

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for June 1939.

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

Contents.

Pages.

1. Ratifications.-

Dr. Convention re. Minimum Age (Non-Industrial Employment), 1937. 1

2. National Labour Legislation.-

Bengal:

(a) The Bengal Maternity Benefit Act, 1939. (Act IV of 1939). 2
(b) The Bengal Shop Hours and Shop Assistants Bill, 1938, Withdrawn. 2

Bombay:

(c) ~~Proposed Amendments to Bombay Payment of Wages Rules, 1937.~~ 2
(d) Constitution of Court of Industrial Arbitration. 2
(e) The Bombay Industrial Disputes Rules, 1939. 3
(f) Appointment of Inspectors under the Employment of Children Act, 1938. 3
(g) Proposed Bombay Employment of Children (Minor Ports) Rules, 1939. 3
(h) Application of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938. 3
(i) Appointment of Conciliators under Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938. 4
(j) Proposed Amendment of Bombay Factories Rules. 4
(k) The Bombay Rent Restriction Act, 1939. (Act XVI of 1939). 4

Central Provinces and Berar:

(l) The C.P. and Berar Employment of Children (Non-federal Railways) Rules, 1939. 4

Mysore:

(m) The Mysore Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1939, referred to Select Committee on 21-6-1939. 5
(n) The Mysore Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 1939: Measure granting Compensation for Silicosis adopted. 5

3. Conditions of Labour.-

(a) Prevalence of Forced Labour in Orissa: Government decline to publish Report of Special Officer. 6
(b) Liability of Employer for Arrears of Worker's Pay: Plea of Engagement by Sub-Contractor not valid: Judgment by

Commissioner of Workmen's Compensation, Calcutta.	6-7
(c) Conditions of Work in Oils, Paints, Soap manufacturing and other Miscellaneous Industries in Bombay Presidency: Report by Bombay Labour Office (Fourth Report in General Wage Census Series).	7-8
(d) Exaction of Forced Labour in Assam Forest Department: Interpellations in the Local Assembly.	8
(e) Legislative Programme of the Madras Government: Proposals re. Settlement of Trade Disputes, Unemployment Insurance and Indebtedness of Workers.	9-12
(f) Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India in April 1939.	12
(g) Bengal to adopt Industrial Disputes Act on Bombay Model: Labour Minister's Hint in Legislative Assembly.	13
(h) Bengal Chauffeurs' Union's Demands: Labour Commissioner's Enquiry re. Uniformity of Service Conditions.	13-14
(i) Digboi Labour Dispute: A.I.C.C. condemns attitude of Assam Oil Company.	14-16
4. <u>Enforcement of Conventions.-</u>	
<u>Factory Administration in India, 1937.</u>	17-19
5. <u>Industrial Organisation:</u>	
<u>Workers' Organisations.-</u>	
(a) 2nd All-Punjab Insurance and Banks Employees' Conference, Lahore, 10 & 11-8-1939.	20-21
(b) Textile Workers and Depression in Textile Industry: Mr. N.M. Joshi suggests All-India Textile Workers' Conference.	21-22
6. <u>Economic Conditions.-</u>	
(a) Planning Coal Industry of Bihar: Government appoints Committee.	23
(b) Industrial Development of Bihar: Reports of Mechanical and Chemical Industries Committees.	23-24
(c) Crisis in the Indian Textile Industry: Millowners' Association of Bombay and Ahmedabad propose All-India Millowners' Conference.	24-25
(d) Second Session of National Planning Committee, Bombay, 4 to 17-6-39: 29 Sub-committees appointed to report by 31-12-39.	25-28
7. <u>Employment and Unemployment.-</u>	
(a) Educated Unemployed in Mysore: Employment Bureau set up by the Mysore University.	29
(b) Unemployment in the Punjab: Recommendations of Punjab Unemployment Enquiry Committee.	29-30
8. <u>Social Conditions.-</u>	
(a) Wages for Work done for Prisoners: Jail Reform in U.P.	31
(b) Meeting of Committee of A.I. Criminal Tribes Association, Bombay, 25-6-39: Demand for repeal of Criminal Tribes Act.	31-32.

9. <u>Public Health.-</u>	
(a) Health Conditions in Jharia Coal Mines - 1937-38.	33-34
(b) Housing of Workers in Indore City: Maharaja donates Rs. 300,000.	34
(c) Progress of Safety First Association of India, Bombay, in 1938.	34-35
(d) Results of Prohibition in Ahmedabad: Research Advisory Board formed by Bombay Government.	35
10. <u>Co-operation.-</u>	
(a) Development of Cottage Industries: Mysore's Three-Year Plans.	36
(b) Cottage Industries in other countries: Provincial Governments collecting information through Indian Trade Commissioners.	36
11. <u>Education.-</u>	
(a) Training of Weavers for Bombay Cotton Mills: Mill-owners' Association's Scheme.	37
(b) Vocational Education in Bombay: Government converts 5 High Schools into Vocational Institutions.	37-38
(c) Vocational Bias in Secondary Education in Hyderabad State: Government sanctions new Scheme.	38-39
12. <u>Agriculture.-</u>	
Setting up of Provincial Board of Rural Development in Bombay.	40
13.	
13. <u>Maritime Affairs.-</u>	
Effect of Removal of Restriction on Employment of Lascars in Cold Latitudes: European Seamen not affected.	41-42
14. <u>Migration.-</u>	
(a) Indians in West Indies: Memorandum of Mr. Tyson to the Royal Commission on the West Indies.	43-44
(b) Repatriation of Indian Workers in Ceylon: Scheme to take immediate Effect.	44-46
15. <u>List of more important Publications received in this Office during June 1939.-</u>	47-48.

Ratification.Dr. Convention re. Minimum Age (Non-Industrial Employment), 1937.

