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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
INDIAN BRANCH

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Report for April, 1941.

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

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION ✓

Government of India.-

Draft of Amendments to Indian Coal Mines Regulations:  
Managers to be appointed by and directly responsible to Owners. +

The Government of India intends amending the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926, so as to give effect to the Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1940, which lays down that the manager of a mine should be paid by the owner and should be directly answerable to him. The draft is to be taken into consideration by 1-8-1941.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 19-4-1941, page 592.) +

Bengal.-

The Employment of Bengalees Bill, 1941: ✓  
Introduction on 4-4-1941.

On 4-4-1941, a non-official Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly to provide for the employment of Bengalees in larger numbers in the Province. The Bill stipulates that, in order to alleviate the growing unemployment in the province, a higher percentage of Bengalees should be employed in vacancies both in Government services and in industrial and other establishments; ~~the~~ Government service not less than 95 per cent. of officers and 90 per cent. of menials and in industrial establishments at least 80 per cent. of officers and 50 per cent. of the ~~menials~~ menials should be Bengalees.

A motion to circulate the Bill was adopted the same day by the Assembly.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 24-4-1941, pages 157 to 159.) +

Bengal.-

Bengal Landholders' Employees' Bill, 1941. ✓

A Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly on 4-4-1941 by a non-official member to regulate the conditions of work of the employees of landholders. According to the statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill, the number of such employees in Bengal is over one million. The Bill provides for a weekly rest of 1½ days, a minimum ~~monthly~~ monthly wage of Rs. 35 for clerks and Rs. 15 for those below the rank of clerk, provident fund facilities, privilege leave for one month and casual leave for 15 days in the year with full pay, a 7-hour day for clerks and those above that category and an 8-hour day for those below, over-time payment at 1½ times the normal wage rates, gratuity payments, security of service and payment of workmen's compensation. On the same day, the Assembly referred the Bill for circulation.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 24-4-1941, page 2 +

Orissa.-

Extension of Employment of Children Act to Partially Excluded Areas.

The Government of Orissa has announced that the Employment of Children Act, 1938, as amended in 1939, has been extended to all "partially excluded areas" in Orissa.

(Notification No. 1444-IIIC-14/41 Com. dated 16-4-1941: The Orissa Gazette, Part III, dated 25-4-1941, page 249.)

Sind.-

The City of Karachi Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1941 (Act II of 1941).

Reference was made to the City of Karachi Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1941, which sought, inter alia, to increase the representation of labour in the Municipal Corporation. The Bill has been adopted by the local Legislature and received the assent of the Governor; the text of the Act is published at pages 194 to 196 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette, dated 24-4-1941.

United Provinces.-

Draft of Amendment of Factories Rules: Provision of Improved "First Aid" appliances.

The U.P. Government intends amending the existing stipulations in the U.P. Factories Rules regarding the provision in factories of "first aid" appliances so as to make the appliances more useful and efficient.

(Notification No. 860/XVIII-873-36 dated 5-4-1941: The U.P. Gazette, Part I-A, dated 12-4-1941, page 95.)

Travancore State.-

The Travancore Payment of Wages, Bill, 1940.

A Bill was introduced some time back in the Travancore State Legislature to regulate payment of wages to certain classes of workers employed in industry in the State. It is pointed out in the statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill that it follows closely the British Indian Payment of Wages Act, 1936. The Bill has already been reported on by a Select Committee and was taken up for consideration in the January 1941 session of the Travancore Legislative Assembly.

(A copy of the Bill, with the report of the Select Committee thereon, was forwarded to Montreal with this Office's minute A.8/215/41 dated 18-3-1941.)

*The Bill passed its third reading on 31-3-41  
(Hindustan Times  
3-4-41)*

Burma .-

The Boilers (Amendment) Act, 1941. ✓

An Act to amend the Boilers Act as regards steam pipes and feed pipes has recently been adopted by the Burma Legislature; the Act is gazetted at page 126 of Part III of the Burma Gazette dated 29-3-1941. The new measure empowers Inspectors of Boilers to inspect and pass orders on every class of steam pipe and feed pipe, including fittings used in boilers. +

Burma .-

The Labour Provident and Gratuity Fund Bill, 1941. ✓

Mr. Ba Thane (non-official) introduced in the Burma Senate on 2-4-1941 a Bill to make provision for old-age of workers in Burma. The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that, though there are voluntary schemes of provident funds in existence in a limited number of industrial establishments, the majority of entrepreneurs in Burma have failed to make provision for their labourers in their old age. It is also pointed out that the existing schemes give the labourers the option to avail themselves of the benefits accruing therefrom, but that in view of the improvident tendency of the labourers and the general state of their poverty in their old age, the voluntary system has proved unsatisfactory and should give way to compulsion.

(The Burma Gazette, Part III, dated 5-4-1941, pages 129-131.) +

Burma .-

The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill, 1941: ✓  
Vagrants not to be Jailed.

Mr. Ba Hlaing (non-official) introduced in the Burma House of Representatives on 3-4-1941 a Bill to abolish the present powers of the police and the magistrates to take into custody unemployed persons who have no ostensible means of subsistence. The statement of objects and reasons points out that at the present time when large numbers have to remain unemployed against their will, it is not right that the State should adopt a policy of imprisoning, <sup>such</sup> unemployed, without it (the State) doing anything to tackle the problem of involuntary unemployment.

(The Burma Gazette, Part III, dated 5-4-1941, page 136.) ✓ +

CONDITIONS OF WORK  
Hours of Work.

Scope of Bombay Shops and Establishments Act:  
One-man shops excluded by Court Decision.

A judgment delivered by the Presidency Magistrate, Bombay City, on 3-4-1941, may result in the complete exclusion of owner-managed one-man shops from the purview of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act.

Holding that nothing in the Act applied to Mohamed Kasam, a pan-shopkeeper, the magistrate acquitted him of three charges of contravention of the provisions of the Act: (1) by keeping open his shop after 9 p.m., (2) by failing to exhibit an extract of the Act and the relevant rules under it, and (3) by not maintaining a visit book.

The crucial point in the case was whether the word "employer" used in the relevant sections of the Act covered persons who owned and managed by themselves, without the assistance of others, shops or establishments. The magistrate refused to accept the contention of the prosecution inspector that "a person owning the business of a shop is an employer, whether he employs anybody or not".

The magistrate conceded that in a legislative enactment ~~and~~ the meaning of a word might be enlarged so as to include by analogy something which it ordinarily did not carry. But there should be a degree of comparison or resemblance between the assigned meaning and the original sense of the word. He held ~~a~~ that an "employer" meant "a person who employs", and that was the sense in which Government also appeared to have used the word in making the rules under the Act. The magistrate observed that the Act was in the nature of a protective legislation to control and regulate labour conditions. In the case of a one-man shop, managed by the owner himself, there were no such considerations.

(The Times of India, 7-4-1941.)

Nagpur Textile Workers' Threat to Strike:  
Demand for Increased Wages. ✓

A decision to give notice to the owners both of the Empress and Model Mills of Nagpur that the workers of those mills, who number nearly 20,000, would declare a general stay-in strike on 1-5-1941 unless their demands are conceded was taken on 21-4-1941 at a meeting of the Council of Representatives of the Nagpur Textile Union, Mr. R.S. Ruikar presiding. The demands are for a reasonable increase in the wages of all workers, restoration of the wage cut effected in 1934, grant of a war profit bonus and deduction of one anna as provident fund deduction.

(The Statesman, 23-4-1941.) ✓<sub>+</sub>

Holidays with Pay.

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Holidays with Pay for Piece Workers in Government Press, Orissa. ✓

The Government of Orissa has amended the Orissa Service Code in order to provide for leave with pay for permanent piece-workers in superior service employed in the Orissa Government Press. Employees with less than 10 years' service will get 16 days in the year, those with 10 to 15 years' service 23 days in the year and those with above 15 years' service 31 days in the year. The leave is non-cumulative. Leave on medical certificate on half average pay may be granted up to three months after exhausting leave on average pay referred to above, with permission to extend leave by another three months on production of fresh certificate. Leave on medical certificate admissible to ~~piece~~ piece worker is up to 12 months during his service. Extraordinary leave also may be granted without pay. A piece worker, who is injured in circumstances giving rise to claim for workmen's compensation if he were a workman, is entitled to injury leave up to 2 years for any one disability or up to 5 years in the course of his service.

(Notification No. 1772-F dated 5-4-1941:  
The Orissa Gazette, Part III, dated 11-4-1941  
pages 221 to 222.) ✓+

Factory Administration in India, 1939.\*

The statistics included in the note on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, for the year 1939 exclude Burma, as was the case last year. No amendment was made in the Act during the year.

Number of Factories.- The total number of registered factories was 11,630 as compared with 10,782 in 1938. The number of factories actually working, including 1,765 factories notified under Section 5 (1) of the Act, was 10,466 of which 6,943 were perennial and 3,523 seasonal. 89.9 per cent. registered factories worked during the year as against 90.4 per cent. in the preceding year. The increase in the number of factories actually working was 723 and was shared by all Provinces except Madras and Bengal where there were decreases and Bangalore and Coorg where the number remained stationary. The most marked increase was in Bombay (625). According to industries, appreciable improvements were recorded among cotton spinning and weaving mills, engineering workshops, tobacco factories and sugar mills. Increases were also registered in hosieries, saw mills, silk mills, oil mills, bricks and tiles establishments, foundries and tanneries. There were decreases in rice, dyeing and bleaching, and cotton ginning and baling concerns.

