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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Industrial and Labour Development in July, 1950.

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

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CHAPTER 1. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

INDIA - JULY 1950.

11. Political Situation and Administrative Action.

Annual Conference of Socialist Party, Madras, 8-12 July 1950: Programme for National Revival

The eighth annual conference of the Socialist Party was held at Madras from 8 to 12 July 1950. Besides about 400 delegates and over 800 member visitors from all over India, the conference was attended by five fraternal delegates from Burma. Mr. Asoka Mehta presided. Among other matters the conference adopted a programme for "national revival" and passed a resolution apposing the Trade Unions Bill and the Labour Relations Bill. A brief summary of the programme for national revival which deals with problems of poverty and unemployment, industrial production, village reconstruction, trade and education, etc., is given below.

Eradication of poverty: The programme states that about 90 per cent of the people in India were ^{very} intensely poor. The first step towards ending poverty was equitable distribution of wealth. Individual incomes ranged today, between 20 rupees to several thousands of rupees a month. The ratio of the highest and the lowest income should not be more than 1:20. The high allowances of the Princes must be stopped and their huge treasures must be taken over and applied to productive uses.

Land reform: On this question the programme points out that even after four years of Congress administration in the states no vital land reform had been made. It emphasises that land must belong to the tiller and all intermediaries must be abolished.

No peasant should have less than 12 1/2 acres and the maximum holding should be 30 acres. Ejectment from land and homesteads should stop, and pasture and other common lands should not be settled. Except for rehabilitation of small landlords, no compensation should be paid for the abolition of landlordism. It is pointed out that all this required legislation, but if vested interests delayed the law too long, the peasants would have to carry through these reforms themselves. That would not be anarchy, "but the smashing of the dams of stagnation."

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Village reconstruction: The programme urges that a new life, a wave of new activity, must surge through the 550,000 villages. The people should band together and devote one hour's collective labour each day to making of village roads, hunds and channels and compost and opening grain banks. The State should come forward with such assistance as may be necessary. At present the villages were being drained for the benefit of the towns, economically and culturally. This should stop and there must be a movement "back to the village."

Industrial production: As regards industrial production, the programme states that at present there was stagnation in production because of lack of capital, lack of enterprise and technical know-how, and the uncertain economic policies of the Government. At the same time, the State was inactive. While capital, machinery and technical personnel for large-scale industrialization were not adequately available in a backward economy, there was plentiful manpower. The harnessing of this manpower required not only the climate of egalitarianism and social justice but also industries for its absorption. The lack of adequate capital, which was at the root of the present industrial stagnation, could be removed only by stimulating saving at home and by importing foreign capital and technical know-how. Every effort should be made by the State to obtain foreign capital and technical know-how, on suitable terms. A vital part of industrial planning must be a provision for technical and vocational training. All investment, private, public and foreign, should be directed and planned. For this, banking and insurance must be nationalised. The basic industries, without the control of which industrial development could not be planned and executed, should also be nationalized. A new economic civil service should be raised and trained to carry out this planned economic development.

Trade: The programme points out, ^{that} in these days of permits and licences, the normal traders were being pushed out and nepotism and political jobbery were pushing forward new agents who were untrained and incompetent. The small trader also was being ground down and a few big traders were prospering. In the sphere of foreign trade, there should be State monopoly in such commodities as mica and manganese, which were of strategic economic importance. All other foreign trade should be under State control. The import-export policy should be a part of the larger national economic plan and should be an instrument of economic development.

Lower prices: According to the programme, increase in industrial and agricultural production, coupled with compulsory saving on a wide scale, deferred payments to the high salaried groups and control of consumption would go a long way to solve the problem of high prices.

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Unemployment: In the opinion of the Party the working of the economic programme, as outlined, could also solve the problem of unemployment, which was growing.

Education: Primary education should be free and compulsory. Secondary education should, as far as possible, be vocational and technical. University education should be restricted to those who intend to pursue higher studies and research.

Population: The present rapid growth of population, unless checked was likely to nullify economic development. Raising and enforcing the age of marriage and proper birth control clinics were necessary.

Freedom: Finally, the programme emphasises that fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution must be made real and all the restrictions placed upon them by the Constitution itself or legislation must be removed. Arrests and imprisonment without trial must be outlawed except in times of war or other national emergency.

Resolutions: Government Labour Bills condemned: The conference adopted a resolution describing the Trade Unions Bill and the Labour Relations Bill now before the Indian Parliament as "obnoxious" and called upon members and the working classes in the country "to raise an avalanche of opposition" in the event of the Bill being enacted. The Conference appealed to the members to co-operate with the Hind Mazdoor Sabha in its "direct action" to resist such legislation. According to the resolution, the two Bills "violate the fundamental trade union rights of workers and will not help to fulfil their basic human needs. They may in reality worsen the unemployment situation and intensify the economic crisis in the country, while the trade union movement itself may lose freedom and strength". One of the grounds for opposition given in the resolution is that "Government interference at practically every stage of the labour dispute, and particularly with the independence of the judiciary, is one of the most obnoxious features of the two Bills. "These Labour Bills will call for a revolt, from the entire working class in the country" it said, "in view of the freedom given to employers to retrench workers. These vital issues affecting the workers' right to work and to have protection against unemployment and the right to live, coupled with the freedom from hunger, will be outside the jurisdiction of the tribunal, being not covered by the definition of 'labour dispute'. "To deprive civil servants and Government employees of participation in political activities", the resolution said "militates against the fundamental human rights, which should be assured to all citizens in a free and democratic society".

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Nationalisation of key industries: By another resolution the Conference declared that the only solution to the continuing stalemate in the economic situation in the country is through the nationalization of the key sectors of India's economy and an overall plan balancing local initiative and resources with the needs of the economy as a whole. The resolution conceded that a part of India's difficulties was due to the dislocation caused by the war and partition and said that the main responsibility for the present state of affairs rested with the Government. It added that the Government have no consistent and coherent policy in economic matters, was shy of radical changes and had "appeased vested interests again and again". The policy of the Government had resulted in a piecemeal, half-hearted and haphazard system of controls which had helped only in giving a spurt to black marketing and corruption. It had also resulted in the boundary between public and private sectors shifting continuously. The terms on which the private sector should be allowed to function were not formulated and even what was laid down was not consistently enforced. Thus private enterprise did not know where they stood in this welter of confusion. The bolder and more resourceful among them had exploited this weakness to the full and had extorted many concessions from the Government to the detriment of the economy as a whole. These included relief in direct taxation, relaxation of controls and revision of the export-import policy. The others among them indulged in reckless spending, thus restricting capital formation and the result was that instead of development of industry there was only an orgy of speculation."

The resolution emphasised that the development of backward economy demanded an inspired campaign for investment as a mainspring of economic development, and a planned direction of consumption based on austerity, and the need for saving, especially in the sectors where there was conspicuous consumption and mis-spending. The plan of nationalisation should define in clear terms the sector of industry and trade to be reserved for public enterprise. This should include banking and insurance and all other basic industries. It should lay down the terms on which the private sector would be allowed to function. The ceilings on income should be fixed and the maximum rate of profit prescribed. Hoarding, black-marketing and corruptions should be severely punished. The private sector must accept Governmental direction and control on investment, production and trade. Once the sectors are thus defined and the terms are laid down they should be strictly followed and an undertaking should be given that due notice will be given of any major change in the principles on which the plan is based. Such a plan should also prepare estimates of available natural resources, technical personnel, manpower and capital resources, and should lay down priorities for production, prepare patterns of consumption and determine the amount of savings. Once prepared, the programme should be adhered to and enforced.

A greater portion of the productive system depended on local resources and manpower. The initiative for planning and control of this sector should be left to the local bodies enjoying the confidence of the local population. It should be the responsibility of those bodies to mobilize the manpower and resources in their localities and to fix targets of production. These plans should be integrated into a general plan of production in the whole economy. Consumption norms should be prepared in accordance with the economic realities of the country, and the urgent need for capital formation. Conspicuous consumption should be discouraged, austerity should be enforced, every one should be enthused to raise his productivity to the optimum and compulsory saving should be enforced on all those sections of the population that were in a position to save. All these plans should form an integral part of the overall plan embracing the entire economy of the country.

The conference stressed that the implementation of such a plan would go a long way in removing the sense of uncertainty now enveloping the economic life and opening a way for a co-ordinated co-operative effort for developing the economy and raising the standard of life of the people to the maximum possible extent in the minimum of time.

Civil liberties: By a resolution the conference viewed with concern "the violation of civil liberties in some districts of Madras State", where "various units of armed constabulary had been drafted into the villages and the citizens subjected to acts of violence, harassment and humiliation". It called upon the Madras Government to institute an impartial public inquiry into this "police terror".

By another resolution the conference condemned "the brutal oppression of peaceful efforts", made in various parts of the country "to bring light and hope to the oppressed village poor". The manner of their suppression was a challenge to the democratic conscience of the country. It was "cruel irony that people had to fight and face oppression even for enforcing the accepted programme of the party in power".

Improving village life: The conference by a resolution on the problem of India's peasantry, directed the members of the Party to turn their attention towards the villages. The resolution said: "The unnatural preoccupation with urban problems must be corrected by the Socialist Party. Under the slogan one hour to the country millions should be mobilized for the construction of a network of irrigation works, village roads and sanitation centres. Similarly, struggles against oppression and exploitation should be organised on as wide a scale as possible. The initiative must pass from the State to

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the ~~the~~ people. Only such a vast onward movement of the people towards reconstruction and struggle can bring light and hope to the villages". It emphasised that ^{to} sustain mass efforts of such a magnitude, the organisation must organise a kisan panchayat, and called upon every member to fulfil the threefold task of construction, struggle and organisation.

Office bearers: Mr. Narendra Dev was elected chairman of the Party and Mr. Asoka Mehta, General Secretary.

(The Statesman; 30-6-1950,
11, 12 and 13-7-1950)

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari joins Central Cabinet.

Reference was made at pages 1-2 of the report of this Office for May 1950 to the re-organisation of the Central Cabinet. On 15 July 1950, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, former Governor-General, assumed office as Cabinet Minister without portfolio.

(The Hindustan Times,
16-7-1950)

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Ceylon: Governor-General's address to
Parliament: Trade Disputes Machinery
to be improved.

Addressing the new session of the Ceylon Parliament, which opened on 19 June 1950, Lord Soulbury, Governor-General of Ceylon, described the general finances of the Government as very satisfactory. While great strides had been made in development programmes and other measures entailing heavy expenditure, the finances of the Government remained on a stable footing. He said that satisfactory arrangements had been made with the United Kingdom Government with regard to sterling releases and the conservation of exchange for the current year, and negotiations would shortly be entered into in regard to the future. The Defence Regulations, under which control over exchange was now exercised, would lapse at the end of this year. Approval would be sought for legislation to continue such control for some time to come. The control would be administered by the Central Bank of Ceylon, the establishment of which formed a landmark in the financial and economic development of the country. Proposals were being considered for the removal of the hardships resulting from the double taxation of income.

Food: As regards food supplies, Lord Soulbury stated that the dissolution last year of the International Emergency Food Committee of the Food and Agricultural Organisation cast upon Ceylon, for the first time since the war, the responsibility of finding her own supplies of rice from abroad. It was a matter for gratification that, despite the world scarcity of rice, the Government had been able to ensure adequate supplies for the current year by means of an agreement with Burma. The safeguarding of the future in respect of food supplies was engaging the attention of Government. By the restoration of a number of tanks, irrigation facilities would be provided for an increasing acreage both in the dry zone and in the wet zone. The work of land development under the major colonization schemes would be accelerated. In order to intensify the production of food crops to supplement the staple diet of rice, large scale dry-farming schemes, based on the results of successful experiments, had been started.

One of the principal obstacles to the improvement of agricultural practices in the past had been the insecurity of the tenure of paddy cultivators. Parliament would be asked to approve a Bill for providing greater security of tenure to tenant cultivators and for restricting the rent which may be recovered in respect of lands cultivated with paddy.

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In order to ensure increased supplies of other essential articles, and thereby to bring down the cost of living, the controls over the importation of a large class of goods had been relaxed. There had been no change in circumstances, however, to warrant the discontinuance of the controls over the distribution of basic goods which were in short supply. Rice, flour and sugar would therefore continue to be imported and distributed by Government.

Health and social services: The health and social services were receiving the active attention of Government. Provision had been made for the construction of a number of urgently needed water schemes. The report of the adviser on the re-organisation of the Medical and Sanitary Services had been given careful consideration. The legislative measures necessary to implement most of the major recommendations contained therein would be submitted for approval.

Housing: To meet the shortage of houses, a number of important schemes had been started and satisfactory progress had been made. Government, apart from making funds available for such schemes under the Housing Loans Act, would assist local authorities in carrying out as extensive a building programme as possible during the next financial year.

Labour: In the field of labour administration, a new sphere of activity had been inaugurated by the promulgation of the Factories Ordinance. A Bill to improve the existing machinery for the prevention and settlement of trade disputes would be presented to Parliament during this session. The problem of unemployment was receiving diligent attention. A census of unemployment had been taken and schemes for providing employment were being pursued.

Development: Lord Soulbury stated that in its development plans, the Government would make the fullest use of the rural development movement and the co-operative movement, both of which were growing in popularity. The agricultural production and sales societies would continue to be employed as the agents of Government in conveying various forms of benefit and assistance to the farmers throughout the country.

Industrial development were proceeding in accordance with the policy which had been previously defined. Steps were being taken for the establishment of a paper factory and a factory for the manufacture of processed products from poonac, copra and oil seed. Industrialisation had been handicapped by a lack of technical personnel and delays in the delivery of capital equipment, but steps were being taken to overcome these difficulties.

The Fisheries Department was being re-organised and strengthened with a view to the active development of ~~our~~ fishery resources, and the introduction of improved

methods of exploiting ^{Ceylon's} ~~and~~ on-shore fisheries.

attention would
be given to

Education: In the sphere of education, special education, teacher-training and the raising of the standard of primary and junior schools. A new faculty of engineering was being started at the university.

(The Times of Ceylon,
20-6-1950)

Trade Union Activities in Travancore Estates:
Tripartite Conference considers revision.

A tripartite conference of representatives of fifteen trade unions in the plantation industry in Travancore, the Association of Planters of Travancore and the Government was held at Kottayam on 20 July 1950, to consider among other things, the revision of the wage structure and recognition of trade unions in estates. Mr. N. Krishna Pillai, Labour Commissioner, presided.

trade unions entering
estate premises for

As regards the ~~functions~~ functioning of trade unions in estates, the workers' representatives complained that planters were refusing entry of trade union leaders into estate premises to organise labour. It was mutually agreed that the employers in the plantation industry would not put any obstacle in the way of trade union officials of registered organisational purposes. It was also mutually agreed that representatives of the unions, before holding meetings or demonstrations inside the premises of estates should keep the management informed about it; employers also undertook to receive representatives of registered trade unions and grant interviews to their officials.

The question of eliminating the Kangany system in the plantations by stages was also discussed. It was resolved that both the Union representatives and the employers' representatives ~~and the same~~ should further discuss this matter with their respective associations before coming to a final decision.

After discussing the question of enhancement of dearness allowance of workers in the rubber estates to the level of the dearness allowance of workers in the tea estates, the conference unanimously agreed that the principle of equal dearness allowance for both tea and rubber workers should be accepted. But, the rubber planters pleaded that with the present price of rubber, they would

not be able to increase the rate ~~at~~ present. They have, however, agreed to enhance it when their demand for revision of price of rubber was conceded by the Government.

The Association of Planters of Travancore represents estates covering an area of over 150,000 acres employing about 150,000 workers.

(The Hindu, 22-7-1950).

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CHAPTER 3. PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS

INDIA - JULY 1950.

31. Workers' Trade Union Movements.

Surveying Trade Unionism in Asia:
I.C.F.T.U. Delegation arrives in
Karachi.

An official delegation of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions arrived in Pakistan on 2 July 1950 on the first leg of their two-month tour of the Far-East to survey the position of trade unionism in Asia and to explore the possibilities of establishing regional organisations of the Confederation in the countries of this area. The itinerary of the mission includes India, Burma, Thailand, Indo-China, Malaya, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines and Ceylon.

The delegation was headed by Mr. F.W. Dalley of the British Trade Union Congress and includes Mr. Gordon Chapman (American Federation of Labour), Mr. John Brophy (America's Congress of Industrial Organisations), Mr. Roger Dekeyser (Belgian Federation of Labour) and Mr. Jay Krane of the I.C.F.T.U. headquarters staff, who is the Secretary of the delegation.

Outlining the purpose of the delegation's tour of the Far East, Mr. Dalley in an interview in Karachi on 3 July 1950, said that the itinerary had been organised with the object of surveying the position of trade unions in Asia, and to find out, in consultation with local organisations, the best means of overcoming the difficulties confronting the labour movement in those countries. The delegation was also expected to discuss plans for the establishment of regional organisations in this area.

A spokesman of the delegation said that the delegation would endeavour to investigate the economic situation of the Far Eastern countries to ascertain the type of international assistance required for speeding up the social and economic development of those countries and the contributions which the trade unions could make in ensuring its application in the interest of the peoples.

During their tour, the delegation is also expected to explore the possibilities of establishing institutes for the training of labour leader, trade union workers.

(The Hindustan Times,
4-7-1950)

Hind Mazdoor Sabha: Mr. Ruiker and
Mr. Mehta resign from office.

According to a Press Trust of India message, Mr. R.S. Ruiker has resigned from the presidentship of the Hind Mazdoor Sabha as the policies and programmes chalked out by the Sabha are such that his position as ^{secretary} general of the United Socialist Organisation and that of the All-India Forward Block makes it impossible for him to continue as president of the Sabha. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, to which the Sabha is affiliated, has supported the ^{U.N.} Anglo-American block on the Korean War whereas the United Socialist Organisation and the Forward Bloc are committed to complete neutrality.

Mr. Asoka Mehta, who has been elected General Secretary of the Socialist Party, has resigned his office as Secretary of the Hind Mazdoor Sabha. On 12 July 1950 while addressing a meeting of industrial workers in Madras, Mr. Mehta stated that he had resigned from the General Secretaryship of the Hind Mazdoor Sabha because the new office which he had accepted would not give him sufficient time to attend to the activities of the Sabha. He, however, assured the gathering that his interest in the Sabha would not diminish by any means. If allowed, he would continue to be a member of its Working Committee.

(The Hindustan Times,
16-7-1950;
The Hindu, 13-7-1950).

Meeting of Engineering Mazdoor Sabha,
Bombay, 27 June 1950: Demand for
reduced Working Hours.

A meeting of the Engineering ~~of the~~ Mazdoor Sabha was held at Bombay on 27 June 1950. The conference was inaugurated by Mr. N.M. Joshi; Mr. Asoka Mehta, General Secretary of the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, presided.

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The conference adopted a six-point charter, demanding among other things, fair wages, share in the control of industry and reduced working hours.

The demands contained in the charter were:

Fair wages: "Fair wages constitute the first charge on industry. The demand has now become too insistent and must be immediately complied with".

Social security: "The world over, huge strides have been made in the direction of social security. In India although a limited scheme of health insurance was promised, even that appears to have been shelved".

Housing: "The number of homeless daily grows. So long as this basic need of the workers remains unattended to, they can never give their full co-operation to the industry."