The decisions of the Government of India on the Dr. Convention re. Minimum Age (Non-Industrial Employment), 1937, were explained in a Statement laid before the Central Legislature by it in April 1938 (vide pages 1 to 2 of our April 1938 report). In pursuance of those decisions, the Central Government has now, by a circular letter addressed to provincial Labour Departments, drawn the attention of the Provincial Governments to the Convention with a view to considering whether local legislation is desirable in respect of any of the matters covered by the Convention.

When the Draft Convention was examined by the Central Government, it was found that, in India, with the exception of domestic service, young children were not employed in substantial numbers in non-industrial occupations. The regulation of employment of children in domestic service, however, was found not practicable in view of the large inspection staff and heavy expenditure for its organisation and maintenance which ratification of the Convention will necessitate.

(The Hindustan Times, 4-7-39). +

National Labour Legislation.

Attention is directed to the following:-

Bengal:The Bengal Maternity Benefit Act, 1939. (Act IV of 1939).-

The Bengal Maternity Benefit Bill, 1937, was adopted by the local Assembly on 22-8-1938 and by the Council on 10-3-1939; notification of the assent of the Governor and the text of the Act are published at pages 25-29 of Part III of the Calcutta Gazette dated 20-4-1939.

(Bengal Government Gazette, Part III, dated 20-4-1939, pages 25-29).

Bengal:The Bengal Shop Hours and Shop Assistants Bill, 1938, Withdrawn.

This non-official Bill introduced by Mr. Humayun Kabir in the Bengal Legislative Council on 27-1-1938 was withdrawn on 5-5-1939 by Mr. Kabir on an assurance given by the Labour Minister that the Government of Bengal will introduce a Bill on the same subject at the next session of the Council.

(Bengal Legislative Council Debates of 5-5-1939, Vol. II, No. 3, Pages 123-132).

Bombay:Proposed Amendments to Bombay Payment of Wages Rules, 1937.

The Bombay Government proposes to revise Form IV appended to the Bombay Payment of Wages Rules, 1937. The amendment relates to the inclusion in the Form of statistics of aggregate wages paid, including certain deductions made. Criticisms of the proposed amendments received till 25-8-1939 will be considered.

(Notification No. P.119 dated 17-5-1939, Page 873, Part IV-A, Bombay Government Gazette dated 25-5-1939).

Bombay:Constitution of Court of Industrial Arbitration.

By Notification No. 2955/34 dated 19-5-1939 the Government of Bombay has constituted under the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, a Court of Industrial Arbitration consisting of three members.

(Bombay Government Gazette dated 25-5-1939, Part ~~XXXX~~ IV-A, Page 837).

Bombay:

The Bombay Industrial Disputes Rules, 1939.

Under Notification No. 2847/34 dated 29-5-1939 the Government of Bombay publishes the Bombay Industrial Disputes Rules, 1939, made under the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938.

(Bombay Government Gazette dated 31-5-1939, Part IV-A, Pages 886-910).

Bombay:

Appointment of Inspectors under the Employment of Children Act, 1938.

Under Notification No. 130/39 dated 2-6-1939, the Government of Bombay announces the list of officers appointed as Inspectors under the Employment of Children Act, 1938, to secure compliance with the provisions of the Act in the minor ports of Bombay.

(Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 8-6-1939, Pages 1006-1008).

Bombay:

Proposed Bombay Employment of Children (Minor Ports) Rules, 1939.

These rules propose to provide for the appointment of Inspectors under the Employment of Children Act, 1938.

(Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 8-6-1939 - Notification No. 130/39 dated 2-6-1939, Pages 1009-1010).

Bombay:

Application of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938.

The Bombay Government has published a Notification No. 2847/34-A dated 30-5-1939 announcing the classes of concerns in the cotton textile industry to which the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, will apply.

By another Notification - No. 2847/34-B dated 30-5-1939 - the Government specifies areas, which will be considered "local areas" for the purposes of the Act.

(Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary dated 31-5-1939, Pages 1445-1446).

Bombay:Appointment of Conciliators under Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938.

By Notification No. 2847/34 dated 10-6-1939, the Bombay Government announces, in supersession of its Notification dated 14-3-1939 (vide page 3 of our March 1939 Report), the names of the persons appointed as Conciliators for "local areas".

(Bombay Government Gazette dated 15-6-1939, Part IV-A, Pages 1029).

Bombay:Proposed Amendment of Bombay Factories Rules.

Under Notification No. 352/34 dated 12-6-1939, the Bombay Government proposes to amend the Bombay Factories Rules so as to include rules relating to the provision of first-aid boxes in factories employing between 10 and 20 workers to which the Act has been extended.

(Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-A dated 15-6-1939, Pages 1032-1033).

Bombay:The Bombay Rent Restriction Act, 1939 (Act XVI of 1939).

This Act restricts the increase of rents of certain premises, in specified areas in Bombay Province, the standard rent of which does not exceed Rs. 80 per month. The Act is designed to curb the tendency of landlords to increase rents due to the recent decision of the Bombay Government to levy a tax on urban immovable property in the Province (vide the Bombay Finance (Amendment) Act, 1939).

(Bombay Government Gazette dated 19-6-1939, Part IV, Page 462-468).

Central Provinces:The C.P. and Berar Employment of Children (Non-federal Railways) Rules, 1939.

These rules relate to the appointment of Inspectors under the Employment of Children Act, 1938, to cover non-federal railways in the C.P. and to the classes of medical practitioners who can grant certificates of age in respect of young persons.

(The Central Provinces and Berar Gazette dated 23-6-1939, Part III, page 837).

The Mysore Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill,
1939, referred to Select Committee on 21-6-1939.

The Mysore Government moved in the State Legislative Council on 21-6-1939 that ^{the} Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure be read.

Statement of Objects and Reasons: The Statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill states that the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1938, which exempted from attachment for debt wages of labourers and domestic servants and salary to the extent of the first fifty rupees and one-half of the remainder of such salary was found defective in that, as the Act stands at present, the wages of most skilled workmen do not appear to come under any sort of exemption, not even the fifty rupees limit, since their remuneration which is fixed on the daily rate basis is not considered as salary.

