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Industrial and Labour Development in September, 1950.

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

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CHAPTER 1. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

INDIA - SEPTEMBER 1950.

11. Political Situation and Administrative Action.

Annual Session of Indian National Congress, held at Nasik, 17-21 September 1950: Congress Aim to set up Welfare State.

The 56th plenary session of the Indian National Congress was held at Nasik from 17 to 21 September 1950. Mr. Purushottomdas Tandon, President of the Congress, presided. Among the resolutions passed was one on economic programme which stated that the objective of the Congress was the establishment of a Welfare State. It ~~added~~ added; "it is of the utmost importance in existing conditions, that measures should be devised to secure increased production and every factor militating against this aim should be discouraged." The session also passed a resolution on khadi and village industries.

Presidential address: plea for improving the lot of farm labourers.- In the course of his presidential address, Mr. Tandon reviewed the Government's political, economic and social policies. As regards the Government's economic policy, Mr. Tandon expressed appreciation of the courage shown by the Government in tackling various economic problems. He said that there ~~are~~ were several economic problems which were connected with the life of the masses. The problem of peasants had one form and the problem of labour had another. Even among labourers, the problem of those working in mills and factories was different from that of those working in the fields. It was but natural that with the advent of swaraj there should be awakening ~~in the masses~~ of consciousness among all classes and a desire to raise their standard of life. The Governments deserved congratulation on the courage and enthusiasm they had shown during the last three years in attacking these problems. They

have not all been solved, but efforts were continuing. In some cases these efforts ~~have~~ had not given the expected results but the lines of future work were being settled. Referring to the progress of the abolition of zamindaris, Mr. Tandon said that in some Legislatures, Bills had been introduced and passed on this subject. It was urgently necessary that in all States the peasant be relieved of the burden of zamindars as expeditiously as possible, so that he might be able to undertake the development of land with a new consciousness. The work done by the U.P. Government in this direction deserved special mention. A very comprehensive Bill on this subject had only recently been passed there. The main feature of the U.P. scheme was that the peasant became the owner of the land which he cultivated on paying 10 times his present rent and a consequence of this was that his annual rent was permanently reduced to a half of what it was at present.

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~~XX~~ The Labour Ministry of the Central Government was actively engaged in ~~fixing~~ tackling the problem of factory labour. The ~~question~~ of fixing the minimum wage of labourers had also been taken up. A few Acts had been passed, the combined effect of which was that there was an improvement in the condition of the labourer and a partial removal of his dependence on the mercy of the millowner. The Central Government was also alive to the problem of field labourers. This problem, as compared to that of factory labour, was wider and more complex. It had been estimated that the total number of field labourers and their dependants was somewhere between 70 million and 100 million. They had at present to grope their way to a solution of the economic problems of this class but, Mr. Tandon said that he hoped that their way would soon be clearer.

Question of controls.- Connected with the economic problems of today was the question of various controls which had been imposed on the purchase and sale of commodities. These controls were started during the last war by the British Government. Such controls become necessary when the production of an article which was in great demand ~~fell~~ fell short of the requirement and everyone was not able to get it at a reasonable price. Mr. Tandon said that the system of controls was not properly understood by everyone. ~~Due~~ Due to the lack of mental discipline on the part of the business community and the Government officials, the system had ~~been~~ given rise to corruption. While he agreed that controls were necessary he warned the Government that this should be done with the least interference on the private life of individuals. The Government should impose controls only when they became absolutely assential.

Role of village industries.- Explaining his idea of the type of social and economic structure which the country should have, Mr. Tandon pleaded strongly for the development of village industries. He urged that production of wealth should be encouraged in every possible way in villages. In his conception of things, said Mr. Tandon, he gave primary importance to the growth of co-operation for the development of village self-sufficiency. In his opinion large industries should be set up for meeting Defence requirements and such other basic requirements which could not otherwise be met, but so far as the ordinary needs of the people was concerned, they should be met through production in the people's own villages and homes.

Mr. Tandon complained that the Congress Government had not shown sufficient interest in the promotion of khaddar. He attributed it to lack of courage and lack of understanding of the economics of khadi. Recalling Gandhiji's message, Mr. Tandon called upon the Congress and Congress Governments to "create the khaddar atmosphere" in the country.

Refugee problem.- As regards the refugee problem, Mr. Tandon felt that it was the responsibility of the nation to make good, according to need, the loss suffered by a community owing to policy adopted by the nation. He appreciated the good work already done by the Government for the rehabilitation of refugees and agreed also that it was impossible to give compensation for the entire loss. In his opinion, however, a good deal remained to be done. Several millions of rupees were needed to alleviate the sufferings of the displaced persons. This money could be raised only by a planned scheme. In this connection Mr. Tandon reiterated his suggestion for the imposition of a national levy which he considered to be "practicable". If the Government thought otherwise it should find some other means to get the necessary finances to help displaced persons.

Resolutions: Congress aim to set up Welfare State.- Moving the resolution of economic programme, Mr. Jagjivan Ram said that it has become clear that if the people's standard of living was to be improved, a planning commission had to be set up. Only through a planned ~~economy~~ economy could production be improved. Planning involved a certain amount of control. Although controls were not liked by industrialists, as also at times by the public, they were essential in certain circumstances. In fact, no planning could be done without controls. The Government was not willing today to look to the interests of capitalists alone, but those of the workers and the peasants also.

Shal Labour
Minister,

~~Stressing~~ Stressing the need for careful husbanding of available resources and the laying down of strict priorities in regard to development schemes, Mr. Jagjivan Ram said that ultimately the achievement of their objective of a welfare state would depend on increased production. Questions effecting reduction in the price level and expansion of opportunities for gainful employment could only be tackled if they created "a new atmosphere" for effecting a big production drive. Congressmen had a big task before them of awakening the people to fully co-operate with the Government in increasing production.

The resolution declared that so long as there were conditions of scarcity, the need for the control on essential articles would continue. Anti-social elements seeking to exploit controls to their advantage should be "drastically" dealt with. It urges that efforts should be made to utilize the experience, energy, spare time and other resources of the people on a voluntary basis and on a nationwide scale for the promotion of nation building activities in a planned economy.

The resolution points out that the economic progress of the country was the most urgent task before the nation in order to advance towards the attainment of the Congress objective. That objective was the establishment of a Welfare State, wherein there was economic democracy, a national minimum standard in respect of the essentials of physical and social well-being, a rise in the standard of ~~the~~ living of the people, full employment, elimination of exploitation, the progressive narrowing down of disparities in income and wealth so that there may be equality of opportunity to all for self-development and the growth of personality. It considers that ~~immediate~~ immediate action is necessary more especially in ~~regard~~ regard to the following matters:

(1) Basic and essential lines of development such as power and irrigation and prior allocation of available resources for this purpose;

(2) Early realization of self-sufficiency in food;

(3) An adequate supply of essential raw materials for industry;

(4) An orderly and progressive reduction in the general price level;

(5) Full and efficient utilization of installed capacity in industries; reducing costs of production to a reasonable level and at the same time, providing conditions in which the workers can put forth their

best efforts; and

(6) Expansion of opportunities for gainful employment by planned development of village and small scale industries, on co-operative lines as far as possible and on the basis of the highest attainable technical efficiency. Priority should be given in this respect to khadi and the handloom industry.

"No system of planned economy can succeed and no large scale advance is possible unless there is full public co-operation. It is, therefore, necessary to evoke public enthusiasm and harness it for the promotion of nation building activities, to raise the low productivity in industry and agriculture. Efforts should, therefore, be made to utilize the experience, energy, free time and other resources of the people on a voluntary basis and on a nation-wide scale. In any such scheme Congressmen should give their full and active support".

Role of khadi.- The resolution on khadi said: "The Congress is of the opinion that in all schemes for increasing the production of wealth in the country, it is essential that the vast manpower in the villages should be progressively utilized. Employment should be given to the millions, who have no land to cultivate or whose holdings are so small as to leave much time at their disposal for other gainful employment. This should lead to the general adoption of a policy of encouraging and organizing home industries.

"Khadi, which Congressmen have for years adopted for their use on political and economic grounds, is the central home industry which can give employment to a very large number of ~~the~~ rural population. Several other subsidiary industries can be helped by an increase in the production of khadi.

"The best way of assisting khadi and other home industries is to give them the ~~benefits~~ of scientific research in the fullest measure.

"With improved technique and co-ordination with large-scale industries, the disadvantage of village industries in respect of quality and prices as compared with the products of large-scale industries will greatly diminish. To overcome whatever handicaps still remain, the Government should give give further assistance in suitable form particularly by the purchase and use of khadi and other products of village industries as ~~much~~ much as possible".

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Standing Labour Committee to meet in
October 1950: Agenda.

The 12th meeting of the Standing Labour Committee will be held ^{at Delhi} ~~here~~ in the third week of October 1950. Constitution of a welfare trust fund for industrial workers, establishment of contributory provident fund in industrial undertakings, uniformity in legislation relating to shop and commercial employees, the necessity for tripartite agreements on standards of compliance with the provisions of the Factory Act in respect of organized industries, and retrenchment are the principal items on the agenda of the meeting.

A meeting of the Plantation Labour Committee will also be held ~~here~~ about the same time, to discuss, among other things, the Plantation Labour Bill.

(The Hindustan Times, 31-8-1950).

Principles of Labour Bills outlined: Lack of
Understanding by ~~Business~~ Critics alleged.

A spokesman of the Central Ministry of Labour stated ~~that~~ at New Delhi on 17 September 1950, that the ~~Min~~ Labour Ministry has made a detailed analysis of the points raised against the provisions of the Labour Relations Bill and the Trade Union Bill by workers' and employers' representatives. The analysis, he added, has revealed a lack of understanding by the critics of the principles of the Bills. The proposed measures, contain checks and balances, ~~and~~ equally affecting both workers and managements in their mutual interest and in the interest of the industrially under-developed and unstable country. He maintained that the provisions of the Bills ~~are~~ in force in most of the advanced countries, such as the United States of America, Britain, Canada and Switzerland.

The Ministry, it is stated, has still an open mind, and is ~~a~~ prepared to amend the Bills to remove genuine apprehensions of the parties concerned. It has agreed to withdraw the powers reserved for the Government regarding rejection or alteration of judicial awards, and to make the findings of the Appellate Tribunal final and binding on the parties. Changes in several other provisions are also under consideration. Replying to criticisms about the "invidious" distinction between civil servants and other employees, the Ministry emphasizes that restrictions on the right of civil servants to strike

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have been imposed in many democratic countries where traditions and present conditions permit greater latitude in the matter than is possible in India, which has yet to tackle the problem of nation building. In the United States of America, strikes by Government employees are prohibited by the Labour Management Relations Act of 1947. Similar measures exist in Canada, Switzerland and other countries.

The Ministry is examining a proposal, suggesting that it should be made obligatory on parties to give notice before changes in contractual arrangements are effected. A list of matters in regard to which no changes can be made without going through the prescribed procedure will be provided in the legislation. Regarding collective bargaining through certified agents, it is felt that if the simplified plan of recognizing only the larger of the two federations in an industry in a region is accepted, it might lead to suppression of smaller units. Therefore, the Ministry considers it necessary that the system of a "unit appropriate for collective bargaining" should replace the existing provision. It is proposed that different percentages be prescribed for unions of different sizes. The suggestion for ascertaining, through secret ballot as in America, the wishes of workers concerned in the cases of disputed claims to majority membership is not acceptable to the Ministry as "the bulk of labour in India is unorganized and can be swayed into momentary allegiance to one union or another".

The Ministry ^{rebuttes} ~~relates~~ the allegation that compulsory arbitration provided in the Bill is the negation of the right of free collective bargaining. The measure in this respect it is stated conforms to those prohibitory provisions as are envisaged in the ILO Convention. The Bill will protect workers against anti-union discrimination by managements and will prohibit employers from financing workers' organizations with the object of controlling them. The official spokesman points out that the Convention does not in any way prohibit State interference in labour disputes at an appropriate stage by way of compulsory arbitration. The principle of compulsory arbitration is not new. The Labour Relations Bill merely retains what is contained in the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947 and in similar State legislation. It is argued that during World War II compulsory conciliation and arbitration were enforced in Canada, Britain and America. In India, compulsion is justified on the ground that the country is not yet stable, and industrial strikes cannot but harm the progress of the country. Here, trade union movement has not developed enough to take care of the legitimate rights of labour in the proper manner. While in many cases there is every risk of labour's interests

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being subordinated to those of employers on account of the unequal strength of the parties, there is equally the fear of frequent and prolonged industrial strikes resulting from unreasonable attitude of either party leading to much hardship to the public at a time when production is vital to national economy.

Some workers have alleged that the Bill deprives them of the right to strike. The relevant provisions place some restrictions on the right to declare a strike or a lockout until the procedure prescribed for negotiation or collective bargaining has been observed, or when proceedings are pending before a tribunal, or during the period of operation of a settlement of collective agreement. The power envisaged in Clause 97, namely prohibiting strikes and lockouts in public utility services, is exercisable only in a state of emergency for a period not exceeding six months. Maintenance of the status quo during periods when strikes and lockouts are banned is statutorily enforced in the United States of America, Canada, South Africa and China. Strikes and lockouts are prohibited during the validity of collective bargaining and of awards in Canada, South Africa, the United States of America and Iran. The right of workers in utility services to strike is banned or much restricted in America, Salvador and other countries.

