives was 1.7, .7 and .3, respectively, as compared to 3.0, 1.8 and .4 respectively in 1939.

Inspections.- During the year every factory in the province was inspected at least once. The total number of inspections and visits during the year was 2,629(2,825)* of which 311 (321) were made by the ex officio inspectors. Fifty-one (80) visits were made by the Medical Officers of Health for examining the drinking water of the wells and pipes situated in factories.

* The figures within brackets are those for 1943.

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Accidents.- The total number of accidents reported during the year was 5,348 (4,709), of which 49(25) were fatal, 634(479) serious and 4,665(4,205) minor. The following table gives incidence of accidents during 1939-44:

| Year | Average daily number of workers | Total number of accidents | Incidence of accidents per 100 workers. |
|------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 1939 | 159,738 | 2,632 | 1.65 |
| 1940 | 180,634 | 3,348 | 1.85 |
| 1941 | 224,316 | 3,591 | 1.60 |
| 1942 | 232,524 | 3,774 | 1.62 |
| 1943 | 254,839 | 4,709 | 1.85 |
| 1944 | 278,238 | 5,348 | 1.92 |

Prosecutions.- 197 (187) prosecutions were instituted during the year, out of which convictions were obtained in 157 (138) cases, in 2(9) the accused were admonished, in 4(11) acquitted; 2 were dropped as the accused died, and 3 were filed by the District Magistrate. Fines ranged from Rs. 5 to Rs. 500 and amounted to Rs. 10,475, i.e., Rs. 66-12 per case.

Housing and Welfare.- Some of the more enlightened employers continue their existing schemes of welfare such as recreation, education, medical assistance, etc., in the factories. Arrangements for the supply of cloth, foodstuffs and other commodities at controlled rates continued. The housing of the factory operatives and the conditions under which they live remained much the same as in the previous year. The Cawnpore Improvement Trust built 2,400 residential quarters for the workers in 1944-45, and another group of large employers is also building a residential colony for their workers.

("Labour Bulletin", U.P. for July-Sept.,

1945)

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Problems of Mineral Development: Advisory Board set up by Government of India.

Consequent on the abolition, with effect from 31-12-1945, of the Utilisation Branch of the Geological Survey of India and its Advisory Committee, and the establishment in the Geological Survey of a Mineral Development Circle, the Government of India has decided to form an Advisory Board to advise on problems connected with the mineral development of the country.

Besides the Labour Member who will be its chairman, the Board consists of 14 members, including, among others, the Directors of the Geological Survey of India and the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Chief Inspector of Mines, and Sir Jehangir Ghandy of the Tatas.

(Resolution No. M. 102(4) dated 9-1-1946: The Gazette of India, Part I, Section 1, dated 12-1-1946, page 50).

Working Class Cost of Living Index for Various Centres in India during October, 1945.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during October, 1945, as compared with September, 1945.

| <u>Name of Centre</u> | <u>Base = 100</u> | <u>September, 1945</u> | <u>October, 1945</u> |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| Bombay | Year ending June 1934 | 240 | 242 |
| Ahmedabad | Year ending July 1927 | 205 | 217 |
| Sholapur | Year ending January 1928 | 207 | 207 |
| Nagpur | August 1939 | 272 | 269 |
| Indhiana | 1931-35 | 388 | -- |
| Cawnpore | August 1939 | 320 | 318 |
| Patna | Average cost of living for five years preceeding 1914 | 314 | 322 |
| Jamshedpur | Ditto | 344 | 370 |
| Jharia | Ditto | 402 | 422 |
| Madras | Year ending June 1936 | 226 | 225 |
| Madura | Ditto | 227 | 239 |
| Coimbatore | Ditto | 240 | 237 |

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India for October, 1945).

Special Committee set up for Atomic Research
in India.

On the recommendation of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has set up a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. H.J. Bhabha, to explore the availability of raw materials in India capable of generating atomic energy, suggest ways and means of harnessing them and keep in touch with similar organisations in other countries.

(The Hindu, 21-1-1946).

Indian Economic Mission set up in U.K. to protect Indian
Merchants.

To stamp out profiteering on the part of British manufacturers who are alleged to take advantage of the fact that India is unable to buy from the U.S.A., the Government of India has set up an Indian Economic Mission for the welfare and protection of Indian merchants. It will also act as liaison between the merchants and the Board of Trade, in the United Kingdom.

(The Hindustan Times, 24-1-1946).

Industrial Advisory Board set up in Cochin State.

On the recommendation of its Industrial Development Committee the Government of the Cochin State has appointed an Industrial Advisory Board whose function will be to advise the Government on matters connected with the industrial development of the State. The Chief Engineer of the State is to be the Chairman of the Board and the Deputy Secretary to Government (Post War Reconstruction) will be its Secretary. The other members include the Conservator of Forests, the Comptroller of Finance and the Director of Industries and Commerce of the State.

(The Hindu, 22-1-1946).

Baroda State introduces Sales Tax.

A sales tax Act has been enacted by the Government of Baroda and will come into force on February 1. The tax will be levied on all turnovers of Rs. 10,000 and more. The tax will be Rs. 96 per annum for a turnover upto Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 144 up to Rs. 20,000 and one per cent of the turnover if it exceeds that figure.

('Dawn', dated 27-1-1946).

States Industrial Delegation to United Kingdom and
United States: Mr. Malik on Results.

Mr. H.S. Malik, Prime Minister of Patiala State and leader of the States Industrial Delegation to the United Kingdom and the United States of America (vide page 9 of the report of this Office for September 1945) reviewed the results of the Mission at a Press Conference in New Delhi on 16-1-1946.

Foreign Industrialists may come in on 30 to 40 % Basis.- Mr. Malik emphasized that from the beginning the States had felt that they should co-operate with British India in a well-balanced development of the country. They believed that for the efficient expansion of industry it would be advantageous to secure the collaboration of industrialists from abroad, on an agreement, negotiated between firms, that would preclude any exploitation of the States. Most of the industrialists with whom the delegation discussed this question were not too much concerned about control, and he believed that they would come in on a 30 per cent or 40 per cent basis.

Capital Goods position in U.K. and U.S.A.- When making inquiries about machinery and equipment the delegation found industrialists of the UK and USA generally conscious of the possibility of helping to build up the standard of living of India's people. In Great Britain labour difficulties and delay in repairing war damage to factories rendered industrialists generally not sanguine about supplying the States' requirements of capital equipment without considerable delay. The exact reverse was the case in the USA where there had been considerable turn-over to civilian production. Certain important sections of British industry, including manufacturers of hydro-electric and generating machinery were willing to set aside part of their productive capacity for Indian orders. Some machinery, for example, for glass and starch factories, would be available from the USA this year.

Facilities for Technical Training.- Willing co-operation in training factory foremen and supervisors was offered in the UK and America, and the delegation was able to place a number of students in the USA. Opportunities for securing experts to help industries were better in the USA than in Great Britain.

In another interview given in London early in January 1946, prior to his departure for India, Mr. Malik suggested that the bulk of the orders which might aggregate £ 400,000,000, would go to Britain.

(The Statesman, 17-1-1946; and
The Hindustan Times, 12-1-1946).

Dyestuffs Industry for India: Recommendations of Dyestuffs
Exploratory Committee.

The Dyestuffs Exploratory Committee of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research which was set up in 1941 with Sir Ardeshir Dalal as Chairman has recommended ~~that~~ the establishment of a completely Indianized dyestuffs industry within 15 to 20 years at a total cost of about Rs. 250,000,000.

Three Stages of Development Suggested.- The Committee holds that, "in view of the vital importance of the dyestuff industry in the national economy, it should be established as early as possible", and has envisaged the following three stages for its complete development: (1) Manufacture of basic synthetic dyes within a period of about five years after a brief period of preparation and also the manufacture of some of the intermediates ~~sum~~ during this five-year period. (2) Production of all the intermediates required for the basic dyes within 10 years. (3) Production of all dyes in substantial demand in the country together with all the necessary intermediates within 15 to 20 years.

Protection and Agreements with U.S. and U.K. Firms.- As regards the ~~availability of the necessary raw materials~~ the Committee has found the position reasonably satisfactory and the State is strongly urged to give protection to the industry from external competition and, if possible, ~~aid with liberal subsidies~~. The Committee has further recommended ~~agreements with well-established organisations in England and the United States to obtain technical and expert advice, but not "at the expense of Indian interests"~~.

(The Statesman, 20-1-1946).

Development of India's Mineral Industry during World War II.

Dr. Crookshank, Director of the Geological Survey of India, in his presidential address to the Section of Geology and Geography at the 33rd session of the Indian Science Congress (vide page 444 of this report), gave an interesting survey of the development of mineral industry in India during World War II. He laid ~~some~~ special stress on the production of coal, oil and iron ores.

Oil.- Oil production in India had risen from 81 million gallons in 1939 to 191 million in 1941, falling to 96 million gallons in 1943. A new oil field had been found in the Punjab and it appeared to be a gusher yielding 6,000 and 7,000 barrels a day of hot pitch-like oil. In this connection, he pleaded for the production of power alcohol from molasses and synthetic oil from cheap low grade coals.

Increased Production of Mica.- Dealing with the working of the ~~Joint Mica Mission during the war~~, he said that production had increased in Bihar as well as Rajputana.

Coal.- As regards coal, the production had risen rapidly from 27,767,000 tons in 1939 to 29,466,000 tons in 1941, but had fallen to 25,512,000 tons in 1943 owing to labour shortage. Dr. Crookshank emphasized the strategic importance of the coalfields of Bihar and Bengal and their vulnerability to attack from the sea, and considered that in any scheme for the defence of India the safety of these coal-bearing areas should have priority over the other areas.

Reasons for Coal Shortage: relatively low wages in Coal mining.- In the course of a press interview at Bangalore on 10-1-1946, Dr. Crookshank pointed out that the annual coal extractions in India were a million and a half tons less than the total mined in 1939. The present output of coal used for metallurgical purposes, was between 10 to 12 million tons a year, which fell short of the industrial needs of the country. Mining labourers returning to agriculture are causing a shortage of manpower in the mines, and agriculture now had become more profitable due to the prevailing high prices of foodstuffs than coalmining at the ruling wage levels.

Dr. Crookshank forecast that in about five years' time the Indian railways would be facing a coal crisis as industrial programmes were stepped up.

(The Statesman, 4-1-1946; and
The Hindustan Times, 12-1-1946).

Government of India to send Indian Technicians to study German
factories.

The Government of India, it is learnt, is arranging to send groups of Indian engineers, technicians and scientists to examine the developments in technique in German plants and factories. The decision to send these technicians has been taken in view of the successful termination of a trip made by four Indian experts, who are returning to India shortly, after a study tour of German plants.

(The Times of India, 10-1-1946).

Indian Oilseeds Committee Bill, 1946.

The Government of India introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 21-1-1946 the Indian Oilseeds Committee Bill, 1946. The Bill seeks to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted for the improvement and development of the cultivation and marketing of oilseeds and of the production, manufacture and marketing of oilseed products. It is a reproduction of a similar Bill which was introduced in the last Legislative Assembly (vide page 21 of the report of this Office for March 1945) incorporating, however, a number of amendments suggested by the Select Committee.

(The Gazette of India, dated 26-1-1946,
Part V, pages 21-28; and The Statesman,
dated 22-1-1946). +

Textile Industry.

Textile Industry in United Provinces: Progress in Inter-war Period.

An article by Mr. H.B. Shroff in the Indian Textile Journal for December, 1945, reviews the progress of the textile industry in the United Provinces in the inter-war period. The following is a brief summary.

Emergence of New Centres.- The textile manufacturing industry in the United Provinces which commenced over 50 years ago, with Cawnpore as its centre, has continued to grow so far, although the former advantages of abundant local supply of raw cotton, the natural advantages of Cawnpore as a distributing centre and its advantageous position as regards communication with the neighbouring areas do not stand to the same extent as in the beginning. With Cawnpore still maintaining its pre-eminent position, the industry has spread to other parts of United Provinces such as Agra, Hathras, Lucknow, Benares, Moradabad, Ujhani and Aligarh. There were 11 mills in 1911-12, 26 in 1938-39 and 30 in 1942-43. The consumption of cotton by these mills rose from 358,000 bales in 1938-39 to 459,700 bales in 1942-43.

Progress in Production of Yarn and Cloth.- Some of the United Provinces mills do only spinning while a large number do both spinning and weaving. The growth of spinning and weaving in these mills will be apparent from the following figures:

| | 1911-12 | 1938-39 | 1942-43 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| No. of Spindles..... | 360,000 | 725,000 | 775,000 |
| No. of Looms | 3,195 | 11,532 | 12,616 |

The number of hands employed in the mill industry in 1942-43 was 31,781 against 26,720 in 1938-39. The yearly output of yarn and cloth by the U.P. mills during the period of two world wars has been:-

(In lbs.)

| — | 1911-12 | 1917-18 | 1925-26 | 1938-39 | 1942-43 |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Yarn | 39,487,000 | 39,447,000 | 60,292,000 | 117,703,838 | 158,012,370 |
| Cloth..... | 9,482,000 | 12,763,000 | 18,478,000 | 61,608,727 | 94,566,000 |

Qualities of Yarn and Cloth Production.- The bulk of the cotton yarn produced by the U.P. mills has been of coarse counts up to 20s although there appears to be a tendency to produce up to 30s. As regards cloth since 1939 owing to wartime needs there has been a marked increase in the production of drills and jeans.

Handloom Industry.- The handloom industry of the U.P. is spread all over the province. There are estimated to be 2.25 millions of handlooms, mostly pit looms. With a consumption of about 52 million lbs. of yarn the handlooms produced above 230 million yards of cloth before the war, which was almost equal to the pre-war production of U.P. mills. The handlooms depended on supply of Indian mills as well as imported yarns such as mercerized artificial silk and silk yarns. The supply of imported yarns has practically dried up while the Indian mill yarns have

also been in very short supply, resulting in increasing difficulties for handloom producers. About 100,000 of the abovementioned handlooms were engaged in cottage woollen industry, the principal centres of which in the province are Mirzapur and Agra for pile carpets, and Muzaffarnagar, Najibabad, and Meerut for woollen blanket industries. Most of these centres have been engaged in supplying war needs of blankets. The woollen industry, mostly using Tibetan wools in Kumaon Hills, is also widespread. The silk weaving industry in the province has its most important centre in Benares and Mau and Mubarakpur in Azamgarh District. The artificial silk weaving industry has taken root in towns like Tanda, Mau (Azamgarh) and Billari (District Meerut). Silk weaving was spreading to other parts of the province and places like Etawah, Shahjahanpur and Saharanpur once figuring as important, have undergone changes from days of pre-war competition from Japan.