Statistics of Operatives.- The average number of operatives employed during the year increased from 1,737,785 in 1938 to 1,751,137 in 1939, the highest number recorded so far. The most marked increases were in Bengal (8,748), the Punjab (6,034), the United Provinces (4,653), Bihar (2,954), Madras (2,931), Central Provinces and Berar (2,520), Delhi (2,002) and Assam (1,326). In Bengal, the increase is attributed to the effect of the war in ordnance factories, jute mills, engineering works, ship-building works, and iron and steel smelting and tolling mills. There was a fall in the number of workers employed in Bombay (13,062) and Sind (4,880). The drop in Bombay was due to a fall in night shifts in cotton mills. Crop variations were responsible for less employment in Sind. The number of workers employed in the cotton textile industry decreased from 512,228 to 488,554. The loss was almost entirely that of Bombay but was partly made good by greater activity in other provinces, mainly in Madras. Jute Mills employed 298,967 in 1939, against 295,162 in 1938.

Employment of Women and Children.- The number of women employed in factories decreased from 240,932 in 1938 to 239,414 in 1939 and that of children from 10,427 to 9,403. The percentage of women to the total factory population was 13.7 as compared with 13.8 in 1938. The percentage of children to the total factory population also decreased from .62 to .54 per cent. The decline in the number of women workers is apparently due to the reluctance of employers to employ persons who are subjected to special provisions involving a certain amount of additional responsibilities in the shape of maternity benefit, compulsory

\*Statistics of Factories subject to the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934), for the year ending December 31st, 1939, together with a note on the working of the Factories Act during the year. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs.1-14-0 or 2s.9d. pp.39.

crèches, etc. The decrease is also partly due to changes in technical employment.

Hours of Work.- Percentage of factories (for which particulars are available) in which the normal weekly hours are:-

		Not above <u>42</u>	Between 42 and 48	Above <u>48</u>
<u>Perennial</u>				
For men	...	5	22	73
For women	...	10	17	73

		Not above <u>48</u>	Between 48 and 54	Above <u>54</u>
<u>Seasonal</u>				
For men	...	26	11	63
For women	...	34	6	60

The majority of factories worked to the full limits permitted by the Act. Exemptions were granted in different provinces to a number of factories from sections 34, 35 and 36 of the Factories Act to meet conditions arising out of the war. In Bengal, with the exception of jute mills, ordnance factories and certain engineering concerns, no pronounced change occurred in the working hours of the majority of factories.

Wages.- There was no marked variation in the rates of wages of skilled and unskilled labour in the majority of the Provinces. In Bengal the level of wages in all industries was practically undisturbed till the outbreak of the hostilities, except in the jute mills were consequent on the reduction of working hours from 45 to 40 after the lapse of the Jute Ordinance, the workers suffered a pro rata reduction in wages. With the advent of war, when the working hours in jute mills were generally increased, the workers received proportionate increase in wages. In addition a 10 per cent. increase on the average earnings was generally allowed to all jute mill workers. In some other principal industries, dearness allowance due to increased cost of living was allowed to workers, ranging from 4 1/4 to 12 1/2 per cent.

Safety.- The safeguarding of machinery and plant continued to receive close attention in all Provinces. In Bengal, in spite of the lack of fencing material, improvements in jute Mills in the direction of securing minimum standards in process machinery fencing were substantial. Special attention was paid to hazards connected with 'roll formers' or 'autocoils' fitted to carding machines, can tamping motions on drawing frames, the starting and stopping of calendaring machines. The collapse of two jetties during the year, mainly as a result of unsuspected river erosion, also led to the introduction of routine safeguarding<sup>n</sup> all riparian factories of which jute mills form the majority. Safeguarding of machinery in cotton and rice mills, tea, engineering, sugar and other small miscellaneous factories also received due attention. The Safety First Association continued its useful work and conducted several courses to train persons in Air Raid Precaution.

Prosecutions and Convictions.- The number of convictions obtained under the Act was 1,569 as against 1,270 in 1938. The chief increases were in the Punjab (272) and Madras (158).

Inspections.- The number of factories inspected during the year was 9,046 or 86.4 per cent. of working factories. The percentage of perennial and seasonal factories inspected to the total number of such factories was 90.1 and 79.2 respectively as against 91.6 and 85.5 in the preceding year. No factory remained uninspected in Ajmer-Merwara, Bangalore, Coorg, Delhi and the United Provinces. +

Conditions of work of Municipal Sweepers in C.P.  
Action taken by Municipalities on Enquiry Committee Report. +

Reference was made at pages 12 to 13 of our June 1940 report to the action taken by the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar on the recommendations of the Sweepers Enquiry Committee. Briefly stated the action taken was— (1) to bring specifically to the notice of the local bodies those recommendations which fell entirely within their competence; (2) to consult local bodies on recommendations which indicated revision of rules or byelaws by Government; and (3) to undertake examination of those recommendations which suggested action on the part of the Provincial Government itself. The local Government published on 5-4-1941 a brief review, a summary of which is given below, of the results so far achieved in giving effect to the main recommendations.

Hours of Work.- The Committee recommended that actual hours of work put in by sweepers should not exceed 8 hours a day. 40 municipal and notified area committees out of the 43 from which replies have so far been received have declared themselves in favour of this recommendation. As the bulk of opinion desired the restriction of hours of work to eight, Government has revised the existing model byelaw which permitted 10 hours work. The revised model runs as follows:- "A sweeper shall be on duty every day either for five hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon, or six hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon, the actual hours of work being fixed by the municipal committee according to season or needs."

The Committee recommended that the scheduled work is carried out fairly strictly and that extra work, or work of absentees, should not be concentrated on a few sweepers. This suggestion has been generally accepted.

Reserve for Leave Vacancies.- The Committee recommended that in all municipalities, and particularly in the major municipalities, provision should be made for leave vacancies by the appointment of at least 5 per cent. of the staff as leave reserve. Nearly half the number of municipal committees which have so far replied have signified their acceptance of the principle underlying this recommendation; the others report that substitutes are readily available when sweepers go on leave and that consequently no leave reserve need be maintained.

Leave with Pay.- The Committee recommended that all Sunday, bazar day and festival day afternoons should be treated as holidays with pay. Most municipal committees have expressed their approval of this

recommendation and accordingly a provision to this effect has been made in the model byelaws as follows:- "(1) No sweeper shall be called on duty after 12 noon on either Sunday or the weekly local bazar day and any other holiday on which the municipal office is closed; provided that for necessary work a minimum number of sweepers required to do it may be called on duty by rotation. (2) A sweeper may be granted casual leave not exceeding seven days in a calendar year. (3) A sweeper may be granted leave on medical certificate from a registered medical practitioner for a period not exceeding one month in a calendar year. Such leave shall not accumulate. (4) The first fifteen days of leave on medical certificate may be on half-pay".

Maternity Leave.- The Committee also recommended that provision should be made for the grant of maternity leave to sweepers. This recommendation agrees with the provision in the model byelaws (~~reproduced above~~) which have been adopted by several municipal committees already.

Prevention of Besetting by Moneylenders.- The Committee recommended that the presence of moneylenders in the vicinity of municipal premises at the time of payment of wages should be prevented by the use of the Central Provinces Protection of Debtors Act, 1937. Examination of the recommendation reveals that it cannot be given effect to without an amendment of the Central Provinces Protection of Debtors Act, for which it is declared, a case does not really exist. Molestation is already an offence and those sweepers who are molested by moneylenders have only to lodge complaints with the police who will then investigate them as the offence of molestation is cognizable.

Service Conditions.- The Committee strongly recommended that the services of the sweepers should be made permanent after a probationary period not exceeding 3 years and that as regards leave with pay, gratuity and provident fund, the sweepers should be placed exactly on the same footing as the other permanent servants under municipal or notified area committees. The replies received from municipalities show that most committees are not in favour of the recommendation for financial reasons. Some municipal committees, notably the Jubbulpore municipal committee, have also decided to confirm sweepers after a probationary period and to allow them privileges of leave after confirmation. While Government has every sympathy with the recommendation, it considers it inadvisable to compel municipal and notified area committees to give effect to it in view of the reasons advanced by them but takes the opportunity to impress on them that they should take adequate steps to improve their finances so as to enable them to adopt this recommendation to the best of their ability. For the present, Government feels that it must rest content only with the tendering of this advice.

Housing of Sweepers.- The Committee has recommended provision of housing for municipal sweepers. It has also been suggested that where a Municipality undertakes a scheme of housing for sweepers, Government should help by giving free land and by grants-in-aid. Most municipal committees plead lack of funds for the inability to give effect to this recommendation. However deplorable the present housing ~~schemes~~ of sweepers may be, Government fears that substantial improvement must wait till municipal finances are in a better state. As far as Government is concerned it is willing to provide nazul land for sites for housing for the poorer classes. Certain municipal committees, such as Raipur, have schemes for gradual provision of quarters as funds permit.

Grade of Pay.- The Committee has recommended that sweepers should be granted graded increments according to a fixed time-scale. Thirty-

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four out of the 43 municipal committees which have so far replied have agreed to this recommendation in principle and some such as Jubbulpore and Raipur have ~~in~~ even introduced a time-scale for sweepers.

Deductions from Wages.- The Committee recommended that fines and other deductions from wages of sweepers should be utilised for the welfare of the sweepers themselves on the analogy of the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act. All municipal committees from which replies have been received agree to this recommendation.

Indebtedness and Co-operative Societies.- The Committee dealt with the problem of indebtedness amongst sweepers and recommended that the local bodies themselves should start co-operative credit societies with the help of the Co-operative Department. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies who was consulted states that in September 1940 there were as many as 56 sweepers' co-operative societies against 13 societies which existed when the Sweepers Enquiry Committee wrote its report. All Co-operative Central Banks and Institutes in the province have been asked to try their best to organise co-operative societies specially in large towns possessing large sweeper population.

Provident Fund.- The Committee recommended that local bodies should maintain a provident fund for sweepers. The majority of local bodies are in favour of the recommendation. The existing model byelaws in connection with the establishment and maintenance of a provident fund are intended only for the permanent employees drawing not less than Rs. 15 per month. Further action on this recommendation is, therefore, bound up with the question of making sweepers permanent servants of the local bodies.