Technical education: "The worker can never give his best to industry, unless he is trained. It is the responsibility of the industry to give all facilities to unskilled workers for becoming skilled."

Share in control of industry: "If industrial organisation is to develop with the full co-operation of workers, there should be an increased association of workers in the management and control of industry."

Working hours: "The working hours should be reduced from 48 hours a week to 40".

The Conference also passed a resolution demanding immediate withdrawal of the two labour Bills -- the Trade Unions Bill and the Labour Relations Bill -- now before the Select Committee of Parliament. The Bills, the resolution said, would reduce the trade unions to a position of "abject slavery".

A resolution on unemployment said that there was a "growing volume of unemployment" in the engineering industry in common with other industries. "In the ship-building and ship-repairing section alone over 15,000 workers have been rendered idle in recent times." As an immediate measure to avert unemployment, it recommended to the Government, the undertaking of a planned programme of industrialisation, rationalisation of managements and reduction of weekly working hours from 48 to 40.

(The Hindu, 28-7-1950)

CHAPTER 4. ECONOMIC QUESTIONS.

INDIA - JULY 1950.

41. Industrial and Mining Production.

Plans to Increase Production: Industrialists' Conference with Supply Minister.

Prominent Indian industrialists, representing the iron and steel, textile, sugar and a few other major industries, held ~~at~~ a meeting at New Delhi on 26 and 27 July 1950, at the invitation of Mr. Hare Krishna Mahatab, Minister for Industry and Supply, to discuss "practical" measures for increased production. Sir Chintaman Deshmukh, Minister ~~for~~ Finance, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Minister for Labour; Mr. Gulzari Lal Nanda, Vice-President, Mr. V.T. Krishnamachari, Mr. G.L. Mehta, and Mr. R.K. Patil, members of the National Planning Commission also attended the meeting.

Mr. Mahatab, addressing the meeting, said that the immediate objective of these measures was to raise the production of these industries to their installed capacity. He emphasized the importance of the private sector of industries which, in his opinion, was the most vital in the country's economy under present circumstances. He appealed to industrialists to consider themselves "trustees of the nation", in discharging their responsibilities to the country. He hoped that the relationship between the Government and the "trustees of the nation" would be as intimate and disciplined as between the Government and the authorities for State industries.

Proposals mooted at the discussion included the appointment of a high-level body with the three-fold function of studying problems, suggesting possible solutions and implementing them. The idea was to enthuse industrialists with a sense of urgency and responsibility. Such machinery should consist mainly of industrialists commanding the confidence of the interests concerned.

Those participating in the discussions stressed the fact that planning should be realistic and, for that matter, based on a true appreciation of available resources. Some complained of lack of proper appreciation of this fundamental aspect of planning among the authors of ~~official~~ plans. Determination of priorities for development was the main issue now, they said. They were not in complete agreement on the degree of emphasis to be placed, in this connexion, on industries relating to the manufacture

of capital goods, consumers goods and articles imported from abroad. Shortage of capital for industrial development was mentioned. Expansion of credit facilities for the establishment of industries was one of the suggestions made to supplement the financial resources available to private industries at present.

Planning Commission to prepare housing scheme for industrial labour.- At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Mahatab said that the points raised would be usefully remembered by the National Planning Commission when finalizing its five-year plan for the development of industries in the private sector.

A direct result of the deliberations was expected to be the formulation, by the Planning Commission, of a separate housing scheme for industrial labour which formed an ~~important~~ important point in the Government's 1948 industrial policy resolution. The Commission was now engaged in assessing the resources that would be available from the Government, employers and workers for the purpose. The scheme which was likely to be ready in two weeks would be circulated to industrialists and labour representatives for their views.

(The Statesman, 27 and 28-7-1950).

42. Production and Export of Agricultural Products.

India - July, 1950.

Extra Food Production in 1949-1950: 95 per cent of Target achieved.

On 30 June 1950, at a Press conference at New Delhi, Mr. K.M. Munshi, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India, said that country's additional food production in 1949-50 would be short of the year's target by only 50,000 tons. The extra production during the year was estimated at 935,000 tons against the target of 985,000 tons, representing 95 per cent of the expected total. This compared favourably with the achievements in the two previous years when the increased production worked out, respectively, at 75 per cent and 87 per cent of the targets. Mr. Munshi expected an even higher percentage of achievement when final figures for all States were available for the full agricultural year which ended on June 30. The total additional production was likely to be increased to 962,000 tons or 98 per cent of the target.

Mr. R.K. Patil, till recently Commissioner for Food Production, Government of India, giving an objective picture of the Government's achievement, said he did not think that there was much inaccuracy in these figures which were based on statistics carefully collected by State Governments. He referred to the feeling of "quiet confidence" that had grown among all parties concerned with the grow more food campaign. He hoped that "given a good or even an average season" it would be possible for ~~mt~~ them to make India self-sufficient in food by the target date of 31 March 1952. As positive signs of improved production in 1949-50, he mentioned two facts. Almost all States, he said, had recorded increased procurement figures this year, reflecting in improvement in the total yield, ~~secondly~~, the prices of foodgrains had fallen, compared to previous years, in several States, including Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal where the reduction averaged about 2 rupees a maund. Mr. Patil said that 70 per cent of the increased yield in 1949-50 resulted from land reclamation and irrigation, which would continue to further the grow more food campaign. He emphasized the importance of minor irrigation projects in view of the Government's limited financial resources and said that agriculturists had responded to this programme with unexpected enthusiasm.

(The Statesman, 1-7-1950).

Evolution of an integrated Forest Policy:
Central Board set up.

With a view to ensure an integrated all-India forest policy, and in pursuance of the recommendation of the Conference of Agricultural Ministers of States held during September 1948 (vide pages 22-24 of the report of this Office for September 1948), the Government of India has set up a Central Board of Forestry, consisting of 25 members with the Central Minister for Agriculture as chairman, and the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture as Secretary. Besides acting as a common pool of experience gained throughout the Union, the Board would serve to secure close co-ordination in forestry matters and more specially in integrated landuse, and help in maintaining adequate standards in forestry education. In addition, it would stand in good stead in forging a common bond between the various Forest Departments of the Union.

The functions of the Board would be: (1) co-ordination and integration of forest policy pursued by States in the management of their forests; (2) adoption of conservation measures affecting forest resources and soil; (3) integration of plans by land-use and national reconstruction in which forestry has come to play a progressively important role; (4) promotion of legislation considered necessary for various States for the management of private forests; (5) regulation and development of forests in inter-State river valleys, which are the concern of the Central Government; (6) maintenance of adequate standards of the training of officers; (7) co-ordination of forest research conducted in Central and State institutes; and (8) any other matters affecting forestry, which are germane and relevant to the objective of this Board.

(The Gazette of India, Part I-Section 1,
dated 24 June 1950, pp. 201-202).

Agricultural Development of the Malwa Region:
Committees set up by Government of India .

By a resolution dated 15 June 1950, the Government of India has set up a Committee for the purpose of intensifying the agricultural development of the Malwa region, comprising portions of Madhya Bharat, Rajasthan, Bhopal and Vindhya Pradesh. This region has been ~~historically~~ historically famous as the granary of Central India; however, for various reasons its development had been tardy in recent years. It is now proposed to constitute a committee to intensify the agricultural development of this region with a view to restoring it to its old position as a granary for large part of the country.

There will be two types of committees to undertake this work of intensive cultivation for the entire Malwa region. One will be a supervisory body at the Centre and other a Regional Committee. The Central Minister for Agriculture and Food as Chairman and Mr. M.C. Roy, Ministry of Agriculture, as Secretary and including the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan, Madhya Bharat, Bhopal and Madhya Pradesh. A Regional Committee will be formed for each of the respective administrative units comprised in the region. It will consist of an officer of the Government concerned, the Regional Agricultural Production Commissioner of the Government of India for the region or his deputy and one local non-official to be nominated by the concerned Government.

Committee consists
of 17 members
with the Central

Functions.- The function of the Central Committee would be to lay down the overall policy and to generally coordinate the plans and supervise the attainment of the programme. The function of the Regional Committee would be to actually take up the necessary items of work and carry them out with the help of the local officials and non-officials. The ~~the~~ Grow More Food funds earmarked for each region would be placed at the disposal of the committee concerned.

(The Gazette of India, Part I-Section 1,
dated 24 June 1950, page 201).

Uneconomic Working of Cachar Tea Gardens:
Enquiry Committee set up.

In pursuance of discussions held between Government, representatives of employers and workers of tea industry, the Central Government has set up the Cachar Plantation Enquiry Committee, to enquire into the cost structure and working of tea gardens in Cachar. The committee consists of 6 members with Mr. S.K. Sinha, chairman, Central Tea Board as chairman and includes two representatives each of employers and workers.

The terms of reference of the committee are:
(i) to enquire into the cost structure and financial conditions of the tea gardens in the Cachar district of Assam; (ii) to enquire into the cost of the present uneconomic working of certain gardens; (iii) to make recommendations regarding the measures required to place uneconomic gardens on a sound basis; and (iv) to report in particular (a) whether the concessional supply of foodgrains to labour should be discontinued in any estate and if so, in what circumstances and to what extent, and (b) what arrangements should be made for the supply of food grains to workers in these estates.

(The Gazette of India, Part I-Section 1,
dated 8 July 1950, page 218)

43. Foreign Trade and Exchanges.

India - July 1950.

Fiscal Commission's Report published: *
Statutory Footing for Tariff Board suggested.

The Fiscal Commission appointed by the Government of India to review the policy regarding protection of industries (vide page 27 of the report of this Office for April 1949) has, in a report recommended, among other things, continuance, under revised principles, of the present policy of protection to indigenous industries, reconstruction of the Tariff Board on a statutory and permanent footing with enlarged functions, stricter enforcement of the obligations of protected industries, and early initiation of Indo-British talks for a revision of the Trade Agreement of 1939.

The Commission has suggested ratification by the Indian Government of the Havana Charter, provided the United States of America and the United Kingdom do so. It is unanimous in its support for the continuance of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and the tariff concessions agreed to at Geneva and Ancey, "in spite of their limited value to India". The Commission's other recommendations include the setting up of a bureau of consultants and of consumers' councils for effective management of Government enterprises, establishment of an Indian Economic Service, development of banking facilities especially to assist small industries, and determination of priorities of industrial development.

The Commission after a comprehensive and integrated study of the country's economy, industrial and otherwise, has concluded that no objective of economic policy will lead to lasting and fruitful results unless the problem of rural employment, involving 90 per cent of the working population, is tackled satisfactorily. This according to the Commission, is the basic problem on which depends India's industrial prosperity and the question of raising the people's standard of living. Therefore,

* Report of the Fiscal Commission, 1949-50, Vol I, Manager of Publications, Delhi, pp. 483.

it emphasizes that the Government's fiscal policies must be related to the ultimate object of solving the problem. In conformity with the conclusion the Commission has mentioned, as the first fundamental objective of India's economic policy, avoidance of unemployment or under-employment through the achievement and maintenance of useful employment opportunities and of a large and steadily growing volume of production and effective demand for goods and services. The Commission has suggested a two-fold programme to solve the problem of unemployment in agriculture. It envisages rationalization of agriculture which means maximization of production in terms of yield per acre, and drawing away the surplus forces from land into industries or occupations subsidiary to agriculture. This is considered an essential process in the industrialization of the country.

each State to carry out with this

Pattern of industrial development.- Discussing the place of cottage and small-scale industries in the national economy, the Commission has stressed the need for State initiative and assistance in the promotion of these industries. It has recommended ~~efficiency~~ the appointment of a statutory corporation in/aid of the State Government concerned, the measures to stimulate the growth of cottage and small-scale industries.

In the Commission's opinion, the pattern of industrialization in India should follow the lines of development in countries of East Continental Europe, and in China and Japan. It has suggested an order of priority for the development of public and private industries. It refers to the weakness of the present administrative machinery as one of the impediments to the efficient execution of the State policies and suggests the creation of a special administrative machinery for planning.

Protection of industries.- Dealing with protection, the Commission says that to avoid unequal distribution of burden and unco-ordinated growth of industries, protection of industries should be ~~related~~ related to an overall planning of economic development. Pending the formulation of such a plan, protection should continue to be given. Explaining the principles of protection, the report says that defence and other strategic industries should be protected on national considerations, whatever the cost. Regarding basic and key industries the tariff board should ~~decide~~ decide the form of protection and the quantum thereof. The criteria to be applied for granting protection to other industries should include the consideration of their capacity to develop sufficiently, within a reasonable time, to be able to carry on successfully without protection or assistance. Local availability of raw material should not be a condition for the grant of protection if the industry possesses other

economic advantages. The Commission considers it legitimate to take into account a potential export market ~~in order to determine~~ in order to determine the comparative advantages of an industry vis-a-vis its rivals, Industries using the products of the protected industry may require compensatory protection.

The Commission recommends that if national interests so require agricultural products may be protected, but in granting such protection it should be stipulated, among other things, that the number of commodities should be as few as possible and that the protection should be on an interim basis, covering not more than five ~~year~~ years at a time.

The Commission thinks that generally the levy of excises on a protected article is inadvisable and it should be resorted to only where it is ~~and~~ needed for budgetary purposes and no alternative sources equally suitable are available. It considers it legitimate that the Central Government should fix the prices of raw materials of protected industries by Central legislation whenever such a step becomes necessary. A development fund should be created by setting apart every year a portion of the revenue collections from protective tariff. This fund may be utilized in subsidizing industries if necessary. The setting up of a strong "after-care" organization to provide facilities necessary for rapid development of protected industries has also been suggested.

In the opinion of the Commission, for purposes of protection to domestic industries, in normal cases, quantitative restrictions should be used sparingly. It has laid down conditions under which subsidies should be preferable to tariff protection. It considers that pooling should be applicable only to commodities of a highly standardized nature.

The Commission says that the Tariff Board should lay down uniform and standardized rules for the determination of the production cost of a commodity. As a general principle, industries should be assured of protection for a reasonably long period so that capital may be attracted and a suitable programme of improvements may be drawn up and implemented. The Commission considers unjustifiable restrictions, etc., under the Sea Customs Act for purposes of protection not only from the point of view of international relations but also because their use conceals the true character and burden of protection to the community. The report emphasizes the obligations of protected industries and recommends strict enforcement of these obligations which relate to prices, production, quality of goods, provision of research facilities, prohibition of anti-social combinations and maximum utilization of domestic resources. To enable

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the future tariff-fixing authority to discharge the enlarged functions envisaged in the report, the Commission suggests the raising of its status and efficiency by placing it on a statutory footing and by providing it with a permanent and adequately staffed organization. It recommends that the Tariff Board should be known as the Tariff Commission.

Trade with United Kingdom.- The Commission holds the view that the Indo-British Trade Agreement of 1939 should be brought into line with the changed pattern of Indo-British trade after World War II. It has advised the Government to start early ~~advice~~ negotiations with the British Government for a revision of the Agreement. The continuance of otherwise of preferences should be decided exclusively on economic considerations and on a basis of mutual interest.

The Commission favours ratification of the Havana Charter provided the United States of America the United Kingdom and other industrially advanced countries do so. It is unanimous in its approval of the continuance of the tariff concessions agreed to at Geneva and Annecy in spite of their limited value so far as India is concerned.

Fiscal policy.- The Commission emphasises that Fiscal policy should be integrally related to the country's commercial policy on the one hand and to its industrial on the other, so that it may promote the fullest utilization of India's resources without imposing any unjustifiable burden on the consumer.

For effective promotion of the country's fiscal policy, the Commission feels the need for high-level co-ordination of Government's economic activities and suggests the constitution of a Board of Trade and Industry for closer ~~the Government~~ administrative integration between the Commerce and Industry Ministries.

The report discusses in detail also such non-fiscal matters as capital resources, industrial management, labour efficiency in relation to economic development and tertiary services with a bearing on economic development. Important suggestions made in this connection include the creation of an Indian Economic Service and the administration of business undertakings in the public sector. The report also contains a review of the economic changes that have taken place since the submission of the report of the last Fiscal Commission in 1923. The review reveals that so far as pre-war tariff policy is concerned the policy of discriminating protection, within its limited scope, has achieved a fairly large measure of success and that on balance the direct and indirect advantages to the community resulting from the protection granted to the major industries receiving it have offset the burden on consumers.

(The Statesman, 14-7-1950).

Trade between India and Switzerland:
New Agreement ratified.

A Government of India Press Note says that the Indo-Swiss Trade Agreement for 1949-50 expired on 28 February 1950. A fresh trade agreement has been ratified by the Governments of India and Switzerland. The agreement comes into force with retrospective effect from 1 March 1950 and will remain valid up to 28 February 1951.

Under the agreement imports from Switzerland will consist of railway coaches, equipment for a machine tool factory, heavy electrical equipment and other capital goods; electrical and medical apparatus, textiles, watches and clocks, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, aluminium and aluminium products for industrial purposes and certain miscellaneous articles such as kerosene lamps, synthetic stones, etc., valued altogether at about 106 million rupees.

Exports to Switzerland will consist of groundnuts, ~~oil~~ groundnut oil, linseed, hessins, coffee, manganese ore valued at about 30.4 million rupees, and certain other items, namely, jute manufacture, tea, hides and skin, carpets, shellac, spices, essential oils, rubber goods, jewellery, tobacco, soap, vegetable cooking medium, handicrafts, jute and coir matting, etc.

(The Statesman, 5-7-1950)

Working of Import Trade Control:
Enquiry Committee appointed.

The Government of India has set up a committee consisting of three members with Mr. G.L. Mehta, Member of the Planning Commission, as chairman and Mr. D.L. Mazumdar as Secretary, to review the import control policy in general and of the working of the Import Control Organisation in particular and to devise measures to place the Organisation on a sound basis.

The terms of reference of the Committee are: (a) to enquire into the working of import control with reference to the procedure followed in the fixation of import quotas for individual commodities, the procedure and methods followed in dealing with applications for import licences, the organisation of the existing machinery for import control, and any other matter incidental to the working of the import control organisation; and (b) to make recommendations on these subjects with a view to improving the efficiency of the Import Control Organisation in such a way that applications for licences may be promptly dealt with and disposed of and the complaints against its present working may be removed.

The Committee has been requested to submit its report before 15 September 1950.

(The Gazette of India, Extraordinary,
Part I-Section 1, dated 3 July 1950,
pages 461-462).

44. Prices and Cost of Living.

India - July 1950.

Petrol derationed in Port Cities.

A Press Note issued by the Government of India on 25 June 1950, said that in view of the improvement in the petrol supply position, the Government of India has decided to abolish petrol rationing with effect from 1 July 1950, at certain centres and to liberalize petrol supplies elsewhere. Rationing will be discontinued in the port cities of Bombay, Madras and Calcutta and their immediate vicinities and the towns of Cochin and Ernakulam. Rationing will also be lifted in the States of Assam and Manipur where the demand can be met from local production.

The announcement added that the scale of basic ration for private cars and motor cycles in the rest of India will be increased by 50 per cent.

(The Statesman, 24-6-1950;
The Gazette of India, Extraordinary,
dated 24-6-1950, pages ~~111~~ 111-112).

All Controls on Paper lifted.

A Government of India Press Note dated 23 June 1950, says that the question of progressive decontrol of paper has for some time past been receiving the consideration of the Government. The control on newsprint was removed on 14 June ~~1950~~ 1949. The control on the production of paper and that on the prices of imported paper were withdrawn on 1 May 1950. Owing to an increase in the production of paper in India and larger imports from abroad, the supply position of paper has considerably improved. The Government of India has, therefore, decided to remove with effect from 24 June 1950, all the remaining controls on paper.