Other Textile Mills.- The United Provinces has also three woollen mills, two of these are in Cawnpore, the Lalimli Woollen Mills of Cawnpore being one of the biggest woollen mills in India. There are also 3 jute mills in the province, producing hessian, sacking cloths, bags and twines. 2 of these are in Cawnpore and 1 in Shahjanwa. In addition to these there are 9 power driven hosiery mills in the province, the bigger ones being located at Cawnpore.

(The Indian Textile Journal, December, 1945).

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Administration of U.P. Maternity Benefit Act, 1938, during 1944.

According to a summary of the notes on the administration of the U.P. Maternity Benefit Act, 1938, in the year 1944, published in the U.P. "Labour Bulletin" for July-September, 1945, 163(127) concerns employing an average number of 3,402 (2,825) women workers were subject to the Act. 110 (88) inspections were made under the Act. One (nil) complaint for non-payment of benefits was received, but as the woman had been absent on unauthorised leave during the preceding six months from the date of giving notice, she was not entitled to the benefit. Maternity benefit paid during the year amounted to Rs. 9,560-8-9 (Rs. 5,624-13-9). Two prosecutions were instituted, and the accused were sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 15 and Rs. 25 respectively. 23 (20) concerns maintained creches. Free milk and clothing were also provided in many cases.

("Labour Bulletin" U.P. for July-Sept., 1945).

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in United Provinces for 1944.

According to a summary of the Report on the working of the Workmen's compensation Act, 1923, in the United Provinces for 1944, 222(196)* cases under the Workmen's Compensation Act were disposed of during the year under review, leaving a balance of 67 (90) to be disposed of at the end of the year. Of the cases disposed of, 67 (62) were cases of award under section 10, 3 (nil) of commutation under section 7, and 152 (134) of deposits under section 8 of the Act. Compensation amounting to Rs. 196,088 (Rs. 184,547) was paid in 2,426 (2,579) cases. The table below shows the number of cases and the amount of compensation disbursed between 1938 and 1943:

| Year | Death | | Permanent disablement | | Temporary disablement | | Total | |
|------|-------|---------|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|-------|---------|
| | No. | Total | No. | Total | No. | Total | No. | Total |
| | | Rs. | | Rs. | | Rs. | | Rs. |
| 1938 | 76 | 50,154 | 84 | 20,805 | 1,141 | 10,122 | 1,301 | 81,081 |
| 1939 | 96 | 62,080 | 94 | 28,370 | 1,226 | 11,656 | 1,416 | 102,106 |
| 1940 | 85 | 57,352 | 108 | 30,638 | 1,357 | 13,178 | 1,550 | 101,168 |
| 1941 | 81 | 47,607 | 155 | 36,210 | 1,223 | 12,489 | 1,459 | 96,386 |
| 1942 | 96 | 92,086 | 163 | 53,307 | 1,707 | 18,497 | 1,966 | 163,890 |
| 1943 | 126 | 109,967 | 183 | 51,755 | 2,270 | 22,825 | 2,579 | 184,547 |
| 1944 | 128 | 109,187 | 168 | 60,102 | 2,130 | 26,799 | 2,426 | 196,088 |

("Labour Bulletin" U.P. for July-September, 1945).

*The figures within brackets are those for 1943.

EMIGRATION.Indians in Far East: Government of India's Arrangements for Relief and Repatriation.

A Press note issued by the Government of India in the second week of January outlines the steps taken by the Government of India for the relief of Indians in liberated territories in the Far East. These include arrangements for repatriation, relief of labourers and destitutes, supply of clothing to women labourers and medical assistance.

Shanghai.- A sum of Rs. 300,000 was sanctioned for the relief of Indians in Shanghai and arrangements made for repatriation from Shanghai and other places in China. Up till now, 1,159 Indians have returned to India. The Indian Agent-General in China, has twice visited Shanghai and has established an advisory committee of representative Indian residents.

Siam and French Indo-China.- A sum of Rs. 100,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Delegate in Siam of the International Red Cross Committee for the relief of Indian labourers who had been employed by the Japanese on the Burma-Siam Railway. The Allied military authorities have made arrangements for the medical treatment of these labourers who needed it. The question of arranging repatriation of these labourers is engaging the attention of the Allied military authorities; and Mr. M.S. Aney, the Government of India's Representative in Ceylon, has been deputed to look into the conditions of Indians in Siam and French Indo-China.

Philippines.- 128 Indians, mostly Sindhi merchants and their employees, have been repatriated from the Philippines.

British Malaya.- Another sum of Rs. 100,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Representative and Liaison Officer of the Government of India with the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, for the relief of destitute Indians in Malaya. He has already placed funds at the disposal of non-official organisations for distribution in deserving cases. Four medical relief parties, consisting of doctors and compounders with necessary medical equipment and stores, are also being sent to Malaya.

The note explains that owing to the great pressure on transport, it has been found necessary to extend repatriation facilities only to "compassionate cases" in small batches. Larger batches will be repatriated as and when shipping facilities become available.

(The Hindustan Times, 14-1-1946).†

Proposed South African Legislation for Controlling Acquisition and Transfer of Fixed Property in Natal: Protest by Indian Community.

On 21-1-1946, General Smuts announced in the House of Assembly that in the present session of the South African Parliament, a Bill will be introduced dealing, inter alia, land tenure in Natal. Provisions relating to land tenure will apply to the whole of the province and will contain prohibition against transactions for acquisition of fixed property between Asiatics and persons who are not Asiatics, other than fixed property in certain exempted areas which will be specified in the Bill and in such other areas as may be exempted by Parliamentary resolutions from time to time. The Bill will also provide for certain restrictions regarding occupation by Asiatics or Europeans, respectively, of land or premises outside these exempted areas. The Bill, when passed by Parliament, will have retrospective effect as from 21-1-1946.

South African Indian's Protest.- Following the above announcement, the Natal Indian Congress cabled the Government of India, on 22-1-1946, drawing attention to the prejudicial nature of the proposed Bill, urging an appeal to the Assembly of the United Nations organisation, and recommending that the Union Government should invite representatives of the Government of India to a round table discussion to settle the Indian question. A statement issued by the South African Indian Congress alleges that the new legislative proposals are based on the situation created by anti-Indian propaganda; that the legislation will apply not only to Durban but to Natal and Transvaal, and possibly the Cape Province; that the new legislation will make permanent for Durban all that was temporary and that all these are a contradiction of the assurances given by ~~Prime Minister~~ Smuts, the South African Prime Minister. The Congress proposes to convene a Conference at Cape Town on 8, 9 and 10-2-1946, to discuss the situation arising out of the proposed measure.

The Commonwealth Relations Department of the Government of India is examining the situation, and discussed it with Mr. R.M. Deshmukh, the Indian High Commissioner in South Africa while he was at New Delhi, in the latter half of January, 1946.

(The Times of India, 22-1-1946;
The Statesman, 23 and 24-1-1946;
The Hindustan Times, 26-1-1946).

Press Comment in India:- Commenting editorially on the proposed Bill, ~~the Times of India~~, dated 29-1-1946, in a leading article observes that the Bill seems designed to give permanent form to the controversial Pegging Act of 1943 (vide page 21 of our report for April 1943) which is due to expire in March 1946, and urges: "Unless Indians are invested with normal civic rights, the South African Government cannot expect them to raise their standard of living and approximate it more closely to Western levels. Last June the Interim Report of the Broome Commission, which was investigating matters relating to housing and health needs, civic amenities and educational facilities for Indians in Natal, recommended that the Union ~~Government~~ government should invite the Government of India to send out a representative delegation to discuss outstanding Indo-South African issues. The need for an exchange of views between ^{of the} countries has never been ~~greater~~ greater."

Demand for Indian Labour in Burma.

A report published in New Delhi states that Indian labour is in great demand in Burma. About 60,000 Indian workers have already been sent to Burma through the agency of South-East Asia Command, on condition that they would be given fair conditions of work, including housing and medical attendance. Another batch of 25,000 have been permitted to go from Chittagong for cultivation work in Arakan. As for the remainder of the demand, the government of India's ban on the emigration of labour to Burma still remains in operation, pending the conclusion of an Indo-Burma Agreement.

('Dawn', dated 17-1-1946). +

AGRICULTURE.

Agricultural Labour: Welfare Association set up in
Madras Taluk.

To settle agrarian disputes and to see that the relations between mirasdars (landlords) and farm-labourers are cordial, a new association called the Agriculturists' Welfare Association has been formed in the Mannargudi taluk of Madras Presidency. The Association will also work in the two neighbouring taluks of Negapatam and Nannilam.

Conciliation Committees to settle Agrarian Disputes.— The main object of the new Association is to eliminate outside interference in the settlement of agrarian disputes. Farm-labourers have also been permitted to have an association of their own to safeguard their ~~interest~~ interests. The Welfare Association has constituted conciliation committees in the villages in which it works for the settlement of agrarian disputes.

According to the President of the Association, landlords in the area have also decided to give farm-labourers a day off every New Moon day and also to give them a wage increase.

(The Hindu, 9-1-1946).

Bihar Agricultural Statistics Act, 1946.

The Bihar Agricultural Statistics Bill, 1945, to which reference was made at page 40 of the report of this Office for October 1945, received the assent of the Governor of Bihar on 3-1-1946 and has now been gazetted as the Bihar Agricultural Statistics Act, 1946 (Bihar Act I of 1946).

(The Bihar Gazette Extraordinary,
dated 9-1-1946, pages 1-4).

The Bihar Waste Lands (Reclamation, Cultivation and
Improvement) Bill, 1945.

The Government of Bihar has gazetted on 2-1-1946 the Bihar Waste Lands (Reclamation, Cultivation and Improvement) Bill, 1945. There are considerable areas in the province where land has gone out of cultivation and which cannot be reclaimed quickly without adequate and expensive equipment. The government feels that such land should be made productive without delay and the Bill is designed to enable Government to take such land into its own occupation for such period, not exceeding 10 years, as is necessary to restore it to cultivation and to recover the cost of the work from the persons benefitted. The provisions of the Bill are designed to ensure that at the end of the period of occupation by Government the land will be restored to the person who was entitled to cultivating possession when Government took it over, unless that person is unwilling to take it back and to pay the cost of reclamation. (The Bihar Gazette dated 2-1-1946, part V, pages 1-10). +

Fertiliser Factory to be set up in Bihar: Result of
Pitkeathly Mission.

Reference was made at page 17 of the report of this Office for January 1945 to a Mission under the leadership of Sir James Pitkeathly to the U.K. for negotiating the purchase of plant for the Government Ammonium Sulphate Factory to be erected at Sindri in Bihar. After lengthy investigations with U.K. and American experts, the Mission has now submitted its recommendations, and on the basis of these recommendations the Government of India has now sanctioned the negotiation of agreements for the supply of plant and machinery for the factory, and for the erection of the factory.

(The Hindustan Times, 21-1-1946).+

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Government Servants in French India to get Family Allowances.

The Government of French India has decided to grant a family allowance to Government Servants at the rate of Rs. 6 per month for child. It has, in addition, decided to increase the pay of its employees in French India by 15 per cent for those drawing less than Rs. 100 a month and by 10 per cent for those drawing more than Rs. 100 a month.

(The Hindu, 9-1-1946).

Higher Wages and More Amenities for Ceylon Government Workers: Interim Report of Salaries Committee.

The Salaries Committee appointed by the Ceylon Government submitted an interim report in November 1945. ~~Since~~ No general revision of salaries has been adopted in Ceylon since 1934 and no general revision of wages of daily-paid employees has been effected since 1926, and the Committee were asked to review all salaries and wages with a view to drawing up a revised scheme of salaries and wages having reference to pre-war prices, to be supplemented as regard the lower grades during the continuance of the present high prices by a suitable self-adjusting cost of living allowance. The interim report deals mainly with daily-paid labour grades and the committee have suggested that the recommendations in it should take effect from 1-1-1946. The following is a summary of the interim report.

Lowest Salaries and Wages to be raised by 33 1/3%. - The Committee consider it unlikely that the cost of living will come down to the level which ~~was~~ existed immediately before the war and, following an official estimate of the future price level in the United Kingdom, they make recommendations on the assumption that the cost of living in Ceylon will not fall below a figure 33 1/3 per cent above pre-war. As the differences between the highest and lowest salaries are rather larger in Ceylon than in most countries, they propose that the lowest salaries and wages should be increased by at least a third above what they were immediately before the war, while higher salaries and wages will only be increased to a smaller extent, if at all.

Present Scales of Pay of Daily-paid Employees of Government. - At the beginning of the war in September 1939 the wages of daily paid employees were in accordance with a schedule which had been drawn up in 1926, but since then the scales of pay have been raised in the case of unskilled and semiskilled labour and women and boys. The following are the scales of pay at present in force in Ceylon for the daily paid employees of Government.

| | Scale of Pay Per Hour. | | Scale of Pay Per Day. | |
|--|---------------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|
| | Minimum | Maximum. | Minimum. | Maximum. |
| | Rs. c. | Rs. c. | Rs. c. | Rs. c. |
| Grade I. Minor Supervising grades. | 0 48 | 0 84 | 3 84 | 6 48 |
| Grade II Do | 0 31 | 0 63 | 2 48 | 5 4 |
| Grade III Tradesmen of Skilled labour. | 0 36 | 0 53 | 2 88 | 4 24 |
| Grade IV Do | 0 20 | 0 35 | 1 60 | 2 80 |
| Grade V Semi-skilled labour. | 0 14 | 0 22 | 1 12 | 1 76 |
| Grade VI Unskilled labour. | 0 10 | 0 16 | 0 80 | 1 28 |
| Grade VII Trade Apprentices. | 0 10* | 0 16* | 0 80* | 1 44* |
| Grade VIII Women and Boys | 0 6 | 0 10 | 0 48 | 0 80 |

(The maximum rate for women is 12 cents an hour or 96 cents per day).
*Lower rates for apprentices were in force in most departments.