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Part III,  
dated 11-4-1941.)

Economic Conditions in India in 1940.\* ✓

Main Features.- The year opened quietly in India, despite the outbreak of war in Europe. The year began with the resumption of trade talks with Japan, while the Government of India were seriously perturbed over the question of price control. To resolve the political deadlock, the Viceroy made his offer to the Congress and the Muslim League. But all this was ineffective. In February was announced the 50 per cent. Excess Profits Tax which brought about a landslide in the Bombay Stock Exchange and India's first war budget was formally presented to the Indian Legislature. With the arrival of the hot weather began a series of Conferences, the principal ones being the Jute Conference held at Darjeeling and a Sugar Conference held at Simla.

The Government set up an Export Advisory Council as well as a Research Board for scientific and industrial research, and imposed restrictions on the imports of 70 specified articles. Panicky conditions in all markets prevailed throughout the month of June and the Calcutta Stock Exchange was closed down. In July came the announcement of the Meek-Gregory Mission to U.S. in the quest for new outlets for Indian exports and in August the Government announced their scheme for compulsory war-risk insurance on commodities on land. With autumn arrived members of the Roger Mission to ascertain the supply position and delegates to the Eastern Group Conference, met at Delhi for four weeks, and at the same time, Mahatma Gandhi launched his individual civil resistance campaign to proclaim to the world, without embarrassing Great Britain, India's disapproval of British domination.

Throughout the year, interminable trade talks went on not only with Japan, but also with India's immediate neighbours, Burma, Ceylon and Afghanistan, but they were mostly inconclusive. At the end of the year, the people of India were still awaiting the outcome of the Eastern Group Conference, the Meek-Gregory Mission and the Roger Mission, to say nothing of the various other Councils and Conferences.

Prices.- Immediately after the outbreak of war there was a steep rise in prices in India on the expectation of a high rate of consumption of raw materials and finished products for military purposes and of dislocation in the normal supply of imported articles. The All-India index number of wholesale prices (1873=100) rose by 46 points between August and December 1939 and the working class cost of living index for Bombay was up by 8 points. In a few weeks after the turn of the year, however, there was a sharp set-back and between December 1939 and February 1940 the All-India wholesale price index (1873=100) recorded a decline of 9 points. This downward turn continued upto September 1940, when the price index stood at 152 as against 181 in December 1939. Although the apparent cause of the collapse in the New Year was the imposition of an Excess war profits tax and the introduction of certain price control measures, the intrinsic reason was the failure of the war demand to materialize. Dislocation in the normal trade channels due to shipping difficulties and export restrictions resulted in the loss of important markets for India's primary products and although there was a considerable

increase (15.8 per cent.) in the country's export trade, in the absence of competition, the Indian farmer was unable to build up a sellers' market as he had succeeded in doing in the 1914-18 war,

Cost of Living.- Whereas prices were declining since the beginning of the year under review, the cost of living, except for a temporary setback in the first quarter of the year, was rising. The working class cost of living index for Bombay (July to June 1933-34 = 100) which stood at 105 in August 1939 touched 114 in January 1940, and after being 110 in March, progressively advanced to 115 in December. Similarly the cost of living indices for Ahmedabad, Madras and Jamshedpur increased by 8, 12 and 15 points respectively between August 1939 and November 1940. This divergent movement of wholesale prices and cost of living was, to a considerable extent, due to the low values of India's agricultural products which form an important part of the country's price structure, and to comparatively higher prices of imported and locally manufactured non-agricultural items which have to be accounted for in the cost of living. One important result of the divergence has been a reduction in the real income of the agriculturist, who represents over 70 per cent. of India's 400 million people.

Price Control.- In January 1940 the Government of India introduced certain measures for the control of prices. These are limited to ensuring that prices are not raised more than changes in costs of importation or production justify and aim at preventing speculation, hoarding and profiteering in certain specified goods. Unfortunately, however, these measures have not succeeded in preventing the rise in the cost of living. Another form of price control which is exercised in India appears to be more incidental than planned. As a consequence of the war and export restrictions, India has lost a number of overseas-markets for her produce and the resultant deficiency has been made good by increased purchases by the Central Government both for its own requirements and on behalf of the United Kingdom Government. This has made the Government of India the largest individual buyer of India's produce, and has enabled the authorities to control prices by adjusting their demand to the price level which they think proper. In the event of an undue rise, Government's ~~own~~ purchase orders are held back with the result that stocks accumulate, and ultimately bring down prices. On the other hand, a steep fall in prices is prevented by increasing the volume of governmental purchases. It is questionable, however, whether these price control measures are not impeding the economic progress of the country particularly since the ordinary system of providing an inducement to activity by a rise in prices has been removed and has not been replaced by a more direct organisation of production as in other parts of the Empire.

Trade.- Simultaneously with the increase in India's foreign trade due to war demand, there has been a directional change of equal importance. Whereas on the export side the largest increase has been in the case of the United Kingdom and the British Empire, the volume of imports from the Empire countries has not materially altered. In the case of Japan, exports have declined and imports have increased sharply, while the United States of America purchased more Indian goods and sold more to India, although the rise in imports from the U.S. was much greater than the increase in Indian exports to that country.

Increased Exports: No Proportionate Benefits to Agriculturists.-

Since the beginning of the war in September 1939, Indian exports had shown a marked tendency to increase and this movement was accelerated during 1940. The total value of India's exports in 1940 aggregated Rs 2,087.4 million as compared with Rs 1,893 million in 1939, showing an increase of Rs 194.4 million, whereas imports were almost static at Rs 1,629.5 million as against Rs 1,610.3 million in the previous year. The favourable merchandise balance of trade, in consequence, increased considerably from Rs 282.8 million last year to Rs 457.9 million in the current year.

Although India's export trade has increased in volume, the Indian cultivator, who forms the bulk of the population, has reaped little benefit out of this increase. The authorities in their anxiety, soon after the outbreak of war, to check speculative activity and control prices, have denied the Indian agriculturist the opportunity of reaping a just profit on his produce, especially if one is to consider the lean years through which he has passed during the last decade without receiving any relief at the hand of the Government. The general index number of wholesale prices in Bombay (average of 1939 = 100), which stood at 124 in December 1939 declined to as low as 104 in September 1940, but recovered slightly to 108 at the end of the year. The index number of wholesale food prices fell from 119 in December 1939 to 101 in June 1940, and after a partial recovery to 107 in November, declined again to 105 in December 1940. Taking the single item of raw cotton, the index number for this commodity declined by about 44 points from 140 in December 1939 to 96 in June 1940 and stood at 103 in December. On the other hand, the price index for cotton manufactures (average of 1939 = 100), which stood at 124 in December 1939, declined to 99 in September 1940, but advanced to 109 at the close of the year and the index number for other manufactured articles advanced from 104 in December 1939 to 110 in December 1940. It is evident from the above figures that whereas the Indian agriculturist had to suffer through a fall in prices of the commodities which he produced, he had to pay proportionately higher prices for manufactured and other articles which he consumed. This disparity between the prices of raw commodities and manufactured articles must tend to make the lot of the agriculturist difficult.

Industrial Progress: Stimulation of Internal Demand but no

Industrial Expansion.- The declaration of war in Europe had raised the hopes of increased industrial profits. The progress of Indian industries, however, was checked by the imposition of 50 per cent. Excess Profits Tax, which has since been raised to 66 2/3 per cent. In addition to this, a surcharge of 25 per cent. was imposed on all taxes on income, and from 1st April 1941 the surcharge will be increased to 33 1/3 per cent.

Owing to the imposition of restrictions on foreign trade and the difficulty of obtaining sufficient shipping space for imports, indigenous products met with good internal demand and Indian industry as a whole made some progress during the latter part of the year. Cotton textile, jute and cement industries not only benefited through lack of competition from abroad, but were also able to export to markets which were usually supplied by countries now engaged in war. The steel industry is essentially a war industry and the country's major works, viz., the Tata Iron and Steel Company and the Steel Corporation

of Bengal were almost fully booked with war orders. Unlike the last war, however, there has been very little industrial expansion. While there were 389 active cotton mills in the country in 1939, their number was reduced to 388 in 1940. Jute mills had to reduce their working hours from 60 to 45 per week, and in September the Jute Mills' Association decided to keep the mills closed for one week every month, in order to prevent over-stocking.

Industrial Conditions.- Owing to an increase in the cost of living, dearness allowances were claimed by working classes in all the important industries. Friction between capital and labour was on the increase and a general strike in March in the Bombay cotton textile industry resulted in the loss of 4,510,768 working days. In the meantime, commodity prices which had soared sky-high after the outbreak of war came down to the earth soon after the advent of the new year. Poor demand, increased expenditure and the growing burden of taxation - whether in the form of income-tax or excess profits tax - combined to damp the early optimism. Price control, restrictions on exchange, dislocation of shipping and the consequent loss of markets, difficulties in obtaining freight - all these factors further aggravated the situation. India's two major industries, cotton and jute, were particularly hard hit as speculators, in anticipation of 1914-18 war boom, had artificially pushed up prices of industrial raw materials, and the finished articles could hardly keep pace with any advantage. The reaction when it did come was complete. With the exception of the enterprises engaged in the production of war materials - like iron and steel and chemicals - activity on the industrial front remained restricted in the extreme. ✓ +

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during January 1941. ✓ +

The index number of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during January 1941, as compared with the preceding month:-

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in January 1941 advanced by 2 points to 117. The average for 1940 was 112 as compared with 106 for 1939.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during January 1941, fell by 1 point to 78. The average for 1940 was 79 as against 73 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during January 1941 rose by 1 point to 77. The average for 1940 was 76 as compared with 74 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in January 1941 fell by 1 point to 71. The average for 1940 was 70 as against 73 for 1939.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in January 1941 remained stationary at 69. The average for 1940 was 67 as against 59 for 1939. +

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Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during January 1940 fell by 2 points to 108. The average for 1940 was 107 as against 100 for 1939.