Again, as the Act stands at present, wages of labourers and domestic servants, and salaries of officials, etc., are exempt from attachment whether before or after they are actually payable. But the salary of private officials and workmen is not exempt from attachment if it has become actually payable. There is no necessity for the distinction and this exemption from attachment after the salary has become actually payable should be allowed to private employees also.

The Bill was referred to a Select Committee on the same day.

(The Hindu, 22-6-39).

The Mysore Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 1939:
Measure granting Compensation for Silicosis adopted.

The Mysore Government introduced a Bill in the State Legislative Council on 21-6-1939 to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1928, to empower Government to introduce rules governing the grant of compensation to workmen found to be suffering from silicosis -- in view of the special character of the disease and the large number of workers involved.

The Bill was passed by the Council the same day.

(The Hindu, 22-6-39).+

Conditions of Labour.

Prevalence of Forced Labour in Orissa;
Government decline to publish Report of
Special Officer. *

Attention is directed to page 2 of No.1, Vol. IV of the Official Report of the Orissa Legislative Assembly, (proceedings of 25-2-1939) where is published an interpellation by Babu Sadasiva Tripathy in which he sought information regarding the report of a Special Officer appointed by the local Government to enquire into the prevalence of "bethi" and "begar" (forms of forced labour) ~~prevalence~~ in certain parts of the Province. In its reply, the Government, while admitting the receipt of the report of the Special Officer, declined to lay a copy of it on the table of the House as it did not "consider it will be in the public interest" to do so.

Liability of Employer for Arrears of Workers' Pay;
Plea of Engagement by sub-Contractor not valid;
Judgment by Commissioner of Workmen's Compensation,
Calcutta. *

Mr. S.N. Nodak, I.C.S., Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Bengal, dismissed the case recently brought by the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal, on behalf of a number of workers of the National Metal Industries Ltd., of Dum Dum against Mohamed Razak, described as a contractor under the proprietor of the National Metal Industries, Ltd., to recover a large amount of money from the said company in respect of wages in arrears under the Payment of Wages Act. It was found on the evidence that the real employer in the case, was the firm, National Metal Industries, Ltd., and that consistently with the intentions of the Payment of Wages Act, the Company could not introduce an outsider styling him as the contractor and make him responsible for payment of wages.

The following is the concluding part of the judgment, in the course of which the Commissioner has passed a stricture upon the Inspector of Factories.

"I have no hesitation in finding that the opposite party, Mohamed Razak, was not the employer responsible for the payment of wages to the workers on whose behalf the Chief Inspector of Factories made this application. This sort of arrangement is to be severely deprecated in so far as it renders the question of responsibility for the payment of wages extremely hazy, and seriously jeopardises the right of the workers to receive wages in due time. It is conceivable that an employer might introduce in due time, a man of straw giving him the style and designation of a contractor and making him responsible for the payment of wages, and finding in the long run, that this man was not able to pay, leave the workers in serious difficulties. Such a situation, in my opinion, completely militates against the spirit and fundamental policy involved in the Payment of Wages Act, and I should expect that the Inspector of Factories would consistently discourage introduction of so-called contractors of this type, in the interest of the workers themselves. I should imagine however that a properly instituted and a properly proved case against the National Metal Industries, Ltd., ought to succeed."

(New Equity, (Official Organ of the A.B. Railway Employees' Association) Comilla, May 1939 issue). ↓

Conditions of Work in Oils, Paints, Soap manufacturing and other Miscellaneous Industries in Bombay Presidency:
Report by Bombay Labour Office (fourth
Report in General Wage Census Series) * .

The fourth of the series of reports prepared as the result of the general wage census covering all perennial factories in the Bombay Province, undertaken by the Bombay Labour Office in 1934, has now been published. The first report dealt with wages, hours of work and conditions of employment in the engineering industry (vide pages 14 - 17 of our January 1936 report) and the second and third with conditions in the printing

* Labour Office, Government of Bombay. General Wage Census. Part I -- Perennial Factories. Fourth Report. Report on Wages, Hours of Work and Conditions of Employment in the Oils, Paints and Soap; Match Manufacturing and other Miscellaneous Industries in the Province of Bombay.

May 1934.
 Prepared by the Labour Officer, Government of Bombay.
 Printed at the Government Central Press.
 Price. -- Annas 11 or 1s. 2d.

and textile industries respectively (vide pages 22-25 of March 1936 and pages 16 - 22 of June 1937 reports of this Office). The Labour Office has also published a report on wages, hours of work and conditions of employment in seasonal factories. (vide pages 10 to 14 of our February 1939 report).

Industries Covered:- The present report covers all perennial industries not covered by the three ~~previous~~ previous reports, namely, (1) oils, paints and soap industry, (2) match manufacturing industry, (3) rubber, crepe and leather manufacturing industry, (4) refined sugar manufacturing industry, (5) chemical and pharmaceutical industry, (6) aerated water manufacturing industry, (7) glass manufacturing industry, (8) tobacco and cigarette manufacturing industry, (9) flour milling industry, (10) paper manufacturing industry, (11) dairying, biscuit and sweet manufacturing industry, (12) tiles manufacturing industry, (13) power laundries, (14) distilleries, and (15) gold and silver thread industry.

Scope of Report:- The report gives for each of these industries information relating to the labour force employed, rates of wages and wage periods, shifts, hours of work and leave, and welfare work.

Exaction of Forced Labour in Assam Forest
Department; Interpellations in the Local
Assembly.

The following information about exactions of forced labour from certain forest tribes living in the forests of Assam by the Forest Department is taken from the reply given by the Assam Government to interpellations on the subject put in the Assam Legislative Assembly on 6 and 9-12-38.