These wages are, of course, augmented by the Government scheme of war allowance. The war allowance payable to Government unskilled labourers on .80 cents, .88 cents, Rs. 1.04, Rs. 1.12, Rs. 1.20 and Rs. 1.28 a day, respectively, when the cost of living index is 200 is .76 cents, .80 cents, .88 cents, Rs. 1.04, Rs. 1.06 and Rs. 1.07, respectively.

New Scales recommended by Committee.— In view of the fact that the ~~existing scales of wages~~ ~~are~~ ~~fixed~~ different scales of minimum wages ~~are~~ for different trades, the Committee feel that it is impracticable for Government to continue to retain a single scale of wages for all types of daily-paid employees throughout the country. They, therefore, recommend, two scales of wages—one for employees in engineering and factory work and the other for employees in agricultural and field work. Such a differentiation, the Committee feel is reasonable, because the former type of worker normally has to live in towns where his expenses are very much higher than is the case with labourers living in their own villages. The Committee propose the following scales.—

(a) For engineering and factory labour—

| Class of Labour. | Minimum | Maximum | Rate of Increment (Annual). | |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|--|
| | Rs. c. | Rs. c. | Rs. c. | |
| XXXXXX | | | | |
| Unskilled: | | | | |
| Boys over 16 | 0 80 | — | — | |
| Boys over 17 | 1 0 | — | — | |
| Women | 1 0 | 1 16 | 0 4 | |
| Men | 1 24 | 1 40 | 0 4 | |
| Semi-skilled: | | | | |
| Grade II. | 1 28 | 1 76 | 0 8 | |
| Grade I. | 1 44 | 1 92 | 0 8 | |
| Skilled: | | | | |
| Grade II..... | 1 80 | 3 0 | 0 12 | |
| Grade I..... | 3 4 | 4 32 | 0 16 | |
| Minor Supervisors: | | | | |
| Grade II..... | 2 72 | 5 12 | 0 24 | |
| Grade I..... | 4 0 | 6 64 | 0 24 | |
| Trade Apprentices..... | 1 0 | 1 56 | .08, .12 | |
| | | | and .16 . | |

(b) For agricultural and field labour—

| Class of Labour. | Minimum. | | Maximum. | | Rate of Increment (Annual). | |
|--------------------------------|----------|----|----------|----|-----------------------------|-----|
| | Rs. | c. | Rs. | c. | Rs. | c. |
| Unskilled: | | | | | | |
| Boys | 0 | 64 | 0 | 72 | 0 | 4 |
| Women | 0 | 72 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Men | 0 | 96 | 1 | 28 | 0 | 4 |
| Semi-skilled | 1 | 20 | 1 | 76 | 0 | 8 |
| Skilled or Supervisory: | | | | | | |
| Grade II..... | 1 | 72 | 2 | 80 | 0 | 12 |
| Grade I | 3 | 0 | 4 | 28 | 0 | 16. |

In addition to the rates of wages specified above, the Committee propose that the existing Government war allowance should continue to be paid as long as the cost of living index is above 135.

Gratuities to Daily-paid Labour.— As regards gratuities to daily-paid labour the Committee recommend that the rate should be increased from 1/24 of the period of service to 1/12. The Committee further suggest that all non-pensionable monthly-paid employees in regular (not temporary) employment should be made fully pensionable, and should also be eligible to contribute to the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme.

Hours of Work in Government Factories to be reduced from 8½ to 8.— On the question of hours of work and overtime pay, the Committee recommend that in the case of those engaged in Engineering and Factory Work, the daily hours of work on week days (from Monday to Friday) should be reduced from the present 8½ to 8 and that overtime be paid for all time worked in excess of 8 hours in any one day. They also recommend that in those cases where less than 8 hours are worked on a Saturday a full day's wage should be paid even though payment is normally made by the hour.

Concessions to Salaried officers - Rent Allowance and Holiday Warrants.— With regard to salaried officers the Committee recommend that rent allowance be paid to new entrants; that, where appropriate, new entrants should be entitled to free quarters; and that rent be recovered from new entrants in occupation of Government quarters on the same terms as are at present applicable to officers appointed before 1-7-1934, with some modifications. These latter include a doubling of the rent allowance in the case of married officers and a sliding scale of rent allowance, which would permit a relatively high rate in a new station where quarters are not obtainable, the rate being reduced to the normal level as the station is developed. The Committee further recommend the restoration of certain concessions with regard to holiday warrants which were temporarily withdrawn in 1943.

These proposals, are estimated to involve an extra expenditure of approximately Rs. 5,200,000 per annum, exclusive of the cost of overtime which will depend on the amount of overtime which has to be worked.

The Board of Ministers is understood to have accepted the above recommendations of the Salaries Committee.

(Ceylon - Sessional Paper XX, 1945 - Interim Report of the Salaries Committee; The Times of India dated 27-11-1945).+

Executive Council of Postmen's Organisation decides on Strike Notice.

The Executive Council of the All-India Postmen and lower Grade Staff Union (including the R.M.S. Union) has resolved to give a strike notice on February 9, and to go on strike from 11-3-1946 failing a satisfactory response from the authorities to their demands for revision of the scale of pay (vide page 36 of the report of this Office for December 1945) and the rules regarding pension and leave.

(The Hindustan Times, 27-1-1946).

Consulting Psychologist for Selection of Government Services Personnel: Government of India's New Appointment.

The Government of India has appointed Lt. Col. N.W. Merton, a member of the McGill University staff, as its consulting Psychologist. Col. Merton, who will have his headquarters in New Delhi, will carry out research in methods of selection of personnel for services under the Government of India.

(The Statesman, 12-1-1946).

Increased Dearness Allowance and Revision of Scales of Pay: Demand of Bombay Primary School Teachers.

Over 40,000 primary school teachers in service under local bodies in the province of Bombay have decided to go on strike from 1-4-1946 if their demand for an increase in dearness allowance and for revision of their basic salary is not conceded. A petition signed by the teachers is being sent to the ~~Government~~ Governor of Bombay in this connection.

Demand of Teachers - Dearness Allowance and Revised Scales of Pay.-
The demand of the teachers is that they should be paid dearness allowance at the rate of Rs. 15 in rural areas and Rs. 18 in urban areas as allowed to subordinate Government employees, and that their basic salary be raised to Rs. 30 rising to Rs. 100 as against the present scale of Rs. 25 rising to Rs. 40. While the demand for an adequate increase in dearness allowance is based on the increase in the cost of living, the teachers' claim for a minimum starting salary of Rs. 30 is based on the recommendations of the Sargent report. It is also pointed out by them that the original scale of pay to start with, was Rs. 30, but this was reduced to Rs. 15 and Rs. 20 some years ago.

Present Scales of Pay.- Teachers are at present started on a salary of Rs. 15 per month and placed on the Rs. 20 scale after seven or eight years when they are made permanent. Those teachers who complete the training course of two years are placed in the grade of Rs. 25 rising to Rs. 40, but the rate of increase is such one rupee in three years that many of them do not reach the maximum scale of pay before retirement.

In this connection the Government of Bombay has recently amended the District Local Boards Act and the Bombay Primary Education Act making it obligatory on the local bodies to pay dearness allowance to ~~the~~ their employees at the rates fixed by the Government (vide page 63 of this report). As regards revision of the scales of pay, however,

it is pointed out that the Sargent Report contemplated the employment of trained teachers, while at present, all the primary teachers in the districts are not so trained. Further, it is stated that the proper time for revision of salary would be when the revision of the dearness allowance is considered.

(The Times of India, 9-1-1946).

Post-war pay of Servicemen in India: Government of India sets up Committee of Inquiry.

The Government of India is understood to have set up a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. J.B. Irwin, Additional Secretary to the War Department, to make recommendations on the post-war pay, allowances and pensions of the three defence services. The Committee includes representatives of the Army, the Royal Indian Navy, the Royal Indian Air Force, and the Finance Department. Its terms of reference are to review the rates and the rules for the grant of pay and allowances, pensions and gratuities of the Indian armed forces and personnel of the British armed forces serving in India and to make recommendations on these matters to the Government of India.

(The Times of India, 31-1-1946). +

Housing.Two Million Houses in Industrial and Rural Areas: National Housing Agency to work out India Government's Scheme.

A giant scheme to build 2 million houses in industrial and rural areas in India in the next 10 years has been drawn up by the Government of India, and the scheme is at present under examination by the Finance Department. It is expected that the Government will create a department called the National Housing Agency to work out the scheme. A housing expert will be in charge of the newly-constituted department and the department will have full powers to deal with the housing problem effectively and promptly.

It is learnt that the Labour Department of the Government of India will supply the entire technical personnel required for the scheme, as also the necessary material. The Government, it is understood, is likely to subsidise the scheme to the extent of Rs 50 per cent.

(The Statesman, 4-1-1946).

Housing for Industrial Workers: AITUC's Views on Rent Charges.

Reference was made at page 3 of our report for August 1945 to the appointment of a Sub-Committee by the 7th meeting of the Standing Labour Committee in order to consider certain matters relating to the housing of workers. A memorandum submitted recently by the AITUC sets out the Congress's views on the question of the rent that can be claimed from workers.

The All-India Trade Union Congress is of opinion that the maximum rent to be charged to a worker should in no case exceed 10 per cent of his basic wage. Those workers whose basic wage is above Rs. 50 per month should alone be charged the maximum. Economically it is impossible for workers earning below Rs. 50 per month to pay any rent, but it is realised that a worker should pay something for his proper housing accommodation. The Congress suggests that those whose earnings are less than ~~Rs. 50~~ Rs. 50, may be charged as under: (a) Workers whose monthly wages are below ~~to Rs. 20~~ Rs. 20, should be asked to pay 2 per cent of their wages as rent; (b) Workers whose monthly wages are between Rs. 20 and Rs. 35, should be asked to pay 3 per cent of their wages as rent; and (c) Workers whose monthly wages are between Rs. 35 and Rs. 50 should be asked to pay 5 per cent of their wages as rent.

The AITUC is of the opinion that it is the duty of the State to provide decent and adequate housing for citizens and particularly industrial workers, and that the difference between the economic rent and the rent which workers can be asked to pay should be met by a subsidy from a Public Fund, contributed first, by the Statutory Local Bodies, such as, the Municipalities, District and Local Boards and Improvement Trusts, secondly, by the Provincial Governments, and, thirdly, by contribution from the Central Revenues. If all these public authorities consider it

essential to impose a burden on the industry, to meet the difference between the economic rent and the rent which workers can be reasonably expected to pay by a tax or a cess, on the industrial production, the Congress will be ready to support such a proposal.

("Trade Union Record", January, 1946).

Enquiry into rents of Workers Dwellings at Cawnpore.

An enquiry into rents and density of occupation in industrial workers' dwellings in Cawnpore was started by the Labour Department, United Provinces, on 24-7-1943, and completed on 13-12-1944. The samples for the enquiry, which covered practically all the labour areas of the city, were selected on the basis of random sampling method, and 1,362 cards were collected, of which 1,225 cards were accepted for compilation. The enquiry reveals that the average prewar rent was Rs. 2-8-5 and that the average present rate is Rs. 3-0-5 — a rise of 19.8 per cent over the prewar level. The compilation of the report is not yet complete.

("Labour Bulletin", U.P., July-September, 1945).

Five-Year Plan for Calcutta City Improvement.

A five-year plan for Calcutta City development involving an expenditure of over Rs. 55 million has been drawn up by the Calcutta Improvement Trust. Of the amount Rs. 31,200,000 will be spent on land acquisition and Rs. 24,050,000 on engineering projects. The plan includes four bustee (slum area) improvement schemes, which are being undertaken mainly as an experimental measure. This five-year plan covers the period ending 31-3-1951.

(The Statesman, 21-1-1946).

Bombay Ribbon Development Prevention Bill, 1946.

The Government of Bombay has gazetted on 28-1-1946 the text of a bill to provide for the prevention of ribbon development and for the restriction of building near roads in the Province of Bombay. The statement appended to the Bill points out that lands likely to be required for widening and construction of roads according to the Nagpur post-war plan (vide page 15 of the report of this Office for 1944) should not be allowed to be built upon in a haphazard fashion. The Bill seeks to achieve this object by prohibiting building in any land falling within certain limits of the centre line of existing or projected roads except with the specific permission of the Collector.

The draft bill will be taken into consideration by the Government of Bombay on or after 16-2-1946.

(The Bombay Government Gazette dated 28-1-1946, Part V, pages 5-8) = +

Nutrition.

Rs 40-million Milk Scheme for Bombay City: Milk Board to Control Production and Distribution.

A recent report of the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India mentions a post-war milk scheme for Bombay City, estimated to cost Rs. 40 million. The scheme suggests the setting up of a milk board to control all milk production and distribution. Its functions, it is proposed, should embrace the fixation of prices for the consumer, the producer and the distributor; the prescription of transport charges; the laying down of standards of milk and control of quality; the giving of grants and subsidies; propaganda and research; the getting of fresh cattle feeds from other provinces; and the regulation of production and marketing. The present milk position in Bombay City is given as: estimated consumption of milk, 600,000 lbs per day; annual value of milk sold, Rs. 80,000,000; number of milch cattle, 64,000, valued at Rs. 30,000,000; population, 2,700,000.

(The Times of India, 12-1-1946).

Subsidised Milk Distribution for Poona Area:
Bombay Government's Scheme.

The Government of Bombay has decided to introduce in Poona and the Poona area a subsidised milk distribution scheme in order to supply milk at concession rates to priority consumers. The scheme is to take effect from 14-1-1946. Milk will be made available to children up to two years of age and to expectant and nursing mothers at half the market rates, the Government meeting the other half and all overhead charges. The quantum of milk for children and expectant and nursing mothers will be a quarter of a seer each day.

In order that there should be no difficulty in securing supplies of milk for distribution under the subsidised milk scheme, orders have been issued prohibiting the use of milk in articles other than tea, coffee, curds, butter-milk, buttermilk and ghee in public establishments. The service of milk by catering establishments to persons over 12 years of age for consumption on the premises of these establishments has also been prohibited.

(The Times of India, 1-1-1946).

Mobile Canteen for Coalminers on Experimental Basis:
Colliery Owners to be asked to open Canteens.