(The Statesman, 24-6-1950;
The Gazette of India, Extraordinary,
dated 24-6-1950, page 109).

Ceylon: High Indebtedness among Government Employees: Committee recommends Relief Measures.

A Committee, appointed by the Government of Ceylon to enquire into the indebtedness of Government employees, has, inter alia recommended the early establishment of a Department of Debt Redemption and the introduction of a Health Insurance Scheme. The Committee found that of a total of 154,900 Government employees, 17,186 were known to be in debt, to the extent of 15,000,000 rupees. The average debt per man was 900 rupees. Of these debts 4,123 pledges to pawn-brokers totalling 837,709 rupees represented the pawning of approximately 2,500,000 rupees worth of jewellery; 3,931,051 rupees had been borrowed from professional moneylenders, with an average debt of 550 rupees per man. Borrowings from friends and relations, described as "debts of honour", amounted to 5,092,403 rupees. Referring to indebtedness to pawn brokers, the report says that although the law limits the rate of interest chargeable to 1 per cent a month or 12 per cent a year for loans up to 20 rupees, and 9.6 per cent a year for loans of 20 rupees or over, the invariable practice of pawn brokers is to charge rates ranging from 24 to 48 per cent a year - or even higher. On money-lenders who lend on promissory notes and "I.O.US", the report states that exorbitant rates of interest ranging from 120 per cent to about 300 per cent a year are charged. According to the Committee the causes of indebtedness were inflation and increase in cost of living, illness, rise in house rents, social customs (weddings and funerals), frequent transfers, purchase of cars, membership of too many Associations, frequent changes of school text books, excessive rates of interest, drinking and gambling, and extravagant living.

Recommendations.- The Committee in its report says that the existing Debt Redemption Schemes are not adequate or suitable for undertaking the redemption of the large volume of indebtedness and suggests that the Government itself ~~should~~ undertake this task. For this purpose it recommends the early establishment of a separate sub-department under the Ministry of Finance for the redemption of the existing debts of Government employees as well as for the provision of easy credit facilities. This department, should be financed on the Advance Account system, its office expenses and possible bad debts being met from its revenue, mainly interest recovered from recipients of relief. Its accounts should be subject to a continuous audit audited by the Auditor-General. The Committee estimates that the cost of establishing the department would be about 180,000 rupees.

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The functions of the department would be to undertake the redemption of all existing debts of Government employees who apply for assistance, and grant loans to them for meeting unforeseeable contingencies only, such as illnesses and deaths.

The Committee recommends ~~that~~ the early introduction of a health insurance ~~scheme~~ scheme and suggests that the various medical facilities and concessions to which Government employees are entitled at present should be actually made available to them. Also that the income limit for free treatment in the Colombo Municipal Dispensaries should be raised from 75 to 300 rupees a month and wide publicity given to such revision.

The Committee considers it necessary to establish an agency to carry on pawnbroking business in order to bring down the excessive rates of interest charged by pawn-brokers in violation of the Pawn Brokers Ordinance. It recommends that the Ceylon Savings Bank should undertake Pawn-Broking Business, ~~which~~ "which it can do with profit both to itself and the public."

The Committee says that practically all Government employees examined by it admitted that their monthly salary was completely exhausted within seven to ten days. They were therefore compelled to live on credit for the rest of the month. The most satisfactory solution, according to the Committee is the introduction of a system of weekly salaries, but as this does not appear to be practicable at present, the Committee suggests that in regard to all Government officers a system of weekly advances should be introduced whereby 20 per cent of the substantive salary is paid on the first Wednesday of each month, provided it does not fall earlier than the fourth, and two further advances of 20 per cent each on the two succeeding Wednesdays, leaving the balance 40 per cent to be paid on the regular monthly pay day at the end of the month. The balance salary of 40 per cent together with rent and cost-of-living and other allowances payable at the end of the month should be sufficient to meet all abatements on the pay sheet as well as rent, school fees and other monthly payments. The Committee also recommends that all deductions from the "pay-envelope" should be prohibited. "The introduction of the system of weekly advances is only provisional till such time as necessary legislative and other changes are effected to enable the introduction of a system of weekly salary.

Other recommendations of the Committee are:
(1) the early introduction of scheme to pay an enhanced cost-of-living allowance to government servants drawing salaries between 100 rupees and 250 rupees per month; (2) that the transfer of public officers from one station to another be reduced to a minimum and as far as possible, be made at the end of a calendar year; (3) the extension of the period of recovery of some "car" loans to five years and "bicycle" loans to 2 1/2 years; and (4) the amendment of the Housing Loans Act to enable a government servant or, for that matter, any person, to obtain a loan for the building of one or more houses.

(The Times of Ceylon, 23-6-1950).

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45. Economic Development and Control.

India - July 1950.

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Five-Year Development Plan being formulated:
Review of Work done by Planning Commission.

According to a review of the work of the Planning Commission in the first three months of its existence, preliminary work in connection with the drawing up of a development plan for five years in two stages, the first of two years beginning with 1951-52 and the second of three years, has nearly completed. The Commission has been engaged in making an appraisal of the existing economic situation in the country, in studying problems relating to controls and in reviewing development programmes of the Central Government and the States with a view to determining priorities in the public sector.

The Commission's work is now organized through six divisions, namely (1) Resources and Economic Survey; (2) Finance; (3) Food and Agriculture; (4) Industry, Trade and Communications; (5) Development of Natural Resources, and (6) Employment and Social Services. It has already established a procedure for consultation and for co-ordination of its work with the various Ministries of the Government of India. In the States, at the ~~various~~ suggestion of the Commission, suitable machinery at Secretariat level for planning has been set up. This consists of an inter-departmental committee of Secretaries. One of the Secretaries has been appointed as Secretary for Planning and acts as Chairman. In most States, the committee works under the direction of the Chief Minister. Members of the Commission work as a body but, for convenience, each member has special charge of a division and directs the study of various problems. Each division, thus, has a programme of work before it and the programmes of the different divisions have been drawn up so as to fit in with one another.

Economic Division.- The Economic Division of the Commission, which works in close co-operation with the Reserve Bank of India and the Ministry of Finance, has examined the basic economic situation in the country with special reference to the extent to which latent inflation now exists and its bearing on price policy. The technique and experience of planning in other countries are being studied and

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steps in the preparation of a plan suited to Indian conditions are being worked out. The Economic Division is at present engaged in preparing an estimate of the internal resources available, and in ~~examining~~ examining the extent to which it might be possible to augment them, the methods of financing planned development and the related problem of capital formation. The Commission works in close association with the Central Statistical Organization and measures for filling the gaps in the existing statistical information are being worked out.

The review adds that an intensive study is being made of various aspects of the problem to increase agricultural production and rural development generally. Realizing the importance of an efficient machinery for implementation of plans in this field, the Commission has invited the views of States' Governments on the subjects. It has also undertaken a study of how cottage industries can be developed to relieve under-employment in rural areas. In the field of industry, studies of individual industries are in progress. The object of these studies is to ascertain the extent to which actual production falls short of installed capacity, the reasons for the gaps which may exist, the steps which may be taken to ensure higher production and the basis on which programmes of development may be drawn up for different industries. A study of governmental projects in the industrial sphere, is also in hand.

The Natural Resources Development Division is concerned with power and irrigation projects, coal and minerals, oil, electricity, scientific and technical man-power and scientific research. The phasing of major projects under construction and the measures to be taken for the utilization of power resulting from the river valley projects are now being studied.

Development schemes.- In the Employment and Social Services Division, which covers subjects such as labour, health, education, rehabilitation and public co-operation, special attention is being given to the investigation of industrial housing, social education and problems relating to labour productivity. The Commission is examining rehabilitation problems in relation to development programmes.

States Governments have sent to the Planning Commission detailed reviews of their development schemes and the material is being analysed. The Ministries in the Central Government are also engaged in drawing up an up-to-date picture of their development schemes. After completing the study of development programme and the resources available for development by the Central and the States Governments, the

Commission will examine priorities in the public sector with a view to making recommendations to the Government. A similar scheme of priorities for the private sector will also be prepared.

and non-officially
with special

The Commission has established suitable consultative machinery. The Planning Commission Advisory Board consists in the main of representatives of organizations in the field of industry, commerce and labour, and others in the socio-economic and technological fields. Advisory panels are also being constituted. They will consist of officials of experience and knowledge, who will be requested from time to time to join sections of the Board concerned with particular subjects or problems.

Function of Commission.- The function of the Commission, the review emphasizes, is to make recommendations to the Cabinet and the responsibility for taking and implementing decisions rests with the Central and the States Governments. In considering each subject, the Commission acts in closest consultation with the Ministries of the Central Government and has received the fullest co-operation from them as well as from States Governments. In setting up the Commission, the Government recognized that its work would affect decisively the future welfare of the people in every sphere of national life and that its success would depend on the extent to which it enlisted the association and co-operation of the people at all levels. In pursuance of this, the Commission agreed in principle to a proposal of the Deputy Chairman, which is now being worked out in detail, that there was need for a nation-wide non-official organization of a strictly non-political character, consisting of persons willing to volunteer their services, on a wholetime or a part-time basis, for constructive work in connection with the social and economic development of the country. The review points out that in India, even more than in other countries, the resources at the disposal of the Government are by no means adequate for all the urgent tasks of national development. There exists a vast amount of untapped knowledge, experience, skill, energy and other resources which can be utilized to promote nation-building activity. An organization which provides concrete means to every person to do this share of public service and thereby to contribute to the collective effort of the entire community can, therefore, assist materially in the development of the country's resources and the solution of pressing problems like resettlement of displaced persons, unemployment and under-employment, and self-sufficiency in food and essential raw materials.

Metric System of Weights and Measures:
Indian Standards Institution recommends
adoption.

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A special Committee of the Indian Standards Institution in a report has recommended that the metric system be adopted as the standard system of weights and measures in India. In the opinion of the Institution the step is necessary to end the confusing diversity of prevailing weights and measures. It would also put an end to the colossal loss in time and energy that the diversity causes.

In view of the impending programme for the establishment of Centrally controlled industrial and technical establishments, the Committee has urged that as early as practicable, the metric system be introduced in all the agencies under the control of the Government of India, such as railways, the postal service, the Defence Services and other scientific, technical and industrial establishments.

The Committee has pointed out that it would be an advantage if the adoption of decimalized currency precedes the introduction of the metric system. It, has therefore, recommended that the decision of the interim Government of India in 1947 for the adoption of decimalized currency be implemented as early as possible.

As regards the adoption of the metric system in the public life of the country, the Committee has suggested that the change-over to the metric system be made in three distinct stages: (a) the preparatory stage of three to five years when intensive education on the metric system should be carried out; (b) the change-over stage of about five years when changes should be effected in the agencies under the control of the Central and State Administrations; and (c) the final stage of three to five years when the country should be brought over entirely to the metric system. After this no other system would be regarded as legal.

With these objectives in view the Committee has recommended that as soon as possible the Centre should initiate legislation on the subject of weights and measures.

(The Statesman, 14-7-1950)

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Assam: State Board of Transport set up.

The Government of Assam has set up a State Board of Transport, consisting of 11 members with the Minister in charge of transport as chairman and the Secretary of the Transport Department as Secretary, for advising it on transport co-ordination and development.

The terms of reference of the Board are: (1) to ensure the maximum co-ordination of all forms of transport and the elimination of wasteful competition; (2) to co-ordinate the planning and execution of transport development; (3) to watch and stimulate progress in the execution of plans, compile statistics relating to them and suggest adjustments and modifications where necessary; and (4) to consider the transport problems that may arise from time to time.

(The Assam Gazette, Part II-A,
dated 21 June 1950, page 1151).

X U.P. Government sets up Planning Commission:
Development Bodies dissolved.

The Uttar Pradesh Government has dissolved the provincial Development Board and the district development associations set up in 1947. These bodies have been replaced by a State Planning Commission at the headquarters of the Government consisting of a State Planning Board and a State Planning Committee and district planning committees at the district headquarters. This decision has been taken in order to enable the State Government to undertake the preparation of a long-term plan for the state in consonance with the all-India policy and as an integral part of the all-India plan.

State Planning Board.— The Planning Board will consist of: The Chief Minister, (Chairman), ten non-official representatives nominated by the Government, one from each revenue division, ten economists from amongst the professors of universities, experts, and other non-officials interested in development, nominated by the Government, and members of the State Planning Committee. The secretary to the State Government in the Planning Department will be secretary to the Board. The Board will be the chief consultative body to advise the Government on the broader questions

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of planning, such as the lines on which the long-term plan for the state to be drawn up, its content, the phases in which it should be executed and the role which non-official agencies can play in the execution of its different programmes.

State Planning Committee.- The State Planning Committee will consist of the Chief Secretary as chairman, the secretaries to the Government (including secretaries other than those of development departments) as members and the secretary of the Planning Department as member-secretary. This Committee will prepare and check material for the drawing up of a composite plan for the State and lay it before the Board and the Government for consideration. The departmental plans, including the plans received from district planning committees, will be examined and submitted by the respective heads of departments to the appropriate secretaries. After a preliminary scrutiny by the departments concerned, the plans will be considered by the Planning Committee which will ensure that they meet the declared objectives and have been drawn up in conformity with the accepted policy and in accordance with the instructions of the Central and State Governments and of the Board. The Committee will keep in view the financial and other resources of the Government and the essential demands on these resources for the maintenance and efficient working of non-development department. The Committee will suggest priorities for the various phases of the plan where this is necessary, and the agency to be entrusted with the execution of each programme of the plan. The Committee will also be required to obtain and submit, periodically for the consideration of the board and of the Government, progress reports in the achievement of the targets fixed, and its suggestions for alterations in the programme in the light of changing circumstances or experience.

The Planning Committee may constitute such sub-committees as it may consider necessary for the discharge of its functions and, in particular, for assessing the existing resources of (1) materials, (2) power, (3) finances, and (4) man-power, and for allocating them to the various programmes of the sanctioned plan.

District Committees.- At the headquarters of each district there will be constituted a district planning committee as follows: The district ~~magistrate~~ magistrate (ex-officio chairman), a non-official to be elected as vice-chairman by the members from amongst themselves, the president of the district board or his nominee, one representative from each tehsil of the district selected from among the presidents of the goan sabhas of the tehsil in such manner as may be directed by the Government, five representatives of co-operative societies in the district selected by the Government, or their ~~members~~ nominees,

such chairman of the municipal boards and/or notified areas (not more than three) as may be nominated by the Government, ~~on their nominees~~ on their nominees, ^{Not} not more than three persons, including representatives of industry and labour, to be nominated by the Government, where necessary, ^{and} the district representatives of Government departments and a whole-time paid official secretary appointed by the Government.

The functions of the committee will be to prepare development plans for the district, keeping also in view the problems relating to urban development, the projects for which will be an integral part of the overall plan. In drawing up local plans of development, the committee will take into consideration local resources and the readiness of the local people to contribute by way of labour, other services and money. The committee will be guided by instructions from the Government and where possible, a rough pattern will be provided on the basis of which local plans should be prepared. The committee may appoint small sub-committees for different aspects of planning, for example, agriculture, animal husbandry, cottage industries, education, public health, urban development and may co-opt suitable experts to such sub-committee.

A resolution issued by the State Government says that in view of the setting-up of Planning Commission at the Centre and ~~in~~ in the light of the experience gained since the provincial Development Board and the district development associations were formed in 1947, it has now become necessary to recast the present set-up for planning and development in Uttar Pradesh. The Planning Commission is concerned with the preparation of an all-India plan, the assessment and effective utilization of national resources and the determination of priorities for the different stages of the plan. At the level of the State, the reconstituted machinery, will enable the State Government to undertake the preparation of a long-term plan for Uttar Pradesh in consonance with the all-India policy and as an integral part of the all-India plan.

46. Wages.

India - July 1950.

Fixation of Minimum Wages in Agriculture by
March 1951: Central Advisory Board's Recommendation.

A meeting of the Central Advisory Board, appointed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, was held at New Delhi on 21 and 22 July 1950. Mr. V.K.R. Menon, Secretary, Ministry of Labour presided. The Board is a tripartite organization consisting of 45 members, including representatives of employers, employees and of the Central and State Governments. Under the Minimum Wages Act the minimum wages had to be fixed by 15 March 1950. Only two States have done this so far. The Government of India passed an ordinance extending the date by which minimum wages had to be fixed by one year - until 15 March 1951.

The Board discussed the following items: (1) Provision regarding hours of work, overtime rates, etc., in establishments coming under the Minimum Wages Act and other enactments; (2) consideration of the model draft rules framed by the Central Government under Section 30 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; (3) special problems in fixing minimum wages in agriculture; (4) irregular supply of paddy to rice mills by State authorities and the consequent enforced idleness and their effects on minimum wage fixation in rice mills; (5) laying down certain agreed policy for implementing the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, within the prescribed time-limit; and (6) principles of minimum wage fixation.

Mr. Menon, in his opening address, said that the date now fixed for determining minimum wages in employment's covered by the Act should be adhered to by all the States. He thought the criticism occasionally heard that the Government of India had acted hastily in passing this legislation was ill-informed. He said that in a vital matter of this character it would be impossible to achieve any results unless some bold measures were taken. He felt that now that the date had been postponed by one year there would be no difficulty in the Central and State Governments being able to fix minimum wages in the scheduled employments by the target date.

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Mr. Menon, said that the function of the Board was to advise the Central and State Governments in the matter of fixation and revision of minimum rates of wages and other matters covered by the Act and for co-ordinating the work of the advisory boards set up by the State Governments. Certain preliminary inquiries such as employment, wage censuses, etc., had already been undertaken by the Central and State Governments and the Central Government proposed shortly to co-ordinate these activities by calling a meeting of "competent authorities". The responsibility for the implementation of the Act, except in the case of Central Government undertakings, rested with the State Governments. Mr. Menon made special reference to the item on the agenda dealing with special problems in fixing minimum wages in agriculture. According to the Act, minimum wages in agriculture have to be fixed by 15 March 1951. Mr. Menon said while ~~the~~ he was aware of the difficulties of fixing minimum wages in an industry ~~of~~ like agriculture, he felt that a solution of these difficulties ~~might~~ would have to be found because although most persons had expressed their sympathy for agricultural workers, nothing tangible had been done for them. The Minimum Wages Act, he emphasized, aimed at giving them the much needed relief.

After the opening speech of the Chairman, several members raised points regarding the interpretation of certain sections of the Act.

In regard to hours of work, overtime rates, etc., while some members were in favour of uniformity in these matters, others felt that these should vary according to local conditions and circumstances. One of the suggestions made was that the State Governments which had Shops and Establishments Acts should be requested to amend them in order to ensure uniformity throughout India.

The question of fixation of minimum wages in agriculture was debated at length. The Board decided that measures should be taken to enforce the Act by 15 March 1951. In this connection the Ministry of Labour undertook to make available to the various States as early as possible, the tentative results of the agricultural inquiries which it was now conducting throughout the country. The meeting also discussed specific points which would arise in connection with the implementation of the Act so far as agriculture was concerned. These were: (a) Should wages be fixed for regular agricultural workers only or also for those engaged in ancillary occupations? (b) Should an attempt be made to fix wages for periods of regular employment only or also for periods of partial employment? (c) Should wages be fixed for all agricultural workers or whether workers employed on small farms, etc., should be excluded? (d) Whether the first fixation of minimum wages in agriculture

should be done on an ad hoc basis or a scientific basis? (e) Whether there should be differential rates of wages for men, women and children?