According to the Ministry, the criticism that the penalties prescribed and liabilities to be imposed on parties are either excessive or inappropriate is unjustified. The penalties suggested in the Bill are the same as those prescribed in Industrial Disputes Act 1947. More stringent penalties, the Ministry thinks, are required to ensure implementation of awards. Because penalties now provided are not sufficiently heavy, many awards have remained either unimplemented or implemented in part.

Regarding forfeiture of wages, life bonus, provident fund etc., for participating in illegal strikes, and about the payment by employers of double wages and other usual benefits to employees in the case of illegal lockouts, it is stated that in view of the elaborate facilities available under the proposed legislation to get disputes settled and to make sure that strikes and lockouts started are legal, there is no reason whatever for the parties to precipitate themselves in illegal strikes and lockouts. Penalties for failure to comply with the terms of settlement of awards are equally strong for both workers and employers. Therefore, employees should have no particular grievance about it.

The Trade Union Bill has been criticized mainly on the ground that restriction and conditions imposed on trade unions deprive them of freedom of association and the right to organize, guaranteed by the ILO Convention, the Charter of Human Rights and the Indian Constitution. The Ministry contends, that some restrictions are necessary in the interest of orderly development of trade unions themselves. That such restrictions may be found necessary from time to time is contemplated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Indian Constitution also provides for "imposition, in the interest of public order of morality, reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the right conferred by Article 19(1)(c)".

(The Statesman, 18-9-1950).

CHAPTER 3. PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

INDIA - SEPTEMBER 1950.

31. Workers' Trade Union Movements.

ICFTU to set up Asian Headquarters in Singapore.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has decided to set up an organisation in Asia to help the development of trade unionism and "strengthen the forces of Freedom".

At a meeting of the emergency committee of the Federation held in Brussels on 14 September 1950, it was announced that the Federation's provisional Asian headquarters would be an information and advisory centre in Singapore.

Branch offices would be established in India, Japan and the Philippines. Residential Labour Colleges would be set up within the next few months in Kandy (Ceylon) and Singapore to train Asian trade union leaders.

(The Tribune, dated 16-9-1950).

Aid for Trade Union Movement in India:
British T.U.C's decision.

According to a PTI-Reuter message, the British Trades Union Congress, at its annual conference held during September 1950, decided to spend about £37,000 to assist trade union movements in India, Pakistan and the British colonies.

(The Hindustan Times, 9-9-1950).

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33. Employers' Professional Organisations.

India - September 1950.

1950 Annual General Meeting of United Planters' Association of Southern India, Coonoor, 28-31 August 1950.

The annual general meeting of the United Planters' Association of Southern India was held at Coonoor from 28 to 31 August 1950, Mr. R. Walker presiding. The conference was inaugurated by the Governor of Madras.

Presidential address: need for improving efficiency stressed.- Referring to the problems affecting the plantations industry in South India, Mr. Walker ~~said~~, in his presidential address, ^{said} that like other groups of employers throughout India, planters in South India were considerably perturbed by the serious threat to the whole economic structure of India resulting from enthusiasm for a higher general standards of living completely ~~surpassing~~ outrunning the productive efficiency of the nation. While the Government and labour circles seemed to regard the prospects of the planting industry as set fair for many years to come, the true position was that many estates were already running at a loss and only those favourably situated in respect of climate and location with high crop yields per acre and ability to turn out a high grade product could possibly continue in production with some profit for themselves. Employers had long been charged, and often not without justification, of exploiting the workers-of pursuing an industrial policy based on immediate short-term self-interest which had little or no regard for humanitarian principles. They had to face the inevitable reaction which that earlier policy has engendered among the labour classes throughout the world. That the reaction should take the form of a policy similarly dictated by short-term ~~of~~ self-interest of the workers was not surprising, but it was a policy which threatened not merely the profits of employers but the very means of existence of the workers themselves. For, while in pursuance of this policy, the legislators and industrial tribunals could continue to apportion between employers and workers the rewards of industry in a manner they considered equitable, neither the legislators nor the tribunals could increase the total production of any industry. Further, legislation on these lines,

before a vastly improved productive efficiency had made greater rewards for industry possible, could only prove disastrous to employers, workers and the nation alike.

Mr. Walker emphasised that planters were trying to improve efficiency but great patience was required to teach new methods to the workers. Labour advocates might continue to encourage workers to expect more and more wages, more and more leisure, and more and more amenities, without a corresponding increase in productive efficiency; but they could not encourage or coerce other countries to take Indian products if quality suffered or if the price was expensive; nor could they do anything to arrest a repetition of the appalling economic depression of the planting industry in the early 1930's, if legislators were persuaded to impose further burdens upon the industry which were beyond its capacity to bear and which would lose for it its world markets. Labour continued to be exploited but not by the employers.

Mr. Walker claimed that the duty of enterprise in respect of raising living standards in areas where it operates had been better understood by planters than most. Here, the progress had again been ~~arrested~~ arrested by well-meaning but over-zealous theorists engaged on legislative designs which they endeavoured to thrust upon the industry far in advance of its preparedness or that of the worker. Not only had the planting industry had no major industrial disputes; not only was it probably the only large industry in India which had settled all labour claims to date in a spirit of compromise without intervention by an industrial tribunal; but of the ever-increasing share of the industry's income absorbed by labour since 1939 (now 50 per cent of income), an appreciable portion of the increase had been made without any pressure from the Government. They had gone so far along this road of compromise that to-day in the absence of very high crop yields there ~~is~~ nothing left for many of ~~the~~ members to compromise with.

If ~~there~~ their reward for that policy of co-operation by and compromise was to be the addition by compulsory legislation of still further burdens to their already overloaded cost of production, the responsibility for economic collapse of the industry must rest fairly and squarely on labour and on Government, the other two partners in this much needed co-operative effort to increase the planting industry's and the nation's total income.

Mr. Walker emphasised that labour's contribution to increased production in any agricultural industry could not, of course, be assessed only by crop production figures as these were largely dependent on climatic conditions and the absence or prevalence of disease. The planter, however, was in a better position than most employers to make a personal appraisal of this factor, and allowing for the inevitable consequences of very low rations, most of them were satisfied that, if left to themselves, their workers would ordinarily endeavour to give a fair day's work. There could be no doubt, however, that labour output had fallen off in many estates where influences had been at work to induce the worker to regard as excessive the daily tasks which were even lighter than those which had been easily performed for years past. Government and Labour must understand that even where funds were still available no useful purpose would be served by plantation owners spending large sums on endeavouring to increase crops by the purchase of costly artificial manures, intensive cultivation and improved machinery if labour would not play, or was not capable of playing its part in increasing production. The planters sought the enlightened co-operation of trade union leaders in this matter and were always prepared to investigate any specific case of injustice. One might expect under pressure of world economic conditions that an industry which was the greatest dollar and sterling earning industry of India might have its export capacity stimulated by reduced duties or even by subsidisation, especially when the industry was being called upon to bear ever-increasing cost of production. Instead out of their total income or selling price taxes, duties, and imports of numerous kinds absorbed over 20 per cent. They were thus, left after paying labour and the various taxing authorities with 30 per cent or less of their selling price to meet all the other costs of cultivation, plant protection, manufacture, selling, administration and financing, and a not inconsiderable portion of this was hidden excise on production in the cost of complying with the numerous bureaucratic controls and paralysing delays to which the industry was subjected.

Mr. Walker urged that Government, in the national interest, to consider the urgent necessity for a reduction or abolition of these duties and taxes and for a considerable simplification of those controls and statistical returns which constituted such a brake on their productive efficiency.

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Capital formation.- As regards capital formation, Mr. Walker stated that heavy taxation and other burdens prevented the building up of financial reserves so essential to combat the effects of periods of depression. It was well known that the investor had become shy and the Government had recognised the need for giving encouragement to attract capital from inside India as well as from abroad. Unless, however, the existing major industries, and the plantation industry was one such, had confidence that they would receive sympathetic treatment, development of the industrialisation of India would receive no encouragement and Planning Commissions, however good their intention, would have the results of their labours pigeon-holed indefinitely.

Plantation products.- Mr. Walker said that the Coffee Industry had passed through a reasonably good year, and thanks to the efforts of the Indian Coffee Board, supplies in the local markets were adequate and prices were reasonable. The production of rubber during the past year had been maintained at a satisfactory level considering the increasing age of most of the rubber trees. Prices continued to be controlled, but while production costs had continued to rise, there had been no corresponding adjustments in price, with the result that the industry was still being denied an economic price. World prices had, in recent months, risen far above the Indian controlled price, and although the price of Indian rubber was not fixed in relation to world price, the prevailing high costs of production and the vital need to develop the industry, which was of strategic importance to the country, would most assuredly have justified an immediate revision of the prices in favour of the grower. As regards minor products, the cardamom crop for the year was disappointing, the yield per acre falling considerably in some areas. The pepper crop was an average one and prices have fallen considerably from the high levels they attained at the beginning of the year owing to world shortage.

*The devaluation of the rupee had led to an improvement in tea prices, but, during recent months, outmarket prices had fluctuated and it was by no means certain that the present high price for tea would be maintained. There were indications that the American market was absorbing more tea, but ~~such~~ whether this was due to temporary factors such as the high price of coffee or would be permanent, as a result of the intensive tea propaganda work being carried out, remained to be seen.

International Labour Organisation.- Mr. Walker said that the International Labour Organisation had turned its attention to labour conditions in Estates and a Committee had been set up to study conditions of employment on plantations all over the world. The Central Government ~~were~~ of the opinion that plantation conferences and committees had been singularly ~~fortunate~~ fortunate in reaching a quick understanding between employers and unions. The third session of the Industrial Committee on Plantations would be convened by the Government shortly.

New Labour Bills.- As regards labour legislation, Mr. Walker said that with the passing of the State Employees Insurance Act, the Minimum Wages Act and the Factories Act in 1948, there was a temporary lull in the passing of new labour laws. Owing, however, to insistent demands put up to the Government by all Associations of Employers and Federations of such Associations in India, the Government of India introduced a Bill for the constitution of an Appellate Tribunal to which applications for review of Awards made by Industrial Tribunals could be made and this Bill was placed on the Statute Book early this year. The Government of India, however, had a heavy legislative programme for new labour laws for the current year with the Labour Relations Bill which was intended to replace the Industrial Disputes Act 1947; the Trade Unions Bill which was ~~intended to~~ a consolidating measure intended to replace the Trade Unions Act of 1936 and the Amending Act of 1947 which has not yet been brought into operation. The Government also proposed to introduce a Bill for the Plantation Code.

Membership.- The Association's membership had increased during the past year by 16 Ordinary Members representing over 2,500 acres. There were also two new Firm Members. Mr. Walker added that it was a cause of considerable satisfaction to him to record that all these new applications for Ordinary Membership came from Indian owners. It was a striking testimony to the usefulness and effectiveness of the organisation that they were able to claim that Indian interests, British interests, large companies and proprietary growers of tea, coffee and rubber, all combine together under the aegis of the W.P.A.S.I. and work in a spirit of ~~harmony~~ harmony and co-operation.

President for current year.- Mr. D.C. Kothari was elected President for the Association for the current year.

(The annual meeting of the Association was summarised at pages 9-13 of the report of this Office

for August 1949).

(The ~~Mindanao~~ Hindu, 29-8-1950, and 3-9-1950).

Annual meeting of South India Estate Labour Relations Organisation: President's Address.

Addressing the third annual general meeting of the South India Estate Labour Relations Organisation, held at Coonoor on 31 August 1950, Mr. D.C. Kothari, President of the Organisation, said that the growth of trade unionism amidst plantation labour, the ever-increasing demands put forward by labour leaders, the rising costs of production, and a host of other socio-economic and political factors were bound to make the future more and more difficult for employers ~~and workers~~ so far as the handling of labour problems was concerned.

In the course of his speech, Mr. Kothari referred to certain pieces of legislation which had a particular bearing on the plantation industry. In view of the delay anticipated in the passing of the Plantation Code, it appeared inevitable that the various States' Governments concerned would proceed with the work of fixing minimum rates of wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, in spite of the assurance to the contrary given at the second session of the Industrial Committee on Plantations. The Government of Madras was now constituting a Wage Committee for Plantations under Section 5 of the Act, although at first it wanted to notify the proposed rates in the official Gazette, and then invite criticisms and ~~the workers' suggestions~~ suggestions of those interested. However, ~~the workers' suggestions~~ ~~the employers had been able to prevail upon~~ the employers had been able to prevail upon the Government to adopt the procedure of constituting a wage committee.