(Extracted from January 1941 issue of Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India.)

### New Indo-Burma Trade Agreement.

A new Indo-Burma Trade Agreement, to replace the Agreement which expired on 31-3-1941, was concluded between the representatives of the two Governments in the third week of April, 1941. The principal terms of the new Agreement are given below:-

1. The Government of Burma undertakes to accord free entry to the following articles:- canned fish; fruit juices, fruits and vegetables (canned or bottled); lead pencils; paper, printing paper, writing paper; coir fibre; coir yarn and coir mats and matting; glass and glassware, glass globes and chimneys for lamps and lanterns, glass bangles, glass beads and glass pearls; certain electrical instruments; instruments, apparatus and appliances other than electrical.

2. Burma undertakes not to tax the following goods at rates in excess of 5 per cent.:- potatoes and onions; coconuts; certain chemicals, drugs and medicines; magnesium chloride; toilet requisites; paints; woollen yarn, blankets and rugs and woollen hosiery.

3. Burma undertakes not to tax the following goods at rates in excess of 10 per cent.:- coffee; certain spices; cigars; toilet soap; woollen carpets; boots and shoes.

4. The following goods, when imported into Burma, will be taxable at special rates not exceeding those shown against each:- betel nuts - 20 per cent.; ale and beer - rate of excise duty for the time being in force; drugs and medicines containing spirit - double the rate of excise duty for the time being in force; tobacco (unmanufactured - 1 anna per pound; cinematograph films (exposed) - 15 per cent. (with separate tariff value for Indian films); silk fabrics, artificial silk fabrics, mixture fabrics, cotton knitted fabrics - 15 per cent.; and ~~mixtures~~ electric lighting bulbs - 15 per cent.

As against these concessions, India agrees:

1. That the following goods of Burmese origin shall be accorded free entry:- dyeing and tanning substances; gums, resins and lac, gums, Arabic, Benjamin (ras and corie) and dammer and rosin; wood and timber; furniture and cabinetware; tea-chests and parts and fittings thereof; cotton, raw; lacquered-ware; iron <sup>or</sup> steel (old), iron or steel, enamelled ironware; copper (wrought) and manufactures of copper, copper (scrap); German silver including nickel ~~xxx~~ silver; Aluminium, unwrought ingots, blocks and bars of aluminium; Lead (wrought), lead sheet for tea chests; Zinc or spelter (wrought or manufactured);

Tin (block); Brass, bronze and similar alloys (wrought and manufactures thereof); and all sorts of metal other than iron and steel.

2. That the following goods shall be dutiable at special rates not exceeding those shown below: Potatoes and onions - 5 per cent.,; Coffee - 10 per cent.,; ~~Spice~~ Spice, viz. cardamoms, cassia, cinnamon, cloves, nutmegs and pepper - 10 per cent.,; Betelnuts - 20 per cent.,; Cutch and gambier, all sorts - 5 per cent.,; Cigars - 10 per cent.,; Tobacco (unmanufactured) - 1 anna per lb.

~~Rice Imports from Burma~~

Indian Piece-Goods and Sugar.- As regards Indian cotton piece-goods exported to Burma, whilst the agreement provides for a margin of preference of 7½ per cent. only against a margin of 10 per cent. over other similar goods entitled to preferential treatment, the Burma Government pledges itself not to fix the duty on such goods at more than 10 per cent. Furthermore, the position of Indian textiles in Burma is strengthened by the retention of the quota on Japanese goods at its present level.

As regards sugar, the Burma Government undertakes to accord special privileges to sugar imported from India in so far as the local capacity to meet demand leaves a margin to be filled by imports.

Rice Imports from Burma.- Rice and broken rice will be retained on the free list and no duty will be levied in India on these commodities coming from Burma so long as they are allowed to be imported free of duty from other countries. On broken rice, the Government of India has given an undertaking that, if a duty is reimposed, a preference not in excess of 10 per cent. or the amount of duty whichever is less will be granted to imports from Burma.

Agreement Denounceable at 6 months' Notice.- As regards exports from one country to the other which are liable to excise duty, it is provided in general that the rate of customs duty shall correspond to the level of the excise duty ruling in the country of import. The Agreement shall run for an indefinite period, subject to the right of either party to denounce it at 6 months' notice.

The following are extracts from editorial comments on the subject from the Hindu dated 5-4-1941:-

"The new agreement means the end of the free trade regime that existed before the separation and during the past three years, and is unobjectionable in principle... Of the Indian goods entering Burma, some are to be allowed duty free and the others will be subject to duties but will enjoy preference rates ranging from five to fifteen per cent. Preference is granted against British goods also, the margin varying from five to ten per cent. In the case of textiles, which form nearly a fourth of our exports to Burma, we are to enjoy a preference of 7½ per cent. against the United Kingdom and fifteen per cent. against others....

"In return for these preferences, India extends to Burma a similar system of preferences, besides agreeing to admit rice and timber free of duty. Kerosene remains on the preferential list. As rice, timber and kerosene together constitute nearly 90 per cent. of Burma's exports to this country, what the Agreement amounts to so far as Burma is concerned is that she is assured of the maintenance of the status quo.

regarding the bulk of her trade with India. In India's case, there is a complete end of the status quo. The major part of Indian exports will be subject to duties. We have to rely on the preferences given by Burma for maintaining our export position.

Commenting on the repercussions of the new agreement on the position of Indians in Burma, the paper says:

"There can be no doubt, however, that the future of Indo-Burma trade is bound up with these vital issues. Indian public opinion is not certainly satisfied with the policy the Burma Government have pursued towards Indians in their territory. Since the last riots the Indian community has been weighed down by fears that their interests are insecure in the country for whose development they have contributed so much in the past and are still doing to-day. The Land Purchase Act was not calculated to reassure them..... If the Trade Agreement now concluded paves the way for a just settlement of this and other outstanding questions it will mark the beginning of a new era in Indo-Burman relations."

(The Hindu, 4-5-1941.) ✓

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Control of Coal Industry:  
Indian Mining Federation suggests setting up of Ministry of Mining.

A suggestion for the establishment of a Ministry of Mining under the Central Government, and for liberating the coal industry from the control now exercised by provincial legislatures and placing it under a unified policy and the guidance of the Central Government, was mooted by Mr. S.C. Ghosh, presiding over the annual general meeting of the Indian Mining Federation on 31-3-1941.

Enquiry suggested.- Mr. Ghosh detailed the various difficulties encountered by the coal-mining industry during the past year and emphasized the urgency of setting up a coal inquiry committee for investigating the problems of the industry in all its aspects. He said that although, owing to war demands, the raisings and despatches of coal had reached record figures in 1940, coal prices were not encouraging to colliery-owners. According to him, the chief reasons for the depressing condition of the trade were to be sought, among others, in over-production and in the absence of an effective marketing organisation. He pointed out the various anomalies that had crept into the administration of the coal-mining industry owing to the operation of provincial autonomy.

(The Statesman, 2-4-1941.)

Indian Automobile Industry:  
Mysore Postpones Venture.

Reference was made at page 25 of our March 1941 report to the proposal for starting an automobile industry in Mysore under State guarantee. It is now understood that the Government of Mysore has decided not to proceed with the scheme for the present.

(The Statesman, 11-5-1941.) +

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Development of Indian Industries:

Pandit Kunzru's Resolution in Council of State on 2-4-1941. ✓

On 2-4-1941, Pandit H. Kunzru (non-official) moved a resolution in the Council of State recommending a review of the industrial development of the country and formulation of a plan, taking into account post-war conditions as far as practicable, to fill up the lacunae in the ~~the~~ existing industrial system, and to bring about a comprehensive and co-ordinated industrial development of the country. A summary of the debate is given below:-

Pandit Kunzru, in his speech introducing the motion, pointed out that the industrial development of India had so far been lop-sided and the country still depended upon outside assistance for many of its essential needs. The last great war and the present one had amply demonstrated that the industrialisation of India was not only necessary for its self-sufficiency and higher standard of living, but also for its national security. India was producing what ~~was~~ <sup>were</sup> called 'consumers' goods' and was still deficient in what were called 'key industries'. Another serious deficiency was the lack of any census of production, which was so necessary for industrial development. Pandit Kunzru was sure that quite a good deal of such data had been collected by the Roger Mission and the Eastern Group Conference, but regretted that this data was not made available to the public.

Dealing with the activities of the Eastern Group Supply Council, he expressed the fear that the activities of the Council would provide a brake on the full industrialisation of India. Alluding to particular industries, he deplored the fact that, though ship-building had been undertaken on behalf of His Majesty's Government both in Australia and Canada, in India the Government had failed to recognise ship-building as a war industry. He also pointed out that with regard to the motor car industry also, Government was adopting an unhelpful policy.

Reviewing remedial measures, he stressed the need for a fresh investigation of the development of cheap power, which, he said, was essential for the development of industries. He emphasised that much more should be spent on research than at present. He also emphasised the need for simplification of the conditions laid down by the Fiscal Commission for the grant of protection.

Mr. J.H.S. Richardson, speaking for the European Group, said that India should concentrate on production of raw materials and depend on England for manufactured products. He also made the statement that consideration of the future should await the conclusion of peace.

Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, reiterated his statement in the Assembly that Government were seriously considering the question of post-war adjustment and that an Inter-departmental Committee might shortly be constituted, which would from now on consider what plans could be evolved for readjustment of industries, which expanded owing to war requirements, and for the re-employment of technical labour now employed in these expanded and expanding industries. Problems relating to industrialisation and employment would, he thought, receive the serious attention of all Governments, and ~~while~~ <sup>though</sup> complaints ~~had~~ <sup>are even</sup> now

being made about the extent to which Government interfered with ordinary trade and commerce and about governmental control of industries, he believed that after the war was over, the need for some sort of governmental intervention would not necessarily cease.