One of the points raised during the discussion was that instead of fixing minimum wages in industries first, a start should be made with agriculture since agricultural wages may affect the cost of living and, ~~xxx~~ in turn, affect industrial wages also.

Another problem which evoked considerable discussion was principles of minimum wage fixation. In this connection such questions as the size of the family, the number of earners, which should be considered from the point of view of fixing wages, were considered by the Board. It was also stated that the nature of the work done by a person should be ~~considered~~ considered while fixing his wage.

The Chairman, winding up the discussions, said that personally he attached the greatest importance to the fixation of minimum wages in agriculture. He expressed the hope that all the State Governments would take the necessary measures for ~~implementing~~ implementing the provision of the Act relating to agriculture by the prescribed date.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-7-1950).

Draft Minimum Wages (Central) Rules, 1950.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 30 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Central Government has published the draft of the Minimum Wages (Central) Rules, 1950, prescribing, among other things, the procedure relating to the staff and meetings of the advisory boards and committees set up under the Act, and computation of wages. The Rules, also prescribe the time and conditions of wage payment, authorised deductions from wages, weekly holidays, working hours per day and overtime wages; in employments where minimum wages have been fixed. The draft will be taken into consideration after 30 June 1950.

(The Gazette of India, Part II-Section 3, dated 13 May 1950, pages 82-88).

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Ajmer: Schedule of Minimum Rates of Wages in
Snuffmaking and Bidi making.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 5 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Government of Ajmer State has published the following draft proposal of minimum rates of wages in respect of employment in snuffmaking and bidi making; for snuffmaking - 1 rupee per day for the lowest category of work; and for bidi making - 1 rupee 2 annas per 1,000 for the lowest category of work.

(The Gazette of India, Part III-Section 3,
dated 24 June 1950, page 227).

Draft Minimum Wages Rules published by the
Governments of Delhi, Punjab and West Bengal
States.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 30 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Governments of the States of Delhi, Punjab and West Bengal have published the draft of the Minimum Wages Rules for carrying out the purposes of the Act. The draft Rules are on the same lines as the draft Minimum Wages (Central) Rules.

(The Gazette of India, Part III-Section 3,
dated 1 July 1950, pages 283-289;
The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated
6 July 1950, pages 1397-1412;
The Punjab Government Gazette, Part I,
dated 23-6-1950, pages 567-577).

Two Months Bonus for Bombay Textile Workers:
Bombay Industrial Court's Award.

Nearly 200,000 workers of 60 textile mills in Bombay will receive a bonus equal to their two months' basic earnings, aggregating to 216,000 rupees for the year 1949 under an award given by the Bombay Industrial Court on 8 July 1950. The award, however, does not apply to about 10,000 workers of four other mills which pleaded either losses or destruction by fire.

According to the award employees who had worked for less than 75 working days and more than 32 working days, shall be given a bonus to the extent of 50 per cent. Employees who had worked for less than 32 working days are not entitled to any bonus. The bonus shall be calculated on the earnings of the employees (exclusive of dearness allowance) and shall be paid in two instalments, the first on or before 14 August and the second on or before 14 September 1950.

The disputes arose out of the demands made by the Mill Mazdoor Sangh, Bombay, and the Kurla Kamgar Sangh for an adequate and unconditional bonus for the employees for 1949 as the mill industry had made good profits. According to the Unions, the demand had been made with a view to making up the deficit in the living wage as also to obtaining an adequate share in the profits of the industry for the year. It was alleged on behalf of the Unions that whereas basic wages paid during 1949 were much below the living wage standard, the real value of the basic wages paid had not been maintained by granting full compensation in the form of dearness allowance for the rise in the cost of living. The removal of the Excess Profits Tax since 1947 had added considerably to the surplus left with the industry and taxation had also been reduced. Therefore, the benefit resulting to the industry must, in the first instance, be applied to raising the standard of living of the employees. The Millowners' Association, Bombay, on the other hand, denied liability for any bonus and contended that the profit making capacity of the industry had deteriorated considerably. Further when standardising wages in 1947, the Court had examined the financial position of the industry and had fixed wages which it considered fair. The industry could therefore give only up to the fair wage as determined by the Scheme of Standardised Wages, and dearness allowance, as fixed by the Court, for compensating to a limited extent the rise in prices. The demand for bonus was untenable and more so when profits had diminished and funds were required for rehabilitation of plant and machinery. It was submitted that the resultant profits would leave no surplus after making appropriations and therefore the demand for bonus should be rejected.

The Industrial Court found that all Bombay Mills, excepting four had made a gross profit of 99.6 million rupees during 1949. This profit, the Court held would admit of a reasonable provision for bonus equal to two months' basic earnings of the employees, including the clerical and other staff, after making the necessary provision for depreciation, taxation and ~~stxx~~ reserves, as also a provision for dividend at six per cent on the paid up capital.

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The paid up capital of the textile industry in Bombay in 1949 stood at 209 million rupees. The ~~Bombay~~ monthly basic wages of workers amounted to 9.3 million rupees and of the clerical and other staff to 1.5 million rupees.

The workers were represented in the Court by the Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh, recognized as the representative union under the Bombay Industrial Relations Act.

For the year 1948 the workers had received a bonus equal to four and a half months' wages.

(The Sunday News of India, Bombay,
-9-7-1950;
Indian News Chronicle, 11-7-1950).

Ceylon: Higher Wages for Rubber Workers:
Wage Board's Decision.

The Ceylon Rubber Wages Board has decided to recommend to the Government the payment of the following revised rates of daily basic wages for workers engaged in the rubber ~~industry~~ industry: male workers 75 cents, women workers 60 cents, children 50 ~~cents~~ cents. The present rates are: men 38 cents, women 46 cents, children 41 cents.

The revised rates which are to have retrospective effect from 1 May 1949, will benefit about 300,000 workers.

(The Times of Ceylon, 26-6-1950).

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48. Public Finance.

India - July 1950.

Financing of Development Schemes: New State
Loans announced.

Three State Governments - Bombay, Madras and Madhya Pradesh ^{have} invited subscriptions for loans of an aggregate amount of 80 million rupees, all ~~being~~ bearing interest at 3 per cent and repayable on 31 July 1960. Subscriptions were open for one day only, on 31 July 1950.

The Bombay loan of 30 million rupees will be utilized to finance capital expenditure in connection with the State Government's post-war reconstruction and development programme. The Madras loan of 40 million rupees will be spent on electricity schemes and irrigation works, either fully ~~productivity~~ productive or producing a return which, "taken along with the indirect benefits from the scheme in ~~which~~ each case, the Government consider sufficient to justify the execution of the scheme". The Madhya Pradesh loan of 10 million rupees will be used for financing "productive capital expenditure on electricity projects".

The Bombay and Madras loans were oversubscribed while the Madhya Pradesh loan was fully subscribed. After the loans had been officially closed, an official of the Reserve Bank of India said that the response from the public was "very satisfactory".

(The Hindustan Times, 26-7-1950;
Indian News Chronicle, 1-8-1950).

Finances of States: Reserve Bank's Review:
Need for Economy in Expenditure stressed.

An article published in the latest issue of the Reserve Bank of India Bulletin on the budgetary position of Part B States of the Indian Union (former Indian States neither merged in the Provinces nor taken over by the Centre, but continuing as individual units or as groups) says that financially these States are not backward as compared with Part A States (former Provinces). The review presents the first comparative study of the finances of seven Part B States, namely Hyderabad, Mysore, Rajasthan, Travancore-Cochin, Saurashtra, Madhya Bharat, and Patiala and East Punjab States Union. The first

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six of these were financially integrated with India on 1 April 1950 and PEPSU was integrated on 13 April 1950 (Jammu and Kashmir State has not been financially integrated with India).

The need for exercising all possible economy in revenue and capital expenditure in Part B States is as urgent as in the case of Part A States, the review states. The per capita revenue, expenditure and social services expenditure are all higher for Part B States than for Part A States. This is partly due to the lower density of population in Part B States. There is considerable unevenness of per capita revenue and expenditure among the different Part A and Part B States. While the population of the nine Part A States (269 million) is over four times the population of the seven Part B States (64 million), total revenue and expenditure of Part A States are only a little over three times the total revenue and expenditure of Part B States, and expenditure on social ~~social~~ services less than threefold. The estimated combined revenue of the seven Part B States for the year 1950-51 is 903.5 million rupees (as against 2825.6 million rupees for Part A States) and their combined expenditure ~~2825.6~~ 908.5 million rupees (as against 2842.9 million rupees of Part A States), leaving a deficit of 5 million rupees.

The revised estimate for the year 1949-50 showed a revenue of 969.9 million rupees and expenditure at 954.5 million rupees, which left a surplus of 15.4 million rupees. Of the total revenue of these States, two-thirds is tax revenue, mostly Excise and Land Revenue. The Sales Tax, the most important single source of revenue in Part A States, is still not a well developed source in Part B States, and forms about eight per cent of the total tax revenue. For the current year the Central Government will give a grant of 93.1 million rupees to Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin, and Saurashtra to make up revenue gaps caused by their financial integration with the Indian Union. PEPSU, Madhya Bharat and Rajasthan will obtain a total sum of 8.1 million rupees as their share of Income-tax. (Both the amounts are provisional). In future the States will obtain larger allocations from the Centre in respect of divisible taxes, but meanwhile, after ten years, the revenue gap grants will disappear. It will, therefore, be necessary for the States to develop other tax resources such as the Agricultural Income-Tax.

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Of the total estimated expenditure of Part B States for 1950-51, security services (223.5 million rupees) account for 25 per cent, and social services (322.8 million rupees) for 36 per cent. For Part A States also expenditure on social services is larger than on security services, but the difference is not so appreciable, the respective percentage being 32 and 30. From their total revenue of 282.6 million rupees, Part A States provide 839 million rupees for security services and 917 million rupees for social services. Thus, on revenue account, Part A and B States together spend 1240 million rupees on nation-building departments. The major item among these is Education, the provision of Part B States being as much as 145.3 million rupees, or 45 per cent of total expenditure on social services. Next in importance is Medical and Public Health Service, taking up about 21 per cent of the total. In this respect both Part A and B States are similar. In point of per capita expenditure on social services, among the nine Part A States Bombay alone spends as much as 6.69 rupees, the second highest being West Bengal with 4.40 rupees. All other Provinces spend less than 4 rupees, Bihar coming last with 1.97 rupees. Among the seven Part B States, on the other hand, Mysore has the highest per capita expenditure on social services (7.97 rupees), Saurashtra and Travancore-Cochin being next with 6.67 rupees and 6.17 rupees respectively. Other States spend less than 5 rupees, Rajasthan's figure being the lowest at 3.13 rupees.

The total capital outlay of the Part B States in 1950-51 works out at 267 million rupees. The capital expenditure of Mysore, Rajasthan and Hyderabad is as much as 181.2 million rupees, or over 75 per cent of the total. PEPSU and Saurashtra have small capital outlays, amounting together to 17.8 million rupees. The main items of capital expenditure are irrigation, hydro-electric schemes and industrial development, Mysore, Hyderabad and Travancore-Cochin in particular having large outstanding assets of a productive kind. These three are also the only States having outstanding permanent debt obligations. As at the end of ~~the~~ March 1950, the public debt of Hyderabad was 530 million rupees. The total interest-bearing obligations of Travancore-Cochin are 187 million rupees. The permanent and unfunded debt of Mysore totals 280.7 million rupees. In these three States, for some years public investment has been substantial and has been financed from ~~them~~ loan funds and reserves. To the extent there are productive assets, their debt may be said to be self-liquidating.

The total liquid assets and investments of all the seven States (excluding trust funds and advances and loans) as at the end of March 1950 amounted to 1249.4 million rupees, of which 880.6 million rupees formed investments in Government and other securities. The process of drawing upon these liquid assets and investments to meet revenue and capital expenditure has been going on for some time.

For 1950-51, on the basis of estimated total receipts and disbursements both on revenue and capital account, the net deficit for the seven States works out at 190 million rupees, compared to 170 million rupees for the Central Government and ~~Rs~~ 450 million for Part A States. Part of this deficit is met by an estimated reduction of 50 million rupees in cash balances, from 203.1 million rupees to 153.1 million rupees. This ~~leaves~~ leaves an uncovered deficit of 140 million rupees. Unless loans from the Government of India are available, in addition to the sums already anticipated by the States which is unlikely, there will have to be a corresponding withdrawal from investments and other reserves.

Thus, the review concludes, as for Part A States, for Part B States also, the need for exercising all possible economy in revenue and capital expenditure is urgent. If revenue expenditure is curtailed and revenue surpluses become available, development expenditure on capital account can be financed. In the present context, it is necessary to keep to the minimum the net deficit on Government account. With this in view, the proposed development and other capital expenditures will require close scrutiny.

(The Hindu, 14-7-1950).

49. Rehabilitation.

India - July 1950.

Maintenance of Destitute Refugee Women:
Full Responsibility owned by Central
Government.

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The Government of India has informed all State Governments that the Centre will bear all the expenditure incurred in connection with the maintenance of the aged, infirm and disabled displaced persons as well as displaced unattached destitute women and their children throughout the country.

It is stated that roughly 60,000 displaced persons belonging to these categories will benefit by the scheme. Their maintenance has been accepted by the Government of India as "their permanent liability". They will be given free rations/or cash doles, clothing, sanitary and medical facilities, and facilities for the education of their children. Displaced persons belonging to these categories are living in about 35 homes and also a large number of camps.

It is stated that the Government's liability is limited to those who cannot be employed and for whose maintenance no able-bodied employable person is legally responsible.

(National Herald, 6-7-1950).

Disposal of Movable Evacuee Property:
Agreement between India and Pakistan
concluded.

The question of movable and immovable property left by evacuees in either country was discussed at an informal meeting held at New Delhi on 27 and 28 June between the Governments of India and Pakistan. The meeting reached complete agreement in respect of movable property of evacuees. Apart from the general principle that displaced persons should be able to remove, sell or dispose of their movable property without any permit being necessary, agreement was also reached on the facilities to be given to displaced persons to deal with their articles deposited in banks, shares and securities, insurance policies, postal parcels, money orders etc.

The agreement which will enable a displaced person to remove, sell or dispose of his movable property without any permit, covers articles deposited in banks, shares, securities and insurance policies, postal parcels, compensation for property allotted or acquired for rehabilitation purposes, sale proceeds of movable property already deposited with Custodians, seized movable property of evacuees, buried treasures, court deposits, and properties of minors and others under court guardianship. No ratification of the agreement is necessary and action would be taken by the two Governments automatically.

A similar agreement regarding movable property was negotiated ~~under~~ June 1949, but in operation it proved ineffectual owing to certain conditions and limitations. It is stated that those conditions and limitations have been removed. The agreement applies to the whole of Western Pakistan and the whole of India except the Eastern States.

A joint communiqué issued by the two Governments says that the general principle, that a displaced person should be able to remove, sell or dispose of his movable property without any permit from the Custodian, has been accepted, subject to the following reservations: (a) Machinery and machine parts fixed to ~~within~~ the earth as part of factories will not be permitted to be removed. (b) Machinery or parts forming stock in trade etc., will be permitted to be disposed of in Pakistan and vice versa, but not permitted to be exported to the other country. (c) Personal and household machinery, like typewriters, sewing machines, bicycles, radios, etc., will be permitted to be taken to the other country notwithstanding any restrictions on export of such articles. (d) Articles, the export of which is prohibited or regulated by general law, like bullion or cash will be permitted to be disposed of within the country itself. (e) Movable property other than household and personal effects may be sold, but not permitted to be removed to the other country. ~~(f)~~

Articles deposited in banks, etc.- Such articles have been divided into two categories: (1) Those which may include pawned articles, against which a claim may be raised by the pawner, and (2) others. In regard to the first category, claims would be invited expeditiously wherever this has not been done already, and after these have been received the banks will be informed of the deposits against which claims exist. These deposits will not be permitted to be transferred to the other country till the matter has been settled by a joint committee of one officer from each country which will be appointed. The committee will consider each case and decide upon the action to be taken. In regard to the second

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category, articles may be removed by banks to the ~~tax~~ other country without any restrictions. The exact arrangements in this regard will be worked out by the Deputy High Commissioners of the two countries.

Shares, securities and insurance policies.- No restrictions exist in India on insurance policies. If any cases are brought to notice, suitable action will be taken by the Government of India. Similar action will be taken by the Pakistan Government.

Pakistan Government representatives have assured the Government of India that the properties of joint stock companies which, under the present evacuee property law, are not evacuee properties, will be restored. Where a lease has already been given, that lease will continue in operation, but the leasee will be placed in direct touch with the company and will be asked to pay the lease money direct to the owner company, and not through the Custodian. After the period of the present lease, the company will be able to resume possession of the property. Reciprocal action will be taken in India. If any property of a joint stock company has been acquired by the Government, compensation will be paid to the company.

On the above assurances from Pakistan, the remaining restrictions on the payment ~~of~~ and transfer of shares, securities, National Saving Certificates, debentures, etc., will be removed in either country.

Post parcels.- Post parcels, wherever they are still in deposit in post offices, will be restored to the evacuee owners.

Compensation for property allotted or acquired for rehabilitation purposes.- Compensation will be assessed in such cases jointly by representatives of the two Governments and the value paid to evacuee owners.

Sale proceeds of movable property already deposited with Custodians.- Sale proceeds will be paid either to evacuee owners or to the Government of the other country where the evacuee owners are residing for disbursement to evacuee owners.

Seized movable property of evacuees.- Seized property, including firearms and money, will either be restored to the evacuee owners or compensation paid. All district officers will be asked by the two Governments to transmit the property or the amounts to the diplomatic representatives of the other country along with lists of owners of the property. The property will then be allowed to be removed to the other country for distribution to the owners. A date will be fixed for the completion

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of this operation. Evacuee owners whose seized property is not thus transferred can then make a claim for investigation and the property, if traced, will be restored.

Buried treasure.- Police escort will be provided to evacuee owners at their request. No escort charges will be levied.

Court deposits.- In the case of districts from where wholesale migration has taken place, the court deposits will be transferred on bloc, provided both the parties to the claims are non-Muslims in the case of Pakistan and Muslims in the case of India. In other cases, action will be taken through the claims organizations of the two Governments on a claim being filed by an applicant for the transfer of his deposit. Necessary legislation will be undertaken by the two Governments to give effect to this agreement.

Minors and others under court guardianship.- Where the minor, or the ward, and the ~~guardian~~ guardian have both migrated from districts from which mass migration has taken place, the court deposits will be transferred to the other country, legislation being undertaken to give effect to this, if necessary. In other cases, transfer can take place on application through the claims organizations.

Wards under Court of Wards Act.- Movable property, including cash and jewellery and wards under the Court of Wards Act, accumulated before 15 August 1947, will be automatically transferred to the other country if the ward has moved to that country from districts from which mass migration has taken place. The question whether a suitable allowance should be paid after 15 August 1947, till such time as a settlement of evacuee property is finally agreed upon, will be examined by the two Governments.

Post Office Savings Bank accounts.- The verification of claims in respect of Post Office accounts, National Savings Certificates, etc., will be proceeded with.