It is understood that the Government of India has formulated a scheme to run a mobile canteen for coalminers on an experimental basis. The scheme will involve Rs. 14,950 as non-recurring expenditure, and Rs. 7,882 as annual expenditure. The mobile canteen will provide tea and snacks at moderate rates. It is also expected to be used for propaganda on the principles of a balanced and nutritive diet among the labour population.

The Government also proposes to ask all colliery owners to open canteens near pithead baths to provide cheap tea and snacks to miners and to educate them to adopt improved nutritional standards.

(The Hindustan Times, 11-1-1946).

Proposal to set up Nutrition Restaurant in Delhi.

It is understood that as one of the means of spreading knowledge of nutrition among the people, a proposal is under consideration of the Central Food Department to inaugurate a Government sponsored restaurant at New Delhi in collaboration with the Delhi administration. Balanced meals prepared under hygienic conditions will be served to the general public at cheap rates and it is hoped that other provinces and States will start similar restaurants at select centres in their respective areas. To the restaurant will be added a milk, tea and fruit-juice bar, an experimental kitchen for demonstration purposes and a nutrition museum.

('Dawn', dated 27-1-1946).

Lady Dietitians to inspect Messing Arrangements in State-aided Institutions: Bombay Government Measure.

The government of Bombay has appointed two Lady Dietitians to inspect and report on messing arrangements in institutions which are given financial assistance by the Government, with the object of making sure that nutritionally adequate food is provided in these institutions. The Government has directed that all institutions receiving grants-in-aid shall be open to inspection by the Nutrition Officer and the Lady Dietitians, and that such institutions will be given no financial assistance by the Government as long as their recommendations for improvement of the dietary are not carried out.

(Press Note dated 21-1-1946 issued by the Director of Information, Bombay). +

"Square Meal" Canteen for Bombay Secretariat Employees.

The Government of Bombay has started from 8-8-1945, a canteen named "The Square Meal" for providing the employees of the Bombay Secretariat, and its allied officers, with a well-balanced meal at a cost of six annas. The dining room consists of 2 dining halls which together can seat 210 persons comfortably, and are well lighted and well ventilated, with a 3 feet wide verandah in front. The walls are painted cream, and well screened from the glare. All the rooms are kept scrupulously clean. The American cloth with which the tables are covered are easily and continuously cleaned, and every day the whole place is thoroughly scrubbed out and disinfected.

Monthly lunch cards are issued, and cardholders present their cards to the clerk on duty at the main entrance to the dining room who, in turn, issues a token bearing a number. The cardholder occupies the seat at the dining table which bears the same number. Absentees get a very fair deal for, if absence is notified a day in advance, refund is made at the end of the month. The meals are served in three shifts commencing at 12.30 p.m., 1.15 p.m., and 2 p.m., and at each shift 210 persons can sit down to a "Square Meal". The food is served up in attractive, well polished "thalis" (metal plates) by clean and well-dressed bearers.

The canteen is run by the Government staff, assisted by a Secretariat Advisory Committee. The Secretariat and its allied offices has a representative on the Committee. The Controller of Rationing is the ex-officio Chairman and the Assistant Controller is the Secretary of the Committee. The Lady Rationing Officer (Welfare) and the Lady Assistant Secretary of the Local Food Council are also on the Committee. The Nutrition officer to the Bombay Government has also been co-opted to this Committee. This Committee meets as often as is required to discuss and decide matters concerned with the running of the canteen. The meal at "The Square Meal" is in addition to the rationed foods to which an individual is entitled.

("Canteens in Industry", January, 1946).

Workers' Organisations.

Progress of Trade Unions in Bengal during Year ending 31-3-1944.

Number of Unions: Steady Progress in Number and Membership.- According to the annual report on the working of trade unions in Bengal, on 31-3-1944 there were in the province of Bengal 229 registered trade unions and one federation, namely, the Bengal National Chamber of Labour. During the year 1943-44, 79 new unions were registered and no certificates of registration were cancelled. At the end of the year, therefore, there were 229 unions and one federation in the province. The report draws attention to the steady growth of the trade union movement in the province and to the increasing consciousness among the workers of the utility of the trade union movement. The following figures indicating this progressive trend are taken from a table summarising the developments during the period 1933-34 to 1943-44.

| Year | Number of Registered Unions. | Number of these submitting returns. | Membership. | Average membership per union (to the nearest unit). |
|---------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 1933-34 | 44 | 40 | 79,122 | 1,978 |
| 1938-39 | 191 | 150 | 85,938 | 757 |
| 1943-44 | 229 | 189 | 289,658 | 1,533 |

Of the 229 unions, only 189, consisting of 180 employees' unions, 9 employers' organisations and 1 federation, submitted acceptable returns. The 189 unions which submitted returns had a combined membership of 289,658 and the federation had a membership of 171 unions.

Membership.- The total membership of the 189 trade unions increased from 85,751 at the beginning of the year to 289,658 at the end. The increase was highest in the railway and transport other than tramways group (from 79,918 to 101,660), followed in order by textiles (from 33,205 to 49,948), miscellaneous industries (from 23,296 to 39,775), seamen (from 46,863 to 51,798), tramways (from 4,338 to 6,279), engineering (from 11,341 to 13,237) and municipalities (from 3,007 to 4,883). On the other hand, membership declined slightly in unions of Dock and Port Trust workers (from 20,696 to 20,301) and workers in Printing presses (from 2,067 to 1,811). There was also during the year, a marked decrease in the number of female members; the number of female members in the 189 workers' unions fell from 4,340 at the beginning of the year to 2,304 at the end, a decrease of about 47 per cent.

The following table gives the frequency distribution of unions according to their membership.

| Membership. | Number of unions. |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Below 1,000 | 141 |
| 1,000-10,000 | 42 |
| 10,000-20,000 | 4 |
| Above 20,000 | 2 |
| Total. | 189 |

Funds.- At the close of the year the financial position, on the whole, of the unions under consideration was fairly better than at the end of the previous year. The total expenditure during the opening

balance of the 189 trade unions was Rs. 851,165. Income and expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 1,427,185 and Rs. 1,168,037 respectively and the year closed with a balance of Rs. 1,110,313. The distinct feature of the year was the maintenance of political funds in some of the unions coming under the railways and transport, textile, and miscellaneous groups.

(Indian Labour Gazette, December, 1945).†

Miscellaneous.

33rd Session of Indian Science Congress, Bangalore, 2 to 8-1-1946.

The 33rd session of the Indian Science Congress was held at Bangalore from 2-1-1946 to 8-1-1946. The session was presided over by Prof. M. Afzal Husain, a member of the Bengal Famine Enquiry Commission.

Welcoming those attending the conference, H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore, in the course of a message read out at the conference, emphasized the great need in India for the services of science and scientific men for providing adequate and nourishing food and other necessities of life to the people, for mitigating disease and improving public health; for developing industries and communications; and for all other efforts to secure a better standard of living for the bulk of the population.

Presidential Address.- In his presidential address Mr. Afzal Husain pointed out that the outgoing year had witnessed a substantial progress in the scientific development in India. The Government of India had given official recognition to the National Institute of Sciences of India and the question of a Royal Charter to the Institute was receiving consideration. He mentioned the Institute of Glass Technology and expected an early establishment of a National Physics Laboratory and a National Chemical Laboratory, and hoped to see the extension of existing research facilities, as also the establishment of further teaching and research institutes for pure and applied sciences, and in the fields of agriculture and industry.

Food Problem.- Discussing the food question, Mr. Husain said that of the many problems of peace none was more important than the food-supply. Without an accurate assessment of food requirements and agricultural production no agricultural planning was possible. Hence, the development of the science of statistics must be an important item in the post-war plan for India. Dealing with what India's food requirements were and what would be the requirements in the immediate future, Mr. Husain said that in 1941, the population of India was 389 million as against 330 in 1931. At this rate of increase, the population should be 415 million to-day. The five hundred million figure would be exceeded before 1950 and it was estimated that by 1970, the population would be 650 million. They would then be faced with the problem of having to feed more than 300 million extra mouths. The country must be prepared for such a situation unless some calamity befell, reduced the population and solved the problem for them. With regard to food resources, for a population of 400 million, India must increase her food production in cereals by 10 per cent, in pulses by 20 per cent, in fats and oils by 25 per cent, in fruits by 50 per cent, in vegetables by 100 per cent, in milk by 300 per cent, and in fish, flesh and eggs by 300 per cent. These figures were overwhelming, because, first of all, these deficiencies had to be made up for the proper nutrition of the existing population, and further increase had to be secured to meet the demands of an increasing population. For that they had either to increase the supply or reduce the demand. Reduction of demand meant reducing the population and there were some who thought it the best solution, but it was not a practical proposition. There were others who claimed that the problem was not one of over-population but of under-development of natural resources and their inadequate utilisation. Neither the policy of

population reduction nor the magic wand of agro-biology could bring forth immediate results. The time factor was important. The Bengal Famine and insecurity of the food position were clear warnings. A sound policy would be to base their programme on the results previously achieved and attempt to evolve a scheme of increased food production from existing resources, leaving future enhancement of production for the increased population.

Crop Planning for Nutritional Adjustments.- The present position, according to the speaker, was that over 72 per cent of the carbohydrates of human food were derived from the cereals, about 20 per cent from sugarcane and the balance mainly from pulses. India with 90 per cent of her cultivated area under food crops and 64 per cent under cereals was short of rice. Unless there could be a rapid increase in yields or area under cereals-both unlikely-India must produce per acre quantities of carbohydrates much in excess of what cereals could yield. Potato, sweet potatoes, and cassava were already being grown in India. In all countries where population had increased cereals had been replaced by tubers. Tubers were richer in carbohydrates, mineral matter and calcium, although they were poorer than cereals in proteins and deficient in fats. The greatest advantage of tubers over cereals was the yield per acre. The superiority of rice and wheat in contrast to tubers was their high protein content. There seemed no reason why India should persist in obtaining her protein supply from cereals. She must obtain the various ingredients of diets from sources from which they could be produced more efficiently and economically. If India could grow cereals and tubers in the same proportion as pre-war Germany, viz., 4 to 1, she could supply in full her present requirements of carbohydrates from an average equal to 40 per cent of what was under cereals now. If tubers presented difficulties of transport and storage, that could be overcome by employing modern methods of dehydration and cold storage. There was also an ~~urgent~~ urgent need for developing fisheries, improving animal husbandry and organising the supply of other types of food of animal origin.

Development of Food Technology.- Also the available resources of food ~~would~~ yield better results if their nutritional values were conserved and not destroyed in processing and preparing for consumption. Wastage could be avoided by refrigeration. Dehydration was of incalculable value in food preservation and distribution. Preparation of concentrated feeds, yeast and vitamins, was necessary. For their immediate needs, there was a strong case for a fully-equipped National Institute of Food Technology. There should be National Crop Planning, also, based on the most rational utilisation of land and other resources for social needs and the individual profit motive should be eliminated. A new orientation was needed in India's rural economy. There was need for an Institute of Sociology to study rural problems.

Meetings of Sectional Committees.- In the Sectional Committees of the Congress, Mr. K.C. Ghosh, in his Presidential address to the Chemistry Section, spoke on Food; Mr. P.H. Kutar, in his presidential address to the Engineering and Metallurgy Section ~~and~~ dealt with the development of the alloy and tool steel industry in India; and Rao Bahadur V. Ramaswami Aiyar, in his presidential address to the Agricultural Science Section, spoke on the "Present and Future Position of Cotton in India".

Lead Poisoning.- Presiding over the Medical and Veterinary Sciences Section, Mr. K.M. Bhagchi, Chemical Examiner to the Government of Bengal, gave an account of his investigations into lead poisoning and its bearing on industrial reconstruction. According to him, plumbism of the chronic type was mostly of occupational or industrial origin and to a less

extent of accidental origin. The cases of the former were met with among soldiers, tin-mistries, compositors, plumbers and paint-mistries.

Mr. Bagehi discussed the signs and symptoms of the insidious type of lead poisoning and the proper methods of diagnosing the disease. He compared the lead contents of the dust of Calcutta and Leeds. While the dust of Leeds contained 3,025 milligrams of lead per kilogram of dust, the dust of Shambazar, Ballygunge and the Medical College (Calcutta) contained 41, 17.6 and 2.5 milligrams respectively.

He pleaded for raising the standard of industrial hygiene and gave some very useful suggestions to be practised as anti-lead measures. Finally he asked for the establishment of a Central Research Institute for Industrial Hygiene, the creation of an Industrial Health Research Board and for the raising of the standard of teaching in medicine and public health sciences.

(The Statesman, 6-1-1946, and the Hindu, 3, 5, 7 and 8-1-1946).

Seventh Session of All India States People's Conference,
RESOLUTIONS ON FORCED LABOUR AND BACKWARD TRIBES.

The seventh session of the All India States People's Conference began at Udaipur on 31-12-1945 under the presidentship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and concluded in the first week of January 1946. Among the resolutions adopted at the Conference was one that focussed attention on the prevailing practices of curious cesses, begar and the giving away of girls in dowry, in Rajputana States. Young girls of the Darogha community, known as Dawaris, accompany the Rajput bride as dowry; lead a life bordering on serfdom, become the concubines of the Thakur and beget illegitimate children. Another resolution asked the state Governments and the people of the states to help the backward people like the Bhils, Meenas, Santhals, Gonds, Kols, Kanjars, Sansis, Yarkalas, Nayandis, etc., to become useful members of the community and considered it objectionable to brand some of them as criminal tribes.

(The Leader, 15-1-1946).+

Meetings Announced.

Bombay Conference to discuss Women in Industry
16-2-1946 to 20-2-1946.

Under the auspices of the Bombay Presidency Women's Council a conference is to be held in Bombay from 16-2-1946 to 20-2-1946 to deliberate on the condition of women in industries, trades and professions. Various questions connected with education, the medical, nursing and health services, social work and new careers for women will be discussed at the conference.

(The Times of India, 11-1-1946).+

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Bengal Destitute Persons (Repatriation and Relief) Extending
Act, 1945.