Referring to the Supply Council, he said that there was no justification for the apprehension that the Council would not allow the start of industries in this country, ~~but~~ that it would allow other countries to steal a march over us. It was true, however, that if India were not in a position to <sup>supply a particular article in domestic times not</sup> wait till that supply was found in this country, but would get it from where it was available. He hoped that when the proposed enquiry into gaps in the industries in India was complete, it would be possible to give industrialists an idea of what new ventures to start. At the end of the war, he observed, conditions might be so chaotic that quick remedial measures might have to be resorted to and that was the time when one might consider the question of a permanent machinery both to watch dumping from outside and to watch the course of the protected industries themselves. Steps would be taken to have ready a plan for the constitution of such a body.

Mr. P.N. Saprú urged that there should be a Member of the Executive Council in charge of post-war problems, to be known as the Minister of Reconstruction, and that an Economic Advisory Council should be set up to advise him. Emphasising the need for planning ahead, he said that by planning he meant planning for an India which would have a balanced economy, and which would be able to utilise her raw materials and resources to ~~bring~~ better economic advantage.

Sir Alan Lloyd, Commerce Secretary, said that the working of the resolution went much farther than the Government of India could commit itself. He reminded ~~that~~ the House that industries was a Provincial subject, but the working of the resolution would have the effect of the Government of India usurping the functions and powers of the Provincial Governments. He therefore suggested the following amended resolution:

"The Council recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council that he should review the industrial development of the country and taking into account the post-war conditions as far as possible, bear in mind the desirability of filling up the lacunae in the existing industrial system and of bringing about the co-ordinated industrial progress of the country."

The amendment was accepted by Pandit Kunzru and was adopted by the Council without a division.

(The Statesman and the Hindu, 3-4-1941.)

(For statement on the industrial policy of the Government, made in the Legislative Assembly on 17-3-1941 by the Commerce Member, vide pages 21 to 23 of our March 1941 report.)

Aeroplane Factory to be set up in Bangalore:Government of India associated in new Enterprise. ✓

According to the Bangalore Correspondent of the Hindu, Madras, the Government of India, it is understood, is actively associated with the Hindustan Aircraft Limited, a company registered in Mysore State, for the manufacture of aeroplanes and aircraft material, and have subscribed a large sum towards the issued capital.

The company has three partners, viz., the Mysore Government, Mr. Walchand Hirachand and others who are the Managing Agents, and the Government of India. The issued capital which was originally Rs. 4 million has now been raised to 7 million.

(The Hindu, 1-4-1941.) ✓ +

Clock and Watch Factory at Jamshedpur:New Industrial Venture. ✓

Taking advantage of the cessation, due to the war, of imports of watches and clocks, principally from Germany and <sup>Japan,</sup> ~~China,~~ into India, a new enterprise, viz., The Indian Clock Manufacturing Co., Ltd., with an authorised capital of Rs. 500,000 has been established a Workshop at Jamshedpur, equipped with the most up-to-date machinery and plant~~s~~ employing skilled technicians and workmen. The Company is making arrangements to set up air-conditioned rooms and other contrivances so that every part, starting from a pin up to the finished clock, may be manufactured in India.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 1-4-1941.) ✓ +

Industrial Research in Bihar:Provincial Board Formed. ✓

The constitution of a provincial Scientific and Industrial Research Committee of seven members with Sir Sultan Ahmed as Chairman and the Director of Industries as Secretary has been announced by the Government of Bihar. The function of the Committee will be to bring to the notice of the Central Board of Scientific and Industrial Research suitable subjects for industrial research and to chalk out the methods of laboratory investigation. It will also advise the Provincial Government on matters that arise out of the proceedings of the Central Board that are referred to it and make suggestions for further researches.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 18-4-1941.)  
+War and Difficulties of Small and Medium Industries:  
All India Organisation of Industrial Employers collecting  
Information. ✓

The All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers is, it is understood, collecting information regarding the difficulties that are being experienced by the small-scale and medium-sized industries in the country owing to the war. The information, when collected, is to be placed before the Government of India for necessary action.

(The Times of India, 28-4-1941.) ✓

India's Glass Industry:  
Impetus given by War. ✓

*a steadily increasing annual production,*  
With ~~an annual production worth Rs 2,000,000,000~~ India's 101 glass factories are now able to meet national requirements to the extent of over 50 per cent. of the annual consumption. This figure may rise rapidly as further results of industrial research are made available to the industry. A new factory for glass manufacture is shortly expected to start production at Ghaziabad.

In the last war, the Indian Munitions Board secured a good deal of its requirements from the Indian factories. In this war also the Supply Department has placed substantial orders with Indian glass factories. Another result of the present war is a reduction of imports and increase in exports of all kinds of glassware. During the nine months, April 1 to December 31, 1940, imports dropped in value from Rs 7,500,000 in the corresponding period of 1939 to Rs 6,300,000. In the same period exports rose in value from a little over Rs. 96,000 to nearly Rs. 300,000.

(The Bombay Chronicle 27-4-1941) ✓  
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Indian Emigration to Burma:  
Notice of Termination of Unrestricted Immigration given by  
Burma Government. ✓

A communiqué issued by the Government of Burma announces that the Government has given on 1-4-1941 the requisite one year's notice for the termination of the Government of Burma Immigration Order, 1937, which thereby will cease to have effect from 31-3-1942. The communiqué explains that, under the terms of the Order, immigration into Burma from India cannot be subjected to any restrictions which were not in force at the time of the separation of Burma (At the time of the separation unrestricted immigration was allowed). The Order was operative for a minimum of three years from the date of separation and twelve months' notice on the part of the Government of Burma was required to terminate its operation. It may be recalled, in this connection, that the Commerce Minister, Burma, had recently informed the Burma House of Representatives that the question of ~~the~~ Indian immigration into Burma would be considered as soon as the trade talks in New Delhi were over and after examination of the recommendations of the Indian Immigration Commission reports. (This report is now in the Ministry's hands.)

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 16-4-1941.)

According to the New Delhi Special Correspondent of the Indian Express, Madras, it is likely that the Government of India will send in the ~~near future~~ near future a delegation to Burma to discuss questions relating to immigration and the status of Indian nationals.

(The Indian Express, 21-4-1941.) ✓

Amendment of the Asiatic (Transvaal Land and Trading) Amendment  
Bill: Reserved areas to be released to Asiatics. ✓

On 9-4-1941, the Union Government brought forward a motion in the South African Assembly exempting "the Feetham areas" in the Transvaal from the restrictions imposed by the gold law on occupation by coloured persons. The motion also asked the House to approve the transfer to Asiatics of land situated in Johannesburg Malan location and the Nigol Asiatic bazaar. The Minister, after explaining that "the Feetham areas" were within the municipalities of Johannesburg, Krugersdorp and Roodepoort, said that Government were now giving practical effect to the new law incorporated in the Malan Act of 1932. "This Government and any other Government has very definite obligations to the Asiatic community", he said. It was felt that if the Asiatic community was given rights not only of occupation but also of ownership the authorities would be able to deal in a satisfactory way with the difficulty of illegal occupation.

Consequent upon the adoption of the above motion, the Government later introduced the Asiatic (Transvaal Land and Trading) Amendment Bill, which passed the Second Reading on 16-4-1941.

This move has been widely welcomed in India.

(The Times of India, 14 and 17-4-1941.) ✓  
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Indians Overseas:

Conference to be held in November 1941. ✓

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It is understood that the second session of the Indian Colonial Conference and the Silver Jubilee of the Indian Colonial Society will be held in Delhi early in November 1941. A large number of delegates from the Colonies and other countries are expected to arrive in India to attend the Conference. These representatives will tour the country with a view to give the Indian public an adequate knowledge of the status and conditions of life and work of Indians abroad for developing a closer commercial and cultural contact with the mother-country. The Conference will discuss, among other matters, subjects relating to the reorganisation of Indian emigration, India's need for closer contact with her nationals abroad and the ethical aspects of Indian colonisation.

■ (The Hindustan Times, 26-4-1941.) ✓

AGRICULTURE

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The Bengal Rent Reduction Bill, 1941. ✓

A non-official Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly on 4-4-1941 to provide for the reduction of excessive rents prevailing in agricultural areas in permanently settled and revenue free estates in Bengal.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV-A,  
dated 24-4-1941, pages 164 to 166.) ✓

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CO-OPERATION.

New Marketing Department set up in Mysore. ✓

The Mysore Government has issued orders constituting a new Marketing Department for five years, to deal with problems of agricultural marketing, the opening of grading stations and regulated markets, the improvement of containers and methods of packing storage, etc., and the development of a market ~~xxx~~ news service.

The new department will deal with the general principles and practices of the marketing. It will administer the Agricultural Produce Markets Act and organise co-operative agricultural marketing societies. It will also work out the necessary measures for the organisation of the urban milk supply, a market news service, the introduction of standard containers and a reduction in railway freights.

(The Times of India, 28-4-1941.) ✓  
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The Calcutta Tenancy Bill, 1941:

Legislation to curb Rent Enhancements introduced. ✓

A non-official Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly on 4-4-1941 to regulate enhancements of rents of houses and premises in Calcutta and ejections of tenants from such premises. The Statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that arbitrary increases in rent and ejections of tenants refusing to pay increased rents are becoming too common in Calcutta, and that middle class business tenants, who have started some business and have established some good will there, are being put to heavy loss by the arbitrary action of the landlord.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV A, dated 24-4-1941, pages 171-to 172) ✓

The Sylhet Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1941. ✓

In order to check the landlord's power (1) to eject non-agricultural tenants, which is exercised very frequently on the latter's refusal to pay increased rent, and (2) to raise rent indiscriminately, a Bill, the Sylhet Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1941, has been introduced in the Assam Legislature. The Bill confers occupancy rights on tenants of 10 years' standing; ejection of tenants is permitted only if rent is in default or the value of the holding is impaired through mis-use. The right of the landlord to enhance rent and the amount of enhancement have been made subject to control by the Court.