Mr. Kothari referred to the latest position regarding the profit-sharing scheme and the Fair Wages Bill. In July 1949 the meeting of the Labour Central Advisory Council, which was convened to discuss the profit-sharing scheme, came to an abrupt and consequent on a deadlock created by the disagreement ~~and the representatives~~ between the representatives of employers and the representatives of labour. In March 1950, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, gave the assurance that this Government was examining the scheme and was coming to

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"certain decisions". As regards fair wages, a Fair Wages Bill based on the recommendations embodied in the Report of the Fair Wages Committee has been introduced in the Indian Parliament, and the Government was determined to see the Bill placed on the Statute Book as early as possible.

I.L.O's activities.- Turning to the activities of the International Labour Organisation in the field of plantation labour, Mr. Kothari said that the Governing Body of the I.L.O. at its 107th session held at Geneva in December, 1948, set up a Committee on work on plantations to examine and report on the special problems of plantation workers. In order to prepare a preliminary report on the conditions of work in plantations and ~~the~~ other relevant matters to be submitted to the first session of the Plantations Committee, the I.L.O. issued a comprehensive questionnaire covering all aspects of plantation labour. The United Planters' Association of Southern India replied to the questionnaire on behalf of the plantation industry in South India. The I.L.O. deputed Mr. Jawad, Head of the Section in the I.L.O. at Geneva, to conduct a factual on-the-spot survey of conditions in plantations, and this organisation and the United Planters' Association extended their full co-operation to Mr. Jawad in his work. Mr. David A. Morse, Director-General of the International Labour Organisation, and Mrs. Morse also visited United Planters' Association of Southern India in the course of their tour of South India.

Speaking on ~~the~~ labour and staff problems with which the Labour Relations Organisation had to contend during this ~~organisation~~ year, Mr. Kothari ~~xxxxxx~~ listed as first the demand for an enhanced rate of bonus for the year 1949 put forward by unions of workers employed on estates in the Anamallais and the Nilgiris. Apart from this the labour front was on the whole very quiet and their relations with unions of estate workers were quite satisfactory.

Turning to the membership position of this organisation, Mr. Kothari said that, the number of members for the year under review had increased by ~~245xxxxxx~~ 11 and the acreage by 945 of tea and 1,621 acres of other products. He appealed to such of the members of the United Planters' Association who were not members of this organisation to join this organisation without further delay.

President for current year.- Mr. J.L.H. Williams
was elected President of the Organisation for the
current year.

(The Hindu, 2-9-1950).

Chapter 4. Economic Conditions.

42. Production and Export of Agricultural Products.

India - September 1950.

Madhya Pradesh: Board of Agriculture constituted.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has constituted a Board of Agriculture consisting of official and non-official members, under the chairmanship of the Minister for Agriculture.

Functions.- The functions and objects of the Board will be to advise Government on the steps it should take to-

- (a) Increase agricultural production and improve existing methods of agriculture and agricultural practices;
- (b) Improve the breed and health of cattle;
- (c) Educate agriculturists in modern and scientific methods of agriculture (cultivation);
- (d) Formulate and implement Grow More Food Schemes and Development Schemes of the Agriculture and Veterinary Departments;
- (e) Advise Government on all matters connected with the well-being of agriculturists and agricultural labourers; and
- (f) Any other subject generally connected with agriculture.

(The Madhya Pradesh Gazette, dated 8-9-1950; Part I, pages 565-566).

43. Foreign Trade and Exchanges.

India - September 1950.

Trade Agreement with Czechoslovakia; Industrial Aid promised.

Under the terms of a trade agreement, ratified by the two Governments, Czechoslovakia has undertaken to give India all possible assistance to build up new and to ~~improve~~ improve existing Indian industries. ~~It was revealed here today.~~ The agreement is for the 12 months from 1 April 1950 to 31 March 1951.

The Czechoslovak promise of technical and expert assistance is given in Article 4 of the agreement which states: -"By the Government of the Republic of India, the Czechoslovak Government agree to render all possible assistance to build up new and improve existing Indian industries. Contracts for this purpose may be made between the Government of the Republic of India, ~~the Czechoslovak Government~~ ~~or the Governments of any of the States of the Union of India~~ or the Governments of any of the States of the Union of India or persons or firms in India on the one side and Czechoslovak enterprises on the other. These contracts may provide inter alia for projects, drawings, transfer of patents rights, and lending of expert personnel". The agreement specified that "it is understood that contracts for lending (of expert personnel) will be made between the party in India and the Czechoslovak enterprise concerned, and the contract for employment will be made ~~between the party in India and the Czechoslovak~~ ~~an~~ individual so lent". Under the terms of the agreement, India undertook to supply Czechoslovakia 4,500 tons of alumenite ore, 4,000 tons of manganese ore, 60,000 tons of iron ore, 3,500 tons of raw jute and jute manufactures, as well as vegetable oils, skins, animal hair and other products. In the schedules of exchanges appended to the agreement, Indian export items expressed in tons, totalled 78,806 tons in addition to other Indian export items expressed in value totalling 534,000 pounds sterling.

In return, Czechoslovakia undertook to supply India electrical and industrial machinery, agricultural tractors, electrical apparatus, special tools, construction steel, newsprint and paper, dyes, chemicals and other goods and wares to a total value of 1,944,000 pounds sterling. The biggest single item in the schedule of exports to India was agricultural tractors and tractor parts to the value of 500,000 pounds sterling followed by equipment and machinery for sugar mills and spare parts to the value of 200,000 pounds sterling.

The agreement provided that the yearly quantity or value of the items mentioned in the schedules can be diminished or increased or fresh items added by mutual agreement.

(The Hindu, 8-9-1950).

Expansion of Trade with Norway: Agreement reached.

A Government of India Press Note says that measures have been taken for promoting trade between India and Norway. Both Governments will endeavour, in accordance with the understanding, to expand trade between the two countries, and items in short supply in one will be licensed for export from the other subject to certain conditions. Applications for export licenses to either will ordinarily be treated in the same way as those for any other country of the soft currency group in accordance with the licensing procedure in force. The Government of Norway has extended to India concessions granted to member nations of the ~~for~~ Organisation for European Economic Co-operation. The concessions cover two types of list - the free list and the global list. The free list will be in force until further notice, but the global list was cancelled by the Government of Norway on 16 March 1950, with a grace period of six months from ~~January~~ 1 January 1950, for goods already licensed.

Representatives of the two Governments have agreed that within the currency groups there will be no territorial discrimination and, accordingly, applications for licences for import of goods from one into the other will ordinarily be treated equally favourably as compared to any other country of the soft currency group in accordance with the licensing procedure in force from time to time.

The Norwegian Government will encourage Norwegian companies and individuals to place their experience at the disposal of Indian interested parties, and the two Governments will be pleased to assist in arranging for contacts in various fields, subject to foreign exchange and other regulations in force.

Exportable items from ~~Norway~~ Norway.- The following are some of the items available from Norway for export to India: fish, cheese, seed potatoes, medicinal and industrial cod liver oil, vitamin products, laminaria pins, other drugs, calcium carbide, sulphite lye (totanin), chemical

fertilizers, auxiliaries for tanneries, textile and washing agents industry, fatty alcohols and products from sperm oil, alginates for the textile industry and other alginates, mechanical and chemical pulp, newsprint and paper of all sorts, cardboard and pasteboard, soft and hard wall board, staple fibre, electrode paste, non-ferrous metals, ferro-alloys (ferrosilicon all grades, ferrochrome, ferro-manganese and sillico-manganese), rosenails, fish hooks, welding equipment, testing machines, textile machinery, electric motors and diesel engines, pump sets, electric hoists, machine tools, woodworking machinery, chaffcutter knives, kitchen scales, rivets, bolts and nuts, handtools, electric safety handlamps, wireless receivers, technical nitrogenous ~~and~~ products and inert gases, planed wood and box boards, formaline and resins, other chemicals, caseline, transmission belting, pulp stones, grinding wheels, abrasives, fishing vessels made from timber.

Exporatable items from India.- The following are some of the goods available for export from India. Cotton textiles, jute goods, raw wool and woollen manufactures including carpets and rugs, coir mats and other manufactures, cotton waste, leather and leather goods, rubber goods, raw and tanned goat-skins, hides of heavier weight, myrabolamps, sport goods, drugs and medicines, essential oils and oilseeds, sandalwood and sandalwood oil, groundnuts and groundnut oil, linseed and linseed oil, castor and shew nuts, tea, coffee, tobacco, shellac, ginger, turmeric, cardamom, pickles, chutneys, condiments, curry powder, cashew nuts, tea, coffee, tobacco, shellac, mica, manganese and magnesite, crushed bones, rose and other timber.

(The Statesman, ~~508~~ 30-8-1950).

44. Prices and Cost of Living.India - September 1950.Tightening up of Price Control: Ordinance
Issued to curb Profiteering.

On 2 September 1950, the President of India promulgated the Supply and Prices of Goods Ordinance, 1950, to provide for the control of prices of certain goods and their supply and distribution. The items falling ~~which~~ within the scope of the Ordinance are: non-ferrous metals, including brass (unwrought and semi-manufactured); bicycles, cycle tyres and tubes; electric bulbs; razor blades; caustic soda; soda ash; tanning materials (wattle bark, wattle extract and quebracho); raw rubber; casein; and infants' foods (Glaxo, Horlick's and Cow and Gate milk).

The Ordinance empowers the Central Government: ~~to~~ (a) to fix the maximum price which may be charged by a dealer or producer; (b) to fix the maximum quantity which may at any one time be possessed by a ~~dealer~~ dealer or producer or which may, in one transaction, be sold to any person; (c) to impose on dealers and producers the duty to declare possession of stocks in excess of the maximum fixed; (d) to penalize refusal to sell goods without sufficient cause; (e) to mark prices and exhibit price lists and statements of stocks; (f) to impose on a dealer or producer the obligation to state the price separately on a composite offer; (g) to prohibit closure of shops; and (h) to regulate production and distribution of goods.

The Ordinance provides for punishment with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine, or with both, of any person who contravenes any of its provisions. Punishment is also provided where the person contravening any of its provisions or of any order or direction made under it, is a company or a corporate body.

Notifications prescribing the maximum price in respect of certain goods, issued along with the Ordinance, provide that every dealer or producer shall exhibit as soon as possible ~~and~~ later than September 10, and on the first day of every subsequent month, at some easily accessible place in his premises, a price list of goods held by him for sale and also a statement of the total stocks.

In the case of certain goods, the dealers and producers are required to report to the Central Government the stocks held by them on 1 September 1950. Under Section 9 of the Ordinance, it is made obligatory for dealers and producers to issue cash memos for all cash transactions of 10 rupees or more and for cash transactions for less than 10 rupees when the purchaser demands a cash memo. By a rule made under this Section, it has been prescribed that each cash memo should contain the name and address of the buyer.

(The Gazette of India, Extraordinary,
Part II- Section 1, dated 2-9-1950,
pp. 239-246;
The Statesman, dated 3-9-1950).

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45. Economic Development and Control.

India - September 1950.

Economic and Financial Survey of India:
Reserve Bank's Report for year ending
June 1950.

The Annual Report of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank for the year ended 30 June 1950, places the Bank's income for the year at 129.0 million rupees and the expenditure at 29.9 million rupees. The net profit, payable to the Central Government, under the Reserve Bank of India Act, amounts to 99.1 million rupees, as against 89.6 million rupees transferred to the Central Government last year. The report contains, in addition to an account of the bank's activities, a rapid review of the course of economic and financial developments in the country during the accounting year.

While referring to the activities of the Bank's Department of Research and Statistics, the report gives a brief summary of the results of a census of foreign assets and liabilities in regard to private foreign investments in India, conducted by the department. The market value of total private foreign investments as on 30 June, 1948, has been placed at 6960 million rupees, of which 5190 million rupees (or 87 per cent) comprised long-term business investments, the balance representing mostly the short-term liabilities of commercial banks. It is pointed out that the 'direct' type of investment in which control of operation is associated with ownership of capital predominates in the field of foreign investments; it amounts to as much as 4310 million rupees or nearly 83 per cent of total business investments. Country-wise, Great Britain's investments amounted to 3760 million rupees, the other important countries being the United States of America (300 million rupees), Pakistan (210 million rupees), British West Indies (150 million rupees), Switzerland (100 million rupees) and Canada (90 million rupees).

Economic conditions: inflation as a major problem.- Reviewing ~~that~~ the general economic conditions in the country, the report states that inflation continued during the year to be the major problem confronting the economy of the country, and the devaluation of the rupee only emphasised the need ~~of~~ for immediate and concentrated efforts to control inflationary tendencies.

The general price index in June, 1950 was 4.6 per cent higher than in June, 1949, but only 1.7 per cent higher than the pre-devaluation level in

August, 1949. Despite the continuance of price controls in respect of various commodities and efforts to implement the anti-inflation programme initiated in ~~xxx~~ October 1948, the Economic Adviser's general index (base: year ended August, 1939 - 100) showed an almost continuous rise from 378.3 in June 1949 to 389.3 in September, indicating the presence of inflationary pressures in the economy.