The system of forced labour exacted may be described as follows: Firstly, there are those people who remain in the forest and cultivate land there and who in lieu of the land they are given to cultivate have to give labour in exchange. Then there are villagers who live outside the forest and who are given land in the forest to cultivate in lieu of which they have to render labour for 10 days. There are others who render 10 days' labour in lieu of which they are given fuel, thatch, etc. for domestic purposes. They are required to work in the forests in clearing jungles. Formerly they had to render some domestic services to the Forest Officers, but such services have now been abolished by Government. No payment of any sort is made for such labour. Recently orders were issued by the Government to reduce the ~~the~~ number of days of free labour to be given by forest villagers from 10 to 5. If the labourers desire to pay rent in lieu of the labour, they will be allowed to do so.

(Vide pages 903 to 906 and 1146 to 1149 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Debates of 6 and 9-12-1939 respectively).+

Legislative Programme of the Madras Government;
Proposals re. Settlement of Trade Disputes, Unemploy-
ment Insurance and Indebtedness of Workers. +

Proposals for the establishment of permanent machinery for the settlement of trade disputes, reference of disputes to Boards of Arbitration, establishment of sound trade unions to be recognised and consulted by employers and unemployment insurance assistance are contained in a Memorandum which the Madras Government has circulated among industrial employers of the province. The memorandum will form the basis of discussion at a meeting arranged between the Hon'ble Mr. V.V. Giri, Minister for Industries and Labour, and the employers, to take place on 29-6-1939. The salient features of the memorandum are summarised below;

Settlement of Trade Disputes.- Legislation with respect to the relation between employers and workers will be on the basis of internal settlement of disputes; if such settlement be not possible then alone would there be friendly intervention of Government directly or through their officers. The proposed enactment contemplates the appointment of a Labour Commissioner and empowers him to appoint Conciliators. If the Labour Commissioner or the conciliators are unable to settle the dispute either of the parties or both of them together may approach the Conciliation Boards which are proposed to be set up permanently. The enactment also contemplates the setting up of an Arbitration Board to settle these disputes found difficult of settlement by the Conciliation Board. Reference of a dispute to the Arbitration Board is dependant on both the parties to the disputes agreeing to that course and the award of the Board will be binding on the parties.

Development of Trade Unionism.- In order to get optimum results from the machinery set up to settle trade disputes, the Government considers that the establishment of sound trade unions is necessary. To this end, Government's policy will be to encourage workers to join unions in large numbers and to recognise unions fairly representative of workers. Recognition will confer on unions the rights to be consulted by the employers on labour matters and to negotiate with employers improvements desired by workers. Consultation or negotiations with non-recognised unions are not precluded but recognised unions have the right to be consulted. No alteration in the working conditions will be permitted unless the recognised union of workers affected by the proposed alteration has been consulted. "Working Conditions" will be defined on the lines of the Industrial Disputes,

Act of Bombay.
Unemployment Insurance.- As regards unemployment insurance the proposal is to pass an enabling measure which in the light of experience gained may be gradually extended to various industries in the province. To begin with, it is proposed to apply its provision to the best organised industry in the province, namely, the textile industry. The scheme will be under State control and will be of a compulsory character.

Classes of Workers Ineligible to Insure. - The following class of workers will not be eligible to participate in the benefits of the scheme:-- (1) Those whose annual earnings exceed Rs. 960. (2) Those who are in receipt of any pension or income of the annual value of Rs. 600 or upwards which does not depend upon their personal exertion. (3) Casual or temporary workers, i.e., those who are without continuous work for a period extending over six months including "seasonal" workers who are discharged after the period for which they are temporarily engaged and "short-time" workers whose work consists in working either a reduced number of hours per day or a reduced number of days per week or working for a period, say a week and having no work during the following week. (4) Those who are already in receipt of benefits under any other scheme, such as under the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Maternity Benefit Act, etc. (5) Children (persons who have not completed the age of 15). (6) Those above the age of 55.

Conditions of Eligibility. - The benefit will be given only to those whose unemployment is involuntary, that is to say, due to causes beyond the control of workers. This would exclude workers who voluntarily quit service who are dismissed for misbehaviour, and also those who are on strike. To be eligible for the benefit, the unemployed worker should both be available for work and capable of doing work suitable for him. He should show that he is capable of doing work of a kind such as he may have some reasonable opportunity of obtaining, and of keeping and of performing it in the ordinary manner. This will exclude from the benefits of the scheme those workers who as a result of sickness, accident, invalidity or old age are not able to work. Benefit will not be paid if employment is refused when offered by the prescribed authority. In order that workers observe these conditions they may be required to register their names with the prescribed authority and that authority will be responsible for the placement of workers. Placement shall be the responsibility of the State.

Contribution to the Fund. - It is proposed to require every employer who may come under the scope of the Act to contribute a sum equivalent to one quarter anna for each worker employed per day and, in addition to recover from the wages of their workers a like sum for contribution to a fund to be created for the purpose. The Government will be free to add to the contributions of the employers and workers with a view to strengthening the financial position of the fund. The Government will be empowered to prescribe in the light of the financial position of the fund a schedule of the benefits payable and the maximum period during which such benefits may be paid. The Government will also be empowered to prescribe penalties for breach of the provisions and to grant exemptions in any particular case from any of the provisions.

Statistics of Employment and Unemployment. - With a view to assess periodically the seriousness and extent of unemployment situation in the various undertakings in the Province, employers of labour engaging more than 10 persons throughout the year will be required to submit returns to the Government through the prescribed authority giving statistics of employment and unemployment, etc.

Indebtedness of Workers.- The Madras Government also contemplates the introduction of legislation for relieving industrial labourers from indebtedness and has invited the view of the District Collectors on the subject.

With regard to affording relief to agricultural labourers from indebtedness, the Government consider that on account of the peculiar conditions in which agricultural labourers are placed, they cannot be brought within the ambit of the legislation contemplated for industrial workers. The Board of Revenue has been requested to report, in consultation with District Collectors, whether legislation for the relief of indebtedness of agricultural labourers is necessary and, if so, to indicate the lines on which such legislation can be undertaken.