56. Labour Administration.

India - July 1950.

Working Conditions in Assam Tea Estates:
Report for 1947-48 of Controller of
Emigrant Labour.

According to the report for 1947-48 on the working of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, 1932, submitted by the Controller of Emigrant Labour, 37,542 were recruited, during the year for the gardens in Assam as assisted emigrants as against 40,009 in the previous year. Of these 16,979 were from Bihar, 7,403 from the Central Provinces and 8,500 from Orissa. In addition, there were 9,141 non-assisted emigrants.

As in the previous year, recruitment of emigrant labourers was carried on in West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Madras, the Madhya Pradesh and the Uttar Pradesh mostly through the Tea Districts Labour Association under the sirdari system. For the recruitment of labourers in the controlled emigration area 42 new licenses were issued to the local forwarding Agents. The average cost of recruitment per adult rose from rupees 95-0-2 in 1946-47 to rupees 107-4-2 in 1947-48. The number of emigrant labourers and their families repatriated during the year by their employers was 21,613.

The total working and non-working population on the estates at the end of 1947-48 was estimated at 9,79,005 consisting of 4,92,408 adults (working and non-working) and 4,86,597 children as against 4,92,749 adults and 4,73,508 children during the previous year. Statistics of average daily employment in the tea estates in the Assam and Surma Valleys during 1947-48 are given below:

	Assam Valley		Surma Valley	
	Settled labourers.	Faltu or Basti labourers	Settled labourers	Faltu or Basti labourers.
Men	1,45,221	12,473	24,444	1,957
Women	1,16,014	18,574	20,370	1,250
Children	43,614	5,503	8,546	386
Total	3,04,849	36,550	53,360	3,593

Wages and earnings: The average daily cash earnings of workers in the Assam and Surma Valleys in 1947-48 are given in the following table:

	Assam Valley			Surma Valley		
	Settled labourers	Faltu or Basti Labourers		Settled labourers,	Faltu or Basti Labourers	
	Rs. a. p	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p	Rs. a. p.	
Men	0 13 7	0 12 1		0 13 1	0 13 8	
Women	0 12 3	0 11 0		0 11 2	0 10 3	
Children	0 7 6	0 6 3		0 8 0	0 6 1	

Noted JTB

Welfare: Maternity leave was generally given on gardens with an allowance of ~~2~~ Rupees spread over two weeks. In some districts such leave was allowed to the extent of 3 to 5 months. Some gardens paid a bonus of rupees 3 to 5 at the time of child birth in addition to the bonus prescribed under the Maternity Benefit Act.

All settled and imported labourers are provided with free quarters mostly of a thatched type. Water is supplied in most of the European owned gardens. The report adds, however, that in many gardens the arrangements need improvement.

Most of the gardens have their own hospitals or dispensaries. The report says that there has been a progressive improvement in health on tea gardens and the death rate has shown a decline. In 1947-48 the death rate in the Assam tea gardens was ~~17.17~~ 17.17 per mile as against 19.42 during the previous year. The results of the new methods of combating malaria have been encouraging. Where formerly a malarial incidence rate of 15 to 16 per cent was not uncommon, the use of paludrine together with other control measures, has reduced it to less than 1 per cent. The report points out that in the opinion of experienced medical officers malaria has ceased to be a problem on tea gardens.

The labourers held 1,31,919 acres of garden land in Assam as tenants of the estates. The condition of their tenancy was, as usual, that they should continue to work as labourers on the gardens.

There were minor strikes in a few estates as a result, mainly, of a demand for higher wages but they were settled amicably through the intervention of the authorities.

(The report for 1946-47 was reviewed at pages 55-56 the report of this Office for September 1948)

(Indian Labour Gazette,
May 1950).

Travancore-Cochin: Review of the Work of the
Labour Department during 1948-49.

The Government of Travancore-Cochin published on 13 June 1950, a review of the Administration Report of the Labour Department of the State for the year 1124 Malayalam Era (1948-49). The review relates to the work of the Labour Department in the spheres of welfare work, trade disputes and trade unions, factories and workmen's compensation, among others.

General: Consequent upon the formation of the Travancore-Cochin State by integration of the former States of Travancore and Cochin, the Labour Departments of the States were also integrated into one department during the year. For the purpose of administration the State was divided into three divisions, each division being under charge of an Assistant Labour Commissioner.

Factories: During the year the number of factories in Cochin area registered an increase to 161 from 150 in the previous year; whereas in Travancore area the number fell from 665 to 603. Correspondingly the average daily employment of workers in Travancore showed a fall from 78000 to 76000 while in Cochin area this average rose from 21681 to 25000. The reduction in the number of factories and the consequent fall in the employment in Travancore area was mainly due to adverse trade conditions.

In Cochin one noteworthy change during the year was the appointment of the Labour Commissioner as the Chief Inspector of Factories in the place of the Chief Engineer. This enabled the department to exercise more effective control over the registered factories.

Accidents and Workmen's Compensation: During the year, accidents in factories where on the increase in the Cochin area and was on the decrease in the Travancore area. A sum of about 28301 rupees was disbursed to the dependents of the deceased workmen under the Workmen's Compensation Act in Travancore area during the year. A further sum of 11949 rupees was paid to the injured workmen by the employers concerned during the same period.

Trade Unions. The review mentions that the year under review witnessed added interest on the part of different political parties in ~~securing~~ securing control and leadership of workers and consequently several rival trade unions came into existence under the auspices of different political parties. The total number of registered Trade Unions in the whole of Travancore-Cochin ~~State~~ State at the end of the year was 417 (387 in Travancore and 30 in Cochin) as against 269 only during the last year.

Trade disputes: Industrial disputes were ~~in~~ on the increase during the year. The review observes that the continued scarcity and high prices of essential goods and the consequent increase in the cost of living, the unemployment resulting from the slump that had set in cotton textile industries and the exploitation of working classes by political parties chiefly contributed to this state of affairs. A great majority of these disputes were however ~~many~~ amicably settled by the endeavours of the officers of the department.

Welfare work: The review mentions the organisation of labour welfare centres as a noteworthy feature of welfare work during the year. Two welfare centres with night ~~and~~ schools reading room, facilities for games etc., were started in the northern and central divisions at Alwaye and Champakulam respectively. The welfare staff have succeeded to a large extent in persuading managements to open canteens and rest and tiffin rooms for the workers in important factories. Provision of creches have been insisted on in factories where women labour is employed in good number, especially in the cashew-nut factories.

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59. GENERAL.

India - July 1950.

Labour Conditions in the Silk Industry
during 1949.

An enquiry into the conditions of labour in the silk industry was conducted by the Labour Investigation Committee in 1944-1945 and a report published. With a view to bringing the data up to date a questionnaire was issued to various units in the Industry in the middle of 1948 and an article based on information relating to 1947-48 was published in the December 1948 issue of the Indian Labour Gazette. A second questionnaire was issued in the last quarter of 1949 and replies were obtained from 25 silk mills. A note based on the replies received is published in the May 1950 issue of the Indian Labour Gazette. The following is a summary of the note:

Number of workers: The employment position during January and September 1949 in the units furnishing replies to the questionnaire is set out in the following table:

State	No. of units furnishing replies.	Number of persons employed							
		January 1949				September 1949			
		Men	Women	Children	Total	Men	Women	Children	Total
Bombay	14	6152	942	--	7094	6063	912	--	6975
West Bengal	2	71	--	--	71	72	--	--	72
Madras	1	99	150	--	249	27	118	--	145
Punjab	1	964	18	32	1014	1232	18	28	1278
Kashmir	2	2565	4840	65	26559	40257	1320	99	41676
Mysore	4	1531	617	39	2187	1656	634	24	2314
Saurashtra	1	256	35	--	291	288	39	--	327
Total	25	34727	2602	136	37465	49595	3041	151	5278

The percentage of women employees to the total fell from 7 in January 1949 to 5.8 in September 1949. The tendency to employ women was more marked in South India. Women were generally engaged in light work, such as winding silk and yarn, reeling of silk, sorting of cocoons, skeining and packing of silk, folding, waste cleaning, etc. Employment of children was found only in the Punjab, Kashmir and Mysore; the number employed, however, was small. Children are engaged on light work such as grainage during the breeding season and the drafting of warp beams for the looms.

Contract labour was employed only by four out of the 25 concerns. In one of these, such labour was employed for seasonal work (tile turning and roof repairs during monsoon) given on contract to a contractor, who controlled such labour. The remaining three concerns employed through contractors 254 persons in January 1949 and 198 in September 1949. These persons were employed as dyers, beam-pickers, weavers, doublers, twistors, cleaners, etc. Though in a few cases, contract labour earned less than the direct labour, conditions of work of both were generally the same.

There was a wide variety in the proportion of permanent to temporary workers in the units surveyed. In a majority of concerns, however, permanent workers outnumber the temporary workers. Permanent workers did not have any special privileges as compared to temporary workers.

Eleven out of the 25 units reported that they had a system for training apprentices; in most of these units, however, there was no definite system of training. In a few concerns, apprentices were paid nominal remuneration during the period of apprenticeship.

Only five concerns had works committees; one of these had a production committee as well. The Committees were consulted in matters connected with improvement of working conditions and of welfare and in a few cases also in production methods. Seven concerns have employed Labour Officers, one of them being a Lady Welfare Officer.

Unskilled labour was directly employed by all the employers. Only five concerns stated that they sought the assistance of the employment exchanges and that too mainly for recruiting skilled labour.

With the exception of four concerns, the silk mills surveyed did not grant any holidays other than statutory holidays. Distinction was often made between daily-rated and monthly-rated employees, the latter getting more holidays. Leaves rules in the mills mostly conformed to the provisions of the Factories Act.

Wages and earnings: The basic wage rates varied from 8 to 10 annas per day in Mysore, 6 annas per day in Kashmir and Madras, about 11 annas per day in West Bengal, Rs. 28 p.m. in Ahmedabad and rupees 30 per month in Bombay. By a recent order of the Wage Board for the silk industry in Bombay, the basic minimum wage and dearness allowance of the workers employed in the 15 silk mills in Bombay city have been considerably increased with retrospective effect from 1 October 1948. The present basic minimum wage is rupees 30 per month in Bombay.

Dearness allowance: Dearness allowance was paid at varying rates in different centres. In Bombay city it was linked to the cost of living index number and up to the end of November 1948 it was paid according to the scale laid down by the Bombay Silk and Art Silk Mills Association. By an Order of the Bombay Wage Board for the silk industry in respect of a reference to certain silk mills in Bombay city, dearness allowance has been increased in ex 15 Mills in Bombay city so as to neutralise the rise in the cost of living to the extent of 67.5 per cent. These orders were to take effect from 1 December 1948. In a silk mill in Ahmedabad dearness allowance was paid at rupees 1-4-0 per day. ~~In a silk mill in Ahmedabad~~ In the silk mills in Kashmir the allowance amounted to 75 per cent of the basic wage. In Madras, it was rupees 16 per month and in Mysore, where it was paid according to the scale laid down by Government, the minimum rate was rupees 12 per month.

Bonus: Fifteen units out of the 25, reported that they paid a profit bonus for 1948. The rate of bonus generally varied from one to three months' wages. A Bombay mill was reported to have paid as bonus as much as 7/12th of the total earnings of a worker for the year 1948-49. A few mills also paid bonus for regular attendance, efficiency, production, good behaviour, etc. "Independence bonus" was paid by some units.

Shifts: The Government factory in Kashmir had no regular shift system. Of the remaining 24 concerns, six worked one shift each, ten worked two shifts each and eight worked three shifts each. The shift hours varied from 8 to 6 per day. The rest interval for an 8-hour shift was generally one hour, while for shorter shifts it was of half an hour's duration. Only three of the units working a night shift stated that they provided the night shift workers with free tea and snacks. One of these concerns also paid one anna extra by way of wages per night.

Welfare activities: In 11 concerns, the medical facilities consisted only of first aid, which was statutory.

statutorily required. In six concerns, doctors had been appointed, who periodically visited the factories and the workers. Dispensaries, with medical staff, were run by seven concerns. Greches were in existence in ten units. One unit had appointed a nurse to look after the children of its women employees. The provision of educational facilities was reported by only three units, two of which had free night schools for adults and one maintained a school for workers' children. Fourteen concerns, where tea and refreshments and in many cases light meals were provided. Thirteen concerns maintained grainshops, where rationed commodities were made available. Co-operative societies were in existence in six concerns, while five concerns provided recreational facilities -- mainly consisting of indoor and outdoor games. Nine of the units reported that they had a system of provident fund for their employees. Details given by these units show that the conditions of eligibility, contribution rates, etc. varied from unit to unit.

Housing facilities are generally not provided to the workers in the silk industry. Five of the units surveyed had, however, made arrangements for housing their work and ward and other essential staff. Three others had provided housing to some other employees also, but even in their cases the proportion of the workers housed varied from 20 and 30 per cent of their total employees. Either no rent was charged or it was nominal i.e. 1-8-0 rupees or rupees 2 per month. The housing provided mostly consisted of single room tenements.

Production: Since 1944 there has been considerable improvement regarding the layout of machinery, ventilation, lighting, etc., in half a dozen units. These improvements have taken the form of installation of new machines, such as high-speed warping machines, slasher sizing machines, hydro-extractors, exhaust fans, etc.; provision of more space and of sanitary latrines, ~~mix~~ urinals and wash basins, better lighting by means of fluorescent tubes, glass roofs and bigger windows, provision of cold water in summer, etc. Two of the units had under construction new factory buildings on modern lines. Measures taken to increase production consisted of efficiency and production bonuses, resort to the piece-rate system, introduction of labour saving devices and provision of amenities to labour.

(Indian Labour Gazette,
May 1950)

Ajmer: Factories Rules, 1950.

The draft Ajmer-Mewara factories Rules, 1950 (vide page 39 of the report of this Office for June 1949) have now been approved and gazetted as the Ajmer State Factories Rules, 1950. The Rules come into force on 16 October 1950, except certain sections relating to artificial humidification, special safety precautions for cotton textiles, cotton ginning, wood-working machinery and rubber mills, washing facilities, ambulance room, canteen, rest rooms, creches, and special provisions for certain dangerous operations.

(The Gazette of India, Part III - Section 3, dated 1 July 1950, pages 244-281).

West Bengal: Approval of Plans for Factories and Housing of Workers: Advisory Board set up.

The West Bengal Government has set up a factories Advisory Board, consisting of representatives of the Directorates of Industry and Labour, Local Self-Government and the Chief Engineer, Public Health Engineering as members and the Chief Inspector of factories as the ex officio chairman to advise the Chief Inspector in matters concerning the approval of sites and plans referred and in similar other matters.

Functions: The functions of the Board would be to advise the Chief Inspector of Factories in approving or rejecting applications for site, construction or extension of factories. The Board will give general guidance to the employers on the suitability of sites from the economic, health and other points of view. The Board will earmark zones in the Calcutta, Howrah and Hooghly areas in which the erection of new factories or extension of old factories may be discouraged or prohibited. The Board will also consider the question of housing of workers when the site and plan of a new factory or of extension of an existing factory is approved by the Chief Inspector of Factories, and give recommendations in this behalf.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated 22 June 1950, pages 1242-1243).

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Chapter 6 General Rights of Workers

India - July 1950

61. Civil and Political Rights of Workers.

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Preventive Detention Act amended:
No Prohibition on Disclosure of
Grounds of Detention.

The Government of India promulgated on 23 June 1950, the Preventive Detention (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950 (No.XIX of 1950), among other things, omitting section 14 of the Preventive Detention Act, 1950, which prohibited disclosure of grounds of detention.

(The Gazette of India,
Extraordinary, dated 23
June 1950, pages 207-208).

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64. Wage Protection.

India - July 1950.

Madras: Working of the Payment of
Wages Act during 1949.

Extent and application: In Madras State during 1949, the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, were applicable to all factories covered by section 2(m) and (ii) of the Factories Act, 1948, to non-power factories employing between 10 to 19 persons covered by a notification issued under sections 85(1) of the Factories Act and also to tramways, omnibus services and plantations in this State. Annual returns forms were sent to 5,598 factories which were covered by the Act. Out of these 5,432 factories worked during the year under report but only 4,504 factories submitted the returns in time. One hundred and sixty-six factories did not work during the year and 928 other factories did not furnish to submit returns.

Number of workers and amount of wages paid: The average total number of persons employed during the year in all factories from which returns were received in time was 303,206 and in other industrial establishments 3,989. The total amount of wages paid including deductions was rupees 18,68,54,309 in factories and rupees 31,84,750 in tramways and omnibus services amounting to an average earnings of rupees 51-5-9 and rupees 67 per month per worker respectively. In some cases wages paid to workers include the money value of concessions given in kind and also benefits given in cash.

Inspections: As in previous years inspections were made along with the inspections under the Factories Act. Special visits were also made by Factory Inspectors in some cases to enquire into complaints of non-payment of wages or illegal deductions from the wages of workers.

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Provisions of section 5 of the Act regarding fixation of wage period were complied with in almost all cases. In cases where the wages were not paid on the dates prescribed, the attention of the paymasters was drawn to the provisions of the Act and they were directed to comply with its provisions.

Provisions of section 5 of the Act regarding time of payment of wages were generally complied with. In cases of delayed payment of wages, paymasters were warned and directed to observe the provisions of the Act strictly. In other cases the parties concerned were advised to apply to the authority for a direction under section 15(3) of the Act.

Deductions: Deductions from wages of workers were made under clauses (e), (i) and (j) of sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Act were all authorised and were in accordance with the provisions of the Act. A sum of rupees 75,362-8-4 was deducted from the wages of workers as detailed below:

	Rs.	a.	p.
Deductions under fines	19,593	9	8
Deductions under breach of contract	59,339	7	3
Deductions under damage or loss	5,429	7	5
Total	75,362	8	4

The following table shows the average daily number of workers employed, the local amount of wages paid and the amount of deductions made under the Act for various categories of industries.

Industry	Average daily number of workers employed	Total wages paid including deductions under classes (d) to (j) of sub-section (2) of section 7.	Total deduction on account of fines, breach of contract and damage or loss.
Government and local Factories	14,798	1,29,59,592	1,510 1,5070
All other Factories - Textiles.	1,03,436	9,02,83,576	41,597
All other Factories - Engineering	25,201	1,68,78,542	27,301

1	2	3	4
Minerals and Metals,	6,015	38,04,871	10 16
Food, drink and tobacco	79,749	2,36,62,350	770
Chemicals and dyes, etc.	14,440	51,96,923	29
Paper and printing.	11,106	62,83,845	3,416
Wood, stone and glss.	22,559	1,00,36,410	351
Gins and presses.	12,870	33,83,148	6
Skins and hides.	9,021	44,44,493	193
All other Factories - Miscellaneous	6,211	30,14,463	83
GrandTotal	3,05,206	17,99,48,213	75,277
Othe establishments:			
Tramways	1,821	20,34,646
Motor omnibus service	962	17,39,475	85
Plantations	1,206	4,10,429
Total	3,989	41,84,550	85

(Note: Figures are given to the nearest rupees)

(The Working of the Payment of Wages Act in Madras during 1948 was reviewed at pages 72-73 of the report of this Office for April 1947).