After devaluation the price index reached a new peak of 393.3 in October owing mainly to the sharp rise in the domestic prices of a number of export commodities including tea, lac, pepper, oils and oilseeds. This was followed by a temporary decline during November and December, the general price index touching 381.3 in December, which represented a reduction of about 3 per cent from the October level. This improvement could not, however, be sustained during the first half of 1950, and the index for June 1950 stood at 395.6.

Improvement in capital market.- Referring to capital markets, the report states that indications of some improvement were discernible towards the close of the year under review. The gilt-edged market, on the whole, was steady. In Industrials, the downward trend which began in August, 1946 was halted in July, 1949 when prices reached record low levels. The Reserve Bank index of variable dividend industrial securities, which had stood at 108.7 on 2 July, 1949, rose steadily to 118.0 by the close of June, 1950, the improvement being primarily attributable to the stimulus provided by devaluation, tax concessions ~~on dividends and hopes~~, abolition of statutory limitation on dividends and hopes aroused by the Indo-Pakistan Minorities and Trade Agreements.

In this context, a reference is made to the importance of the role of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India in assisting the long and medium-term finance requirements of industries. As regards agricultural finance, the report mentions the additional credit facilities granted by the Reserve Bank to co-operative banks and also notices the main conclusions and recommendations of the Rural Banking Inquiry Committee.

Lastly, the report notices the considerable improvement in the country's balance of payments in position following devaluation and the vigorous measures taken by Government for the restriction of imports and stimulation of exports. The average value of India's exports to the hard currency areas for the period October, 1949 to June 1950 amounted to 135.0 million rupees per month as against ~~98~~ 97 million rupees per month during October 1948 to June 1949, or an increase of nearly 40 per cent.

Improvement in the external accounts position was reflected in the slow rate of utilisation of the sterling releases during the year. The report also refers to the Indo-Pakistan Payments and Exchange problems and in particular to the repercussions of Pakistan's decision not to devalue its currency on the economic relations between the two countries.

(The Times of India, 7-9-1950).

Role of Industrial Finance Corporation:
38 Million Rupees Loan sanctioned.

According to the second annual report of the Industrial Finance Corporation, presented to the shareholders at the annual general meeting held in New Delhi on 30 August 1950, the Corporation sanctioned loans for a total amount of 37.7 million rupees to various industrial borrowers, during the year ended 30 June 1950.

The report stresses the willingness of the Corporation for assisting industrial concerns which have carefully considered schemes for undertaking programmes of manufacture, for any extension and renewal of plant and equipment for the purpose of increasing their productive activity. In considering applications for loans the main criterion adopted by the Corporation is the profit-earning capacity and prospects of a concern in the ~~extent~~ ostensible value of its assets. The Corporation also takes into consideration the importance of the particular industry in the economic life of the community. The following table summarises the main features of the activity of the Corporation during the year.

	Year ended 30 June 1950		Year ended '30 June 1949.	
	No.	Amount (in thousand rupees).	No.	Amount (In thousand rupees).
Applications received.....	65	87563	95	103318
Applications sanctioned.....	23	37700	21	34225
Applications rejected.....	44	43065	33	18855
Applications under considera- tion at the end of the year..	19	18400	41	48838
Applications treated as lapsed.	20	28000	-	-

Note:- The figures above show the disposal of 106 applications being 65 new and 41 applications pending at the end of the previous year.

The applications sanctioned during the year related to a variety of industries, the types of industries and the amount of accommodation sanctioned for each industry being given below together with the corresponding figures for the previous year:

Type of Industry.	Amount sanctioned during the year ended 30-6-50. (In thousand rupees).	Amount sanctioned during the year ended 30-6-49. (In thousand rupees).	Total
Textile Machinery.....	800	4,300	5,100
Mechanical Engineering.....	3,900	1,000	4,900
Electrical Engineering.....	3,750	2,600	6,350
Cotton Textiles- -.....	9,250	4,000	13,250
Woollen Textiles.....	-	500	500
Rayon Industry.....	5,000	-	5,000
Chemicals.....	400	5,650	6,050
Cement.....	-	4,000	4,000
Ceramics and Glass.....	-	6,000	6,000
Oil Mills.....	-	175	175
Electric Power.....	900	300	1,200
Metallurgical Industry (non-ferrous metals).....	-	3,000	3,000
Iron and Steel(light engineering).....	2,700	1,550	4,250
Aluminium.....	5,000	-	5,000
Sugar Industry.....	2,000	-	2,000
Mining	3,000	-	3,000
Unclassified.....	1,000	1,150	2,150
	<u>37,700</u>	<u>34,225</u>	<u>71,925</u>

It will be seen that the total amount of accommodation sanctioned by the Corporation during the two years of its working was 71,925,000 rupees. As on 30 June 1950, the net amount drawn by the borrowing concerns (after making allowances for repayment) was 34,174,300 rupees. The report explains the difference between the amount sanctioned and the amount drawn as being due to many causes. Industrial concerns do not generally desire the entire amount to be paid in one lump-sum, but prefer to obtain their requirement in instalments coinciding with the maturity of the commitments for which assistance is sought from the Corporation. Again, in a number of cases, where accommodation has been sanctioned, no steps are taken, according to the report, by the borrowing concerns towards completion of the legal formality as they either wait for a fall in the price of machinery and plant, or delay is experienced for obtaining licences for equipment to be imported or permits for other controlled materials.

The report makes certain general observations on various industries, With regard to the cotton textile industry, it is said that, generally speaking, very few textile mills have adequate reserves or resources to pay for new equipment at present prices to replace the old machinery and plant. In the opinion of the Board of Directors of the Corporation, the awards of industrial courts in sanctioning bonus have imposed a strain on the resources of some of the medium-sized companies; and they proceed to emphasize that this additional burden has been felt by the mills at a time when their resources have been strained in meeting the cost of renewals and replacement of machinery and larger demands for working capital on account of the rise in the prices of cotton, fuel and stores and higher labour charges.

With reference to electric supply undertakings, the report states that the Corporation has been experiencing difficulty in sanctioning accommodation, on account of the legal difficulties arising out of certain provisions of the Indian Electric Act, 1910, and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. These provisions, which relate to the terms on which electric supply undertakings can be acquired by the State, are interpreted to preclude the Corporation from granting assistance to such concerns as the Corporation ~~from~~ is unable to acquire as effective mortgage over the assets of the undertakings.

As at the end of June 1949, the Corporation had sanctioned loans aggregating to 34,245,000 rupees, with the paid-up capital at 50 million rupees, it became necessary to make arrangements for augmenting its resources by the issue of bonds. It was, therefore, decided to issue 3 1/4 per cent bonds repayable in 1964 up to a total of 75 million rupees, the bonds being guaranteed by the Central Government as to the repayment of principal and interest. The total amount of issue under this arrangement to-date is 53,000,000 rupees. It is considered that the position of the Corporation is comfortable for the next 6 to 12 months. The rates of interest usually charged by the Corporation is 5 1/2 per cent, if the interest and principal are paid on due dates, so that the effective rate of interest is 5 per cent. The rate of interest charged by the Corporation, it is claimed, compares favourably with the terms on which issues of debenture have been made recently by industrial concerns of repute.

with a rebate of 1/2 per cent

The annual accounts show a net profit of 306,038 rupees, out of which it is proposed to transfer a sum of 50,000 rupees to the Reserve Fund, leaving a balance of 256,438 rupees. It is proposed to utilize

this amount towards the payment of the dividend ~~to~~ and to call upon the Central Government for the balance of 868,562 rupees to make up the guaranteed dividend of 2 1/4 per cent per annum.

(The Hindustan Times, 30-8-1950).

46. Wages.

India - September 1950.

The Minimum Wages (Amendment) Act, 1950.

The Minimum Wages (Amendment) ~~Act~~ Bill (1950), as passed by Parliament, received the assent of the President on 22 August 1950 and has been gazetted as an Act (No. LVI of 1950).

(The Gazette of India, Extraordinary,
Part II-Section 1, dated 23-8-1950,
pages 224-225).

Bihar: Advisory Board constituted under Minimum
Wages Act.

In pursuance of section 7 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Government of Bihar has appointed an Advisory Board consisting of 7 independent members and ~~representatives~~ one representative each of employers and employees from 12 categories of employment. The categories of employment covered are: (a) rice mill, flour mill or dal mill; (b) tobacco; (c) bidi making; (d) plantation; (e) oil mills; (f) local authority; (g) road construction and building operation; (h) stone breaking or stone crushing; (i) lac; (j) mica; (k) public motor transport; and (l) tanneries.

Mr. R.S. Pande, Secretary to Government, Labour Department, will be the chairman of the Board.

(Notification No. W3-1020/50-LT-1203 dated 26-8-1950; The Bihar Gazette, dated 6-9-1950, Part I, pages 466-467).

Madhya Pradesh: Minimum Rates of Wages for Glass Industry fixed.

By a notification dated 21 August 1950, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has fixed the minimum rates of wages in respect of the glass industry. The rates are one rupee and twelve annas per day at Nagpur and Jabalpur and one rupee and eight annas per day at all other centres. The rates are inclusive of dearness allowance or compensatory cost of living allowance, and are subject to reduction on account of concessions in respect of supplies of essential commodities at concession rates supplied by the employer.

(Notification No.1881-2081-XXIV dated 21-8-1950; Madhya Pradesh Gazette, dated 25-8-1950, Part I, page 543).

Madras: Minimum Rates of Wages for Employment in Tobacco Manufactory: Draft Schedule Rates published.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Government of Madras has published the following draft schedule of minimum rates of wages payable to persons employed in any tobacco (including bidi making) manufactory:-

<u>Class of Work</u>	<u>Minimum rates of wages</u>		
	Rs.	As.	P.
(i) For rolling 1,000 bedies.....	1	4	0
(ii) For rolling 1,000 cigars.....	1	12	0
(iii)(a) For converting one viss of tobacco into snuff.....	0	13	0
(b) For cutting one viss of tobacco....	0	0	9
(c) For roasting one viss of tobacco.....	0	4	0
(d) For stripping one viss of tobacco.....	0	2	0

Class of Work.Minimum rates of wages.

Rs. As. P.

(iv) In tobacco curing industry-

(a) a minimum time rate at Re.1-4-0 a day.

(b) a minimum piece rate at annas 2 1/2 per 1 lb. of stems stripped.

Cost of living allowances will be paid at the following rates:-

Index Number. Up to 300	301 to 325	326 to 350
Allowance for rupee of earnings.	Nil	1 anna
		2 annas

Index Number. 351 to 375	375 to 400
Allowance for rupee of earnings.	3 annas
	4 annas.

The draft will be taken into consideration after 9 October 1950.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, Part I, dated 15-8-1950, pages 2564-2565).

Orissa: Minimum Wages for Industrial Labour: Advisory Board constituted.

The Government of Orissa has constituted a Labour Advisory Board under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, to advise the Government on minimum wages of industrial labour in different industries of the State.

The Board, which consists of 24 members ~~with~~ with Mr. Pabitracharan Pradhan, Labour Minister, as Chairman, includes five representatives of workers, ^{two are} from the Indian National Trade Union Congress and one from the Hind Mazdoor Sabha.

(Indian News Chronicle, 26-9-1950).

47. Reconstruction Plans.

India - September 1950.

National Laboratories Scheme for India:
Foundation Stone for Road Research Institute
Laid at Delhi.

On 6 September 1950 Mr. N. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar, Minister for Transport, laid the foundation stone of the permanent building of the Central Road Research Institute in Delhi. The Institute is one in the chain of national laboratories, four of which have already been opened. The Institute is expected to be completed within two years and is expected to cost 1,800,000 rupees with a recurring expenditure of 500,000 rupees.

The Institute's laboratory contains samples of soils from all the Indian States. Research in soils has already been carried out since the war in Karnal, Madras and Poona. When the Institute's regular buildings are ready and apparatus is received it is intended to create eight divisions which will investigate new methods of construction, study effect of different traffic conditions, do research in bitumens, concrete and other surfaces and also train road engineers.

Mr. Ayyangar's speech.- Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar said that the need today for an institute of this type hardly needed justification. Such intimate working together of engineers and scientists in other countries had produced excellent results and India should emulate their example. The Central Research Institute would co-ordinate the work of all local stations. Very often the same kind of problem was attacked in different ~~places~~ places and even when a solution had been arrived at in one place, other places continued to struggle with that problem for want of knowledge that it had been solved elsewhere. It was of the highest importance that the knowledge acquired by scientists in the laboratory and engineers on the roads should be freely and fully shared throughout India.

Dr. S.S. Bhatnagar, Director of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, said that if as a result of research it was possible to reduce the cost of road construction by even 1 per cent it would mean a saving of over 10 million rupees to India. gain, if it was possible to reduce the cost of maintenance by even 10 rupees a mile, there would be an annual saving of 3.5 million rupees. This illustrated the economic importance of road research.

The total length of roads in India was 350,000 miles. The cost of constructing tarred roads was about 30,000 rupees per mile for 10ft. wide roads and 50,000 rupees for a cement concrete road while a kacha road cost more than 5,000 rupees a mile, besides heavy cost of maintenance. It was calculated that India needed an additional 400,000 miles of road. The implementation of this plan called for heavy expenditure and material. Climatic conditions in India were different from those obtaining in other countries and varied considerably in different parts of the country. These affected the properties of materials.