Reference was made at page 50 of the report of this office for August 1945 to the Bengal Destitute Persons (Repatriation and Relief) Act 1945, making special provisions for dealing with persons wandering about in a destitute condition as a result of the prevailing economic distress in Bengal. This Act is bound to expire on 31-1-1946, but the Government of Bengal apprehends that by that date the economic situation will not have improved to a degree which would render the provisions of the Act superfluous. The Governor of Bengal has, therefore, enacted the Bengal Destitute Persons (Repatriation and Relief) Extending Act, 1945, extending the life of the Bengal Destitute Persons (Repatriation and Relief) Act, 1945, till the end of December, 1947.

(The Calcutta Gazette, dated 3-1-1946,
Part III, pages 1-2).+

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Pharmacy Councils to be set up to regulate Profession of Pharmacy in India - Pharmacy Bill, 1946.

The Government of India has gazetted on 26-1-1946 the Pharmacy Bill, 1946. The ~~Statement~~ Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill points out that in India, as in most other countries, it is desirable that only persons who have attained a minimum standard of professional education should be permitted to practise the profession of pharmacy. The Bill accordingly proposes to establish a Central Council of Pharmacy, which will prescribe the minimum standards of education and approve courses of study and examinations for pharmacists, and Provincial Pharmacy Councils, which will be responsible for the maintenance of provincial registers of qualified pharmacists. It further proposes to ~~empower~~ empower provincial Governments to prohibit the dispensing of medicine on the prescription of a medical practitioner otherwise than by, or under the direct and personal supervision of, a registered pharmacist.

The Bill was formally introduced in the Legislative Assembly on ~~23-2-1946~~ 23-2-1946.

(The Gazette of India, dated 26-1-1946, Part V, pages 28-40; and The Statesman, dated ~~23-2-1946~~ 23-2-1946).

Hospitals set up during Famine Emergency in Bengal to be retained.

During the months which followed the Bengal famine, some 23,000 emergency hospital beds were set up in Bengal. As originally intended, these beds were to be closed down on 31-3-1946, but they have proved of such inestimable benefit to the sick, especially in areas which previously had no hospital accommodation, that their retention on a more permanent basis is regarded as most desirable. ~~the~~ Government has, therefore, decided that 20,000 beds should be retained until they are replaced by permanent beds or until, thanks to the recovery of the people and to improved health measures, they are no longer required.

(‘Dawn’, dated 29-1-1946).

Bengal Government acquires Military Hospitals: Steps to Fight Tuberculosis.

It is understood that to fight the increasing menace of tuberculosis the Bengal government has decided to acquire two well-equipped military hospitals and convert them into treatment centres for tubercular cases. Of these one is at Kancharapara, about 30 miles from Calcutta and the other at Midnapore, run by the British and American military authorities respectively. Tuberculosis in Bengal takes an annual toll of 84,000 and nearly 1,000,000 people suffer from respiratory diseases.

The Government has also decided to buy the full equipment and stores of ~~four~~ four other American hospitals in the province, one at Lalmonirhat (North Bengal) and the rest in the districts of Burdwan, Bankura and Midnapore (West Bengal). (The Statesman, 17-1-1946).

Bengal Government's Five-Year Plan for Quinine Production.

A production target of 100,000 lbs of quinine sulphate per year, making India reasonably self-sufficient in this vital drug, is envisaged in a five-year plan of the Government of Bengal, a start with which has already been made.

The district of Darjeeling has been provisionally selected for the application of the scheme. For the development of plantations on modern lines, officers will be trained abroad before taking up their duties. The existing factory will also be reorganized and equipped with imported modern machinery. It is expected that the entire cost, estimated at Rs. 700,000 in five years, will be recovered through the sale of quinine and other cinchona products.

(The Statesman, 25-1-1946).

First All-India Dental Conference, Delhi 11 to 13-1-1946,
Aimed for Dental Legislation in India.

The First All India Dental Conference was held at Delhi from 11-1-1946 to 13-1-1946. The proceedings were opened by Sir Joginder Singh, Member for Education, Health and Agriculture, Government of India, and Mr. Oulsnam, Secretary to the Government of India in Health Department, participated in the proceedings.

Both Sir Joginder Singh and ~~xxxxxx~~ Mr. Oulsnam stated that the Government was alive to the lack of any dental legislation and assured the conference that the Bhoré Committee had given a very comprehensive report on this and further dental education in the country. Mr. Oulsnam said that the Government would give its wholehearted support and co-operation in the matter of a Bill in the autumn session of the Assembly and getting an All-India Dental Act on the statute book.

The scientific session of the conference included clinical demonstrations and several original programmes by the Punjab and Bombay Dental Colleges and the U.S. Army Dental Corps. Dr. R. Ahmed, the founder of the first dental school in India, was elected the first President and Dr. N.N. Bery the Honorary General Secretary of the Association.

(The Hindustan Times, 16-1-1946). →

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EDUCATION.

Primary Education Plans of Mysore State: 15-Year Plan
for Development.

Teaching and school curricula are two of the main problems tackled in a recently published 15-year scheme for the post-war Development of Primary Education in Mysore. The scheme embodies the Central Advisory Board of Education's suggested standard of thirty pupils per teacher. In certain areas the present ratio of 1 to 34 will remain in view of the difficulties experienced in finding teachers.

Better Pay and Prospects for Teachers.-- To recruit the required number of adequately trained teachers, the State has decided to improve the pay and the prospects of the teaching staff. Until a year ago the average salary of a teacher in Mysore was Rs. 223 per annum and now it is Rs. 241 per annum. The new scheme envisages a further increase.

Emphasis on Practical Education.-- The authors of the scheme come out strongly against bookish education and demand its complete overhaul. They recommend the "activity principle", something along the lines of the "Wardha Scheme". A balance between the practical and theoretical aspects of instruction is proposed. The scheme also includes suggestions for revising the whole curriculum of primary schools. A curriculum which is "functional, dynamic, and child-centered" is advocated. Both instruction and curriculum are inter-related and must, therefore, be tackled together.

(The Times of India, 15-1-1946).

Adult Education in Bombay: Work and Plans of Bombay
Adult Education Committee.

In connection with a literacy week inaugurated in Bombay City on 24-1-1946, Mr. B.G. Kher, President of the Bombay Adult Education Committee, outlined at a Press Conference the present activities and the future programme of the Committee.

18,000 Adults made Literate every Year.-- As a result of the activities of the committee 100,000 adults, of whom 20,000 are women, will have been made literate by March 1946, when the committee will complete seven years of its work. The committee is conducting 535 literacy classes and 6,000 students, of the 9,000 enrolled in each session, complete the prescribed course. Annually, 18,000 adults are made literate. Classes, separate for men and women, are held at hours and in places convenient to students. Nearly 150 "post-literacy" classes are conducted by the committee where facilities are offered to the pupils to see that they do not lapse into illiteracy again. Here, they are supplied with current news, and information relating to the problems of daily life. Also besides the classes held directly by the committee, associations, employers and individuals have been persuaded to run classes independently but according to the committee's curriculum.

Rs. 300,000 Plan to make entire Bombay Population Literate.-- As for the future, the committee has a plan to make the entire population in Bombay literate within a reasonably short time. The plan involves

an annual expenditure of Rs. 300,000 and has been forwarded to the Government of Bombay for its consideration, and if approved, will enable the Committee to expand the campaign on a wider scale, and conduct 1,000 literacy classes, as against the present number of 450, and impart literacy to 50,000 adults, as against 6,000 at present. ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~

Plan to open Craft Centres.- The committee has drawn up another scheme for opening 20 centres in the city teaching 15 different crafts, among which are embroidery, carpentry, and spinning. The scheme will involve an annual expenditure of Rs. 150,000 and Government has been approached by the Committee with a request to make the amount available to it. The scheme will enable the students to earn an extra income to supplement their regular income, holding out to them a greater appeal to avail themselves of the facilities for reading and writing.

(The Times of India, 24-1-1946).†

THE TRANSITION FROM WAR TO PEACE.

Wages.

Increased Maternity Benefit Rates: Bombay Millowners' Association recommends continuance of payment.

Reference was made at page 29 of our report for November 1942 to the ~~decision~~ of the Millowners' Association of Bombay, on the recommendation of the Government of Bombay, to pay, for the duration of the war and three months thereafter, a surcharge of 50 per cent of the total amount payable as maternity benefit to its women employees. This decision had been arrived at since the extra ~~xxxxxx~~ dearness allowance which the Bombay Cotton Textile Industry had granted to its workers was not applicable to women workers in the industry in receipt of maternity benefits. Early in December 1945, the Committee of the Association recommended that the present surcharge be continued till the cost of living index number comes down to 178.

The Government of Bombay, in a press note dated 11-12-1945, has appreciated this voluntary offer of the Association, and has held out the hope that other employers will similarly continue the concession as before.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for November and December, 1945).†

Hours of Work.

Madras: Withdrawal of Exemptions from Provisions of Factories Act relating to Hours of Work granted during War Emergency.

By a notification dated 19-12-1945 the Government of Madras has cancelled a number of notifications made between September 1939 and July 1945 exempting specified factories from sections 34 to 40 of the Factories Act, 1934 (these sections relate to the working hours of adults). Reference was made to some of these notifications at page 4 of the report of this office for December 1939 and page 49 of the report of for January 1940.

(G.O.M. No. 3251, P.W.(Labour), 19th December, 1945 - The Fort St. George Gazette dated 1-1-1946, Part I, pages 12-13).+

Exemptions under Factories Act withdrawn in 1946.

Reference was made at page 2 of our report of for June 1940 to exemptions from the provisions of the Factories Act for such needs as urgent repairs, preparatory and complementary work, intermittent work, etc. With a view to restoring normal working hours these exemptions have been withdrawn from 1-1-1946.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 1-1-1946).+

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Employment.

National Service (Technical Personnel) Amendment Ordinance,
1946: Employers obliged to Reinstatement Demobilised Technicians
in Former Employment on better Terms.

The Viceroy and Governor-General of India promulgated on 19-1-1946 the National Service (Technical Personnel) Amendment Ordinance, 1946, in order to protect the rights of technical personnel who, on discharge from the national service, wish to be reinstated in their previous employment. The amendment is intended to make reinstatement effective by removing certain disabilities of the discharged technical personnel, a large number of whom are being released from war factories.

The Amending Ordinance provides that it shall be the duty of any employer by whom a person has been released for employment in the national service on the requirement of a Tribunal or the Central Government, to reinstate him in his former employment on the termination of that ~~war~~ service in an occupation and under conditions in the determination of which regard shall be had to the additional skill and experience acquired since his release as aforesaid, and which shall in no case be less favourable to him than those which would have been applicable to him had he not been so released. This right to reinstatement will not, however, accrue to those who were engaged by the employer only in a temporary or probationary capacity or to those who have been dismissed from the national service for serious misconduct. The amendment further stipulates that the application for reinstatement should ordinarily be made within four months from the date of release or two months from the date of the amending ordinance, whichever is later. Where an employer terminates the employment of a person, whom under the ordinance it was his duty to reinstate, within a period of six months from the date of reinstatement, he shall be liable to pay to the said person at the time of terminating his employment a sum equal to the remuneration which ~~was~~ he would have earned under the terms of re-employment agreed, or fixed by the Special Tribunal, during the unexpired portion of the said period.

Special Tribunals to settle Disputes.- The ordinance also provides for ~~appeals to Special Tribunals~~ in cases of disputes relating to reinstatement and pay. If the employer refuses to reinstate a person whom he released for national service during the war period ~~it~~ or denies his liability to reinstate such person, or if the conditions of re-employment cannot be agreed upon, either party may refer the matter to a Special Tribunal, and the Special Tribunal shall after due consideration pass an order either exempting the employer from these provisions or requiring him to re-employ such person on such terms as, having regard to the additional skill and experience acquired since his release as aforesaid, it thinks suitable or to pay to such person a sum in compensation for failure to re-employ him not exceeding an amount equal to six months' remuneration.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary,
dated 19-1-1946, pages 81-82).

Employment for Bevin Trainees: Government of India's
Special Efforts.

It is understood that 509 out of 713 Bevin trainees were in employment on January 1, 1946. Special efforts are being made by the Labour Department and employment exchanges to find suitable jobs for the rest.

The services of Bevin trainees fall within the definition of War Services and they are considered for all government vacancies reserved for War Service candidates. Further, under the National Service (Technical Personnel) Amendment Ordinance, 1946, their rights of reinstatement in their previous employment have been safeguarded and in fixing their remuneration, credit for the skill and experience acquired by them since leaving their previous jobs has been provided for. The Government is also considering some of the unemployed Bevin Boys for various posts such as Trade Testing and Assistant Trade Testing Officers, Instructors at the Technical Training Centres, etc., and nine of them are due to ~~join~~ join the Labour Department from the first week of February, 1946. Lastly, the unemployment of about 28 per cent of the Bevin trainees, including 56 thrown out of work with the closing of Ordnance Factories, is expected to end as soon as industry is able to adjust itself to civilian production and Government and private post-war development schemes are put into operation.

('Dawn', dated 31-1-1946).+

Production.

Ordnance Factories Switched over to Production of Civil Goods.

A Press note issued by in the second week of January states that the Government of India considers it necessary, as a temporary measure, in view of the needs of the country for re-habilitation generally, and for building programmes, tools, etc., to make a fuller use of the capacity of ordnance factories for the manufacture of these civil articles for which their plant and machinery can be utilised without extensive re-tooling.

Before and during the war the number and size of India's ordnance factories increased considerably and much modern plant and machinery was installed. The number of men employed increased greatly, and at the peak of munitions production was almost eight times the number employed before the war. With the rapid collapse of Japan, however, munitions production had to be curtailed and to obviate unemployment, the ordnance factories undertook the manufacture for civil requirements, mainly Government requirements, of a certain amount of steel (in lieu of steel which would otherwise have to be imported), of tools, fixtures and gauges in their finely-equipped tool-rooms, and of some miscellaneous items.

The present decision of the government will assist the public in obtaining items unobtainable, or not readily obtainable, from other sources, and will enable industrial factories to devote more capacity to restoring and to expanding lines of manufacture for which they were more particularly designed or equipped, and which also are in acute demand. The ordnance factories will now be open, therefore, to undertake orders on a wider scale for articles of the type indicated, for heavy steel forgings and castings, stampings, press-work, non-ferrous metals, light and medium parts for machinery, and woodware of various descriptions. The Additional Director-General (Munitions Production), will assign ~~manufacturing orders~~ orders to the particular ordnance factory or factories suitable to the production of the various items.