(Report on the Working of the Payment of Wages Act in the State of Madras for 1949. G.O. No. 1623, Development, dated 21 April 1950)

Bombay: Payment of Wages Act, 1936: Pro-
posal for Extension to Industrial Estab-
lishments declared as Factories under the
Factories Act, 1948

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In exercise of the powers conferred under section 1 of the Payment of wages Act, 1936, the Government of Bomay has given notice of its intention to extend the Payment of wages Act, 1936, to the payment of wages to all classes of persons employed in industrial establishments or classes of industrial establishments which have been or may be declared as factories under section 85 of the Factoris Act, 1948 for all or any purposes of the Act, with effect from 29 September 1950.

(The Bombay Government Gazette,
Part IV-A, dated 29 June 1950,
page 383).

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67. Conciliation and Arbitration.

India - July 1950.

Industrial Disputes in India during 1949:
Decrease over 1948 Figures.

According to statistics compiled by the Labour Bureau, Government of India, industrial disputes resulting in work-stoppage during 1949 numbered 920. These involved, 685,457 workers and resulted in a time-loss of 6,600,595 man-days. The year under review thus showed a fall of about 27 per cent in the number of disputes resulting in work-stoppages, 35 per cent in the number of workers ~~dispa~~ involved and 16 per cent in the number of man-days lost compared to the previous year. Compared to the peak figures of 1947 the number of disputes was just about half, the number of workers involved was about 37 per cent and the number of man-days lost was about 40 per cent. The improvement was more marked in the first half of the year when the recorded time-loss was only about 3,600,000 man-days as compared to a loss of 5,700,000 man-days during the corresponding period of the previous year. The latter half of the year did not however show any material improvement in the situation as in the case of the preceding two years and recorded a time-loss of about 3,000,000 man-days as against a loss of 2,100,000 man-days during the corresponding period of the previous year.

The number of lockouts declared during the year under review was 96 and these affected over 102,000 workers involving a time-loss of 3,170,000 man-days. About 48 per cent of the time lost in industrial disputes during 1949 was thus due to lockouts, a majority of which were reported from West Bengal.

Number of disputes by regions.- The following table gives the number of industrial disputes resulting in work-stoppages; the number of workers involved and the number of man-days lost in each of the States for which statistics are available.

Please see table on the next page.

State	No. of disputes	No. of workers involved.	No. of man-days lost.
Ajmer	13	2,451	2,096
Assam	20	3,030	3,426
Bihar	96	93,047	470,130
Bombay	376	269,452	1,641,952
Delhi	19	29,358	147,732
Madhya Pradesh	37	34,529	611,306
Madras	114	40,112	436,642
Orissa	2	598	363
Punjab	11	1,468	9,863
Uttar Pradesh	59	42,035	595,674
West Bengal	173	169,377	2,681,411
Total....	920	685,457	6,600,595

Bombay accounted for over 40 percent of the disputes but these were generally small in magnitude and accounted for less than 25 per cent of the total time loss. On the other hand, West Bengal, which showed less than 19 per cent of the disputes, accounted for more than 40 per cent of the man-days lost. Similarly while Madras and Bihar which recorded large numbers of disputes, showed smaller time-losses, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh (which showed fewer disputes, accounted for greater time-losses. Compared to the previous year, there were fewer disputes in all States excepting Bihar which recorded a larger number of disputes due to better reporting from mines. The number of man-days lost was also less than in the previous year in most of the States, the exceptions being Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

Industries affected.- An analysis of disputes by industries shows that textiles accounted for about 29 per cent of the disputes as against 35 per cent during the previous year. The time-loss suffered by the industry declined from about 4,850,000 in 1948 to about 3,200,000 in 1949. The jute mills industry, in particular, recorded during the year under review less than half the number of disputes in the previous year, the time-loss also being about half the previous record. Engineering which recorded the largest number of disputes next to Textiles among the classified industries, also showed a considerable decline in the number of disputes as well as in the time lost. Railways showed a great improvement as the number of man-days lost dropped from 113,614 in 1948 to 22,598 in 1949. Food, Drink and Tobacco, Chemical and Dyes, Skins and Hides, Plantations and Municipalities suffered considerable time-losses during the year under review. Municipalities, in particular, accounted for

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over 13 per cent of the total recorded time-loss. The Docks and Ports group which showed no fewer than 31 disputes involving over 38,000 workers was responsible for a loss of less than 48,000 man-days only.

The following tables gives the number of disputes by industries:

Industry	No. of disputes	No. of workers involved	No. of man-days lost.
Textiles-			
Cotton	185	246,419	2,550,831
Jute	20	55,656	563,341
Others	63	7,735	105,014
Engineering	98	57,027	749,913
Minerals and Metals-			
Iron and Steel	12	7,433	27,632
Others	22	4,804	54,859
Food, Drink and Tobacco...	65	21,622	243,117
Chemicals and Dyes.....	47	6,604	185,145
Wood, Stone and Glass.....	29	8,312	88,950
Paper and Printing.....	34	3,557	54,432
Skins and Hides	12	4,413	137,085
Gins and Presses.....	3	9,200	70,500
Mines-			
Coal	58	51,776	261,993
Others.....	13	13,093	27,978
Transport-			
Railways.....	32	14,723	22,598
Others.....	25	15,262	51,904
Docks and Ports.....	31	38,432	47,821
Plantations.....	20	13,912	124,264
Municipalities.....	41	45,391	882,813
Miscellaneous.....	110	60,086	350,365
Total....	920	685,457	6,600,595

Causes of disputes.- An analysis of disputes according to causes shows that nearly two-fifths of the disputes related to wages, allowances and bonuses. Compared to the previous year however, while the proportion of disputes relating to wages and allowances slightly increased, the percentage of disputes concerning bonus showed a decline. The share of the disputes relating to personnel declined while that of disputes about leave and hours of work increased. Causes other than those specified above were responsible for a greater percentage of disputes during the year under review. Details are given in the table below:

Please see table on the next page.

Cause	No. of disputes in 1949*	Percentage	
		1949	1948
Wages and allowances.....	277	52.0	30.7
Bonus	52	6.0	9.0
Personnel.....	217	25.1	29.1
Leave and hours of work.....	84	9.7	8.8
Others.....	235	27.2	22.4

*Causes are not known in 55 disputes.

Results of disputes.- The table below gives the distribution of disputes according to results in certain broad groups. While the results of about 20 per cent of the disputes were indefinite, a majority of the rest were unsuccessful from the point of view of the workers. Compared to the previous year, while the proportion of indefinite cases considerably declined, the percentage of unsuccessful disputes increased. Although the overall percentage of successful and partially successful disputes remained almost the same as in the previous year, the proportion of complete successes was less.

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Result	No. of disputes 1949*	Percentage	
		1949	1948
Successful.....	112	15.1	19.3
Partially successful.....	119	16.1	11.8
Unsuccessful.....	359	48.6	45.6
Indefinite.....	149	20.2	25.2

* Twenty-four disputes were in progress at the end of the year and results are not known in 157 cases which ended during the year.

Duration of disputes.- The classification of disputes according to duration shows that over 40 per cent of the disputes lasted for a day or less and another 27 per cent lasted for more than a day but not more than 5 days. Only 8 per cent of the disputes lasted for more than a month. The average duration of a dispute (obtained by dividing the total number of man-days lost by the total number of workers involved) was 9.6 working days during the year under review as against 7.4 working days during the previous year. It varied from less than a day in Ajmer and Orissa to 15.8 days in West Bengal and 17.7 days in Madhya Pradesh. Details are shown in the following table:-

Please see the table on the next page.

Duration.	No. of disputes.
A day or less	338
More than a day up to 5 days.....	227
More than 5 days up to 10 days.....	106
More than 10 days up to 20 days.....	66
More than 20 days up to 30 days.....	28
More than 30 days	69

N.B.- There were 24 disputes in progress at the end of the year and particulars are not known in 62 cases.

(Indian Labour Gazette, May, 1950).

Bombay: Specific Time Limit for Conciliation Proceedings under Industrial Relations Act, 1946.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 62 of the Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946 and in supersession of an earlier order dated 3 March 1948 (vide page 69 of the report of this Office for March 1948) the Government of Bombay has issued an order fixing definite limits for each stage of conciliation proceedings provided for under chapter X of the Act. The order stipulates that the conciliator should hold conciliation proceedings within ten days from the date on which the dispute is entered in the register maintained for the purpose and close proceedings within 9 days from the commencement of conciliation, that the report of the conciliator should be submitted within two days of the close of conciliation proceedings and forwarded ~~it~~ to the State Government ~~before~~ two days of the submission of the report and that the report should be published within seven days of the submission of the report.

(Order No.1237/46, dated 19 June 1950; The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-B, dated 29 June, 1950, page 1443).

U.P.: Bonus and Retaining Allowance for
Sugar Factory Workers: Government Order
Implementing Enquiry Court's Recommendations.

By an order dated 5 July 1950, the Government of the Uttar Pradesh has implemented the findings of the Court of Enquiry on bonus for 1947-1948 and 1948-1949 and retaining allowance for sugar factory workers (vide pages 62-63 of the report of this Office for May 1950). The order also provides that the payment of bonus should be made within six weeks from the date of the order. The order would remain in force for one year in the first instance, but may be extended from time to time, if found necessary.

(Notification No.1425(ST)(ii)/XVIII-13(ST)-30, dated 5 July 1950; Government Gazette of the Uttar Pradesh, Extraordinary, dated 5 July 1950).

Draft Industrial Statistics (Industrial and
Labour Disputes) Rules published by the Govern-
ments of Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Madhya Pradesh,
Mysore, Orissa, Punjab and West Bengal.

The State Governments of Bombay, Delhi, Madras Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Orissa, Punjab and West Bengal have published the draft of the Industrial Statistics (Industrial and Labour disputes) Rules, 1950, proposed to be made under section 12 of the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942, for the purpose of collection of statistics in respect of industrial and labour disputes. The Rules extend to specified establishments, including factories, mines, railways, plantations, post and

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telegraph department, municipalities and local boards, banks and insurance companies and oil fields.

- (The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 22-6-1950, pages 372-379;
- The Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III-Section 3, dated 1-7-1950, pages 289-292;
- The Fort St. George Gazette, Rules supplement to part I, dated 4-7-1950, pages 259-264;
- Madhya Pradesh Gazette, Part IV(c), dated 16-6-1950, pages 243-248;
- The Mysore Gazette, Part IV-Section 1-C, dated 6-2-1950, pages 447-454;
- Punjab Gazette, Part I, dated 30-6-1950, pages 599-603; and
- The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated 22-6-1950, pages 1283-1288).

CHAPTER 7. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

INDIA - JULY 1950.

71. Organisation of the Labour Market.

Work done by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment during June 1950.

Employment situation.- According to the Review of the work done by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment for June 1950, the employment situation continued to improve during the month, inspite of the arrival of monsoon in many parts of the country. The number of jobs found for registrants at employment exchanges, for the second month in succession, reached a record figure. Although the total number of vacancies notified during June fell by a little over 7 per cent, the number of new vacancies notified during the month was well above the high average of the last four months and a great deal higher than the average during the latter part of 1949. The number of employers who used the Exchanges also increased.

Shortages of draughtsmen (civil and mechanical), overseers, ~~mechanics~~ boiler attendants and tractor drivers were felt in many regions. There was also a general dearth of trained teachers, stenographers, typists, compounders, ~~and~~ nurses and doctors. An overall surplus of unskilled and semi-skilled labourers, carpenters, fresh matriculates and graduates, inexperienced clerks, peons and untrained primary school teachers continued to be a feature of the general manpower position.

Registrations and placings.- The total number of registrations for employment and the total number placed in employment during the month are shown below:-

	June 1950	May 1950	June 1949
Total number of registrations.....	109,934	108,921	102,498
Total number placed in employment.....	29,850	29,434	34,160

Of these registered during June, 16,899 were displaced persons, 9,452 were ex-Service personnel and 4,732 discharged Government employees. Registrations were the highest ever recorded. Of those placed in employment, 2,928 were displaced persons, 1,537 were ex-Service personnel and 1,336 discharged Government employees. 16,644 were placed with private employers and 13,206 in Union and State Government establishments. The number of vacancies notified by employers during June fell below the peak figure of the previous month, being 36,901 as compared with 39,735. Even so, it was well above the average for the last four months. Of the vacancies notified, 17,590 were by Government establishments and 19,311 by private employers. The number of employers who used the Exchanges during the month of June was 5,948. Of these 59.5 per cent were private employers.

Placings by wage groups.- Figures relating to placings during June 1950, analysed according to wage groups were as follows:-

<u>Wage groups: basic monthly pay</u>	<u>Number of placings.</u>
Above 101 rupees	4,500
61 to 100 rupees	21,620
30 to 60 rupees	3,264
Below 30 rupees	466

Employment of displaced persons.- During the month, 16,899 displaced persons were registered as against 20,348 during May. 2,928 were placed in employment during June as against 2,683 in May. Assam reported that the displaced agriculturists continued to refuse work on daily wages, because they hoped to be resettled on land of their own. The Exchanges in the Bihar region registered 442 displaced persons from Eastern Pakistan and placed 149 in employment. They reported that displaced persons from East Pakistan were disinclined to accept jobs involving manual labour and were also unwilling to join the Training Scheme. Efforts were made without success, to persuade two to three hundred displaced agriculturists resident in camps in the Bombay Region to accept an offer of rehabilitation on farms of the Rawalgaon Sugar Factory. The Punjab region registered 2,945 displaced persons and placed 785 in employment. Local Offices in the Uttar Pradesh Region registered 724 displaced persons and succeeded in placing 130 in employment. A Selection Board for selecting displaced families for resettlement on land in the Kashmir Colonization area, met at Meerut. Nearly 1,500 registered

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1,500 registered persons were called for interview out of which only 300 applicants responded. The exchanges in West Bengal registered 9,573 displaced persons and placed 1,368 in employment during the month. The main difficulty reported in the resettlement of displaced persons in West Bengal was lack of adequate employment opportunities for educated middle class persons. Unwillingness on the part of displaced persons to take up manual or outdoor work and lack of accommodation, aggravated the problem. About 600 candidates were submitted by the Employment Exchanges for recruitment under the State Government Scheme for the training of Boiler Attendants in selected mills and factories. Instructions were issued by the Calcutta Port Commissioners calling upon Departments to cooperate with the employment exchanges to the maximum extent in the matter of recruitment of displaced persons.

Employment of retrenched Government employees.-
At the end of June, there were 15,824 unemployed discharged ~~from Union~~ Government employees registered with exchanges, of which 11,999 had been discharged from Union Government establishments and 3,825 by State Governments. During the month, 4,932 fresh registrations took place, of which 3,436 were ex-Union Government and 1,296 ex-State Government employees. During the month, 1,336 discharged Government employees were ~~employed~~ reemployed, 896 of whom were ex-Union Government employees and 440 ex-State Government employees. The Review observes that it is encouraging to notice that the number of discharged Government employees who were re-employed during the last few months has steadily increased.

Mobile exchanges.- Despite the monsoons, the mobile exchanges did valuable work in areas distant from employment exchanges. The mobile section of Kanpur exchange played an important role in connection with the decasualization and "pool" scheme for textile and industrial workers. At Gorakhpur the mobile section was responsible for 774 placements and the one at Almora registered 221 applicants. The mobile sections in West Bengal registered 1,089 applicants and placed 591 ~~and~~ in employment. In Poona the mobile section registered 277 applicants and placed 117 in employment.

Through the Vacancy Clearing Machinery, 628 vacancies were filled in other exchange areas. An interesting case of Vacancy Clearing was that of a highly qualified displaced person seeking employment in Coimbatore. He was found a job as a Professor in a College in Ferozepur. During the month under report, 1,979 women were placed in employment, while the number registered was 4,001.

Total number of persons remaining unemployed.-
 The number of persons known to be seeking employment assistance on the last day of June 1950 was 322,958 as against 305,008 in May. Of these, 57,948 were displaced persons, 36,575 ex-Service personnel and 15,824 discharged Government employees. Among discharged Government employees, 11,999 were Union Government and 3,825 State Government employees.

Technical and Vocational training.- The Technical and Vocational Training Scheme for Adult Civilians made further progress during the month. The number of trainees on the rolls, as on 30 June 1950, increased to 3,707 of whom 3,178 were undergoing training in technical trades and the rest in vocational trades. 550 displaced persons were undergoing training at the end of June 1950 in the States in which the training has been sanctioned. The number of ex-servicemen undergoing training in technical and vocational trades as on 30 June 1950 was 541. In addition, 255 political sufferers and Harijans were undergoing training in Uttar Pradesh under arrangements made with the State Government. 222 trainees, both ex-servicemen and displaced persons, passed the prescribed trade tests during the month, bringing the total of trainees passed out to 30,913. A 138 women were undergoing training at the two women's training centres at New Delhi and Dehra Dun. One more training centre for women was opened during the month at Madras.

Training of instructors.- 116 instructors and supervisors including nominees of some of the State Governments were undergoing training at the Central Training Institute for Instructors, Koni, Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh, on 30 June 1950. Facilities were also provided for training in woodwork to 207 primary school teachers at the Industrial Training Institute, Aundh. Admissions to the Central Training Institute, which had been confined to the nominees of Central and State Governments only, were thrown open to the nominees of private institutions and establishments and direct applicants also. It was decided that training would be provided to the nominees of State Governments, free of cost, but in the case of nominees of private institutions and establishments, and direct applicants, a fee of 10 rupees and 15 rupees per month respectively would be charged.

Apprenticeship training.- There were 8 Apprenticeship Training Centres functioning during the month and 11 ex-Servicemen were undergoing training at these centres.

The Technical and Vocational Training Centres under the Adult Civilians Training Scheme were re-named "Industrial Training Institutes". The centres which are merely attached to an institution already established like the Delhi Polytechnic will, however, be called "Industrial Training Centres". The Central Institute for the Training of Instructors, Koni, Bilaspur, was also re-named as "Central Training Institute for Instructors".

(Review of the Workdone by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment during the month of June 1950, issued by the Government of India).

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72. Vocational Guidance and Training
India - July 1950.

Fifth Session of the All-India
Council of Technical Education;
Decision to seek statutory Status

The fifth session of the All India Council of Technical Education was held at Calcutta on 24 and 25 July 1950. Dr. K.N. Katju, Governor of West Bengal inaugurated the meeting and Mr. N.R. Sarkar, Finance Minister, West Bengal, and Chairman of the Council, presided. Among other things, the council considered the question of converting itself into a statutory body and accepted the principle of it.

Dr. Katju, inaugurating the session, stressed the urgent need for industrial expansion in the country. He regretted the abandonment or even slowing down of development schemes which were in the process of execution, for it not only led to waste of public funds but might also have undesirable psychological effect on the public.

Need for Technical University: Mr. N.N. Sarkar in the course of his speech, stated that the sub-committee appointed by the co-ordinating Committee of the Council in January last had unanimously approved the idea of establishing a national technical university for co-ordination of higher technical education in the country. While it would be the main responsibility of technical schools and colleges to turn out good technicians, a technological university would turn out highly trained technologists or the commissioned officers of the industrial army. The present 60 institutions in India imparting instruction in engineering and technology admit annually 3,200 students for degree courses and 4,500 students for diploma courses. These facilities were inadequate even to meet India's short-term requirement. The question of strengthening and upgrading the existing institutions had also engaged the Council's attention, he said, and good progress had been made in this regard.

Resolutions: The Council considered the

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question of converting itself into a statutory body and accepted the principle of it. After some discussion it was decided to hold a special sitting in October 1950 to finalise details of this proposal.