Dr. Ernst Zipkes has been appointed Director of the Institute.

(The Statesman, 7-9-1950).

49. Rehabilitation.

India - September 1950.

Compensation for Losses in Pakistan:
Government's Assurance to Displaced
Persons.

On 12 September 1950, the Government of India, in a communiqué gave a categorical assurance to displaced persons that they would be recompensed for their losses.

The communiqué states that the Government of India has invited claims from displaced persons in regard to immovable property left by them in West Pakistan. Without the receipt of these claims it is not possible to ascertain even approximately the net amount of compensation that could be negotiated with Pakistan for payment to India in respect of immovable evacuee property. Further, any scheme for the equitable apportionment and allotment of the assets that may be available to recompense displaced persons for the losses they had suffered in Pakistan necessarily requires that particulars relating to all such immovable property left behind in West Pakistan should be with the Government.

Both from the national and from the individual point of view, it is necessary, therefore, for displaced persons to file their claims expeditiously. The Government desired to assure all concerned that displaced persons will be recompensed to the extent possible for their losses - the extent of the recompense depending necessarily upon the total assets that become available for distribution.

(The Hindustan Times, 13-9-1950).

Maintenance of Children born to recovered
abducted Women: Centre to undertake
Responsibility.

The Central Ministry of Rehabilitation has decided to undertake the responsibility for the care and maintenance of 25 "unwanted" children born to recovered abducted women at present lodged at a home set up by the All-India Save The Children Committee in the Swaraj Bhawan at Allahabad.

The Government of India has agreed to pay the Committee a sum of 35 rupees per month per child towards the cost of their maintenance, education, etc.

(Indian News Chronicle, 12-9-1950).

CHAPTER 5. WORKING CONDITIONS.

INDIA - SEPTEMBER 1950.

52. Welfare and Workers' Leisure.

Meeting of Coal Mines Welfare Fund Advisory Committee, Dhanbad, 1 and 2 September 1950.

A meeting of the Coal Mines Welfare Fund Advisory Committee was held at Dhanbad on 1 and 2 September 1950. Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Minister for Labour, presided.

Addressing the meeting Mr. Jagjivan Ram, said that housing condition in all the coalfields were far from satisfactory and that provision of houses for labour was the primary responsibility of colliery owners. With its limited resources the Coal Mines Welfare ~~Rm~~ Organisation could not reasonably be expected to absolve them of their entire responsibility in this matter, nor could it afford to give higher subsidy.

Referring to the difficulty experienced in settling down coalminers of West Bengal and Bihar in the Bhuli and Vijoynagar townships, Mr. Jagjivan Ram said that over 1,600 2-roomed houses had been constructed at Bhuli township under the Welfare Fund at a cost of 5.6 million rupees of which only 150 houses had so far been occupied by miners. Applications were received for another 200 houses and 1,300 still remained to be allotted. Only 48 houses were completed in Vijoynagar township in West Bengal with no occupants. This attitude of miners and the absence of sufficient co-operation from mine-owners had induced the authorities to abandon further constructions under the ~~housing~~ housing scheme which envisaged construction of 50,000 such houses in all Indian coal fields. The Housing Board of the Welfare Advisory Committee had suggested that the monthly rent of 8 rupees should be reduced to 2 rupees in order to induce collieries to keep thier miners there. He hoped that colliery owners would appreciate this concession and get 1,300 houses occupied by miners. He said that it was now proposed to pay a subsidy not exceeding 20 per cent of the cost to construction of houses built by colliery owners on their land according to the standard and specifications prescribed by the Coalmines ~~Wk~~ Welfare Organisation. This arrangement, which was inevitable would deprive the miners of the facilities for medical treatment,

education and recreation as could be economically provided in large townships.

Reviewing the progress made by the Committee during the last two years, Mr. Jagjivan Ram said that four regional hospitals and maternity centres in Raniganj and Jharia, coalfields were already functioning and doing useful work. The central hospital at Dhanbad was nearing completion and was expected to start functioning in a few months' time. The scheme for construction of a central hospital at Asansol had been sanctioned and its construction was expected to start shortly, the schemes for construction of a number of smaller hospitals and maternity centres as well as a number of clinics were under preparation and it was hoped that all of these were to be completed within next two or three years. A number of multi-purpose buildings were going to be constructed in the current and next 3 or 4 years and it was expected that facilities ~~for~~ for recreation of women, men and children will be given at these centres. It was proposed that adult education would be imparted at these centres and work of women welfare centres would also be shifted there.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated
3-9-1950).

59. General.

India - September 1950.

Pay Scales in Defence Establishments:
Inquiry Committee set up.

The Government of India has set up a Committee of inquiry under the chairmanship of ~~XXXXXX~~ Mr. F. N. Kalyanvala, to examine and recommend how far and in what manner the Central Pay Commission's recommendations could be applied to defence establishments in view of the complexity of work and special nature of their problems.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-9-1950).

Chapter 6. General Rights of Workers.

66. Strike and Lockout Rights.

India - September 1950.

Bihar: Iron and Steel Industry declared
Public Utility Service for purposes of
Industrial Disputes Act.

In exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section(vi) of clause (n) of section 2 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Government of ~~India~~ Bihar has declared the iron and steel industry to be a public utility service for the purposes of the said Act, for a further period of six months with effect from 15 September 1950.

(Notification No. Dl-609/50-L-5899 dated 31-8-1950; The Bihar Gazette, dated 13-9-1950, Part II, page 1399).

Bombay: Transport Services declared
Public Utility Service for purposes
of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

In exercise of the powers conferred by the provis^o to sub-clause(vi) of clause (n) of section 2 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Government of Bombay has declared the State Transport Services in the Bombay, Ahmednagar and Konkan Divisions to be a public utility service for the purposes of the said Act for a period of six months ending 5 February, 1951.

(Labour and Housing Department Notification No. 575/46 dated 3-8-1950; The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary, dated 4-8-1950).

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Madras: Sugar Industry declared Public
Utility Service under Industrial Disputes
Act.

In exercises of the powers conferred under section 3 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Governor of Madras has declared the sugar industry in the State of Madras to be a public utility service for the purposes of the said Act for a period of six months from 5 September 1950.

(G.O.Ms.No.3292, Development, dated
22-8-1950; The Fort St. George Gazette,
Part I, dated 5 September, 1950,
page 2684).

U.P.: Hosiery Industry declared Public Utility
Service for purposes of U.P. Industrial Disputes
Act, 1947.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the U.P. Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the ~~Government~~ Governor of Uttar Pradesh has declared the hosiery industry and every undertaking connected with the manufacture or distribution of hosiery to be a public utility service for the purposes of the said Act for a further period of six months with effect from 1 September 1950.

(Notification No.3321(TD)/xviii-194(TD)/48
dated 30-8-1950; U.P. Gazette Extraordinary,
dated 30-8-1950).

67. Conciliation and Arbitration.

India - September 1950.

Labour Appellate Tribunal: Three More Members appointed.

The Government of India has appointed Mr.R.C. Mitter, retired Judge of the Calcutta High Court, Mr. K.P. Lakshman Rao, retired Judge of the Madras High Court, and Mr. G.P. Mathur, retired Judge of the Allahabad High Court to be members of the Central Appellate Tribunal which was recently set up in Bombay with a chairman and one member.

These appointments will permit the establishment of a second Bench of the Tribunal in Calcutta to facilitate the filing and hearing of appeals in Calcutta.

(The Hindu, 4-9-1950).

Industrial Peace in Bihar: Labour Minister's Survey.

Addressing a meeting of the Bihar Standing Labour Advisory Board at Ranchi on 9 September 1950, Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha, Labour Minister stated that during the last seven months, comparative peace had prevailed in the industrial field in the State. Almost all sugar factories had worked normally, and the crush in the last season had showed a remarkable increase over the preceding year's production. In collieries also the relationship between the employers and employees had been on the whole cordial except for a few conflicts of a minor nature. There had been no major strike worth notice during this period.

Referring to the various activities of the Government, Mr. Sinha said that the Government had put into effect the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act by fixing minimum wages in eight scheduled employments. The post of a medical inspector of factories had been created, and an officer of the rank of an assistant director of public health was soon expected to be appointed. The medical inspector would go round the factories, look into the welfare and sanitary arrangements and advise the employers regarding the steps to be taken to provide amenities and improve the existing facilities.

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There had been a steady rise in the number of registered unions in the State. The figure now stood at 414. The Government would shortly appoint a trade union inspector whose main duties will be to guide trade unions.

Works Committees were functioning efficiently in 78 establishments.

(The Hindustan Times, 11-9-1950).

Bihar: Amendments to Industrial Disputes (Bihar) Rules, 1947 gazetted: Procedure for nominating Workers' Representatives on Works Committees.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 38 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Government of Bihar has published certain amendments to the Industrial Disputes (Bihar) Rules, 1947, (vide page 5 of the report of this Office for December 1947).

The amendments, inter alia, relate to the procedure for nominating workers' representatives on Works Committees.

(Notification No. DL-12024/50-L-5547, dated 14-8-1950; The Bihar Gazette, dated 23-8-1950, Part II, pp. 1265-1266).

Punjab: Industrial Relation Satisfactory during 1949: Review of the Report on Working of Industrial Disputes Act.

A review of the annual Report of the Working of the Industrial ~~Disputes~~ Disputes Act, 1947, for the year 1949 in Punjab, published by the State Government, says that during the period under review there was no long drawn out strikes of sizeable magnitude in the State.

The Labour Department started functioning independently from 6 July 1949, and the report covers the period from July to December 1949. As provided by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the following measures were taken for improving relations between the employers and the employees:-

(a) A notification was issued requiring every establishment employing 100 or more workers to constitute a Works Committee. Up to the end of the year, 54 Works Committees were set up.

(b) The Labour Commissioner and the Labour Officer were appointed Conciliation Officers for mediating in the settlement of industrial disputes. As many as nine industrial disputes were settled by mediation during the period under review.

(c) The Government appointed an Industrial Tribunal for the adjudication of industrial disputes.

Field staff for collecting statistics about the number of strikes, man-days lost, etc., was appointed in October 1949. There were, in all, 15 industrial disputes, involving stoppages of work during this period. The total number of workers involved in these strikes was 9,610 and the total number of man-days lost was 5,180. The main causes of strikes were reduction in wages, retrenchments or dismissal of workers, disputes about bonus or hours of work, and above all, reluctance on the part of employers to recognise Workers' Unions.

(Proceedings of the Punjab Government in the Department of Labour and Printing No. 7564-LP-50/4897, dated 30-8-1950; Supplement to Punjab Government Gazette, dated 8-9-1950).

U.P.: Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1950, gazetted.

The U.P. Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1950, as passed by the Assembly (vide pages 60-61 of the report of this Office for May 1950) received the assent of the President of ~~the~~ India on 16 August 1950, and has been gazetted as an Act (U.P. Act No. XXV of 1950).

(U.P. Gazette, Extraordinary, dated 21-8-1950, pages 1-4).

69. Workers' Participation in Management or Profits of Undertakings.

India - September 1950.

Bihar: Revised Order setting up Works Committees in Establishments employing 100 or More Workers issued.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 3 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Government of Bihar, in supersession of its earlier notification (vide page 47 of the report of this Office for January 1950), has issued an order directing employers of all industrial establishments in State employing one hundred workmen or more on any day in the preceeding 12 months to constitute works committees in accordance with the Industrial Disputes (Bihar) Rules, 1947, as last amended (vide page 44 of this report) within a period of two months from the date of issue of the order.

(Notification No. D1-12024/50-LT-122L, dated 28-8-1950; The Bihar Gazette, dated 13-9-1950, Part II, page 1399).

CHAPTER 7. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

INDIA - SEPTEMBER 1950.

71. Organisation of the Labour Market.

Communal Representation in Services: Government of India's revised Policy.

On 14 September 1950, the Government of India announced its decision to provide for reservation in recruitment to the services under the Union Government only in favour of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Anglo-Indians. The rules hitherto governing recruitment providing for reservation for Hindus, Muslims, Scheduled Castes and Sikhs in respect of non-competitive posts and preportional representation in regard to local services have been done away with.

Pending the determination of the ~~figures~~ population by the census of 1951, the Government of India has now decided to provide reservation for the Scheduled Castes of 12 1/2 per cent of the vacancies to be filled in by direct recruitment on an all-India basis by open competition and 16-2/3 per cent of vacancies to be filled on an all-India basis otherwise than by open competition. For Scheduled Tribes, a reservation of five per cent of the direct recruitment vacancies, whether filled by open competition or otherwise, is provided. In regard to Anglo-Indians, the Government resolution has stated that the reservations which were in force in favour of Anglo-Indians in the Railway services, the Posts and Telegraph Department and the Customs Department on August 14, 1947, will be continued subject to the provisions of Article 336 of the Constitution.