The note emphasises that this decision is merely part of a short-term policy of assisting re-habilitation and industrialisation, of relieving unemployment and of keeping skilled personnel in practice.

(The Statesman, dated 14-1-1946).†

Control Measures.

Government of India drive to stamp out Black Markets:
High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Ordinance,
1946.

By an Ordinance promulgated on 12-1-1946, the Government of India has demonetised all currency notes of the value of Rs. 500, Rs. 1000 and Rs. 10,000. These notes ceased to be legal tender after 12-1-1946. Private persons owning the demonetised high denomination currency notes are required by the Ordinance, within ten days after its promulgation (the time limit has subsequently been extended), to submit these notes for exchange to the Reserve Bank or a scheduled bank or a Government Treasury along with a prescribed form of declaration in triplicate. The form demands information as regards the name, status and address of the applicant, the circle of his income-tax assessment, the nature of his business and the partners, the salary of the person, if salaried, and particulars of his employment, details of the denominational value of the notes tendered, the reasons for their being so held and references to any other application made for exchange of high denomination notes. In order to discourage evasion the Ordinance provides that the person who signs any declaration shall be deemed to be the owner of the notes for all purposes. Where the declaration appears to be incomplete in its particulars, a bank or treasury is prohibited from making any payment in exchange. In such cases, the applications will be referred to the Central Government for a decision. The Central Government is given powers to authorise extension of the time limit in any particular case.

A press note issued by the Government of India, explains that the working capital of black market operations is believed to be held in a large measure in the form of high denomination notes. The Ordinance is designed to achieve the purpose of bringing such black market operations within the knowledge of the Government and of the taxing authorities in particular.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary,
dated 12-1-1946, pages 61-64).

Working of Control of Capital Issues.

According to a statement issued by the Examiner of Capital Issues in the latter half of January the total amount applied for under the control of capital issues scheme from the date of its inception in May, 1943, to the end of September, 1945, amounts to Rs. 3,850 million in respect of 4,660 companies.

The total amount for which consent was given during the period aggregated Rs. 2,600 million in respect of 3,784 companies. Refusals amounted to Rs. 890 million relating to 876 companies. The rest of the amount—viz, Rs. 360 million—represented partial refusals in cases where consent was given, but not for the total sum applied for. Of the aggregate amount consented to, over Rs. 1,590 million related to industrial issues, of which Rs. 820 million were "long-range" schemes, and nearly Rs. 200 million to non-industrial issues, of which Rs. 120 million were "long-range" schemes. Of the refusals, over Rs. 230 million were concerned with industrial and nearly Rs. 660 million with non-industrial issues.

(The Statesman, 30-1-1946). +

Relaxation of Controls.

Further Relaxation of Control over Imports.

With a view to adding the industrial effort of the country, the Government of India has issued a new open general licence, which extends decontrol of imports to a number of important industrial requirements and makes it applicable to goods not only from the U.K. but also from most other parts of the Empire. Inclusion of further items is stated to be under consideration, but it is not at present intended to relax control over imports of goods which are subject to special procurement programmes (such as foodstuffs) or which are produced or manufactured in India in appreciable quantities. Among the new items included in the open general licence are ball roller and taper bearings, electrical instruments and accessories, chemicals in bulk (with some important exceptions), woollen yarn, printing and lithographic material, hosiery needles, optical, scientific and surgical instruments, moulding powders and metallic ores. The new 'open General Licence' has been made applicable to imports not only from the United Kingdom but also from any part of His Majesty's Dominions (excluding Canada and Newfoundland) ~~and~~ any British Protectorate or Protected State and any territory in respect of which a Mandate is being exercised by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom or in a Dominion. It will, however, only cover imports of goods produced or manufactured in these territories.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 22-1-1946, pages 123-32; the Statesman, dated 23-1-1946). +

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Food.

Deterioration in Food situation in Madras and Bombay.

No Food Reserves in Madras: Food Adviser's Statement to Provincial Food Council.- At a meeting of the Provincial Food Council held during the last week of January, Sir S.V. Ramamurthi, Food Adviser to the Governor of Madras, drew attention to the ~~extremeness~~ seriousness of the food situation in the Province. The failure of the north-east monsoon in December and January had produced a severe drought. During the war years the Madras Government had enforced stringent methods of procurement and rationing. As a result no food reserves were left with the people, and the province was without the carry over that normally helped to make up for deficits ~~month~~ from year to year. If the present scale of daily rations, 1 lb. of cereals per head, was to be maintained, about a million tons of cereals—rice, wheat and millets—had to be imported into the province. If Madras was not able to obtain this quantity, the scale of rations would have to be reduced. But it could not be reduced in the case of agricultural producers, because such a step would give no incentive to them to grow more food. If the ration in respect of non-producers was cut, this would produce ~~some~~ economic disturbance and suffering. Sir S.V. Ramamurthi met the Viceroy of India in this connection in the later half of January. Sir S.V. Ramamurthi further revealed at a Press Conference on 11-1-1946, that the Government of Madras are, at present, examining methods to stimulate the production and use of sweet potatoes and other alternative kinds of food, such as groundnut, in order to supplement the cereal ration.

Scarcity conditions in parts of Bombay.- Recently conditions of scarcity have emerged in Bombay also. The Government of Bombay has declared the existence of scarcity conditions in 368 villages in Sholapur District and 146 villages in Satara District. In Sholapur, Rs. 1,00,000 has been placed at the Collector's disposal for advancing tagavi loans, Rs. 50,000 for the distribution of gratuitous relief and Rs. 3,70,000 for the opening of scarcity works including arrangements for water supply in scarcity areas. The Collector of Satara has been similarly asked to start scarcity works and has been authorised to distribute gratuitous relief.

(The Statesman, 30-1-1946, The Hindu, dated 12-1-1946 and Press Note dated 19-1-1946 issued by the Director of Information, Bombay).

An All-India Agricultural and Food Policy - Announcement by Government of India.

The Objective - Enough Food for All.- An all-India policy for agriculture and food was announced by the Government of India on 20-1-1946. The objective as defined in the statement outlining the main features of this policy is to promote the welfare of the people and to secure a progressive improvement of their standard of living and this, the statement announces "includes the responsibility for providing enough food for all, sufficient in quantity and of requisite quality".

Common All-India Policy for Agriculture and Food-High Priority for increasing Food Production.- For the achievement of this objective, the statement explains, High priority will be given to measures for increasing the food resources of the country to the fullest extent, and in particular to measures designed to increase the output per acre and to diminish dependence on the vagaries of nature. Their aim will be not only to remove the threat of famine, but also to increase the prosperity of the cultivator, raise levels of consumption and create a healthy and vigorous population. The Central and provincial Governments will bring all available resources to bear to achieve this end in the shortest possible time. The policy will be implemented by the provincial and Central Governments in their respective spheres in consultation with each other, and to the extent that is appropriate and necessary in each case.

Proposals which have been included in the post-war development plans, both of the Central and of the provincial Governments, and measures have already been undertaken, which reflect agreement on the main essentials of a common policy for agriculture and food. The policy as well as its objectives and measures will be submitted to the Government of Indian States for their co-operation.

The methods - Grants and Assistance by Centre.- The measures which will be included in the programme of action cover an immense field. They include the supply and conservation of water, by the construction of wells, tanks, dams and canals; the conservation of soil and the proper use of land; an increase in the production and utilisation of all resources of manure and fertilisers, on a subsidised basis, if necessary; the production and distribution of improved varieties of seed; measures for the protection of crops and stored grain against pests and diseases; malaria control; development of fisheries; increase of milk production; the establishment of a network of demonstration and distribution centres; and the training of an abundant supply of workers for the practical work involved.

The Centre will give grants to provinces for schemes of agricultural development except in respect of such productive schemes as are self-supporting. The form, scale and conditions of such financial assistance will be related to the over-all requirements of the All-India plans for development and will be separately prescribed. Some of the other main functions of the Centre in contributing to the achievement of the common objectives for agriculture and food will be to provide certain facilities for training, to conduct research, to make available expert advice to provinces that need it, and to set up special organisations to serve particular All-India purposes.

Much preliminary work has already been undertaken and progress made. To the extent that all preparatory measures have not been completed, programmes of action framed and the administrative machinery to carry them out set up this will be done in 1946. Preparatory measures include the training of staff, the carrying out of surveys, the framing of detailed schemes, the obtaining of materials and the combination of the various schemes into a clear programme of action for the achievement of the local objectives. All this will be the responsibility of provincial Governments in consultation with the Central Government.

Distribution - Future of Controls.- As regards the distribution of food and other agricultural products it is stated that it is intended that the trade shall in due course resume its normal functions. But, the statement adds, imports and distribution of food, and the holding of reserves, will be regulated to the extent and for as long as necessary. The relaxation of controls will be a gradual and regulated process, and not inconsistent with the need for establishing a permanent system

which will assure a market for the producer and equitable distribution of food to the consumer, at prices fair to both.

Special Central Organisation to ensure Co-ordination.- The progress and continuity and the inter-relation of Central and provincial planning for agriculture and food, and its execution will require frequent and personal consultation. For this purpose the Government of India has set up a small special organisation, whose function will be to visit the Governments of provinces and to assist in the removal of any obstacle in the way of the early completion of measures undertaken consistently with this declaration of policy.

(The Times of India, 21-1-1946).+

Salaried Employees and Public Servants.

Bombay Primary Education and Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1945:
Local Boards to be compelled to pay Dearness Allowance to their
Staff.

Reference was made at page 38 of the report of this office for September 1945 to the Bill published by the Bombay Government to amend the Bombay Primary Education Act, 1923, and the Bombay Local Boards Act, 1923, making it obligatory for local bodies to pay dearness allowance to their staff at rates fixed by Government. This bill received the assent of the Governor of Bombay on 5-1-1946 and is now published as the Bombay Primary Education and Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1945 (Bombay Act No. XXI of 1945). Section 2 of the Act lays down that when so required by the Provincial Government a dearness allowance at such rates as may be fixed by the provincial Government from time to time shall be paid to the administrative, teaching, inspecting, supervising, clerical and inferior staff maintained by a local authority. Section 3 provides that when so required by the provincial Government, a dearness allowance at such rates as may be fixed by the provincial Government from time to time shall be paid to the officers and servants maintained by a district local board.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated
10-1-1946, Part IV, pages 1-2).+

Compensation for War Injuries.

War Injuries Insurance Scheme to be Wound up.

According to a press note issued by the Government of India early in January 1946, the Government has decided to wind up the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Scheme at an early date. Employers who are required to effect insurance under the Act but have not done so, need not now apply for insurance policies. Insurance companies acting as Government agents for the purpose have been asked not to entertain any fresh application.

(The Statesman, dated 11-1-1946).*

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Demobilisation and Resettlement.

Orissa Government's Scheme for Resettlement of Ex-Servicemen.

A report published in the Amrita Bazar Patrika outlines the plans the Government of Orissa has drawn up to help as many as possible of the ex-servicemen returning to Orissa to re-settle in civil life and to find new employment. According to a recent estimate, by May 1946, over 6,200 men from Orissa will be discharged by the army, and 2700 men from units of the civil pioneers.

Settlement on Land - Cooperative Colonies.- The Government propose to settle ex-servicemen with a long and good record in the defence services on the land. It is proposed eventually to establish 30 colonies, but to start with there will only be three. The land will be offered the opportunity to join one of these three new colonies in Angul, in the Ganjam plains and in the Ganjam agency area, where they may on a cooperative basis cultivate their own land. Each man will be given seven to eight acres of waste land and financial assistance to purchase 10, to buy bullocks and agricultural implements, and to buy his own house. Those, who do not wish to settle in a new colony and would prefer to have land near their homes will be given assistance to buy two acres of land each. The success of this scheme depends upon the willingness of the men to settle in a new place and partly upon the amount of land available for purchase near their homes.

Resettlement in Industry.- As regards those who desire to set up an industry, provided suitable conditions are satisfied, Government propose to make a grant of Rs. 500 to help an ex-serviceman to establish a cottage industry or to join others on a co-operative basis in large concerns.

Employment in Forest Range Services and Public Works Department. Opportunities are now to be given to ex-servicemen to be trained in the work of rangers and guards in the Forest Department. Government intend to train as many ex-servicemen as possible in the Forestry school which will be opened in April, 1946. Fifty per cent of the vacancies in the posts of foresters and forest guards are being reserved for ex-servicemen. It is expected further that about 2650 unskilled ex-servicemen will be given opportunities for employment in the labour force of the Public Works Department. The new P.W.D. divisions are about to be formed, and ex-servicemen will be given preference if they are found suitable.

Employment as Motor Drivers.- Also, in connection with the formation of the Provincial Motor Transport Company it will be necessary to provide transport vehicles in excess of the number now in use, and a large number of motor drivers may be required. The Government hope that 200 posts of motor drivers will be available to qualified ex-servicemen personnel without in any way affecting the prospects of other driving operators. Some of the ex-servicemen may obtain employment as drivers of motor vehicles of the Public Works Department.

Vocational Training.- In addition, arrangements are being made to give vocational training to 250 ex-servicemen and industrial training to 300 ex-servicemen. Each of the trainees in agriculture and industry will receive Rs. 20 and Rs. 24-8 respectively as stipends during the training, and they will obtain opportunities for employment after completion of training.

Educational Training.- Ex-servicemen who have educational qualifications are to be offered further training facilities by the Education Department. Graduates will be given a course of training at the Training College at Cuttack and matriculates and men who have passed the Intermediate examination, at the Training Schools. After training the successful candidates will be offered employment in the Education Department. Stipends at the rate of Rs. 30 in the Training College and Rs. 15 in the Training Schools will be paid to the trainees during the period of training.

Employment, other Governments Departments.- Other departments of Government hope to offer opportunities of employment to ex-servicemen who are suitably qualified. The provincial Government has established district selection boards which will select men for employment in the police force and other district offices and departments.

Private Employers.- Lastly, the employment exchange will make a close study of the needs of local employers of labour and make every effort to see that ex-servicemen are favourably considered for the available positions.