(Summarised from the Government memorandum on the proposed legislation, copies of which were received in this Office.)+

Criticisms of Employers.- The Southern India Millowners' Association sent its criticisms of the above scheme in the last week of June 1939; a brief summary of the Association's criticisms is given below:

Legislation re. Industrial Disputes.- The compulsory arbitration plan contemplated by the Government to settle industrial disputes will not be a very healthy procedure in the long run. The Chamber's experience of arbitrations in the past has not been a happy one and it suggests as a via-media the appointment of an arbitrator acceptable to both sides.

Recognition of Trade Unions.- It would be advisable to make recognition of a union by an employer compulsory only if the union has in its membership at least 50 per cent. of labourers in the mill of the employer. The Government should direct its energies to the organisation of sound trade unions which are not influenced by outside politicians. This is a step which should be taken before making recognition of unions compulsory.

Unemployment Insurance.- The institution of an unemployment insurance scheme will, due to the incidence of the additional financial burden on industry, greatly retard the industrial progress in the province. It is pointed out that Madras Province counts only for 1/10th of the number of spindles working in the whole of India, while the rest of India, including Indian States, share the remaining 9/10ths; competition from outside will, therefore, be keen. The Association also considers that it would be highly injudicious and improper to tax one industry alone leaving the others free.

Course of Labour Legislation.- The attention of the Government is drawn to the ~~the~~ divergent standards set up in provinces due to the lack of uniformity in provincial labour legislation; the need for a proper co-ordination in labour matters is also stressed by the Chamber.

(The Hindu, 29-6-39).+

Labour Ministers' Conference with Employers.- The Labour Minister met representatives of employers at a Conference on 29-6-1939 to discuss the Madras Ministry's immediate labour programme.

Industrial Disputes Legislation.- It is learned that as regards the contemplated Industrial Disputes Legislation, the employers' representatives wanted to know more details as to how the Government would define working conditions, what machinery of approach the Government would recommend between labour unions and the employers in cases of disputes and what percentage of membership would be fixed as a condition precedent to the recognition of a union.

Unemployment Insurance.- Regarding unemployment insurance, the representatives of the textile industry promised to acquaint the Government with the present position of the industry and submit their views on the proposal as early as possible.

At the close of the conference which lasted over an hour, the Minister is stated to have informed the representatives of employers that the Government would give all the interests concerned ample time to consider the details of the proposed legislation after the publication of the draft bills.

(The Hindu, 29-6-1939).+

Working Class Cost of living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India in April 1939. +

The cost of living index number for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during April 1939 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 April 1939 remained unchanged at 103. The average in the year 1938 was 105.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base; year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during April 1939 rose by 1 point to 69. The average for 1938 was 71.

Sholapur.- The index number (base; year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during April 1939 remained stationary at 71. The average for 1938 was 72.

Nagpur.- The index number (base; year ending January 1927) of the cost of living in April 1939 increased by 1 point to 60.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base; January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in April 1939 declined by 1 point to 55.

Madras.- The index number (base; year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during April 1939 advanced by 1 point to 97.

(Extracted from the April 1939 issue of Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India).

Bengal to adopt Industrial Disputes Act on
Bombay Model; Labour Minister's Hint in Legislative
Assembly. +

According to an Associated Press message from Calcutta during question hours in the Bengal Council on 15-6-39, the Minister for Labour, Mr. H.S. Suhrawardy, hinted at the possibility of the Bengal Ministry introducing Legislation on trade disputes on the lines of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1939. Mr. Suhrawardy said that the question was under examination of the Government at the moment. The Minister added that during the last six months there were thirteen disputes in the various jute mills in the province involving stoppage of work, and fourteen such disputes in the jute presses. The speaker stated that the Government were aware of the vigorous communistic propaganda carried on in the jute mill areas.

(The Hindu, 15-6-1939). +

Bengal Chauffeurs' Union's Demands; Labour Commissioner's
Enquiry re. Uniformity of Service Conditions..

It is understood that Chauffeurs in Bengal have recently organised themselves into a union, and that representatives of the Union waited in deputation on the Labour Minister, Bengal, to submit their grievances. The main grievance is that there is no uniformity in service conditions of chauffeurs employed by different mercantile firms with regard to tenure of service, provident fund, gratuity, pension and leave facilities.

Enquiry by Labour Commissioner.- In this connection, the Labour Commissioner of Bengal, it is understood, has written to various business concerns inviting their opinion on the demands formulated by the Chauffeurs' Union. Assuming that the present conditions of service vary considerably, he has requested business concerns to furnish him with their views as to whether they consider it desirable to attempt to introduce some degree of uniformity in service conditions and how far it would be a practicable proposition. The Labour Commissioner has also asked them to supply him with typical examples of minimum and maximum pay and other benefits for chauffeurs at present obtaining in mercantile firms. The Government of Bengal in the Department of Labour also is understood to have addressed similar letters to business concerns.

Views of Employers.- From enquiries made by a representative of the Statesman, it is understood that while the employers are sympathetically disposed towards the demands of the Chauffeurs' Union, they are under the circumstances prevailing not in a position to provide for all the facilities claimed by the Union. The question, according to them, should not be considered from the point of view of chauffeurs only. They have also to take into consideration the case of hundreds of their other employees who do not enjoy all the privileges asked for by the Chauffeurs' Union. They are against making any distinction between different sections of their employees and in their view whatever privileges they may grant to their staff should cover the entire staff uniformly, and not chauffeurs only.

(The Statesman, 28-6-39). +

Digboi Labour Dispute; A.I.C.C. condemns
Attitude of Assam Oil Company. +

At pages 14 to 16 of our Report for February 1939 were given details of a dispute between the Assam Oil Company at Digboi and the Assam Oil Company Labour Union, and of the recommendations of the Court of Enquiry appointed by the Assam Government to go into the dispute. While discussions were going on between the Company and the Union regarding the effect to be given to the recommendation of the Court of Enquiry, 63 workers were discharged in several batches by the Company on the ground that they were surplus hands. The Union claimed that there was an understanding that the status quo would not be disturbed during the investigations and negotiations, and that the Company was not justified in discharging the 63 men. The protests of the Union as each batch of workers in the 63 discharged was sent out was disregarded by the Company.