This Article provided that the number of posts reserved for the members of the Anglo-Indian community shall be less than the numbers so reserved during the immediately preceding period of two years by ten per cent and at the end of ten years all such reservation shall cease.

The new decision of the Government of India has followed a review of the Government policy relating to communal representation in the services in the light of the provisions of the Constitution, which lay down that, with the exception of the

Scheduled Castes and Tribes and the Anglo-Indian community and backward classes of citizens, no discrimination should be made in the matter of State appointments of posts on grounds of race, religion, caste or sex.

A Government of India resolution, announcing this decision, states that in regard to posts filled otherwise than through the Union Public Service Commission, namely, by local recruitment, the percentages of reservations for Scheduled Castes and Tribes will be fixed by the Government, taking into account the population of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the particular area.

The resolution also announces the Government's decision to relax the maximum age limits for candidates from Scheduled Castes and Tribes by three years and reduce the prescribed fees for admission to any examination or selection to one-fourth in their case. These reservations will be applicable to all services under the Union Government, including services in Part C States (Centrally administered areas). No such reservation will, however, apply to recruitment by promotion.

It is understood that all State Governments have been directed to frame recruitment rules governing the State services in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

(The Hindu, 13-9-1950).

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

Employment situation.- According to the Report of the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment during the month of August 1950, there was no appreciable change in the general employment situation since the previous month (vide pages 61-62 of the report of this Office for August 1950).

Registration and placing.- The total number of registration ~~employment~~ for employment and the total number placed in employment during the month are shown below:-

	August 1950	July 1950
Total number of registrations.....	119,682	121,017
Total number of placings....	29,021	29,393

During the month 2,075 women were placed as against 1,923 in the previous month.

Of those registered in August 1950, 10,054 were ex-Service personnel, 16,232 were displaced persons, (including 8,894 from East Pakistan) and 5,231 discharged Government employees. Of those placed, 2,424 were displaced persons (including 1,329 from East Pakistan), 1,428 ex-Service personnel and 1,643 discharged Government employees. 16,770 (58 per cent) were placed with private employers and 12,251 (42 per cent) in Union and State Government establishments. The fall in placings was general and reflected the seasonal monsoon conditions. The number of vacancies notified by employers during August, 1950, fell very slightly, being 34,858 as compared with 34,900 during the previous month. Of the vacancies notified, 15399 were by Central and State Government establishments and 19,459 by private employers. The number of employers who used the Exchanges during the month of August 1950, was 6,135. Of these, 58.4 per cent were private employers. An interesting development was the tendency of Government contractors to utilise the Exchanges when making bulk recruitment for national projects.

The following table shows the number of applicants who refused to accept appointments offered or failed to attend for interview with employers:

Category of personnel.	Number of applicants who refused to accept appointments offered.			No. of applicants who failed to attend for interview without satisfactory explanation.
	Because pay was inadequate	Other reasons	Total	
Ex-Service.	423	460	883	684
Others.	1,025	1,478	2,503	2,477
Total	1,448	1,938	3,386	3,161

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

<u>Wage group: basic monthly pay.</u>	<u>Number of placings.</u>
Above 101 rupees.....	411
61 to 100 rupees.....	2,933
30 to 60 rupees.....	20,901
Below 30 rupees.....	4,776

Employment of retrenched Government servants.-The Employment Exchanges registered 3,678 discharged Union Government employees and 1,553 State Government employees as against the figures of 4,685 and 1,733 during the previous month. 1,291 ex-Union Government employees and 352 ex-State Government employees were placed in August as against 1,253 and 402 placed in July.

The number of discharged Government employees on the registers of the Employment Exchanges at the end of the month under report was 17,667, of which 12,881 had been discharged from Union Government establishments and 4,786 from the State Governments.

Employment of displaced persons.- During the month under review, 16,232 displaced persons were registered as against 16,579 in July. 2,424 were placed in employment as against 3,188 in July. In Assam, 552 displaced persons were registered and 85 placed in employment. The Employment Exchanges in Bihar registered 347 and placed 86 in employment. In West Bengal, 7,915 displaced persons were registered and 1,149 placed in employment.

Total number of persons remaining unemployed.-The number of persons still seeking employment assistance on the last day of August 1950 was 365,732. Of these 65,366 were displaced persons (including 44,174 from East Pakistan), 38,926 ex-Service personnel and 17,667 discharged Government employees. Among discharged Government employees, 12,881 were Union Government and 4,786 State Government employees.

Technical and Vocational training.- The Technical and Vocational Training Scheme for Adult Civilians made further progress during the month, and admissions to the Industrial Training Institutes/Centres under the Scheme recorded rapid progress. The number of trainees on the rolls of the Institutes on 31 August, 1950, was 9,410, inclusive of 276 Harajans and political sufferers in Uttar Pradesh, against a sanctioned capacity of 10,000 seats. Of these on the rolls, 7,184 persons were receiving

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training in technical trades and the rest in vocational trades. Under the training scheme for displaced persons, which was in operation before the Training Scheme for Adult Civilians was introduced and which continues to be worked in Uttar Pradesh alone, 216 persons were receiving training on August 31, 1950. Against the 2,000 seats sanctioned for displaced persons in addition to the 10,000 seats sanctioned under the Training Scheme for Adult Civilians, 1,520 displaced persons were under training at the end of the month at the Training Institutes in Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal Regions. Forty-five displaced persons passed the prescribed test during the month, bringing the total number of displaced persons who had successfully completed training at the Labour Ministry's Training Institutes to 9,117.

Training of women.- A total number of 349 women were undergoing training at the end of the month at the three Women's Industrial Training Institutes at New Delhi, Dehra Dun and Madras respectively.

Training of Instructors.- At the Central Training Institute for Instructors, Koni (Madhya Pradesh) the total number of Supervisors and Instructors undergoing training in the fifth regular session of the Institute was 110 at the end of August. In addition, a special session for the nominees of private industries and for candidates who applied direct to the Institute for enrolment as trainees, was inaugurated on the 16th August; the number of persons receiving training in this special session as Supervisors and Instructors was 50.

Training of Primary School Teachers.- In addition to the ~~above~~ categories of trainees mentioned above, 207 primary school teachers were receiving training in wood work at the Industrial Training Institute, Aundh, under a special arrangements with the Government of Bombay.

(Review of the Work done by the
Directorate General of Resettlement
and Employment during the month of
August 1950).

Meeting of Regional Employment Advisory Committee:
Plan to set up Pool of Skilled Labour for Delhi
Textile Mills.

A meeting of the Regional Employment Advisory Committee, Delhi, Ajmer and Rajasthan region, composed of officials, non-officials, employers, and labour organisations was held at Delhi on 4 September 1950, under the chairmanship of Mr. J.B. Kirk, Regional Director of Resettlement and Employment, and was attended by representatives of industrial and commercial employers, workers and trade unions and officials of the Directorate of Resettlement and Employment. Mrs. Munshi, wife of the Food Minister, attended by special invitation to advise on matters relating to the employment of women workers.

Reviewing the work done by the Department, Mr. Kirk said that nearly 39,000 persons had registered at the exchanges during the last five months of whom over 7,000 had been found jobs. The several training schemes run by the Directorate were well attended "in view of the increasing unemployment". He complained, however, of a tendency among the applicants to go in for clerical jobs rather than assignments in trades. Industries and skilled trades offered ample scope for employment but most candidates preferred less remunerative office jobs, he said.

The meeting suggested "decasualization" of labour in Delhi's eight textile mills to ensure "minimum unemployment" for skilled hands. It was decided to approach the management of the textile mills with the suggestion that they should prepare periodic statements regarding the employment position in their mills and those who were short of staff should recruit workers only from the mills with a surplus. The scheme envisaged the establishment of a central pool of skilled workers from which all mills could draw their requirements. Employment Directorate officials complained at the meeting that private employers were not co-operating with the exchanges and often recruited staff directly without reference to them. It was decided to approach the Government of Rajasthan and the local bodies in Delhi with the request that they should recruit their staff through the regional employment exchanges.

Surplus Labour in Madhya Pradesh:
Compulsory Retirement of Workers
over 55 years of age.

The tripartite Standing Committee for Textile Industry in Madhya Pradesh has decided on compulsory retirement of all permanent workers who have completed 30 years of service (25 years in the case of mills started after 1920) or 55 years of age or who are unfit or disabled, on payment of compensation, or gratuity on the basis of one month's basic wages for every year of service subject to a maximum of 20 months' basic wages. This decision has been taken to solve the problem of surplus badli and labour.

The Committee also decided on voluntary retirement of surplus badli and temporary workers as well as reelers and winders after payment of compensation of gratuity at the rate of three-fourth month's basic wages for every year of service. After retirement ~~of~~ these lines, the surplus workers would be transferred from one department to another on the basis of the 1948 award and the number brought to the minimum requirements of the mills. Between three to four thousand workers are reported to be involved in these arrangements.

Two sub-committees have been appointed to report on the questions of normal complement and the basis for grant of bonus to textile labour in the State within one month and a fortnight respectively.

In order to prevent illegal and sporadic strikes, the Committee decided to set up a standing committee consisting of one representative each of a recognised union and the management in each mill to consider matters in dispute.

(The Hindu, 21-9-1950).

73. Migration and Colonisation.

India - September 1950.

Eviction of Indian Labourers from Ceylonese Estate: Prosecution held illegal by Privy Council.

The special correspondent of the Hindustan Times reports that a decision of far-reaching importance to estate workers in Ceylon has just been announced by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London. At present any worker who remains on the estate after discharge is being prosecuted for criminal trespass. According to the judgement now delivered by Sir John Beaumont in the Selvanayagam case, such prosecutions are illegal. This judgment brings ~~the~~ to a close the four-year-old dispute concerning the eviction of Indian labourers in Ceylon.

The facts of the case are that in 1946, the Government of Ceylon acquired the Knavesmir Estate, an area of 820 acres with rubber and tea plantations, with a view to settling landless Sinhalese on it under the provision of the Ceylon Land Development Ordinance, 1935. There were about 90 families of 400 resident Indian labourers on the estate who had lived and worked on it for periods ranging between 19 and 40 years. They were all given notice to quit the estate by 31 May 1946. The Indian labourers, for most of whom there was no other home either in India or in Ceylon except their habitation on Knavesmir Estate, refused to quit the estate.

The Government of Ceylon then prosecuted them on charges of trespass. The Ceylon Government's measure aroused considerable resentment in Ceylon, among Indians on estates and elsewhere. The Ceylon Indian Congress resorted to direct action and a result of which more than 100,000 Indian labourers on rubber and tea estates in Ceylon struck work.

Despite protests, the Ceylon Government proceeded with the eviction scheme. Up to the end of July 1946, 40 persons were convicted ~~at the rate of~~ ^{to} of three months' rigorous imprisonment for men and two months for women.

As a result of a conference which the Government of India's representative had with Mr. D.S. Senanayake, Minister for Agriculture and Labour in October 1946, it was agreed that the Indian labourers on Knavesmir would quit the estate with their belongings as soon as alternative employment was arranged for them and that all cases that were pending for criminal ~~trespass~~ trespass against them would be withdrawn. Accordingly, the Governor granted pardon ~~to~~ to all the convicted

persons excepting in the case of Selvanayagam (in which a point of law was involved), whose appeal was then pending ~~with~~ with the Privy Council.

Sir John Beaumont, who delivered the judgment in this case on 20 July 1950, allowing the appeal said that in order to establish the charge of criminal trespass, the Crown had to show, among other things, that at the date of expiration of the notice to ~~the~~ ~~date~~ quit the Superintendent of the estate was in the occupation of the estate, including the rooms in which the appellant and his family lived and that the intention of the appellant in refusing to surrender his rooms was to annoy the Superintendent. There being no suggestion of intention to commit an offence or to intimidate or insult, the Judicial Committee was of the opinion that the prosecution had failed to prove either. It was clear from the evidence that the appellant's dominant intention was to remain at the estate where he and his family lived for generations and not to find himself homeless. They also found that in this case recourse to a criminal court was not justified.

(The Hindustan Times, 7-9-1950).

CHAPTER 8. SOCIAL SECURITY.

INDIA - SEPTEMBER 1950.

81. Social Insurance.

Bombay Employees' Insurance Court Rules,
1949: Draft published.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 96 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the Government of Bombay has published the draft Bombay Employees' Insurance Court Rules, 1949. The Rules, inter alia, relate to the constitution of Employees' ~~Insurance~~ Insurance Courts to be set up under section 74 of the Act, conditions of service of judges, administrative control, procedure and execution of orders, costs and decrees, etc.

The draft will be taken into consideration after 3 September 1950.

(Labour and Housing Department Notification No.627/46-I dated 1-8-1950; The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary, dated 3-8-1950, Part IV-A, pages 449-470).

Delhi: The Delhi Civil Administration Employees' Insurance Court Rules 1949 gazetted.

The draft Delhi Civil Administration Employees' Insurance Court Rules (vide page 60 of the report of this Office for January 1950) has been approved and the Rules gazetted.

The Rules shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the official gazette, ~~appoint~~ appoint.