(The Assam Gazette, Part V, dated 2-4-1941, pages 65-69.) ✓

Slum Clearance and Industrial Area Schemes for  
Delhi City: Improvement Trust's programme for 1941-44.

The second three-year programme of the Delhi Improvement Trust covering the period 1941-44 makes provision, among other schemes, for the removal of about 30 acres of slum areas, and redeveloping them at a cost of about Rs 4 million, and the developing of an industrial area for Delhi City.

Slum Clearance Scheme and Rehousing of Poor Dispossessed Families:  
The scheme aims at acquiring and redeveloping all the "slum" areas comprising an area of 29.80 acres between Delhi City and New Delhi. When the scheme is finished, where filthy hovels once stood, and

~~Sanitary lanes~~, there will be a 30-foot wide inner service road, with gardens, trees and grass, abutting upon the boulevard. A frontage of 18 blocks of modern buildings, shops, flats, residential quarters has been designed. The last stage of the scheme makes provision for the construction of two blocks of buildings for sweepers' quarters. In addition, some 2,377 families numbering 21,962 persons living in slum conditions will be eligible for rehousing under the Trust State subsidised rehousing scheme. An area of 8,082 square yards has been reserved in this scheme ~~area~~ for buildings for some of these dispossessed families. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 4 million and is expected to be completed by 1945. The scheme has been approved by the Government of India, and is noteworthy, as this is the first <sup>instance</sup> time in India that the State has admitted <sup>even</sup> partial liability for the rehousing of poor people.

Industrial Area Scheme. - As a start, Government have sanctioned a scheme for the acquisition and partial development of 271.21 acres and acquisition proceedings have already been started. Of this area, 159.47 acres is to be available for factories, 8.75 acres for residential houses, and 2.96 acres for shops. It is proposed to sell the land for factories on a seven-year hire-purchase system, charging interest at 5 per cent. Sites for residential houses and shops will be sold on six-year lease purchase.

(The Statesman, 25-4-1941.) ✓ +

Labour Housing in Ahmedabad:

Enquiry conducted by Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad. ✓

An inquiry into the housing conditions in labour areas <sup>in Ahmedabad</sup> was conducted by the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association with a view to drawing the attention of the local Municipality to the problem of labour housing. The Association representatives inspected 237 chawls with 14,623 tenements most of which were found to have deficient sanitary arrangements. The Association has been drawing attention to the housing conditions in labour areas for years. The Municipality has built a number of model tenements for the poorer classes, but the condition of the existing chawls has not been improved and the Association has again taken up the question, now that its Secretary, Mr. G.L. Nanda, is the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Municipality. Mr. Nanda is trying to find out how far improvement can be effected by the stricter enforcement of the existing Municipal bye-laws.

(The Times of India, 16-4-1941.) ✓ +

Housing of Middle and Lower Class in Bombay City:

Corporation Proposals for Cheap Tenements. ✓ +

The newly constituted Improvements Committee of the Bombay Municipal Corporation has approved and adopted a report of its sub-committee regarding the provision of cheap housing accommodation for the middle class and the poor and working class people residing in the Bombay

city. The sub-committee generally agreed to the suggestions made by the Municipal Commissioner in his report.

Present Accommodation Insufficient.- In the course of his report, the Commissioner has stated that the total accommodation available to the poor and the working classes in the city is grossly inadequate and that the rents charged for such accommodation are out of proportion to the means of the families occupying them. In view of the appalling conditions in which large number of people, including the workers in the city, live, the Commissioner was of the opinion, the Sub-Committee report says, that the Municipality should take the initiative in improving the conditions of their housing.

Government Subsidy for Municipal Housing Scheme.- The Commissioner suggested, inter alia, that the Government may be requested to give the Municipality a subsidy equal to 20 per cent. of the total collections of the Urban Immovable Property Tax so that the Municipality might utilize a major portion of it for constructing one-room tenements and the balance for giving subsidies and loans to co-operative building societies, landlords, etc., who would construct cheap tenements according to the standard fixed by the Municipality.

Lease of Land on Concessionary Rents to Building Societies.- The Commissioner further suggested that the Municipality also might assist public utility societies and private landlords to carry out housing schemes for the poor, middle and working classes by providing Municipal land on 99 years' lease at concessionary rent and by giving them subsidies and loans at low rate of interest and also assist ~~in~~ private landlords who are willing to build houses for the poor, middle and working classes by making a capital grant of 1/4th the cost towards the cost of building.

He further suggests that a capital grant to the extent of 25 per cent. of the cost of repairs might be made to private landlords for improving the condition of their insanitary tenements occupied by the poor class.

Transport Facilities for Workers.- Existing ~~Transport Companies~~, it is suggested by the Commissioner, may be subsidised or the Municipality may organise their own transport so as to facilitate and cheapen travel from the north to the different and distant working centres.

Big Employers to Provide Housing.- The Commissioner has also pointed out in the report that it is desirable that Government, the Port Trust, the Railways and large industrial concerns should also provide cheap and decent housing accommodation for their low paid employees as far as possible.

(The Bombay Chronicle 11-4-1941.) ✓+

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Labour Housing in Madras:  
Progress of Municipal Housing Scheme. ✓

Reviewing the efforts made by the Madras Corporation to improve housing conditions in Madras City, Mr. Pulla Reddi, Commissioner, Madras Corporation, in a speech delivered on the occasion of the opening of new workers' tenements at Egmore, Madras, said on 7-4-1941 that the problem of overcrowding in the city, particularly so far as the poorer working classes were concerned, was examined by the Housing Committee of the City Corporation in 1933, and it was estimated that the total number of over-crowded houses in the City was about 22,500, approximately 40 per cent. of the total number of smaller houses in the City. The Committee was of opinion that a minimum increase of 40 per cent. in the number of smaller houses was required to relieve over-crowding and recommended the building of 10,000 houses at a cost of Rs. 2,000 each and at a total cost of Rs 22.7 million. The Corporation had since 1908 spent Rs 1.36 million for the construction of tenements and improvement of slums. Owing to the influx of new workers into the city year after year, it was not possible, he said, to get funds to provide tenements in all slums. So in some cases the Corporation was now trying to provide all the necessary civic amenities and allow the people to build or rebuild their houses in a way suitable to their needs and mode of living.

The Corporation, however, was hoping to work out a bigger housing scheme near about Pallavaram where nice, airy and cheap tenements could be built. They were also investigating whether they could not induce large employers of labour to build tenements for the working classes by offering them some inducements such as exemption from property tax. He also hoped that when the proposal for a City Improvement Trust for Madras materialised, the Trust would relieve the Corporation of its obligations in this sphere.

Sir G.T. Boag, Adviser to the Governor, said that Government would handle the question of providing improved housing for workers sympathetically.

(The Hindu, 8-4-1941.) ✓

Employers' Organisations.

Employers' Association of Northern India;  
Annual Report for 1940-41.\*

**Membership and Labour Force.**- The membership of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore, during 1940-41 (1-2-1940 to 31-1-1941) consisted of 36 concerns (13 cotton mills, 1 woollen mill, 2 leather works, 1 sugar works, 2 jute mills, 2 hosiery factories, 2 ice factories and 11 other factories). The total labour force employed by member concerns in Cawnpore was approximately 56,829, as against 47,402 last year, and an estimated total of labour employed by the Mills and Factories of Cawnpore of 68,000. The labour force employed by member concerns outside Cawnpore was 7,117 as against 5,069 for last year.

**Complaints.**- During the year, the Association received and dealt with 415 complaints from workers; of these, 141 were made by the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha, 155 from unions other than the Mazdoor Sabha, and 119 direct from workers. 40 cases went up before the Government Labour Commissioner (as against 111 in 1939-40) of which 29 were decided in favour of the Association, 7 were decided against it, and 4 were neutral decisions. The report points out that the drop in the number of cases heard by the Labour Commissioner is due to the withdrawal of the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha from conciliation proceedings.

**Labour Bureau.**- The Labour Bureau of the Association registered 14,772 applications from unemployed workers, and was able to secure employment for 7,803 (the corresponding figures for 1939-40 were 12,227 and 4,708). The report points out that there has been a considerable increase in demand for labour both in the leather industry and the woollen industry due to war-time conditions. Of the 14,772 unemployed workers registered as unemployed only 25.56 were literate, as against 32.79 in 1939-40, and the report points out that this shows that the drive for literacy which the Government and other bodies have undertaken and advertised has not yet made much headway amongst industrial workers in Cawnpore.

**Labour Situation.**- There was no major labour trouble <sup>during</sup> the year in Cawnpore, strikes being limited to departments and of short duration, none being successful. The number of working days lost due to strikes dropped from 422,174 in 1939-40 to 6,074 in 1940-41, with a corresponding drop in lost wages from Rs.432,583 to Rs.6,671. It is pointed out that improvement is to a great extent due to improved employment conditions which have resulted in an increase in earnings, and fewer unemployed for the communists and other labour agitators to exploit. In member concerns outside Cawnpore the figures show an improvement in the working days lost from 77,108 in 1939-40 to 56,638 in the year under review. These figures represent three major strikes, one of which was of a short duration. τ

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Fourth Annual Report of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore, for the year 1939-40, presented to the Annual General Meeting held on 21st April, 1941. The Star Press, Cawnpore, 1941. pp.14.

Progress of Trade Unionism in India, 1938-39\*.

Registered and Unregistered Trade Unions.- As in previous years, the statistics given below relate only to trade unions which (a) are registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, and (b) have submitted returns. Registration under this Act, with the consequent submission of returns, is not compulsory. According to the Bombay Labour Gazette for February 1940, there were in Bombay on the 1st December 1939, 176 unions with a membership of 181,597 of which 76 with 151,790 members were registered.