Strike Declared on 3-4-1939.- In consequence, the Union declared a strike on 3-4-1939 on the issue of the discharge of the 63 workers, though discussions regarding the effect to be given to the recommendations of the Court had proceeded apace smoothly and the Company had agreed to implement the major portion of the recommendations. The Union's claim was that the Company should have consulted it before effecting the discharges and that in a big establishment employing above 10,000 workers there was no occasion for the hasty discharge of such a small number of men, especially while the whole question of the relation between the Union and the Company and the terms of employment, including the question of security of service, was under investigation and negotiation. The Company, however, claims that the strike was

engineered ^{through} by political motives and that the union was on the look-out for a pretext to precipitate a strike.

Soon the strike covered the entire labour force of the Company, and the main demand of the strikers ~~has been~~ the re-employment of the 63 discharged men. The Company has made it clear that it would not employ any discharged hands as they were not required and also that out of the strikers only as many would be taken back as were needed.

Efforts at Settlement.- Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of the Indian National Congress, was approached to effect a settlement of the dispute. He, along with a few other leaders, held discussions at Calcutta early in June 1939 with the Assam Premier, and representatives of the Company and the Union.

Demands of the Union.- The minimum demands of the Union as against the Company were as follow:- (1) All strikers to be taken back. (2) Workers dismissed during the pendency of the dispute to be reinstated. (3) All outstanding points of dispute to be referred to and finally settled by a Board of Conciliation or Arbitration to be appointed by the Government.

Terms offered by the Company.- The position taken up by the Company was briefly as follow:- (1) Discharged men cannot be re-employed since the labour force at present is in excess of the work available. (2) The management cannot agree to workers exercising joint control in the matter of employment of labour. (3) Assurances cannot be given to take back strikers if their places have already been filled, but the management is willing to absorb them gradually in vacancies. (4) The management is willing to bear the expenses of repatriation of unemployed strikers and their families (5) The management undertakes to implement all the recommendations of the Court of Enquiry, approved by it.

Finding that ^a compromise formula could not be evolved, Dr. Rajendra Prasad gave up hopes of an amicable settlement.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 18-6-39).

A.I.C.C. Resolution on the Situation.- The All India Congress Committee which met at Bombay on 21-6-1939, adopted the following resolution regarding the situation.

"This Committee views with grave concern the prolonged strike at Digboi and expresses its sympathy with the strikers in their distress. The Committee regrets that the Assam Oil Company has not seen its way to accept the modest suggestion of referring the question of the method and time of re-employment of the strikers to a conciliation board to be appointed by the Government of Assam. In the opinion of this Committee no corporation however big and influential it may be can be above public criticism or Government supervision and legitimate control. Moreover, as was declared at the Karachi session, the Congress policy is

that there should be State ownership or control of key industries. The oil industry is undoubtedly a vital key industry. This Committee therefore hopes that better counsels will prevail with the company and that its directors will accept the modest suggestions made on behalf of the Committee by the President of the Congress. If however the directors do not see their way to do so, the Committee advises the Assam Government forthwith to undertake legislation for making the acceptance of the decisions of the Conciliation Boards obligatory and further to give notice to the Company that the Committee may reluctantly be obliged to take such steps as may be necessary to stop renewal of the lease to the Company on its termination. At the same time ~~that~~ this Committee urges the Company to fall in with the just suggestions made by the Committee, it hopes that the Labour Union will be ready to listen to the Committee's advice, and if they were to retain Congress and public sympathy they will be ready and willing to abide by the advice that may be tendered to them by the Committee.

(A.I.C.C. News Letter No. 6 dated 30-6-1939).

Factory Administration in India, 1937. * +

The Statistics included in the Note on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, for the year 1937, exclude Burma, which was separated from British India on 1-4-1937. The totals for 1936 shown for purposes of comparison in the Statements, have been altered from the figures shown in the previous report, so as to omit statistics for Burma, and reference in the Note to statistics for 1936 relate throughout to British India without Burma.

Number of Factories:- The total number of registered factories during the year which increased from 9,189 in 1936 to 9,863 was again the largest ever recorded. The number actually working, which included 625 premises notified as factories under Section 5(1) of the Act, was 8,930, of which 5,287 were perennial and 3,643 seasonal. 90.5 per cent. of registered factories worked during the year. The number of new factories registered was 987 and the number struck off the registers 313.

Statistics of Operatives:- The average number of operatives employed during the year increased from 1,562,917 in 1936 to 1,675,869 in 1937, the highest ever recorded. The most marked increases were Bombay (43,436), Bengal (35,223), Madras (15,830), the United Provinces (5,982), the Punjab (5,511), Bihar (3,793) and Sind (2,562). The number of workers employed in the cotton textile industry rose from 426,784 in 1936 to 474,134 in 1937. Jute mills employed 305,785 workers in 1937 against 289,136 in 1936, an increase due to the establishment of a few small mills and the adoption of double shift by several of the old Mills.

Employment of Women and Children:- The number of women employed in factories increased from 222,759 in 1936 to 232,122 in 1937 but the number of children employed decreased from 11,967 to 10,833. The percentage of children to the total factory population was .76 in 1936 and .64 in 1937. But the apparent increase in female labour is partly to be explained by the fact that new premises, carried on without the aid of power and probably already employing large numbers of women, were brought within the scope of the Act. Madras and Bombay, which used notification to a great extent, showed 3,870 and 3,239 more women respectively in factory employment.

Hours of Work:- Percentage of Factories in which the normal weekly hours are:---

	Not above 42.	Between 42 and 48.	Above 48.
Perennial --			
For men ..	6	24	70
For women ..	11	18	71

* Statistics of Factories subject to the Factories Act, 1934, (XXV of 1934) for the Year ending December 31st, 1937 together with Note on the working of the Factories Act during the year.