(Notification No.F3(45)/50Rand J, dated 22-8-1950; The Gazette of India, dated 2-9-1950, Part III-Sec.3, pages 469-475).

Employees' State Insurance Act: Madhya Pradesh
defers Application.

The decision to postpone the application of the Employees' State Insurance Act to Madhya Pradesh for the present was arrived at a meeting of the State Labour Advisory Committee held at Nagpur during the latter half of September 1950, under the chairmanship of Pandit R.S. Shukla, Chief Minister.

The Committee resolved that in view of the financial position of the textile industry and the fact that the Act was not applied to other States, the application of the Insurance Act would be inopportune for the present, but that in the meantime the Director of Health Services should undertake a survey of the medical facilities provided in the textile mills and other important factories as might be indicated by the Labour Commissioner, and recommend improvements required, taking into consideration their financial position.

(The Hindustan Times, 20-9-1950).

Madhya Pradesh: Working of the Workmen's
Compensation Act, 1923, during 1949*.

Accidents and amount of compensation.- According to the schedule attached to the report for 1949 on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in Madhya Pradesh, there were during the year under review, 1,694 cases of injuries in respect of which compensation was paid. Of these, 29 cases resulted in death, 118 in permanent disablement and 1,699 in temporary disablement. The total amount of compensation paid (to the nearest rupee) was 120,899 rupees; an amount of 43,444 rupees was paid in the cases of death, 51,098 rupees for permanent disablement and 26,357 rupees for temporary disablement. The incidence of fatal accidents was highest in the group of workers where monthly wages were between 30 and 35 rupees.

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Government of Madhya Pradesh: Report on the Administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923), in the Central Provinces and Berar and Central Provinces States during the calendar year 1949: Government Printing, Madhya Pradesh, Price - Annas six, pp.9.

Proceedings before Commissioner.- As regards proceedings before the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, there were 14 cases pending at the commencement of the year. During the year 80 cases were filed and 76 cases were disposed of. Twenty-two cases remained pending at the close of the year.

Punjab: Working of Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, during 1948.

Prior to the creation of the Labour Department the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, used to be administered by the Industries Department. On the creation of the Labour Department in 1949, the administration of the Act was transferred to that department. Annual report for the year 1948 has been prepared by the Labour Commissioner.

All the Senior Sub-Judges in the State have been declared as Commissioners under the Act who decide the cases regarding compensation of workers within their jurisdictions. In all 56 cases were preferred or instituted during the year under report. Out of these 39 cases were decided and 18 cases left pending at the end of the year.

No case of death, permanent or temporary disablement was reported due to occupational diseases.

The classification of cases regarding compensation awarded during the year under report is given below, along with corresponding figures of the previous year:-

	1948	1947
Fatal	16	29
Permanent disablement.....	18	31
Temporary disablement.....	8	4
Total.....	<u>42</u>	<u>64</u>

A sum of 93,911 rupees and Eleven Annas was paid as compensation for different categories of accidents.

(Proceedings of the Punjab Government in the Department of Labour and Printing, No. 7565-LP-50/4904, dated 31-8-1950; Supplement to Punjab Gazette, dated 8-9-1950).

87. Public Health.

India - September 1950.

Third Health Ministers' Conference, New Delhi,
31 August - 2 September 1950; Research in
Indigenous system of Medicine recommended.

The third Health Ministers' Conference of the State Governments, was held at New Delhi from 31 August to 2 September 1950. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur presided. The Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

The Conference passed six resolutions dealing with indigenous system of medicine and homoeopathy, recruitment of senior health personnel, the establishment of a Central Council of Health, the role of voluntary organisations such as missions and philanthropic bodies, the establishment in Calcutta of a training centre for maternity and child health personnel and the danger to public health from the sale of supurious drugs.

Prime Minister's speech.- Inaugurating the Conference Pandit Nehru stressed the need for the State paying more attention to public health measures as distinct from measures for "private health". Public health depended on more fundamental matters like food and housing than on drugs and medicines. Unless under-nourishment and housing conditions were improved, progress would not be made. Referring to the question of the various systems of medicine being practised in the country, he said that while the development of an integrated system was desirable, they should have a scientific approach. No matter what system of medicine one practised, every doctor should be given adequate training in the fundamentals of modern ~~modern~~ medicine. Stressing the need for public co-operation and understanding in all their measures, Pandit Nehru said that while money was important for their schemes, it could not take them far unless they had public co-operation, understanding and individual morale. With that human factor, even if they had not the money, they would be able to achieve much. Not only was it necessary for Government to achieve something but it was equally important that the public should know what had been achieved. Vast social schemes could not succeed without people's co-operation. If the people thought the country was going forward, their morale would increase.

Pandit Nehru referred to the need for the State paying more attention to measures of public health like sanitation, hygiene, etc., and said the problem of individual treatment was "less important" from the State's point of view. Public health also depended on decent living conditions. Housing was important not only from the physical point of view but from the psychological point also. Referring to the food situation, he said that while three months ago he could have said that the food situation was "satisfactory", they had now to face a difficult situation for a variety of reasons, the chief of them being failure of rains in many parts and tremendous floods in others. On the top of it was the tremendous earthquake in Assam which was of "a colossal character". Referring to housing conditions, Pandit Nehru said that living conditions which had been bad ten years before had worsened as a result of the war, partition and the influx of refugees and had become a "stupendous and overwhelming problem". From the State's point of view, public health was more important than individual treatment for diseases, and probably cheaper in the end. If they raised the general health of the nation, the productivity would increase. While all those things required money which they did lack and which was "a great drawback", Pandit Nehru said, in the ultimate analysis it was not money that came in the way. Even if they had all the money in the world, they could not suddenly, or in a short time, raise their standard to that of America. Infinitely more important than money was "the human factor, the morale of the individual, his capacity to look at things, to have some objective to look forward to and work for".

Pandit Nehru referred to the question of indigenous systems of medicine being practised in the country. As far as public health, sanitation and preventive aspects were concerned the older systems had not paid much attention and they had to adopt modern methods. Anything modern was not necessarily good and anything old necessarily bad. But the converse was also true. Anything modern was not necessarily bad. ~~XXXXXX~~ The science of medicine had developed over the centuries. No system could be stated to be perfect. The ancient systems of India, Ayurvedic and Unani, had been great systems and famous in their times. While there was no question about India having a creditable record in the field of medicine in the past, "it did not necessarily follow that that was the summum bonum of the systems of medicine; nor does it follow either that you should ignore it and put it aside as worthless".

Pleading for a "scientific approach", ~~the~~ Pandit Nehru said that they should be prepared to

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accept anything which factually or theoretically justified itself. At least in theory, modern medicine was based on that scientific approach. To call the modern system of medicine "western" was completely wrong, though the west had a "great and dominant share" in the recent past in its development. The system was based on generations of experience of India, Arabia and other countries. Pandit Nehru also referred to other systems including homoeopathy and said that they might be very good, but anybody could put up a board and practise without any knowledge of medicine, even in that type of medicine. "There must be certain standards which people must reach before they can experiment with human life". While integration was desirable, they should keep certain aspects of modern medicine like public and private health, surgery, etc. Their approach to any system should be on scientific lines, "friendly, respectful but critical".

"But so far as the basic approach ^{was} concerned", he could not see how they could combine the two approaches, the modern treatment of disease and the older one which prevailed in the middle ages in Europe, in Asia, in India and which, to some extent, ^{was} represented by the background of Ayurveda and Unani.

He did not wish to come in their way but he would insist that adequate training in modern medicine should be given to every person. He would like the Ayurvedic and Unani and Homoeopathic and other practitioners to obtain that training. Merely to say that certain systems were cheaper than the others served no purpose as "the cheapest thing is to give the patient treatment at no cost at all".

Health Minister's address.- Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, the Health Minister, in her address to the Conference declared that the organisation of parallel health services based on the indigenous systems and homoeopathy and not on modern medicine which had developed in recent years in different parts of the country, was a "definitely retrograde step". These systems lacked some of the essential elements of a ~~complete~~ complete service to meet the total health needs of the people; for instance, Ayurveda and Unani had no surgery, preventive medicine, obstetrics, radiology and all the more modern developments which were of great importance in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease. In the circumstances, it was unimaginable that India could deliberately accept the indigenous systems as the basis on which to build up her national health services and ignore the claims of modern medicine.

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Unless the Central and State Governments could arrive at common decisions on this subject and pursue their execution on agreed lines, India could not advance on that path of progressive achievement in the conquest of disease, prolongation of ~~in~~ life and improvement of the general health, working capacity and sense of ~~healthy working~~ well-being of the people which the application of the resources of modern ~~medicine~~ medical and other sciences had made possible in western countries.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur said that the Government of India had considered carefully the Chopra Committee's report and recommended that a uniform policy should be followed throughout the country in regard to the indigenous systems. The Central Government was anxious to support extended research into these systems. Accordingly, a committee was appointed some time back and it had come to unanimous conclusions which would be announced shortly. Referring to the charge that the Central Government desired to "kill" the ancient systems of medicine, she said that on the contrary it was only anxious to ensure that all future medical practitioners had a complete course of training in the basic modern medical sciences before training in any other systems of medicine. "In this way alone will Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy be able to make their contribution to the broad stream of medical science". She advised the Conference that a subcommittee should be appointed to discuss in detail the various aspects of the subject and submit specific proposals.

She said that the establishment of the Central Health Council and the creation of an all-India service would be of definite value towards the realisation of increasing co-operation between the Central and State Governments. Referring to the proposal for establishment of a Central Health Council, she said it would function as an integral part of the health organisation of the country and would tend to promote increasing co-operation between the Centre and the constituent units of the Indian Union. The Central Council would also create that common bond of sympathy and understanding between the Centre and the States which would enable joint effort to enter even fields which might on the surface be of concern only to the Centre or to the States.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur referred to the establishment of an All-India Health Service and assured that adequate safeguards could be provided to ensure disciplinary control by State Governments and for opportunities for State officers to enter the superior service. The purpose of an All-India cadre was to secure and retain as far as possible, ~~the country and to train~~ the best medical talent.

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available in the country and to train the persons in that cadre to fulfil the various functions which are expected of that service.

In conclusion, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur stated that to meet the medical needs of the people, the ~~State~~ ~~Minister~~ Governments with their limited resources should be glad to widen the sphere of health activity in the States by securing the help of voluntary organisations and giving them grants to supplement their incomes. Voluntary bodies in their turn should, in addition to grants from Government, tap resources from the public. She emphasised that Christian missions in the country should make it clear that theirs was a mission of mercy and that it was untinged by any desire ~~and that~~ thereby to secure converts to Christianity. State Governments should, in their turn, recognise the extremely useful work that Christian missions had done and were continuing to do in the fields of medical relief and medical education. Foreign money and the services of distinguished workers from abroad had helped to establish and maintain a variety of institutions which were often run more efficiently and with a truer spirit of service. It would, therefore, be wrong not to acknowledge freely and thankfully the services they had rendered.

Decisions.- The Conference agreed that practice of indigenous systems of medicine by unregistered persons should be prohibited. The Conference recommended that preliminary educational qualification required for a degree ~~exam~~ course should be Intermediate Science with physics, chemistry and biology. The preliminary ~~educational~~ educational qualifications for a diploma course should be matriculation. Provision should be made during the medical training to give the students an adequate knowledge of physics, chemistry and biology. In a period of five years the standard of admission should be raised to I.Sc.

Both for the degree course and for the diploma course the teaching of the subjects of anatomy, physiology, pathology, hygiene, radiology, medical jurisprudence and toxicology will be on the basis of modern medicine. The standard in each subject for the degree course should conform to that prescribed by the Indian Medical Council and the standard for the diploma course should be that enforced for the medical licentiate course. Arrangements should also be made for instruction in the physiology and pathology of the indigenous systems.

The teaching of surgery, including ophthalmology and otorhynolaryngology, obstetrics and gynaecology should be in respect of both the degree and the diploma courses, on the lines of modern medicine and the standard will be the University standard in respect of the degree course and the licentiate standard for the diploma course.

Pharmacology, materia medica and therapeutics and clinical medicine should be taught on the lines of both modern medicine and of the particular form of indigenous medicine (Ayurveda or Unani) which the student would take up. Here also the standard required would be, in each subject, those prescribed by the Indian Medical Council for the degree course and those for the training of medical licentiates for the diploma course.

In view, however, of the fact that it was not possible at this stage to define in detail the courses of study of clinical subjects, the Conference suggested that this matter should be reconsidered by the Central Council of Health Ministers.

The period of training for the degree course should be five years and for the ~~xxxx~~ diploma course four ~~xxxx~~ years. In a period of ten years, all institutions giving the diploma course should be raised to the ~~xxxx~~ degree standard. For the post-graduate course in Ayurveda or Unani for practitioners of modern medicine, the period of training recommended is one year. In all the non-clinical subject it is desirable that the students undergoing training in the indigenous systems should have common instruction, if possible with the students who study modern medicine.