The Council considered a note from the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power, Government of India, on the training of power engineers in India. It accepted the recommendations of the co-ordinating committee of the council which had examined the note earlier that the facilities offered by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, should at present be availed of for this purpose.

The Council recommended that the Government should give grants to the Engineering College, Poona, the Government Engineering College, Jubbulpore, and the Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur, for completion of their development projects which were previously being financed by block grants from the Centre.

(The Hindustan Times, 25-7-1950;
The Statesman, 27-7-1950).

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73. Migration and Colonisation.

India - July 1950.

Ceylon: Limiting employment of Non-Ceylonese
Staff in Business Establishments: Committee's
Proposals to Government.

Legislation^{to} ensure the employment of 75 per cent of Ceylonese staff in business establishments has been recommended to the Cabinet by the Government Parliamentary Sub-Committee, which was appointed early in 1950, to investigate into the feasibility of regulating by legislation the employment of a great number of nationals in various business houses. With the object in view, the Sub-Committee has further recommended the setting up of separate department within the Labour Ministry for the purpose of conducting a statistical survey to a certain number of foreign-owned establishments, registered and un-registered.

Based on the results of this proposed survey, those firms at present employing more than 25 per cent non-Ceylonese staff, may be allowed a time-limit, varying from one year to five, to replace the staff with 75 per cent Ceylonese. This provision will apply also to the Ceylonese-owned firms, the object being to prevent employing more than 25 per cent non-national. Further, the ~~establishment of a Board to examine~~ report of the Sub-Committee proposes the establishment of a Board to ensure the implementation of the recommendations.

According to a member of the Sub-Committee legislation as recommended, would prevent the total employment of non-nationals in mercantile firms, thus ensuring adequate employment for the nationals. With the provision for better educational and social facilities and ~~xx~~ rapid growth of population, a large number of Ceylonese would be unemployed, if the State ~~would~~ did not see to the compulsory employment of its nationals in foreign-owned and local firms. He emphasised that, was nothing but right that nationals of its country should be given employment by those who benefited by their trading interests in Ceylon.

(The Hindu, dated 25-7-1950).

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Federation of Malayan Indian Bodies formed:
Mr. Ramani elected President.

At a meeting of representatives of Indian Organisations in Malaya, held at Kuala Lumpur on 23 July 1950, it was decided to form a new Federation of Indian Organisations in Malaya. The objects of the Federation would be to co-ordinate and unite all existing separate organisations devoted to social, economic and political welfare of Indians in Malaya into one representative body and to promote the advancement of Indians in that country.

It would also promote and maintain harmony between the peoples of Malaya.

Mr. Ramani, an Indian member of the Malayan Federal Legislative Council, was elected President of the Federation. The three Vice-Presidents elected from North, Central and South Malaya respectively, were, Dr. N. K. Menon, Indian Leader of Penang, Mr. S.O.K. Obaidulla, Federal Legislative Councillor and President of Negeri Sembilan Indian Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. V. Shumugham, Indian leader of Malacca. Mr. A.S. Nair was elected Secretary and the Federal Councillor.

About half a dozen ~~auxiliary~~ societies, including the Malayan Indian Congress and the All Malayan Nattukhottal Chettiars' Chamber of Commerce, out of a total of 161 Indian organisations recorded in the books of the Registrar of Societies, Malaya, opposed the formation of the new Federation.

(The Hindustan Times, 24-7-1950).

CHAPTER 8. SOCIAL SECURITY.

INDIA - JULY 1950.

81. Social Insurance.

l The Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules,
1950.

*noted
M.S.*

The draft Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, (vide page 83 of the report of this Office for November 1948) have now been approved and gazetted on 1 July 1950.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 1 July 1950, pages 202-215).

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82. Social Assistance.

India - July 1950.

Ceylon: Administration Report of the Director
of Social Services for 1949*.

The Administration Report of the Director of Social Services, Ceylon, reviewing the activities of the Department of Social Services, for the year 1949, has been published recently. Among other things, the Report deals with legislation regarding social services during the year, public assistance, relief of distress and workmen's compensation.

General.- The Report mentions that there has been no marked change in the activities of the Department during the year. But steady progress has been made in improving the existing services and in recruiting and training staff to cope with them and prepare for the time when Government decides to implement more of the recommendations of the Social Services Commission.

The social insurance ~~scheme~~ scheme covering health insurance, unemployment insurance and a national provident fund, which was prepared by an Inter-Departmental Committee with the advice and assistance of the Chief of the Social Insurance Section of the I.L.O. is still under consideration by Government.

Legislation.- (a) Poor Law.- In 1940 the Poor Law Ordinance was applied for the first time as an experiment to the municipalities of Colombo, Kandy and Galle. The rates of public assistance given in each municipality, and the resources of Galle and Kandy were such that they were not in a position to bring their rates into conformity with those of the Central Government. Requests were made for financial assistance from the Central Government

* ~~Report~~ Ceylon: Part I-Civil (Q) Administration Report of the Director of Social Services for 1949. June, 1950. ~~Printed~~ To be purchased at the Government Publications Bureau, Colombo. Price: 35 Cents, pp.17.

to enable them to carry out their obligations under the Poor Law. New municipalities were established in Jaffna, Kurunegala, Nuwara Eliya and Negombo, but no action has been taken by Central Government to discontinue the payment of public assistance and require these municipalities to shoulder the obligations of the Poor Law. A conference between the Ministry of Labour and Social Services and the Ministry of Health and Local Government was held for the purpose of considering a proposal that the Poor Law should be amended or repealed and that the Central Government should undertake the granting of public assistance throughout the Island, while the municipalities should provide institutional relief within their areas. The full implications of these proposals are now being examined and a memorandum setting these forth would be submitted shortly.

(b) Workmen's Compensation.- The preparation of the draft Bill to amend the Ordinance in accordance with the recommendations of the Social Services ~~and~~ Commission could not be undertaken as the Deputy Commissioner was fully occupied with work connected with compensation inquiries. It is proposed to complete this work when the services of a Crown Counsel are made available temporarily. However, Schedule II to the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance was amended to bring scavengers and conservancy labourers within its purview.

(c) Regulation of charities.- A draft Charities Regulation Bill was discussed with representatives of various religious bodies and certain amendments were agreed upon. The revised Bill would be referred to the legal draftsman and submitted to the Minister of Labour and Social Services shortly. When this Bill becomes law, it will supply the long felt need for a proper check on the improper collection of funds allegedly for charitable purposes.

Social welfare.- A sum of about 218,933 rupees was collected from the public in response to United Nations Appeal for children. The expenses of the Campaign amounted to about 14,609 rupees. In accordance with the decision of the National Committee, 25 per cent of the nett proceeds would go to the UNAC as token of international solidarity and to help the needier children in other countries. The Committee had to consider the question of how the other 75 per cent should best be spent and it was decided unanimously that a national home for children should be established with the funds available. A sub-Committee consisting of 19 members under the chairmanship of the Minister of Labour and Social Services was formed to take the necessary steps to establish the home.

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The proposed Social Survey, for which monetary provision was made in the Estimates, has been deferred until a qualified statistical officer, who is not available locally, ~~has been~~ secured from abroad. In the meantime, the Director of Census and Statistics, who is carrying out a family budget survey, has undertaken to gather in his questionnaire additional information required by this Department to gain an insight into the social conditions of the rural population of Ceylon.

Public assistance.- As regards monthly relief, in 1948-49 a nett amount of 5,913,578 rupees was available for payment of public assistance monthly allowances. In 1949-50 the nett amount available was 5,811,770 rupees, i.e., 101,808 rupees less than in the previous year. To continue the grants at the existing rates to those on the paying lists at the end of the financial year 1948-49, it became urgently necessary to review the cases on the paying lists and to reduce the expenditure by eliminating undeserving persons and by scaling down allowances, where possible, without creating undue hardship. At the end of the year there were 24,629 on the waiting list of whom 15,169 were considered urgent by the Revenue Officers. To permit of the urgent cases being transferred to the paying list, it was requested that the 15 per cent cut on the vote be restored, but up to the time of writing this had not been done. On 31 December 1949, 44,599 persons were in receipt of monthly allowances and the amount paid to them for the year was about 5.8 million rupees.

Casual relief assistance for the repair or reconstruction of houses and for the replacement of implements of trade damaged by fire, cyclone, rain, storm, sea erosion or other similar cause in cases where destitution was likely to occur if Government assistance was not forthcoming, was granted to a larger number than last year. The maximum grant in any case is 300 rupees. There was an increase of approximately 43 per cent over last year in the number of applications for all kinds of casual relief. The expenditure increased by 78 per cent as a result of the greater number of applications and the increased rates paid. During the year 1948-49, a sum of about 142,137 rupees was spent for casual relief.

State Homes for the aged.- It was mentioned in last year's report that a sum of 300,000 rupees was provided in the estimates for 1948-49 for Government to manage a few homes for the aged provided suitable land, buildings and equipment were donated by the public. Type plans and estimates

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were prepared but no one offered to bear the cost of suitable buildings and equipment, though a number of offers of land with, in some cases, existing buildings was received. Some were inspected and arrangements were made to inspect the others and list the whole for consideration. In the meantime it was decided that the Department should erect a model state home. Steps are being taken to acquire the land and the Public Works Department is preparing plans for a building to accommodate 50 males and 50 females.

Shelter workshops for adult deaf and blind.- A draft agreement with the Board of Governors of the Ceylon School for the Deaf and Blind, which provides for the Board to manage the sheltered workshops on behalf of the Government, has been submitted to the Attorney-General for approval. A site at Seeduwa has been selected as suitable and proceedings for its acquisition are in progress and the Public Works Department is preparing plans.

Rehabilitation and Resettlement of War disabled persons and ex-servicemen.- The scheme in operation at the orthopaedic clinic in the out-patients department of the General Hospital for the treatment of certain rehabilitation cases continues to work satisfactorily. The scheme of resettlement undertaken by this Department is at present limited to civilians disabled by enemy action and to members of the Forces, Civil Defence and other Services. 308 such cases were brought to the notice of the Department and the Social Services Officers in the various districts investigated and reported upon 241 cases during the year. Where the reports indicated that (a) medical rehabilitation, (b) post-hospital treatment or (c) the supply and fitting of artificial limbs, was necessary, the persons were referred to the relevant sections of the General Hospital for attention. Where resettlement in occupation was recommended, they were referred to the Commissioner of Labour for action.

Subsequently disabled ex-service personnel whose disability is attributable to or aggravated to a material extent by war service are eligible to receive assistance under this scheme up to a maximum of 500 rupees. It was found that generally the best method was to make payment in two or three instalments to ensure that proper use was made of the grant. The ex-servicemen are required to enter into agreements to set up in business within one month and not to dispose of them within six months without authority. 38 applications were received during the year and 16 were brought forward from the previous year. Of the total of 54 applicants, 16 were paid grants totalling 6,550 rupees, 16 were ineligible under the rules, 8 have not yet supplied all the information required, and 14 cases are

under investigation.

Unemployment assistance.- A sum of 2,500 rupees was granted to the Colombo Friend-in-Need Society to relieve distress in special cases of able-bodied unemployed persons resident in Colombo and suburbs. Payment is made only after thorough investigation and provided the applicant is registered at the Employment Exchange and no suitable work is available. The rates do not exceed the Public Assistance monthly allowance rates and payment is limited to a maximum period of 3 months in the first instance. In very special circumstances grants may be continued for a further period. 225 persons were assisted during the year.

Relief of widespread distress due to floods, failure of crops etc.,- During the financial year 1948-49, a sum of 7.6 million rupees was spent on relief of widespread distress due to floods, crop failures due to drought and other causes.

Workmen's compensation.- 9,708 accidents were reported during the year as against 9,210 accidents in 1948. Of these 202 were fatal as against 203 in 1948. According to the returns furnished by the employers, the claims paid during the year totalled 554,244 rupees in respect of 7,466 cases. The figures for the last 3 years are as follows:-

Year	No. of claims paid	Total amount paid Rs. 6.
1947	9,953	436,500 69
*1948	6,670	457,215 16
1949	7,466	554,244 1

* Mention was made in last year's ~~that~~ report that the accuracy of the figures for 1948 was being investigated. Inquiries were made from the employers who confirmed that the figures were correct.

In regard to fatal accidents, proceedings were taken in 202 cases during the year. Liability was admitted and compensation deposited in 151 cases.

Applications have been received in 3 cases for compensation in respect of industrial diseases and they are pending.

Compensation deposited with the Commissioner during the year was about 422,201.48 rupees as against 450,018.94 rupees in 1948. The opening and closing balances are as follows:-

	Rs.	P.
Opening balance, January 1, 1949...	124,727	82
Add deposits made during 1949....	422,201	48
	<u>546,929</u>	<u>30</u>
Deduct payments made during the year 1949.....	456,038	22
Closing balance December, 31, 1949.	<u>90,891</u>	<u>8</u>

(The Administration Report of the Director of Social Services for the year 1948 was summarised at pages 48-53 of the report of this Office for October, 1948).

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CHAPTER 9. LIVING STANDARDS.

INDIA - JULY 1950.

92. Housing.

Progress of housing Displaced Persons:
80 Per Cent provided with Roofed Shelter.

Reviewing the position of housing for urban displaced persons from West Pakistan, a spokesman of the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry stated ~~that~~ in New Delhi on 6 July 1950, that over 200,000 displaced persons, representing 80 per cent of the total number, were now living under roofed shelter consisting of evacuee houses, new houses and tenements, constructed by the Central and State Governments and barracks in camps. In Delhi over 250,000 out of an official quota of 300,000 displaced persons allotted to this area, had been given shelter. Of them, 60,000 had got newly-constructed houses and tenements and 190,000 were living in evacuee houses. Another 6,000 houses and tenements were under construction which would provide accommodation for about 30,000 persons. Special attention has been given to Delhi in the matter of supply of building materials. In all, Delhi has got 40,000 tons of cement, steel and A.C. sheets and ~~100,000~~ 100,000 feet of galvanized iron pipes.

Taking the country as a whole, the figure of 2,000,000 who are living under roofed shelter comprises about 1,450,000 living in evacuee houses; 210,000 living in houses and tenements newly-constructed by the Central and State Governments, and 375,000 living in barracks. A further 110,000 will be able to find accommodation in about 22,000 houses and tenements which are under construction.

A spokesman stated that the Government of India had for a long time now been supplying to all State Governments construction materials for speeding up their housing programmes for displaced persons. Till now nearly 76,000 tons of cement, 47,000 tons of steel and 9,000 tons of A.C. sheets had been supplied. In addition, more than two million feet of galvanized iron pipes had also been supplied. The cost of all this material was in the neighbourhood of 40 million rupees.

[(The Hindustan Times, 7-7-1950)]

Building Schemes in Madras State:
Minister reviews Progress.

Cooperative House
Construction Society

Inaugurating a housing ~~area~~ colony in ~~Tirunelveli~~ in Madras State, constructed by the Palayamcottai, in Madras State, Mr. L.P. Roche-Victoria, Minister of Food, Government of Madras, congratulated the Society on building the second largest colony in the State, the first being Gandhinagar, in Madras City. He said that there were in Madras at present 275 housing societies with the membership of 19,500 and a paid-up share capital of 9.58 million rupees. Government loans to the extent of 15.55 million rupees were outstanding against housing societies. During 1947-48, 1948-49 and 1949-50 sums of 3.15 million rupees, 8.01 million rupees and 10 million rupees respectively were sanctioned by Government, out of which 2.7 million rupees, 6.30 million rupees and 6.36 million rupees had been drawn and actually spent. For the current year, the Government had set apart 10 million rupees in the budget. It was expected that about 800,000 rupees, would be disbursed before the end of the year. There were at present 1,185 houses under construction. The Gandhinagar colony in Adyar was almost complete and the society would shortly take up the construction of cheaper houses in Venkatesapuram colony in Ayanavaram, besides the completion of 17 houses in Chandramowlinagar. Construction work was in full swing in Ellore, Kāvur, Bellary, Adoni, Tanjore, Madura, Salem, Katpadi, Rayachoti, Athur and other places and the first batch of houses in these centres might be ready for occupation before the end of the year.

Continuing Mr. Roche-Victoria said that the Palayamcottai colony would meet a long-felt need. Next to food and clothing, housing was essential and the Government had taken up this question in right earnest, in spite of several difficulties including shortage of materials. There was criticism that while the middle classes might be benefited by such enterprises, the poorer classes were ignored. If by the poorer classes it was meant those who had absolutely no resources, this scheme was not meant to help them. Co-operative institutions had to be business proposition and would not be justified in embarking on charity. Still, he was not suggesting that the poorer classes should not receive attention. The Provincial Housing Committee had recommended some special schemes for harijans and other poorer classes. These schemes were still engaging the attention of the Government.

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Housing Industrial Labour in Hyderabad:
Housing Corporation to be established.

A ten year plan of housing is under contemplation ~~is~~ by the Government of Hyderabad to provide houses for its 150,000 industrial workers. The scheme envisages the establishment of an industrial labour housing corporation to work out the plan, the first half of which will be devoted to providing houses for industrial labour in areas like Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Warangal, Aurangabad and Gulbarga. Under the scheme the Government, employers of labour and workers will all combine in a co-operative effort to build houses for the labour. The Government will be asked to provide building sites on a 99-year lease and to grant interest-free loans redeemable in 25 years. The industrialists will share a portion of building costs while the ~~work~~ workers themselves will, besides contributing an initial lump sum, make monthly payments for 20 years, at the end of which the houses would become theirs. The Government would undertake provision of roads, lighting, water, drainage and such other facilities in areas where houses for industrial workers are built.

A sub-committee to work out preliminaries in this connection is to be appointed by the Government shortly.

(The Statesman, 24-6-1950).

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93. Co-operation.

India - July 1950.

Progress of Co-operative Movement during
1947-1948.

A special article published in the May 1950 issue of the "Agricultural Situation in India" (issued by the Economic and Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India), says that the progress of the co-operative movement in India during 1947-48 was very encouraging. Co-operative movement, which received an impetus during the last war, is undergoing a change both in its composition as well as in the pace of its growth. By far the largest number of societies is still agricultural. Among the agricultural societies, non-credit co-operatives have tended to grow in number while there is evidence of realisation on the part of the people about the benefits co-operative societies can confer on their well-being.

According to figures collected on an ad hoc basis, it is found that as compared to 1946-47 the number of societies, their membership and working capital in 1947-48 showed an increase of about 3.9, 19.6 and 7.4 per cent respectively. The total population touched by the movement in 1947-48 rose to about 16 per cent as against 6.2 in 1938-39 and 10.6 in 1945-46. In peninsular India, the movement seems to have greater public support. It accounts for ~~more~~ three-fifths of the entire membership. Coorg has the highest percentage of the families covered by the movement. In this small State, every revenue village has a co-operative society and the movement touches almost every phase of economic life. The States which have so far no co-operative societies are Cutch, Bilaspur and Tripura.

Credit societies.— Of the various types of societies functioning, credit societies are still the predominant type and they constitute about 74 per cent of the total number with 600 million rupees as working capital. Co-operative finance has been organised in most of the States. In 1947-48, ~~fourteen~~ fourteen provincial co-operative banks with a total capital of about 250 million rupees were functioning. There were also five Central Land Mortgage Banks and 271 Primary Mortgage Banks and Societies. The membership of the primary banks has risen considerably during the past years, from 76,196 in 1938-39 to 146,664 in 1947-48.