Published by order of the Government of India. Published by the Manager of Publication, Delhi. 1939.

Price: Re. 1-2-0- or 1s. 9d. *7/4.37.*

Inspections;- The number of factories inspected during the year was 7,908 or 88.5 per cent. of working factories. The percentage of perennial and seasonal factories inspected to the total number of such factories was 91.5 and 84.2 respectively as against 94.4 and 88.3 in the preceding year. No factory remained uninspected in the Central Provinces and Berar, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara, Bangalore and Coorg.

(Factory administration in India during 1936 was reviewed at pages 21 to 23 of our May 1938 report).+

Workers' Organisations.

2nd All-Punjab Insurance and Banks Employees'
Conference, Lahore 10 & 11-6-1939. .

The 2nd All-Punjab Insurance and Banks Employees' Conference was held at Lahore on 10 and 11-6-1939 under the Presidentship of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, President, All India Trade Union Congress.

Presidential address.- Dr. S.C. Banerjee, the President, stressed the need for employees of insurance companies and banks to organise themselves into a strong trade union for purposes of collective bargaining, and heartily approved the Conference's intention to affiliate their union to the All-India Trade Union Congress.

Referring to the difficult conditions of work under which the employees of insurance companies and banks laboured, he said:- "Many of these have not yet provided for service rules regarding salary, security of tenure, promotion, provident fund, gratuity, old age pension and sick leave. Many of you are also to work overtime from eight in the morning till late in the night without any compensating return. In many offices the work of thirty hands is done only by ten. There are many offices where dismissal comes as a matter of course and at the sweet will and pleasure of the man at the head. Some times it so happens that when a clerk reaches the salary of say Rs.50 or Rs. 60 from the meagre initial start, he is given the sack for reasons of economy and a new hand is taken in at much reduced salary in his place. In many offices it takes years to get a total increment of Rs. 10, and even this increment is not dependent upon the merit of the work put in, but on the choice of the man at the top. The fixed service rules relating to hours of work etc., if they are observed more in their breach.

Dealing with the economic and financial back-ground of insurance companies, he said that they had almost limitless possibilities for expansion. While in 1905 the new business of companies operating in India was Rs. 80 million, in 1936 it had shot up to 460 millions. In this country, not to speak of the rural population and the lower middle class, even the higher classes have not yet taken to insurance in any measure comparable even to many unimportant countries in the West. In America, the per capita insurance is Rs. 2,318, in Canada Rs. 1,760, in England Rs. 732, while in India it is only Rs. 5.5. In so far as Banks are concerned, India lags still further behind.

Resolutions.- The following were among the more important resolutions adopted by the Conference.

(a) A resolution, embodying the general demands of the employees of insurance companies and banks urged the Government to give statutory sanction to the following demands regarding conditions of employment and work;

(1) Clerks should not be employed on less than Rs. 40 p.m. and peons should not get less than Rs. 20 p.m.

(2) Clerks should get Rs. 5 yearly increment and peons Rs. 2.

(3) Peons should get free quarters and free medical aid at the company's cost.

(4) No employee should be made to work for more than six hours. If the employers wanted an employee to work for longer hours, he should be given overtime pay; in no case should any employee work for more than 42 hours a week.

(5) No employee should be made to work on Sunday or any holiday; those working on a holiday should get double pay.

(6) One month's privilege leave and 15 days' casual leave should be given to every employee. Employees should also be given provident fund and gratuity benefits.

(7) The Board of Directors should have a representative of the employees.

(8) No employee, excepting ^{the} cashier, should be asked to deposit a cash security.

(9) Apprentices should be given some remuneration and should be confirmed after six months.

(b) The Conference demanded that, in pursuance of the Karachi resolution of the Indian National Congress, no officer of insurance concerns should get more than Rs. 500 per mensem as pay, and that no officer should be paid ^{the} class travelling allowances when on tour.

(c) The Conference requested insurance and banking concerns to grant recognition to the Union, to allow their employees to become members freely, and allow the Union to represent the employees in all disputes that may arise.

(The Tribune, 13-6-1939). +

Textile Workers and Depression in Textile Industry;
Mr. N.M. Joshi Suggests All-India Textile Workers'
Conference. +

In view of the critical labour situation in the textile industry, wage cuts, closure of night shifts and the consequent increase of unemployment, Mr. N.M. Joshi, M.L.A., president of the All-India Textile Workers Conference, has suggested that a conference of representatives of the textile workers in India be convened at an early date in Bombay to discuss the situation and devise ways and means to meet it. The date of the conference is to be announced later.

(Times of India, 19-6-1939).

All-India Textile Conference on 24-7-39.- In pursuance of this suggestion, an informal conference of representatives from various textile centres was held at Bombay, to consider the present situation in the textile industry. Mr. N.M. Joshi, President of the Textile Workers' Conference, presided. Representatives from Bombay, Cawnpore Sholapur and South India attended the meeting.

Mr. Joshi, in his opening speech, drew attention to the increasing unemployment and closing of night shifts. There were reports, he said about wage cuts and rationalisation also. He stressed the need for collecting full and detailed information and for summing a conference of textile delegates from all over India. In the general discussion which followed, views were expressed, that the deterioration of situation was universal and required immediate consideration before final decisions were taken. It was therefore decided that an All-India Textile Delegates' Conference should be held at Nagpur on 24-7-1939, the earliest date available. It was further decided that during the intervening period detailed information should be gathered regarding wage-cuts, unemployment and other grievances.

Messrs. Ranadive and Dange were put in charge of issuing a detailed questionnaire to all the Textile Unions, with a view to elicit detailed information.

(The Times of India, 3-7-39)..

Economic Conditions.Planning Coal Industry of Bihar; Government
appoints Committee.