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A note issued by the Public Relations Directorate on 31-12-1945 discloses that more than 60,000 men and women were released from the Indian armed services during November 1945, bringing the total to the end of that month to over 1,27,000. Releases during the month amounted to 1,704 from the Royal Indian Navy, 83,133 from the Army and 316 from the Royal Indian Air Force. The Army figure includes 65,593 reduction in strength from other causes, and 3,136 personnel of Indian State Forces repatriated to their States. Demobilisation under the release scheme shows an increase of 22,157 over the previous month.

During the same month W.R.I.N.S. releases numbered 54, while 160 members of the W.A.C.(1) returned to civilian life.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
31 3-1-1946).

Steps to prevent Deterioration in Wages and Service Conditions:
Labour Department's Schemes.

The Labour Department's resettlement and employment plan for civilian personnel includes a number of schemes to secure that wages and conditions of employment are not depressed by contractors or ~~such~~ other agencies.

Under the first scheme labour units will be employed direct and a whole unit will be dealt with as the contractor. Bengal has accepted this plan, and it is expected that at least three units will be employed on bloc in this fashion soon.

Alternatively, Government may organise labour groups themselves and employ them. The United Provinces is trying out this method. A further alternative is to form labour co-operatives, which will register themselves and be given contracts. This is being tried on a large scale in Madras. For such direct group employment, Government has agreed to give rates which are higher by a small percentage than ordinary contract rates. It is expected that the railways will adopt one of the alternative methods of group employment.

Protection for Labour employed through Contractors.- Where contractors are employed, it is proposed to insist on a fair wage clause in the contract. Such a clause is inserted at present, but is of no more than nominal value. If all Governments came to an understanding on the question, such a clause can be enforced without legislation, so that any ~~unscrupulous~~ contractor paying less than the fair wage would be liable to have his contract cancelled. The clause will also provide for fair housing, living and sanitary conditions for labour brought to the site.

(The Times of India, 5-1-1946).

Bengal's Schemes for Resettlement of Demobilised Servicemen: A Review of Vocational Training.

Bengal has begun implementing a number of schemes under the Bengal Government's post-war plan, with a view to helping the demobilised service man to find his feet in civil life.

Vocational Training.- These include the opening of five training centres, at an estimated total expenditure of over Rs. 50,000 at Calcutta, Dacca, Chittagong, Barwan and Rangur. These centres will train 700 persons a year in different trades like bakery, confectionery, manufacture of toys, sports goods and tobacco products. To help trainees in setting up small industries of their own a proposal is also under consideration to make cash advances to a selected number.

Agricultural Centres and Land Reclamation.- It is also proposed to set up a number of agricultural centres. A 50-acre farm with a tank for fish, and a small dairy and poultry farm will be attached to each centre. A total area of about 200,000 acres of waste lands is proposed to be reclaimed under another scheme (vide page 60 of the report of this office for November 1945) for the purpose of settling demobilised servicemen.

(The Hindustan Times, 11-1-1946).

Resettlement and Employment Organisation of Government of India: Record of Progress.

The following is a summary of the progress achieved by the Resettlement and Employment Organisation of the Labour Department, Government of India, till the end of December 1945.

Employment Exchanges: 5600 placed in Employment between July and November 1945. Twenty-nine employment exchanges, consisting of one central, nine regional and 19 sub-regional exchanges, have been established to date. Trained managerial staff has also been posted to seven recruiting and employment offices. In July-November 1945, 55,329 vacancies have been notified by employers to the employment exchanges and 2,578 persons have been placed in employment. Besides this, 5,270 vacancies were notified to recruiting and employment offices in June-October 1945 and the total number of persons who were placed in employment and obtained jobs through their own efforts was 417.

The fortnightly lists of Services' personnel seeking higher grade administrative and technical appointments, which are issued by the Central Employment Exchange, New Delhi, are distributed among the Central and provincial Governments and important employers in the country. Separate appointments branches for dealing with such applications have been established in the Central and Regional exchanges. The Central Exchange deals also with clerical staff retrenched from Government of India Departments.

Collection of Statistics Relating Discharges and Demands for Labour.

Statistics relating to impending discharges of labour and forecasts of manpower requirements for post-war development schemes are being collected by the Labour Department. Returns on prescribed forms have been asked for from all departments of the Government of India about undertakings working directly under them and also from provincial Governments and regional directors. This will enable the Labour Department to appraise Government departments of the all-India and provincial trends of employment and give information for co-relating their post-war schemes with the available manpower.

Resettlement Advice Service.- A Resettlement Advice Service is being ~~established~~ ^{operated} at release centres (vide page 53 of the report of this office for September 1945) in order to explain to demobilised personnel the employment opportunities and technical and vocational training facilities. Selection and training of Resettlement Advice Officers is in progress, and in the meanwhile 167 army officers have been posted to release centres. Civilian technical ~~officers~~ ^{officers} (Trade Testing Officers) will assist resettlement advice officers in assessing whether further training will be required for technicians who are released.

Progress of Staff Training.- The Staff Training Centre, started in June 1945 (vide page 50 of the report of this office for June 1945), has trained 56 managers and 73 assistant managers and also 118 recruiting and employment officers. Besides, 12 representatives of trade union organisations and nine of Indian States have also attended the training course. Training provided in this centre has evoked interest amongst international Labour Authorities and in countries such as Burma and Ceylon. The Burma Government has approached the Labour Department to undertake the training of their staff in employment exchange work. Six Bevin trainees trained in the UK as instructors for the disabled are expected to come back shortly and another batch of 10 trainees is being selected for similar training in the U.K..

(The Statesman, 6-1-1946). +

34 Technical Training Centres for Training Demobilised Servicemen.

Half of the 30,000 seats to be provided for the training of demobilised servicemen in 1946 (vide page 57 of the report of this Office for November 1945), are now available in the technical training centres which have been switched over to their new job. The number of such centres is at present 34—5 in Bengal and Assam, 4 in Bihar and Orissa, 4 in the U.P., 7 in the Punjab and NWFP., 1 in Sind, 2 in Bombay, 1 in C.P., 7 in Madras and 3 in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara—but more are being emptied to receive demobbed trainees. The services of British specialist instructors who were brought from the U.K. for the wartime technical training scheme are being continued for the training of ex-Servicemen.

(The Statesman, 19-1-1946).

A.I.R.F. Demand for Adjudication: Adjournment Motion in
Central Legislative Assembly, 22-1-1946.

An adjournment motion was moved in the Central Legislative Assembly on 22-1-1946 by Sardar Mangal Singh to discuss the rejection by the Railway Board of the demands of the Railwaymen's Federation regarding retrenchment of railway personnel.

Mr. Guruswamy on Grievances of Railwaymen: 326,000 Temporary Men in Railways.— Speaking in the course of the debate Mr. S. Guruswamy, Secretary of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, ~~and Secretary of the Federation~~ said that the demands of the Federation related not only to retrenchment but also to other grievances. For two and a half years the Federation had been negotiating and agitating for revision of dearness allowance on the basis of the recommendations of the Rau Committee appointed by the Government of India, revision of the present scales of pay and, as a preliminary measure, abolition of the new scales of pay introduced in 1951. While admitting that there had as yet been no large-scale retrenchment, Mr. Guruswami stated that ~~of~~ 326,000 workers out of 848,000 were treated as untouchables. They were classified as temporary men and liable to be discharged. While the railwaymen were not against the employment of ex-servicemen they were not prepared to accept the proposition that one man who is already employed should go out to make room for an ex-serviceman. In this connection Mr. Guruswami drew attention to ~~one of the documents prepared at the recent International Labour Conference at Paris which stated that trying to put ex-servicemen in the place of those already in service would create undesirable social antagonism.~~ Railwaymen did not want to threaten a strike; they knew the consequences of a general strike as well as their obligations to society. They had done their duty during the worst period of the war and famine and the least they could ask was that where negotiations failed, an adjudication authority should be appointed to settle the points in dispute.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on the Demand for Adjudication.— Replying to the charge ~~that~~ the Labour Department of the Government of India had not played the part it was expected to play in the dispute, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, explained that the Labour Department had performed its duty by bringing the two parties together and inducing them to discuss outstanding questions in an effort to reduce their differences. The negotiations between the Railwaymen's Federation and the Railway Department had not yet concluded and it had been agreed between the Federation and the Department that a small committee of the Federation be appointed to carry on further negotiations with the Department. The date for this meeting had been fixed towards the end of January 1946. Dr. Ambedkar further urged that for purposes of arbitration there should be a justifiable dispute in existence. No such dispute existed. No question relating to hours or conditions of employment was involved. The fundamental demand put forward was that not a single workman should be reduced. How many men a Department decided to employ was not a justifiable issue which could be decided by arbitration, and therefore it was not a matter worth the Labour Department's intervention.

War Transport Member's Reply: 7,954 Surplus Men reabsorbed till December 1945.— In the course of his reply, Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport pointed out that the Federation's demand was that not one man should be retrenched and urged that it was not reasonable to expect that any employer could give an undertaking that no single employee would be retrenched. Giving figures for discharges he said

that up to November out of a total of 14,273 the number of men re-absorbed was 5,896, most of whom were munition workers. In December out of 2,464 posts declared to be surplus, 2,058 men were re-absorbed. The 16 points put forward by the Federation (vide pages 59-60 of the report of this office for October 1945) were receiving the most careful attention, and direct action, such as a strike, would only create less employment. The only way, War Transport Member urged, was to get together in a co-operative spirit.

The motion was eventually talked out.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-1-1946).

80,000 Demobilised from Services in December 1945.

More than 80,000 men and women were released from the Indian Armed Services during December, 1945. The total of releases since October 1, 1945 now amounts to more than 230,000 and represents 26.1 per cent of the target of 850,000 releases for the period 1-10-1945, to 31-5-1946 (vide pages 54-55 of the report of this office for September 1945).

Details of Releases.- Of the December releases 1,394 were accounted for by the Royal Indian Navy and 79,065 by the Army. There was a reduction in strength of 2,648 from other causes and 65 personnel of the Indian States Forces returned to their States. During the same month 210 members of the WAC(I) ~~affix~~ returned to civil life, the figure for the WRIN being 75. Since demobilisation started, 139 WRIN Officers and Auxiliaries have left the service.

(The Statesman, 31-1-1946).

W.A.C.(I) to be Disbanded.

The Government of India has decided to disband the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India). The reductions in the Corps during 1946 will be phased according to the requirements of the Fighting Services, and it is anticipated that it will be possible to complete the disbandment in ~~1947~~ 1947.

On disbandment, members of the Corps will have the same facilities for training and resettlement as other members of the Forces and will be given all possible help in their resettlement in civil life.

(The Statesman, 30-1-1946).+

Rehabilitation Measures.

Rehabilitation of Burma's Economy: Projects Boards to be set up for Transport, Agriculture, Civil Supplies, Etc.

An Associated Press of India report outlines the measures that are being taken to rehabilitate Burma's war-torn economy.

Financial Aid from H.M.G.- As a result of the war, vast losses have been incurred by commerce, trade and industry and by individual agriculturists and householders, and until a decision is taken in respect of compensation for war losses, the normal sources of finance for all forms of economic activity have dried up. As the Burma Government has now no money, His Majesty's Government is providing finance, free of interest, not only for the day-to-day needs of the Burma Government but also for the rehabilitation of Burma's essential commerce and industry—transport, agriculture, timber, civil supplies and electricity. His Majesty's Government has, however, made it clear that it is providing finance for commercial operations on conditions that the Burma Government ensures that the public money so expended will be safeguarded, that the commercial operations will be efficiently conducted and that the principal objective of attending to the welfare of the people of Burma will be achieved.

Projects boards,- To meet these conditions, the Burma Government has ~~decided to set up~~ set up various projects boards—a Railway Board, and ~~inland water transport board,~~ a Road Transport Board, with the Burma Transport Board as the co-ordinating authority, an Agricultural Projects Board, a Timber board, a Civil Supplies Board, and later on an Electricity Board. Generally speaking (and invariably where public money is involved) the chairman of each Board is a Government or quasi-government official, one of the members is a Government official with special responsibility for finance, and another with special technical knowledge of the activities of the Board. The Boards will also include a number of persons with business experience in Burma—Burmese, Europeans, Indians and Chinese.

Railway, Inland Water and Road Transport Boards.- The Railway Board ~~has been in existence for some time~~ and the railways can carry on as before except that the Board has considerably greater difficulties to overcome than when the railway system was intact.

Pre-war Burma had had no such organisation as an Inland Water Transport Board. There are available the services of an Inland Water Transport Company with an experienced staff and intimate knowledge of transportation of goods and passengers on the rivers of Burma and in the delta—the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company. Their fleet of ships has largely to be rebuilt. But, in the meantime the Burma Government will inherit from the Army a large number of craft, for the operation of which the Government had to make immediate arrangements. The Government, accordingly, arranged with the Company to act as agents to the Inland Water Transport Board for a period of three years. The Company will not only operate the craft which Government inherit from the Army but will undertake the procurement of new craft. The terms on which the Company will operate have been examined by His Majesty's Treasury and by the Ministry of War transport and have been approved by them. The agents will operate under the control of the Board, and all profits will accrue to the Board, that is, the Government of Burma. The Government's

arrangements with the Company are not exclusive. Other operators who have craft can also operate, and country craft will be encouraged by the Board to carry as much as they can handle.

Before the evacuation no such organisation as a Road Transport Board existed in Burma. The Burma Government will inherit from the Army a very large number of vehicles. The function of the Board will be to carry upcountry from Mungson, or from upcountry to Rangoon, for export, or from surplus areas to deficit areas in Burma, the volume of goods for which carrying capacity is inadequate in the hands of the Railway and Inland Water Transport Boards. The Board will also acquire new vehicles from abroad, organise workshops, recruit drivers and mechanics and operate on a large scale. This will involve capital and revenue expenditure of several millions of rupees.

The Burma Transport Board is to be the controlling and co-ordinating body for road, river and rail transport.

Agricultural Projects Board.- The Agricultural Projects Board will deal with rice, pulses, sugar and salt, and its functions will be to promote the production and to control and promote the processing and marketing of agricultural produce. Its chief task will be to promote the cultivation of paddy by the offer of guaranteed minimum prices, to assist in the rehabilitation of milling power, to see that the miller gets a fair return for his services and the consumer receives his rice at a fair price. The Board will also purchase rice for resale in deficit areas in Burma and for export and sale abroad.