Separate teaching arrangements will be necessary in respect of clinical teaching for students ~~for~~ of indigenous systems. Well-equipped hospitals with adequate bed accommodation shall be provided as well as properly equipped teaching departments for the instruction of students in these systems. The teaching staff of these institutions should be adequately paid.

It was recommended that at least one college in each State offering instruction on the lines recommended should be started under the auspices of Government or with subsidy from the State.

Research should be developed on the widest possible basis and on the lines indicated in the Chopra Committee's report. No aspect of the indigenous systems, including drugs, principles and practices should fail to receive attention.

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The Government of India should concentrate on promoting research as speedily and on as thorough lines as possible because it is on the fruits of such research that a solution of the many matters that form subjects of controversy to-day will be secured.

The Director of the Ayurvedic Research Institute established by the Government of India should also be the Adviser to that Government on all matters relating to the development of Ayurveda in the country.

The Conference was of the view that the recommendations made in respect of indigenous systems should apply to homoeopathy in respect of the two types of courses.

Ayurvedic, Unani and homoeopathic qualifications should be distinctive and not mere imitations of the qualifications in modern medicine or of each other. The recommendations of the Homoeopathy Enquiry Committee regarding research were supported.

When employed in State health services, the emoluments should be the same to the doctors of modern medicine, of indigenous systems and of homoeopathy, provided the training courses undergone in each case are of the same length and of the same standard.

The State Medical Boards appointed for the purpose of regulating registration and practice in these three systems should deal with standards of ~~educational~~ education with ~~professional~~ supervision over instruction and with professional conduct in the respective systems. These Boards should not deal with problems relating to the starting of institutions and their management as has been contemplated in certain Bills sponsored by some State Government. Other organisations should be established for these purposes. Those who have qualified themselves after the five-year and four-year courses should be eligible for registration. Those who take a shorter course should ~~should~~ not be eligible for registration. The membership of the respective Medical Boards should consist of registered practitioners of the systems concerned and of registered practitioners of modern medicine. They may also have a legal adviser on them.

In another resolution, the Conference recommended that active co-operation ~~and~~ should be developed between the Centre and States and between individual States over the whole field of health. The Conference also recommended that recruitment to the senior administrative posts, the higher research posts and full-time senior teaching posts should be made by advertisement on an all-India basis through the Union or State Public Service Commissions as the case may be.

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The resolution on the establishment of a Central Council of Health said: "Whereas in the opinion of this Conference it is necessary and vital for the health of the nation to strengthen the bond of unity between the Centre and the States through the development of joint action it is resolved that a Central Council of Health be established with the Central Health Minister as Chairman and State Health Ministers as members under the provisions of Article 263 of the Constitution of India."

In the resolution on the role of voluntary organizations such as missions and philanthropic bodies in the development of health services and training of health personnel, the conference urged that Governments should utilize these to full advantage and encourage them with grants from public funds.

The Conference expressed its opinion that the resolution of the Indian Medical Council recommending to State Medical Councils the desirability of ~~gr~~ granting registration to foreign doctors holding registrable qualifications in their own countries which had no reciprocity with India should be given effect to by the State Medical Councils during the period such personnel were attached to voluntary organisations and so long as they did not practise medicine for personal gain.

The Conference passed a resolution urging the Central Government to accept the proposal to establish at Calcutta, in association with All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, a centre for the training of maternal and child health workers with assistance from the U.N. International Children's Emergency Fund.

(The Hindu, 1 and 6-9-1950;
The Hindustan Times, 7-9-1950).

CHAPTER 9. LIVING STANDARDS.

INDIA - SEPTEMBER 1950.

92. Housing.

New Scheme for Industrial Labour: Cess suggested on Factory Production.

The National Planning Commission has estimated the present shortage of houses for workers employed in large-scale industries alone at over 1 million. It has worked out the broad principles of a scheme to tackle the problem within the country's limited financial and economic resources. It has suggested the construction of at least 100,000 houses within the next two to three years as part of a more ambitious programme to complete 1 million houses within the next 10 years. The Commission feels that the country's present financial position does not permit a beginning commensurate with the immensity of the problem; but in view of the "gravity of the situation", work on the project should start without delay. The amount needed for building 1 million houses is estimated at 3000 million rupees, the cost of each house averaging 3,000 rupees. Spread over a 10-year period, the amount required per year will come to 300 million rupees.

Housing Fund.- The Commission has suggested the creation of a housing fund for financing the project. The initial capital of the fund will be 120 million rupees, employers, labour and the Government contributing in equal proportions. Employers should contribute at a rate of ~~2~~ 2 1/2 per cent of the total wages bill every year; workers' contributions should be made by way of compulsory ~~saving~~ saving on which they will be entitled to 3 per cent interest. This would provide 60 million rupees per year. 30 million rupees each from employers and employees - for 26 industrial areas to be covered initially by the scheme. The Central Government would be expected to contribute 30 million rupees every year. The balance of 30 million rupees would have to be raised through loans guaranteed by the Central Government.

An alternative means to raise the fund, suggested by the Commission, is to levy a cess on the production of industries. This it wishes to be experimented with in the textiles industry where a cess should be collected on every bale of cloth produced.

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A similar means is adopted to finance the housing and labour welfare schemes in the coalmining industry where a cess of 6 annas is levied per ton of coal produced. Out of this, 4 annas goes to the housing fund and 2 annas to the labour welfare fund.

The Planning Commission's first proposal envisages that in addition to the contribution of 2 1/2 per cent of the total wages bill, employers should pay a subsidy to the housing fund, amounting to 2 rupees per house per month - the difference between the "economic" rent and the rent payable by the worker.

A national housing board, it is proposed, will administer the housing fund. The board will consist of representatives of the Central Government, State Governments, employers, employees and other interested parties. The national housing board will be assisted by State housing boards which will be entrusted with the preparation, co-ordination and execution of regional schemes. The central board will be empowered to float loans, guaranteed by the Central Government. Its principal duty will be to plan the finance and to exercise overriding control over the activities of the State boards. The ownership of the houses, lands and other relevant assets will vest in the national housing board.

The industrial truce resolution of 1947, emphasized the urgent need for giving priority to industrial housing and indicated that the cost should be borne by the three parties concerned. The Central Labour Ministry prepared a 1 million industrial house scheme which had to be postponed in view of the present financial stringency and for lack of response from State Governments and industrial employers. This scheme suggested that the capital required for the project be subscribed by the Central Government to extent of two-thirds and by the State Governments or an employer sponsored by the State Government to the extent of the remaining one-third.

The 26 industrial areas to which the Planning Commission's scheme will initially apply fall in Bombay, West Bengal, Madras, the Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Punjab(1), with a total industrial population of 1,543,120. The wages bill for these areas amounts to 1372.6 million rupees.

(The Statesman, dated 30-8-1950).

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Greater Bombay Co-operative Housing Conference:
Floating of Loan urged to execute Housing Plan.

The Greater Bombay Co-operative Housing Conference, attended by representatives of nearly 165 co-operative bodies, was held at Bombay on 8 September 1950. Mr. S.K. Patil, Mayor of Bombay, presided.

Inaugurating the conference, Dr. Jivraj Mehta, Minister for Health, said that any plan to house the 1.2 million ~~of~~ homeless people in Bombay City alone would cost about 1250 million rupees. The magnitude of the housing problem, to meet the requirements of the entire State, could be gauged from the estimate of this ~~city's~~ city's needs. The question of providing cheap and adequate housing facilities to industrial workers was now pressing heavily on the mind of Government. The total demand for industrial housing in Bombay and Ahmedabad cities alone worked out to 96,000 tenements while the figure for the entire State was about 128,000 tenements. At an average cost of 5,000 rupees over a tenement, the programme for housing industrial workers alone would require about 640 million rupees. Although industrial and low income group housing had the first claim on Government, Dr. Mehta said, the problem of providing cheap and adequate housing for the middle classes was also of great importance.

Referring to Government's housing programme, Dr. Mehta said that it consisted of "direct construction, assistance to co-operative housing societies, and development of ~~ind~~ lands for societies and individuals". The programme of direct construction was for 55 million rupees, out of which 35 million rupees was post-war reconstruction grant, the balance being the loan promised by the Government of India. The loan from the Centre had not yet materialised. Until it came expenditure exceeding the grant from the Reconstruction Fund would be met by the State Government.

The conference requested the State Government to float a loan to execute ~~their~~ housing programme as expeditiously as possible. To raise the necessary funds for carrying out co-operative housing plans, the conference decided on exploring the possibilities of setting up a Co-operative Housing Finance Corporation. The State Government was requested to revise its rules for the grant of loans so as to accommodate housing societies constructing "standard type tenements" to the extent of 90 per cent of the land and 75 per cent of the cost of building construction. The cost of development of land for housing purposes should also be taken into account when valuing the land for granting loans.

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The conference was of the view that the Hotels and Lodging House Rent (Control) Act operated as a "hindrance" and therefore, requested Government to amend the Act so as to restore to co-operative societies the privileges which landlords enjoyed under the Rents Act of 1939 and which enabled them to eject tenants of old buildings and raise modern type structures on the building sites. Government was further asked to bring in legislation at an early date in order to exempt buildings constructed in and after 1948 by co-operative housing societies from paying the Municipal General Tax for a period of ten years. Legislative sanction was also asked to be given to the Bombay Municipal Corporation to sell or lease lands to co-operative organisations for a "nominal cost or rent". While thanking Government for the "partial relief" granted to housing bodies in the levy of the Urban Immovable Property Tax, an appeal was made that co-operative organisations should be totally exempted from payment of the Tax. Exemption was also asked for housing societies from the levy of the Riot Tax.

(The Times of India, 9-9-1950).

CHAPTER 10. INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

INDIA - SEPTEMBER 1950.

101. Prevention of Accidents.

West Bengal Boilers Rules, 1950, gasetted.

The draft West Bengal Boilers Rules 1950 (vide page 78 of the report of this Office for May 1950) has been approved and the Rules gasetted.

(Notification No.5197 com. dated 18-8-1950; The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated 31-8-1950, pages 1747-1764).

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

INDIA - SEPTEMBER 1950.

111. Agriculture.

Co-ordination of Agricultural Research:
Board set up.

The Government of India has set up a 12-men Board, with Mr. K.M. Munshi, Minister for Food and Agriculture, as Chairman, to secure planning and co-ordination of agricultural research conducted in the institutes under the Ministry of Agriculture, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Commodity Committees and the State Governments.

The board will secure the utilisation in the fullest measure of the existing facilities for research relating to agriculture, forests, animal ~~husbandry~~ husbandry, fisheries, etc. It will also deal with the research activities of the Rajasthan Under-ground Water Board and supervise the scientific publications issued by the Agricultural Ministry and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Dr. B. Viswanath will be the Secretary of the Board.

(The Hindu, dated 25-9-1950).

112. Indigenous Workers.

India - September 1950.

Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order 1950
promulgated.

On 6 September 1950, the President ~~of~~ promulgated the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, specifying the names of tribes which will be considered as "scheduled tribes" for the purposes of the Constitution.

The order covers 14 Part A and Part B States and does not cover the Part C States, Patiala and East Punjab States Union and Jammu and Kashmir. In regard to the Uttar Pradesh and ~~Punjab~~ Patiala and East Punjab States Union there are no tribes in the two States.

The number of tribes specified as Scheduled Tribes in the various States, according to the order, are as follows:

Assam ten in the autonomous districts, 11 in the tribal areas other than autonomous districts and eight in the rest of Assam, excluding the tribal areas; Bihar - 28 throughout the State and one in certain districts; Bombay - 24 throughout the State; Madhya Pradesh - 31 in 12 localities; Madras - 40 throughout the State; Orissa - 42 throughout the State; The Punjab - one tribe in Kangra district; West Bengal - seven throughout the State; Hyderabad - nine throughout the State; Madhya Bharat - three ~~in~~ throughout the State and one in certain localities; Mysore - six throughout the State; Rajasthan - one throughout the ~~State~~ Scheduled areas of the State; Saurashtra - six throughout the State; and Travancore-Cochin - 16 throughout the State.

The Census Commissioner to the Government of India is expected shortly to prepare an estimated of the population of these tribes to enable suitable provisions to be made for reservation of seats for them in Parliament and State Legislatures.

(S.R.O. 510 dated 6-9-1950;
The Gazette of India, Extraordinary,
Part II-Section 3, dated 6-9-1950;
The Hindu, dated 10-9-1950).

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

INDIA - SEPTEMBER 1950.

Working Conditions

Asansol Mines Board of Health - Annual
Administration Report for 1948-1949.

Social Security

Government of Madhya Pradesh: Report on the
Administration of the Workmen's Compensation
Act, 1923 in the Central Provinces and Berar
and Central Provinces States during the calendar
year 1949: Nagpur, Government Printing,
Madhya Pradesh; pp.9, price 6 annas.

Problems Peculiar to Certain Occupations or
Categories of Occupations

Department of Agriculture, Bombay: The Progress
of Agricultural Research and Development work
in the Bombay State: by B.N. Uppal, Ph.D., F.N.I.
Director of Agriculture, Bombay State.