Statistics of Unions and Membership.- The total number of registered trade unions increased from 420 in 1937-38 to 555 in 1938-39. Of the 555 unions 394 submitted annual returns. In 1938-39, the number of registered trade unions increased in all Provinces except Ajmer-Merwara where there was a decrease. As in previous years, the group containing the largest number of unions was that of unions with a membership between 100 to 299.

The membership of unions which submitted returns increased from 390,112 to 399,159, the highest yet recorded. This represents an average membership of 1,013 per union during 1938-39, as against 1,137 during the previous year. There were increases in membership in Bihar, C.P. and Berar, Delhi, Madras, N.-W.F.P. and Sind, while decreases were noted in other provinces.

Organisation of women workers.- The number of women who were members of registered trade unions in 1938-39 decreased from 14,703 to 10,945. The figures for 1938-39 show a decrease of 3,758 over the previous year's figure; 2.7 per cent. of the members of all trade unions submitting returns were women as compared with 3.8 per cent. in the previous year.

General and Political Funds.- The total income rose from Rs. 693,444 to Rs. 889,822 and the balance at the end of the year from Rs. 506,970 to Rs. 611,464. The average income for 1938-39 was Rs. 2,258.4 per union and Rs. 2-3-8 per member, as compared with Rs. 2,022 and Rs. 1-12-5 respectively in 1937-38.

The Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, maintained a political fund and had a balance of Rs. 16,044 though there was no income during the year.

Withdrawals and Cancellations.- 41 unions ceased to exist or had their certificates of registration cancelled during the year (1 in Ajmer-Merwara, 25 in Bengal, 3 in Bombay, 1 in the Central Provinces and Berar, 7 in Madras, 3 in the Punjab, and 1 in the United Provinces). The certificates of registration of 2 Federations were cancelled during the year (one in Bengal and the other in Delhi).

General.- The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, remained unchanged during the year. The Bengal Electoral Rules have been amended to enable the Registrar of Trade Unions to raise objections to the grant of certificates of recognition, under paragraph 18 (2) of Part IV of the Government of India Provincial Legislative Assemblies Order, to unions

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\* Note on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, for the year 1938-39, together with Statistics for that year. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Annas 12 or 1s. pp. 9

which do not comply with the provisions of the Act relating to the annual audit of accounts and inspection of books and registers. This will encourage the unions to appreciate the importance of maintaining genuine records and of keeping them up to date. In Madras, the suit in the District Court, Trichinopoly, against the order of the Registrar of the Trade Unions cancelling the registration of the South Indian Railway Workers' Union during 1936-37, has not yet been decided.

78 unions in all (Bengal 27, Bihar 5, Bombay 9, C.P. and Berar 7, Madras 17, Punjab 5, Sind 3 and U.P.5) have been recognised for the purposes of elections to the labour seats in the Provincial Legislative Assemblies. +

Progress of Trade Unionism in Bombay, 1939-40.\*

Number of Registered Unions and Membership.- There were 53 unions, including one federation, on the register on 31-3-1939. Thirty-two unions were registered during the year under report. Of these 85 unions, however, the registrations of 12 unions were cancelled during the year. The number of unions on the register on 1-4-1940 was thus 73. Full information was available regarding the membership, income and expenditure and opening and closing balances in respect of 57 unions which submitted returns.

The total membership of the reporting unions at the end of the year was 105,799, or more than double the total membership of 50,997 on 31-3-1939 reported by the 41 unions whose annual returns were incorporated in the last year's report. All the groups except "Railways (including Railway Workshops)" and "Transport other than 'Tramways' and 'Employers' Associations'" contributed to this rise, the more important among them being "Miscellaneous" - 73.78 per cent., "Municipal" - 61.50 per cent., "Docks and Port Trusts" - 43.35 per cent., and "Textiles" - 41.70 per cent.

The female membership showed an increase of over 5,200 over the figures for the previous year. In 1938-39 there were only 12 unions having 1,502 female members; during the year under report, however, the figure rose to 21 and 6,713 respectively, the highest ever reported. Although the new registrations of the Throstle Workers' Union and the Winders' Union at Ahmedabad and Dhulia Girni Kamgar Union, Dhulia, were mainly responsible for the rise, substantial increases were also contributed by the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union (Red Flag) and the Bombay Municipal Kamgar Sangh.

Finances of Unions.- The principal liability of the majority of the unions was the general fund. It formed the only liability of 20 unions, while two unions had liabilities other than the general fund. The total amount at the credit of the general fund account of all the unions was Rs. 187,866-14-2 and other liabilities amounted to Rs. 50,284-4-0, as against total assets amounting to Rs. 238,151-2-2.

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\*Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (Act XVI of 1926) for the Province of Bombay, 1939-40. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. Price Annas 2 or 3d. 1941. pp.25.

The figure for total assets includes an amount of Rs. 78,151-0-2 for unapid subscriptions due, the real value of which is doubtful. The amount of cash assets was the largest in the case of the "Textiles" and the "Miscellaneous" groups, amounting to Rs. 20,509-13-9 and Rs. 14,908-13-8 respectively. Securities valued at Rs. 58,862-13-11 were held by seven unions of which the Bombay Postmen Union held securities worth nearly Rs. 39,800.

Number and Membership of Unregistered Unions.- According to the quarterly reviews published in the Labour Gazette, at the beginning of the year the number of the trade unions registered and unregistered in the Province of Bombay was 162 with a membership of 145,003. Sixty-three of the unions were registered under the Act. Of the remaining unions, 30 were associations of employees of the Postal and Telegraph Department consisting mainly of clerical employees.

(A copy of the Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act for the Province of Bombay, 1939-40, was sent to the Montreal Office with our minute D.1/213/41 dated 18-3-1941.)+

Library Scheme for Bombay Province:  
Recommendations of Library Development Committee, Bombay.

The formation of a network of libraries spread over the whole of Bombay Province, with regional libraries at Poona, Ahmedabad and Dharwar and a central library in Bombay city, constitutes the principal recommendation of the Library Development Committee, appointed by the Government of Bombay some time back to explore the possibilities of promoting the library movement. Mr. A.A.A. Fyze was the chairman of the Committee. The more important recommendations are briefly set forth below:-

Central, Regional and District Libraries.- The scheme proposed by the Committee is divided into six stages. The first is the formation and strengthening of a central library and three regional libraries, for which a total annual expenditure of Rs. 60,000 would be required. In the second stage every district would be provided with a library at the district headquarters. There are in the Province 20 districts, out of which Bombay and the Bombay Suburban District are almost treated as one - Greater Bombay. Bombay cannot be included in any of the ~~linguistic regions proposed~~ and the Committee suggests that the Bombay Municipality should be persuaded to establish a network of libraries for its citizens; in the meantime, some facilities would be available to the public at the central library. The total cost at the second stage is estimated at Rs. 135,000.

Taluka and Village Libraries.- The third stage provides for a library in every taluka or peta and the cost would be Rs. 321,000. In the fourth stage all villages with a population of between 2,000 and 5,000 would be provided with libraries. The cost would then rise to Rs. 481,500, such library being given Rs. 100 a year. In the fifth stage, 2696 villages having a population of 1,000 to 2,000 would also have libraries. Each such library would be given a grant of Rs. 50 a year, the total cost thus rising to Rs. 689,000. In the sixth and last stage, the remaining 177,743 villages, having a population of less than 1,000 each, would also be given the benefit of the library system. Each such small library would receive Rs. 25 a year, bringing the total cost of the scheme to Rs. 1,300,000.

Building Fund and Library Personnel.- The Committee recommends that the Government should set aside Rs. 50,000 a year at least and allow it to accumulate as a Buildings Fund. For the training of library personnel, the Committee recommends a training scheme estimated to cost a maximum of Rs. 10,000 a year. The Committee advocates also the formation of library associations <sup>what</sup> for the advance of the library movement, as in England and elsewhere, and for purposes of supervision a Central Advisory Board should be set up.

(Summarised from communiqué ~~by the~~  
dated 12-4-1941 issued by the Director  
of Information, Bombay.)+

WagesGrant of Dearness Allowance and Minimum Wages by Madras Municipal Corporation: Government disapproves Schemes.

The Madras Municipal Corporation had in September 1940 resolved to grant from the first of that month a minimum wage of Rs. 15 to all adult male workers and Rs. 10 to all adult women workers and a dearness allowance of Rs. 2 a month to all the labourers and inferior servants drawing wages between Rs. 15 and Rs. 25 a month, subject to certain conditions. These proposals render the Corporation liable to a recurring additional annual expenditure of about Rs. 1,80,000 for payment of dearness allowance alone and of about Rs. 45,000 in respect of wage concessions.

Dearness Allowance opposed.- The Government of Madras, in a communication on the subject, has informed the Corporation that, apart from the question of the financial effect of the proposals, the grant of the allowance is unjustifiable as the existing living conditions do not warrant the grant of such a liberal grant. The Government states that it has decided to grant an allowance at a flat rate of Re.1 to each of its (Government's) employees drawing emoluments not exceeding Rs.40 a month in the City in the event of the monthly cost of living index standing at an average of 112 for a period of three consecutive months. So far, it is pointed out, the cost of living index has not risen up to 112 even once during the last six months.

Opposition to Minimum Wages.- Referring to the minimum wage concessions, the Government states that the new rates fixed by the Corporation would actually exceed the old rates by more than 100 per cent. in some cases. It is also pointed out that the proposals are also not justifiable from the financial point of view.

(The Hindu, 10-4-1941.) †

Dearness Allowance for Bombay Port Trust Employees:  
Sanctioned as from 1-9-1940.

The Bombay Port Trust has decided to adopt the Government of India's scheme for their railway employees in Bombay (vide pages 44-45 of January 1941 report of this Office) for the purpose of granting dearness allowance to its employees. In accordance with this scheme, an allowance of Rs. 3 per month is payable to employees whose pay is Rs. 60 per month or less, commencing from the pay for September, 1940.