Civil Supplies Board.- The Civil Supplies Board will deal with the ~~essential needs~~ people—food, clothing and consumer goods— until such time as normal channels of procurement can be restored. The finance for procurement is being provided by His Majesty's Government and in the meantime, the Civil Supplies Board is responsible for taking delivery of goods on arrival in Burma, for forwarding them to destinations and for ensuring their ultimate distribution to the people at fair prices. In order to discharge its obligations in the matter of taking delivery and forwarding goods, the Board will appoint agents who have experience of this work and who will be remunerated on a commission basis.

Timber and Electricity.- Under the Timber Board project the long-term ~~timber industry~~ will continue to operate in the areas leased to them by the Burma Government, but it will be in partnership with the Government, acting through the Board. The Board, under arrangements agreed between the Burma Government and His Majesty's Government, will provide ~~the finance~~ and such finance interest will be charged and any assets ~~the Government~~ will remain the property of the Government ~~and the Government~~ will be paid for by the eventual owner. The Board will encourage ~~the Government~~ to play their part and will ensure that they ~~obtain a fair return for their services.~~

The Electricity Board has not yet been set up nor have any specific arrangements yet been made for the generation and distribution of electrical supply, either in Rangoon or upcountry, though a certain amount of procurement of plant and equipment has been put in hand.

Post-War Reconstruction.

Meeting of Policy Committee on Posts and Civil Aviation, New Delhi, Government of India's Plans for Civil Aviation and Postal Services.

The Policy Committee on Posts and Civil Aviation met at New Delhi on 9-1-1946 to discuss post-war plans for the development of civil aviation and posts and telegraphs. Sir Mohammed Usman, Member for Posts and Air, Government of India, presided.

Government of India's Plans for Civil Aviation: Sir Mohammed Usman's speech covering the Government of India's plans for the development of civil aviation in India, Sir Mohammed Usman said that in addition to regional air services to the Near East, East Africa and China, the Government of India's external air transport plan provided for an air service between India and the United Kingdom, to be operated on a standard comparable with the world air services which would be established by Britain, Australia and America. However, in view of the large programme of internal air transport development, it was not expected that India would be able, at an early date, to embark on an air service to great ~~distances~~ Britain. Meanwhile, it was intended to establish, as soon as ~~practicable~~ practicable, ~~some of the regional air services from India.~~ The operating organisation proposed was predominantly commercial. It was proposed to establish two companies or corporations—one for operation to the west of India and one for operation to the east of India. In each of these corporations, it was proposed to give a major but not a majority interest to an established air transport operator in the internal air transport field, to provide an opportunity for investment by other air transport operators and the public and to reserve to Government a substantial, but not a majority, interest. As regards internal air transport, Government had accepted the majority recommendation of the Committee that the operation of internal air services should be entrusted to private enterprise. Government, however, reserved the right to take a share in any air transport company to which a licence was granted, and themselves to operate any selected air service. In consequence, Government had proceeded with the preparation of the air transport licensing rules, the draft of which was published in June 1944. The draft rules had been ~~revised in accordance with suggestions received, and the Government of~~ ~~India had been engaged in a series of discussions with representatives~~ in the hope that a uniform system of licensing air transport services for the whole of India. Sir Mohammed had every ~~confidence~~ confidence that this result would be achieved and that the licensing rules would be promulgated next month. It was proposed that the rules in so far as they related to the granting of licences for air transport services should be brought into force with effect from 1-10-1946.

The Government also proposed to provide facilities for aeronautical training and education. These included a Civil Air Service Training School, which would provide the means of training air crews, engineers, radio technicians and flying control and other aerodrome staff. The proposals embraced everything from general education in schools, through flying and gliding clubs and a professional and trade training school, to University education and post-graduate research.

The proposals for the Civil Aviation Directorate envisaged a capital expenditure of Rs. 185 million, excluding the value of aerodromes and routes/organisation already established. The recurring expenditure, if

and when the plans were in full operation, was estimated at Rs. 46.6 million a year, including a provision of Rs. 28 million for the subsidisation of air transport. Finally, Sir Mohammed invited the attention of the Committee to the proposal to establish an All-India Air Board. The desirability of co-ordination of the administration and development of aviation, which was of an essentially national character, in a country like India, needed no emphasis. While unification of administration was not constitutionally possible, it appeared desirable to provide a forum for the discussion of matters of mutual interest to British India and the States. The Board could only be consultative and advisory in character.

Committee accepts 15-year Plan for posts and Telegraph Department.-A telegraph office for every town with a population of 5,000 and a quicker and wider telephone service throughout the country are envisaged in a fifteen-year post-war plan for the Posts and Telegraphs Department, accepted by the Committee. This will mean an increase of 1,500 over the 2,300 telegraph offices that already exist. Telegraph offices at the more important centres are to be re-equipped and improved methods of booking and handling of telegrams are to be introduced. As regards telephone service, the Department today has 400 exchanges with about 120,000 telephones. The post-war telephone plan envisages the establishment of 450 telephone exchanges.

More Amenities for postal Staff.- In formulating the post-war plan, the ~~plans for the posts and telegraphs staff for additional amenities have not been overlooked.~~ These include tiffin rooms and canteens, rest houses for R.H.S. staff, uniforms to wholetime employees, recreation clubs and social welfare centres, medical aid and, finally, residential accommodation for a very large number of employees. The capital cost of all these with the exception of the cost of providing uniforms amounts to Rs. 40 million.

(The Statesman, 9, 13-1-1946).

Ceylon to set up State-owned Textile and Oil Mills.

As reported by the Associated Press of India that Ceylon will set up a number of textile and oil mills, State-owned and State-aided. Negotiations are now stated to be in progress between the Ceylon Government and a number of Indian industrialists for the purpose of starting a number of industries in Ceylon, and the response from the Indian industrialists to start industries in Ceylon is reported to have been good.

(The Hindu, 4-1-1946). +

Progress of Rail-Road Coordination Schemes in Provinces:
Statement by War Transport Member.

A statement submitted to the Central Legislative Assembly on 21-1-1946 by Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport in the Government of India, reviews the progress made in the various parts of India on the formation of joint companies for the co-ordination of rail-road transport.

In Bombay 11 companies were likely to be registered in January 1946. The assets of existing operators would be taken over on valuation and in addition, compensation to the extent of Rs. 1,000 per permit would be paid to those whose permits were acquired.

In the United Provinces the province had been divided into seven zones, in each of which a separate company was to operate. The promoters were selected by the provincial Government on the recommendations of regional transport authorities.

In the Central Provinces two companies were already operating and negotiations were in progress for the formation of a third company to operate in the eastern part of the province.

The Punjab Government contemplated provincialization of road transport, but they had no objection to railways acquiring 15 per cent interest in road transport undertakings operating exclusively on national highways running parallel to the N.W. Railway.

In Orissa schemes for the formation of three companies were under examination. The Assam Government had adopted the principle of rail-road fusion restricted to parallel and feeder routes. The policy of the N.W.F.P. Government had not yet been clearly defined, but there was a proposal for amalgamating all the operators in the province into one company in which the provincial Government would acquire a share and possibly permit a share to the N.W. Railway. Development on a zonal basis was visualized in Madras.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-1-1946).

Government of India sets up Ports(Technical) Committee.

In pursuance of a recommendation made at the meeting of the Policy Committee on Transport held on the 30-10-1945 in New Delhi (vide pages 61-63 of the report of this Office for November 1945) and in agreement with the Governments of the maritime provinces, the Government of India has constituted a technical committee to be known as the Ports(Technical) Committee to report on the following matters:- (a) Whether a sheltered deep-water port on the east coast of India for the accommodation of ships of large size and tonnage at all seasons of the year is required, whether construction is feasible and if so where; also what measures are necessary for establishing it; (b) whether there is justification for the conversion of any minor ports on the coast of India to major ports, if so, whether such conversion is practicable; also whether there are any other projects for construction of major ports which ought to be considered; and (c) what steps are necessary to develop minor ports in order to meet probable demands of coastal shipping traffic. Sir Godfrey Armstrong War Transport Department, Government of India, has been appointed Chairman of the Committee and it has been asked to report within a period of four months.

(The Gazette of India dated 19-1-1946, Part I,
Section 1, page 86).

Session of Chamber of Princes: Clarification of Indian States' Attitude to Government of India's Industrial Policy.

The Chamber of Princes met at Delhi on 17-1-1946, for the first time since the resignation of the Standing Committee on 3-12-1944 (vide page 61 of the report of this Office for December 1944).

Viceroy's Inaugural Address - Appeal for Cooperation in Enforcement of Food Control and Post-war Planning.- In his inaugural address to the Chamber on 17-1-1946 Lord Wavell, the Viceroy, referred among other things to the economic problems facing India at present and gave the assurance that the interests of the States would receive the same attention and sympathy from the Government of India in the process of development as the provinces of British India. At the same time he was sure that the States would afford that same measure of cordial co-operation in controls and in planning as they had given in the past. He invited the attention of the Princes to two particular examples of the need for close co-operation—one short-term, one long-term. The short-term instance was that of food grains; for some time to come world allocations would continue to be made by the Combined Food Board in Washington, and India would have to justify her demand for a share in world surpluses by showing that she was making the best possible distribution of her own resources. In this the produce of British India and the States must be treated as one. The long-term instance was the management of India's water supplies, in which direction lay India's best way to progress. In many of the schemes now under consideration, for flood control, for irrigation, for navigation, for hydro-electric power, provinces of British India and States were closely concerned and it was essential that they should work in close co-operation, so that unified development could take place. Finally, referring to the need for the provision of expanding services in the social sphere such as education, medical relief and public health, the Viceroy emphasized the importance of gradually approximating the State's taxation policies and systems with those of British India.

States' Attitude to Government of India's Industrial Policy.- The attitude of the Indian States to the Government of India's industrial policy was explained in a review of the Chamber's activities presented to the Chamber of Princes on 18-1-1946 by the Nawab of Bhopal, the Chancellor of the Chamber. According to the review the States are prepared to co-operate to the fullest extent possible with the plan and the Government requiring all-India co-ordination. This must, however, be on the definite understanding that the States are adequately associated in the formulation and implementation of policies on matters affecting them; there is no discrimination against the States and their people; the States are assured due quota of whatever machinery may be available to India, taking into account the industrial backwardness of the States in general which entitles them to special treatment; no impediments are placed in the way of the legitimate development of the resources and industries and they are free to give legitimate encouragement to their nascent industries; that in view of the diversity of conditions in British India and the States, co-operation in this matter could not necessarily imply uniformity in regard to details of the plan.

Flow of Capital into Indian States.- Referring to the alleged migration of British Indian capital or industries into Indian States, the review says that the capital invested in the States is, out of the capital invested in industries in India, a very small proportion of what the States might claim on any equitable basis, such as population

or natural resources. Moreover, it is a well known fact that in the past the flow of capital has been manifestly from the States into British India. The review gives figures and says that out of the total issue of new capital, Rs. 1,620 million has been sanctioned for British Indian companies and only Rs. 220 million for companies in the States. A substantial portion of this Rs. 220 million must have been contributed by shareholders in the States. Against this Rs. 220 million, investments from the States in war loans alone exceed Rs. 500 million.

Parity of Taxation.- The review points out that the U.S.A. and Canada have not adopted the principle of parity of taxation and that there is wide divergence in their levels of industrial taxation. Nevertheless, the Princes, in a spirit of co-operation and goodwill, have expressed willingness to examine proposals which would enable Indian States gradually to approximate their industrial taxation to that of British India. The review urges, however, that the States may find it difficult in the interest of their people and their nascent industries to accept British Indian taxation policies without having a voice in the framing of these policies. British India itself has reached the present level by a process of gradual and slow increase in its taxation. The States may find it extremely difficult to accept a level which took British India 60 years to reach. On all these matters negotiations are proceeding in a very friendly atmosphere and that discussions so far held have revealed that there is no incompatibility between the interests of British India and the Indian States.

Bill of Rights for States Subjects.- During the course of the session, the ~~Government~~ ~~has~~ ~~made~~ ~~a~~ ~~declaration~~ on behalf of the Chamber of Princes, expressing the Princes' intention to set up forthwith in all States popular institutions with elected majorities to ensure close and effective association of the people with the governance of the States. Among the essential rights which, he proposed, should be guaranteed to the subjects of all States is one that there should be no Begar (forced labour).

(The Statesman, 18-1-1946;
The Hindustan Times, 19 and 21-1-1946)

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GENERAL.

Government of India censured for Assenting to Bretton Woods
Agreements without securing Assembly's Assent.

The Central Legislative Assembly passed on 29-1-1946 a motion by Mr. Manu Subedar condemning the Government of India's action in assenting to India's becoming a member of the International Monetary Fund and Bank under the Bretton Woods agreements, "in disregard of the assurances given to the House that such action would not be taken until full information was given to the country and the Assembly's assent secured".

(The Statesman, 30-1-1946).

Sir A.R. Dalal resigns from Executive Council;
Sir A. Hydari to take over Planning and Development
Portfolio.

It was announced on 10-1-1946, that Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, has, for personal reasons, tendered his resignation from the Viceroy's Executive Council. The resignation has been accepted by His Majesty the King, and the Governor General has asked Sir Akbar Hydari to take over the portfolio of Planning and Development from Sir Ardeshir Dalal and to hold it temporarily in addition to the portfolio of Information and Broadcasting which he holds at present.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-1-1946).

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List of the more important publications received in this office during January 1946.

Special Policy

Summary of Proceedings, sixth Meeting of the Standing Labour Committee (Held at New Delhi on the 17th March 1945). Government of India, Department of Labour. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1945. Price Re.1/= or 1s.6d.

Economic Conditions

"Jute substitutes" by K. C. Basak. Indian Central Jute Committee, Calcutta. 1945. Price Re.-/11/- or 1s.

Professional Workers, Salaried Employees and Public Servants

Interim Report of the salaried Committee. Ceylon: Sessional Paper XX-1945. Printed on the Order of Government, at the Ceylon Government Press, Colombo. 1945.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.

The All-India Manufacturers' Organisation. Sixth Annual Conference held at Madras. Address by the President, 28-12-1945. A.I.M.O., Industrial Assurance Building, Opposite Chhatrapati station, Fort, Bombay.