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Progress has been reported in a number of co-operative spheres, including marketing and various forms of consumers' co-operatives. Societies of multi-purposes nature have also come into existence in various parts of the country, the Uttar Pradesh contributing the largest number. From 6,692 such societies in the Uttar Pradesh in 1945-46, the number had risen to 18,000 in 1947-48. Marketing co-operatives have very largely increased in the Uttar Pradesh and Bombay. In Uttar Pradesh, for example, from 1,051 societies in 1938-39 the number rose in 1947-48 to 2,705. The most phenomenal development has however, occurred in the sphere of consumers' co-operatives which increased almost out of the sheer necessity caused by the difficult state of existence during the war. These societies have increased mostly in Madras, Madhya Pradesh, Bombay and Assam.

Agricultural Production Societies, aimed at increasing production through co-operative methods, have also progressed although they are at the initial stage now. The objects of such societies include consolidation of holdings, irrigation, land improvements and land colonisation and better farming. At the end of 1947-48, there were in the Indian Union about 2,032 societies for consolidation of holdings, with membership of 233,000.

Co-operative farming.— The latest entrant into the field of co-operation is the society for co-operative farming. At the end of 1947-48 over 200 such societies existed in various parts of India. These societies are being encouraged by subsidies and grants, provision of technical staff and preferential treatment in regard to supply of agricultural requisites and in taxes and assessments. The total area under co-operative farming in the Indian Union during 1948-49 was 40,000 ~~XXXXXX~~ acres.

It appears, the article says, that with the dawn of political freedom the co-operative movement in India has entered a new phase of development. The State has begun to associate in an increasing extent co-operative societies with the work of economic development. This is partly due to an affinity of purpose arising from allegiance to a common democratic ideal, and partly due to the realisation that co-operatives offer the best vehicle for transmitting to the common man the results of experiments and research for improvements in the technique of production. Much as the movement has advanced in recent years, there are still vast areas particularly in the newly merged States, which are yet uninitiated to the technique of co-operation.

(The Hindu, 13-7-1950).

95. Social Condition,

India - July 1950.

Social Service Training for Students:
U.P. Government's revised Scheme for
conscription of Youth.

The Uttar Pradesh Government has revised the social services training scheme which was originally launched for university graduates in 1948. The old scheme is being withdrawn and the new one will be ~~enforced~~ enforced, to begin with, in 10 districts of the State from the current educational session. The districts selected are Agra, Allahabad, Banaras, Bareilly, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Meerut and Saharanpur. The scheme will be introduced in five or six schools in each district with an average of 250 students per district. The scheme is voluntary and is intended primarily for Class XI of the higher secondary schools, but boys of lower classes will not rigidly be excluded.

Under the original scheme each cadet gave six months to social service, which included items like imparting education to adults working as agricultural labourers, building of roads or digging of canals. This work was to constitute a much needed extension to his college education. During camp life the youth cadets received instruction in general knowledge, politics, economics, history, tenancy laws and conditions regulating labour and industry. There was also physical and military training. Under the reorganized scheme the period of training will be three weeks in camp which need not be continuous. In addition, students will be required to put in 60 periods, each of 45 minutes, devoted to practical work without camping. Academic lectures which were given to graduates in subjects like history, popular science and economics will be left out and the scope of ~~camp~~ training will be restricted to practical work such as manual work, relief work at melas ^(fairs) and promotion of literacy.

(The Statesman, 10-7-1950)

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CHAPTER 11. PROBLEMS PERULIAR TO CERTAIN
OCCUPATIONS OR CATEGORIES OF OCCUPATIONS.

INDIA - JULY 1950.

111. Agriculture.

Abolition of Zamindaris to cost 4,140 Million
Rupees: Reserve Bank of India reviews Progress.

THE proposed abolition of zamindaris in the seven States of Madras, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh (excluding merged territories), West Bengal, Orissa and Assam, covering an area of over 170 million acres, will cost ^{by way of} compensation 4,140 million rupees, according to an article published in an issue of the Reserve Bank of India Bulletin. The article did not take into consideration the remaining Part A States of Bombay and the Punjab, because while "the state of affairs in the Punjab is highly fluid as a result of the manifold problems arising from partition", the measures enacted in Bombay generally aim at protection and promoting tenants' interests and ensuring efficient use of land for agriculture, rather than aim at terminating the landlord-tenant relationship in a manner proposed in the other States.

The increase in revenue to the Governments concerned resulting from abolition of zamindaris, will be 195 million rupees, and this will be over 4.7 per cent of the total compensation to be paid, the article estimated.

The article expresses the view that payment of the entire or a substantial part of the compensation in cash or in negotiable bonds at the present juncture is impracticable, excepting perhaps in the case of Madras. A consideration of the methods for financing the abolition of the zamindaris leads to the conclusion that the main part of compensation will have to be paid in the form of annuities or non-negotiable bonds. It may be possible to give some option to the zamindars in respect of the form of compensation as between these two alternatives. Under the abolition schemes, the zamindars would be allowed to retain "sir" and "khudkash" (private) land and continued to enjoy income from it. The number of zamindars without such land is not expected to exceed 10 per cent of the total. It may be possible to arrange cash compensation for this class of zamindars, as also a small fraction in cash in respect of the other zamindars, with contributions from tenants towards acquisition of ownership rights

or with a general levy on the beneficiaries from this agrarian reform to help defray the cash compensation. Otherwise the cash compensation may have to be reduced.

The article suggests that for payment by annuities, the balance of compensation, or such proportion of it as may be taken up by the zamindars in this form may be amortised and payment made in equal instalments every year. The rate of interest allowed for in calculating the amortisation amount may be 2 1/2 or 3 per cent. It would be possible to meet this expenditure from the additional revenue accruing from Governments. Except for small adjustments, the number of years for which annuities shall have to run would be 15 years in the case of Orissa, 20 years in the case of West Bengal, 25 years in the case of Uttar Pradesh and 30 years in the case of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Assam. The maturity of the non-negotiable bonds should be suitably spaced to avoid undue hardship to the zamindars. To avoid rush for bonds with early maturity, the maximum proportions in which each type of bond might be taken up may be prescribed.

Progress of States' Legislation.- The article notes the following stages of progress reached in the seven States.

Madras.- The State is going ahead with the taking over of estates under the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act of 1948. It has now been amended to provide for payment of some portion of the compensation in advance without waiting for the completion of survey and settlement operations and to ensure the payment of a minimum amount of compensation.

Uttar Pradesh.- The Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Bill, 1949, as amended by the Joint Select Committee, is at present before the State Legislature. This State, however, passed some time ago the Agricultural Tenants (Acquisition of Privileges) Act, 1949, to collect voluntary contributions by tenants to the zamindari abolition fund. The State has also published another Bill to provide for the abolition of zamindari tenure in agricultural lands situate in urban areas.

Bihar.- The State, which had earlier passed the Abolition of Zamindaris Act, 1949, has introduced a "Land Reforms" Bill, which seeks to repeal the Zamindari Abolition Act but reproduces most of its provisions adding a few new ones. This new Bill has been passed by the Assembly and is at present before the Upper House. Bihar has also passed the State Management of Estates and Tenures Act, 1949, providing for the taking over by Government

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of the management of estates and tenures. This was recently declared ultra vires of the State Legislature by the Patna High Court, but the matter may be taken to the Supreme Court.

Madhya Pradesh.- This State has passed the Abolition of Proprietary Rights (Estates, Mahals, Alienated Lands) Bill, 1949, though it is yet to receive the assent of the President. The State has also passed the Agricultural Raiyats and Tenants (Acquisition of Privileges) Act, 1950, to provide for payment of premium by tenants to acquire Malik-Makbuza (a cultivator possessing a hereditary or proprietary right in the land he cultivates) rights in Madhya Pradesh and merged territories and occupancy rights in the alienated villages of Berar.

West Bengal.- Bengal had published a Bill before partition and though in his speech presenting the budget estimates for 1948-49, the Finance Minister of West Bengal had announced that the Government intended to abolish the Zamindaris in the shortest possible time, no Bill to that effect has been brought forward so far.

Orissa.- The Government of Orissa had appointed a land revenue and land tenure committee and recently published the Estates Abolition Bill, 1950.

Assam.- The State has passed the acquisition of Zamindaris Bill 1943 though in its case on account of a transfer to East Bengal of the greater part of the Sylhet district, consisting of about 49,576 permanently settled estates covering an area of about 2,400,000 acres of land, the problem has been considerably reduced in dimensions. The Bill is at present pending before the President for consideration. In the meantime, the State has passed the Assam Management of Estates Act, 1949, to take over management of the estates for improving the economic and social conditions of the peasants and for ensuring the efficient use of land.

(The Hindu, dated 15-7-1950)

Improving Statistics of Agriculture:
Co-ordination Committee's Report published.

Comprehensive measures to place agricultural statistics in India on a sound basis are suggested in the report of the Committee on the Co-ordination of Agricultural Statistics which was appointed by ~~Stat~~ the Government of India to work out details of inquiries in connection with the World Census of Agriculture to be held in 1950-51. The Chairman of the Committee was Mr. W.R. Natu, Economic and Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, (vide page 77 of the report of this Office for April 1949). The report suggests improvements in the collection of statistics relating both to the area and the yield. It recommends a complete enumeration of all the survey numbers for the accurate determination of the statistics of acreage. The method of random sampling, says the report, is a necessary supplement to complete ~~enum~~ enumeration but cannot be a substitute. In areas which are not yet cadastrally surveyed, the report recommends that immediate steps should be taken to initiate such surveys and pending their completion, suitable reporting agencies should be created.

As regards the statistics of yield of principal crops which are to be collected annually, the report recommends that they should be based on crop-cutting experiments carried out on fields selected at random. It also emphasizes the need for extending the scope of these surveys to all the crops for which estimates of the yield are now prepared; and to all States including non-reporting areas.

Collection of data on cultivators' holdings, use of standard basic forms for collection of statistics and the type of organization that should be set up in the States at different levels are some of the other subjects on which recommendations have been made.

Out of a total geographical area of 781 million acres of land in India, present agricultural statistics cover only about 557 million acres, as no estimates are available for the remaining 29 per cent of the area. Even the available data is not of the same uniform standard of accuracy and reliability in the different States. This is mainly due to the difference in the method of collection of statistics which depend on the system of land revenue in the different States. According to the report, defects in the existing statistics are gaps in coverage, lack of uniformity in definition and classification, defects of tabulation, defects of primary reporting agency, defects of supervision and checking and defects in planning and co-ordination. One of the chief causes

of inaccuracies in reporting of the primary agency is the large increase in the work of the village patwari.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-6-1950).

Tenancy and Agrarian Reforms in P.E.P.S.U.:
Central appoints Enquiry Committee.

Government

The Government of India has appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. C.S. Venkatachari, Regional Commissioner and Advisor, Rajasthan Government, to examine the existing tenancy relationship (other than the rights of occupation) in land in the Patiala and East Punjab States Union and to propose such changes in them as may be necessary. The committee will also examine the existing system of land tenure and to propose such changes in it as may be necessary, keeping in view the requirements of the agricultural economy and the welfare of different sections of the rural populations.

The committee, which has been appointed at the request of the Patiala and East Punjab States Union Government, has been charged to complete its work and prepare the report as early as possible.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-6-1950).

Jammu and Kashmir: Tillers to have Ownership Rights of Land: Zamindari abolished without Payment of Compensation.

On 13 July 1950 the Jammu and Kashmir Government announced that owners of big landed estates owning an area of over 1,000 kanals in the State shall henceforth retain for personal cultivation only 160 kanals; the area thus taken over from such owners without payment of any compensation, will be transferred in ownership to the actual tillers to the extent of their possession in each case. The announcement, along with two others, was made by the State Government in a Gazette Extraordinary.

The second announcement declared that in case of Poonch Jagir, with an area of 1,627 square miles and a population of 383,722, the property rights will henceforth be conferred on holders of land who had so far no such rights and who were considered to be merely "assamies", (agents) of the Raja of Poonch, who held all proprietary rights of land in

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the jagir in his own person. No "nazrana" is proposed to be imposed and the "malikana" cash ~~payment~~ payment made by liege to lord, wherever superimposed, shall be abolished.

By the third announcement the game preserves in Udhampur tehsil of the Jammu province, covering nearly 800 acres of land, which had been formed out of the lands belonging to the cultivators, have been released for cultivation with effect from 30 July. It has been further ordered that in the case of cultivators who in spite of their lands having been annexed with the preserves, were made to pay ~~revenue~~ land revenue, shall get a refund of the amounts paid by them. Further by an amendment of the Jammu and Kashmir Game Preservation Rules, the shooting and killing of any game by the people residing in the neighbourhood of the preserves, for the protection of human life, crops and lands under cultivation is no longer prohibited.

A communiqué issued by the Government says that these measures are being adopted "in accordance with the New Kashmir Plan which envisages, firstly, the abolition of landlordism, because such steps would be the pivot of progress, and secondly, land to the tiller, because after the abolition of the class of landlords it will be possible for the first time to satisfy the land-hunger of the landless peasant and ensure the efficient working of the land". The new measures, which will come into effect immediately, affect a large number of individual landlords besides religious institutions like mosques and monasteries. Though detailed information about all landlords and institutions owning more than 125 acres in area is not available, statistics show that there are about ~~sixty~~ 30 landlords and religious institutions in the State owning more than 375 acres, three times above the new margin, all of whom will be affected by the new order. The communiqué adds that while landlords will have the option to select 20 acres prescribed for them, the areas taken over from them will be transferred to the actual tillers in ownership right, subject to the payment of land revenue and other dues for the time being in force and subject also to the right of Government to revise the areas of holding as and when necessary.

(The Hindu, dated 14-7-1950).

116. Handicrafts.

India - July 1950.

All-India Handloom Weavers' Congress, Sholapur -
16 and 17 July 1950: Need for All-India Organisa-
tion Stressed.

The annual conference of the All-India Weavers' Congress was held at Sholapur on 16 and 17 July 1950. The conference, which was attended by over 300 delegates, was presided over by Prof. N.G. Ranga.

Inaugurating the conference, Mr. Hare Krishna Mahatab, Minister for Industry and Supply, suggested that the handloom industry should take upon itself the task of developing hand-spinning. He said that India required more coarse and medium cloth than fine and superfine varieties. At present most of the ~~mill~~ coarse and medium cloth in the mills was being exported. That should be conducive to the development of hand-spinning, which generally supplied coarse counts of yarn to the handloom industry. Mr. Mahatab emphasised that the Government was aware of the difficulties experienced by the handloom and other cottage industries. The time had now come for all cottage industries, and particularly the handloom industry, to be planned and organized to meet the needs of the people. The problem was not only to give employment to the 2.5 million weavers but also how to organize them in the interests of the nation as a whole. The requirements of the nation had to be met from various sources, one of which was the handloom industry. Mr. Mahatab pointed out that textile control had assisted the growth of handloom industry to a great extent. He advised the weavers to put the industry on a well-planned and strong footing so that it could hold its own when control was lifted. He asked them to specialize in various kinds of standard cloth. Once the industry standardized some of its products, the Government and other public organizations would find it easy to make large purchases from it.

Presidential address.- Prof. Ranga in his presidential address said that the handloom industry, as the largest cottage industry in the country, employing over 2,500,000, people should be given adequate Government aid. It should be provided with cheap capital, raw materials such as yarn, dyes and chemicals and technical assistance. Recently, the State Governments had given more assistance to this industry but this could not be said of the Centre. He said the spinning mills should first

be charged to supply the handloom industry yarn of suitable quality to the extent they needed. An excise duty might be levied on yarn utilized by composite mills, weaving mills and powerlooms and the amount so collected might be used as subsidy to reduce yarn prices to handloom weavers. The distribution of yarn to handloom should be the monopoly of the State handloom weavers' co-operative societies. Other forms of protection suggested by him were: production of sarees exclusively by handlooms, abolition of sales tax, customs duty and similar taxes now being levied on yarn, dyes and chemicals and other raw materials required by the industry.

Prof. Ranga suggested the setting up by the Government of two technical training and research institutes, one in Chirala and the other in Banaras to train weavers. The Government should also send an expert committee of weavers to Japan to study improved methods of spinning.

Prof. Ranga asked the weavers to develop a co-operative and democratic spirit for greater production and to utilize Government aid. He also advised them to keep ~~their~~ their co-operative leadership above ~~factories and~~ party interests and develop professional pride.

Resolutions.- The conference, by a resolution, requested the Government and the Indian National Congress to provide adequate representation in the coming elections to the Union and State legislatures for weavers and other artisans. By another resolution the meeting called on the Government of India to provide a well organized all-India marketing organization for handloom cloth with branches all over the country and abroad.

Mr. K.N. Nanjappa, Assistant Development Officer, Cottage Industries, Government of India, explained the steps the Government had already taken and ~~were~~ were considering in this direction. There were many difficulties and the Government would implement the resolution as far as possible with the least delay. He said the Government was endeavouring to shortly float an export corporation of cottage products with a capital of 5 million rupees. Details ~~were~~ were being worked out and the capital would be subscribed by the Central and State Governments, and also the public. The responsibility of the corporation would be to collect cottage industries products in general and handloom products in particular, and market them in Europe and the United States of America. The Government had already sent to the United States of America cottage industries products including handloom to the ~~extent~~ extent of 40,000 rupees.

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It was also trying to "export" other foreign markets.

The Government of India had also collected designs of handloom products to the extent of 30,000 rupees which will be printed in Kanpur and forwarded to all handloom centres for the manufacture of handloom fabric of a specified pattern. A cottage industries training centre was proposed to be set up in Hardwaganj near Aligarh where training would be given in textile design, printing and weaving. Regarding standardization of handloom fabric, the question was being worked out by the Indian Standards Institute, Delhi.

The conference noted with gratitude the Government's policy of reserving a portion of textile production for the handloom industry, and hoped the Government would make it a permanent feature of its textile policy. They urged the Government to convene a conference of all interests concerned to expand the reserved portion of the cloth market for handloom in the light of production figures supplied by the Textile Commissioner. The conference also stressed the need for the weaver to prefer handspun yarn to mill yarn. In this connection, the weavers requested the all-India Hand Spinning Association ~~and~~ and the Government to foster and develop spinning with the co-operation of the all-India Weavers' Association so that enough ~~handloom~~ handspun yarn of sufficient strength would be available.

(The Statesman, 17 and 18-7-1950).

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LIST OF THE MORE IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED
IN THE NEW DELHI OFFICE DURING JULY, 1950.

INDIA - JULY 1950.

Economic Questions

- (a) National Income of the British India and the Union Provinces, 1945-46. Government of India, Ministry of Commerce. pp.16.
- (b) Report of the Fiscal Commission, 1949-50, Volume One. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. pp.483.
- (c) Government of India, Ministry of Industry and Supply. Directorate of Industrial Statistics: Second Census of Manufactures India 1947 (Statistics by Industries and Provinces), Volume I; Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi; pp.366, price Rs.21 As.14 or 33 sh. 6d.
- (d) Government of India, Ministry of Industry Supply, Directorate of Industrial Statistics: Second Census of Manufactures. India 1947 (Statistics by Industries and Provinces), Volume II, published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi, pp.367-762. Price Rs.21 As.14 or 33sh. 6d.

General Rights of Workers

Report on the Working of the Payment of Wages Act in the State of Madras for the year 1949. Price 8 Annas. pp.7.

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