The total number of Port Trust employees who will benefit by the scheme is about 6,650 and the annual extra cost to the Trust is estimated at Rs. 2,40,000. The payment of the allowance will be subject, as in the case of railwaymen, to the continued capacity of the Bombay Port Trust to defray it and to such revision as the Trustees might find necessary from time to time.

(Industrial Bulletin No. 322 dated  
21-4-1941 of the Employers' Federation  
of India.) †

Eastern Group Supply Council:  
Functions and Methods of Work. +

The following information about the Eastern Group Supply Council is taken from Indian Information (a fortnightly issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India) dated 1-5-1941 (For previous references to the Council see page 47 of January 1941 report of this Office.)

The Council, the outcome of the Eastern Group Conference (held at New Delhi from 25-10-1940 to 25-11-1940, vide pages 31-32 of November 1940 report of this Office) is an organisation welding the industrial capacity of the sixteen countries which comprised the Conference. These countries are: Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Southern Rhodesia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Zanzibar, Burma, Ceylon, Hong Kong, Malaya and Palestine.

Objects.- It is a body in constant session, and through it the governments join hands to improve the organisation of war supplies to the Middle East, Far East and any place in which the Empire troops are stationed. The basic principle actuating the Group is that, for the purpose of supplying the troops in the whole of the Eastern Group area, it should as far as possible draw its war supplies from its own industrial capacity; and the Council has been formed to facilitate the practical carrying out of that policy so that the task of supplying the troops in the Eastern Group area (~~what~~ whether in the field or in their own countries, under training or for local defence) may proceed as smoothly and with as small a drain upon shipping as possible. It links up the Governments concerned so that they can conveniently operate through the medium of a body in constant session.

Working of the Council. Briefly, the Council will work in the following manner:

The Military Member of the Council, who is the representative of the Army Council and the Imperial General Staff, officially designated Controller-General, Army Provision (E.G.), will present the needs of the forces in the Eastern Group which cannot be met locally (this will be done through the machinery of the Central Provision Office which is being set up under the control of the Military Member); that is to say that the requirements of the troops in India will only be transmitted to be handled by the Eastern Group Supply Council if the Government of India cannot supply from within India. Taking the example of the forces fighting in the Middle East, there will be transmitted to the Council the demands for the supplies which they cannot obtain locally, i.e., in Egypt and the surrounding countries.

In the light of the information derived from countries in the Eastern Group and of the strategical situation, the Council will make up its mind from what country or countries ~~it~~ it will be best to obtain supplies and will ask the Governments of those countries to place the necessary contracts. The Council will not place orders direct with manufacturers.

Development of Fresh Industries.- The Council will naturally be deeply concerned in the development of fresh industries and of fresh capacity where necessary to meet the war requirements of the troops in the Eastern Group. It will not itself undertake the task of planning the actual methods by which such expansion will be achieved; that will rest with the Supply organisations of the countries concerned, but it will be vitally concerned in what they are doing, ~~perhaps sometimes in encouraging them to do it.~~

Central Provision Office.- The demands from all military authorities within the 'Eastern Group Area' for stores for the Forces for which they are responsible which they cannot obtain locally, but which can be provided from other countries of the Eastern Group will be co-ordinated and submitted to the Eastern Group Supply Council by the Central Provision Office.

This Central Provision Office is a military organisation and is being set up in India in close touch with the Eastern Group Supply Council. It will be staffed by personnel consisting of about 40 to 50 officers drawn from the forces of Great Britain, India and the Dominions concerned and will deal with 40,000 to 50,000 items of supply.

The requirements to be sent ~~x~~ in to the Central Provision Office (C.P.O.) will be in the form of (a) firm demands to meet the actual needs during the ensuing months and (b) long range forecasts to enable future supply to be planned. The organisation or part of the Army ~~staff within each military command~~ which is concerned with this work is usually called the "Local" or "Internal" Provision Office. It is with these local organisations that the Central Provision Office will mainly deal.

An important function of the Central Provision Office will be priority of allocation of the available supplies to the military commands, should a shortage arise in any particular store or commodity. In this, the Controller-General, Army Provision (E.G.) will be guided by the policy of the General Staff in London.

(Indian-Information;

Members of the Council.- The members of the Council are: Sir Archibald Carter, United Kingdom Representative and chairman; Mr. M.S.A. Hydari, I.C.S., Representative of India; Sir Bertram Stevens, Representative of Australia; Major-General Hoare, Representative of South Africa; Mr. Frank R. Picot, Representative of New Zealand; and Major-General W.C. Holden, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Military Member of the Council and Controller General, Army Provision (Eastern Group).

(Indian Information, 1-5-1941.)

Textile Production for War Purposes:  
Conference of Manufacturers convened by Government of India.

The Government of India has convened in Bombay on 9-5-1941 a conference of cotton textile manufacturers with a view to discussing the programme and policy in regard to the war supply orders for various cotton textiles. Representatives from various textile centres will attend it. Officers of the Department of Supply, headed by the Director-General of Supply, will participate in the conference, which, it is hoped, will

bring understanding between the manufacturers and Government in regard to the basis of the price paid for those orders.

Of late there have been complaints that certain mills which have been devoting themselves exclusively to the execution of war orders are not able to earn even that margin of profit which is secured by others catering to the needs of the civil population. They are also experiencing difficulty in regard to the procedure adopted by the Department of Supply.

(The Times of India, 23-4-1941.) +

War Supplies.

Commandeering of Vessels:  
Indian Shipowners' Plea for Compensation.

A strong plea for taking immediate steps to settle the terms of compensation to be paid for the ships requisitioned by Government in a manner which will "fully safeguard the present and future position of national shipping in India's maritime trades" was made by six Indian shipping companies in Bombay in a joint representation to the Commerce Member, Government of India, in the second week of April, 1941.

The signatories to the representation are the Scindia, the ~~Bombay Steam, the Ratnagar Steam, the Merchant Steam, the Eastern Steam,~~ and the Indian Co-operative Navigation Company. They have jointly pointed out that 18 months have elapsed since their ships were requisitioned by the Government of India and over four months are over since the issue connected with the question of compensation was discussed with the Secretary of the Commerce Department. The signatories further point out that the cost of building ships has gone up by nearly 100 per cent. since the outbreak of the war and is still increasing. The problem of replacement of ships lost during the war has been a matter of grave concern and shipping interests, therefore, feel that the Government of India should pay them, by way of compensation, such an amount as will enable them to get a similar ship for their trade.

The British Ministry of Shipping has assured the shipping industry in the United Kingdom to maintain it "in adequate strength and in a position of full competitive efficiency" after the war is over. The demand of Indian shipping interests is practically the same as that of the British shipowners in this respect. After recalling the views of the various spokesmen of British shipping, the Indian shipowners, in their ~~xxx~~ representation, appeal to Government to do their utmost to grant them "their just demand instead of compelling them to mortgage away their future fortunes. They regret that shipping companies have no voice in the determination of this question affecting their present and future financial structure and do not agree in advance to an arrangement, the nature and terms of which they do not know.

They point out that under the Government of India Act, it is obligatory on Government either to lay down in the law the amount of compensation to be paid for the commandeered ships to specify the principles on which such compensation should be paid. The shipping companies have, therefore, requested the Government to lay down such a policy which will ensure that the interests of national shipping alone will be the first concern of Government. (Times of India, 14-4-41.)

Compensation for War Injuries.

41

British Scheme of Compensation to members of Mercantile Marine  
injured in Action: Indian Seamen included.

Sir Walter Womersley, Minister of Pensions, Great Britain, in a speech at Grimsby, announced a generous scheme for compensation to members of the mercantile marine injured by enemy action and for pensions to the widows and dependants of those who have lost their lives. Allowances may also be paid to the family of a captured seaman or fisherman while he is detained by the enemy.

The Ministry of Pensions states that this new compensation and pensions scheme applies to Indian seamen. The amounts payable depend on their rates of pay. About sixty pensions or compensation grants have already been granted to Indians.

("Indian Information" dated  
1-5-1941.) +

List of more important publications received in this Office during  
April 1941.

Conditions of Work.-

Report of the Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee, Volume II, Parts A and B (Report on the basis of the Family Budget Enquiry and the memoranda submitted by the Investigators). Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1941. Price Rs.9-2-0.

Economic Conditions.-

- 1) "Modern Economic Problems" (prepared under the Direction of the Research Committee presided over by Principal Kalka Prasad Bhatnagar). Edited by Prof. Baljit Singh. March 1941. Economics Club, D.A.V. College, Cawnpore.
- 2) Industrial Development of Mysore by R. Balakrishna, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Mysore. 1940. Bangalore City. Printed at the Bangalore Press, Mysore Road. 1940.
- 3) Annual Market Review, 1940. Premchand Roychand & Sons, Ltd., Bombay.
- 4) Report of the Madras Famine Code Revision Committee, 1938:  
Volume I - Report. Price Re.0-8-0.  
Volume II - Appendices. Price Rs.2-8-0.  
Madras, Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1940.
- 5) Government of Madras, Revenue Department. G.O. No. 2939, 27th November, 1940. Famine Code Revision Committee - Recommendations - Orders passed.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

- 1) B.N.Railway Indian Labour Union - Report for 1939-40 and 1940-41; Workshops Branch, Kharagpur. Printed at Sri Vijaya Lakshmi Press, Kharagpur. 1941.
- 2) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry:-
  - (a) Resolutions adopted at the Fourteenth Annual session of the Federation held in Delhi on 22nd and 23rd March, 1941. 1941.
  - (b) Report of the Proceedings of the Executive Committee for the year 1940-41. Volume I. 1941.
  - (c) Correspondence and relevant documents relating to important questions dealt with by the Federation during the year 1940-41. Volume II. 1941.  
28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi.
- 3) All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers: Report of the proceedings of the Committee for the year 1940-41. 1941. 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi.
- 4) International Chamber of Commerce - Indian National Committee. Report of the Proceedings of the Committee for the year 1940-41. 1941. 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi.
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