It is understood that the Government of Bihar has appointed a Committee to examine (i) the present difficulties of the coal industry of the province with a view to its re-organisation, (ii) the possibilities of planning the industry, and (iii) schemes for the utilisation of the by-products of the industry. The Director of Industries, Bihar, is the Convener of the Committee.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 11-6-1939). +

Industrial Development of Bihar; Reports of
Mechanical and Chemical Industries Committees.

Reference was made at page 28 of our December 1939 report to the appointment of three sub-Committees by the Government of Bihar for carrying out detailed investigations into the prospects of different industries in the Province. Two of these Committees, which investigated the ~~possibilities~~ possibilities of mechanical and chemical industries respectively, have now reported; a brief summary of their recommendation is given below:

Mechanical Industries.- The report declares that the proximity of raw materials, adequate water supply, availability of trained labour, transportation facilities and cheap electric power make Bihar pre-eminently suited for the establishment of large mechanical industries. The Committee has recommended the establishment, at present, of the following industrial units: national engineering workshop, structural workshop, sheet metal products company, tool steel products company, bolts, nuts factory, metal products company, metallic lamp manufacturing company, umbrella fitting manufacturing company, electrical products manufacturing wire cable company, and electrical communication apparatus manufacturing company.

The initial investment for these industrial units will be approximately Rs. 65 millions. The Committee suggests that all industries should be financed and controlled by the State, but managed by private firms of national repute, on the lines of the State-owned and company managed railways. The scheme according to the Committee, will provide employment to about 300,000 workers.

2. 2. 24
Chemical Industries.- The Chemical Industries Committee recommends, as the first instalment of industrial planning, the establishment of low temperature coal carbonization and the manufacture of fertilizers. These industries, states the report, are of all-India importance and require capital of about Rs. 125 millions. The Committee considers it desirable that the Government should also help in various ways the establishment of the following basic industries on a provincial scale only; (1) sulphuric acid in conjunction with low temperature carbonization, (2) alkali industry, (3) glass and ceramics, (4) pulp paper and cardboard, and (5) bone crushing and superphosphates.

The report gives detailed suggestions and recommendations regarding the possibilities of various industries, including coal, manures, phosphates, heavy chemicals, sulphuric acid, alkali, oil crushing, soaps, paints, and varnish industries, industrial solvents, lac, rubber, leather, pharmaceuticals, match, and electro-chemical industries.

(The Statesman, 15-6-1939).

Crisis in the Indian Textile Industry; Millowners'
Associations of Bombay and Ahmedabad propose All-India Mill-
owners' Conference. *

The Millowners' Associations of Bombay and Ahmedabad have jointly addressed to the other textile millowners of India a proposal to hold an All-India Millowners' Conference to discuss the present depressed conditions in the textile industry and to concert measures for meeting the crisis. They have enquired whether, in view of the present state of the industry, millowners would agree to a voluntary restriction of production on both day and night shifts. If the answers of a great majority of mills in ~~and~~ India indicate that an all-India and temporary restriction of production would be desirable, it is intended to take steps to call an all-India conference to frame a simple and workable scheme.

(Bombay Chronicle, 5-6-39).

The Bengal Millowners' Association, Calcutta, while agreeing that Bengal also is affected by the depression, has pleaded that the peculiar conditions in Bengal at present, principally the fact that Bengal mills are small units (out of 24 cotton textile mills in Bengal, 16 have less than 116 spindles each), render

any attempt at restriction in Bengal impossible.

(Bombay Chronicle, 22-6-39).

The Gawnpore millowners have agreed to attend the Conference, if
and when held.

(Times of India, 16-6-39). +

Second Session of National Planning Committee,
Bombay, 4 to 17-6-39: 29 Sub-committees appointed
to report by 31-12-39. +

The second session of the National Planning Committee was held at Bombay from 4-6-39 to 17-6-39 under the presidentship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. (The first meeting of the Committee was held in December 1938. For further information vide pages 30-31 of the report of this Office for December 1938).

Representatives present.- There was a large attendance of members including representatives from Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda and Bhopal States. Representatives of various provincial Governments were also present. Four Ministers of Industries, the Hon'ble Dr. Syed Mahmud (Behar), the Hon'ble Mr. V.V. Giri (Madras), the Hon'ble Mr. C.J. Barukha (Central Provinces), and the Hon'ble Mr. L.M. Patil (Bombay) also attended the meeting.

General Principles.- Certain general principles underlying national planning were enunciated in a Preliminary Note submitted to the Conference by Pandit Nehru to form the basis of discussion. The more important points in the Note are summarised below:

Equal Opportunities for all.- The ideal of the Congress is the establishment of a free and democratic State in India; such a full democratic State involves an egalitarian society, in which equal opportunities are provided for every member for self-expression and self-fulfilment, and an adequate minimum of a civilised standard of life is assured to each member so as to make the attainment of this equal opportunity a reality. This should be the background or foundation of the plan.

Cottage and Large-Scale Industries.- The Congress has laid great stress on the encouragement of cottage industries in India. This does not necessarily mean a conflict between cottage industries, ~~factories and industries.~~ A large number of essential industries, which are necessary for the independence and well-being of the country, must inevitably be on a large-scale.

State Control and Ownership of Key Industries.- The Congress has laid down in its Karachi resolution on fundamental rights that the State shall own or control key industries and services, mineral resources, railways, waterways, shipping and other means of public utilities. A legitimate extension of this

SPG.4

principle would be to apply it to all large-scale enterprises. It may be impracticable to insist on State management of existing industries in which vested interests have already taken root. But wherever even an established industry under private control receives aid or protection from the State or tends to develop into a monopoly, or comes into conflict with the general policy of the State in regard to workers or consumers, the State should take necessary steps to assure conformity in all such ventures with its basic policy and with the objective laid down in the plan.

Fundamental Rights - Labour.- The Note reiterated the principles laid down by the Karachi resolution on the subject:

(a) The organisation of economic life must conform to the principle of justice, to the end that it may secure a decent standard of living.

(b) The State shall safeguard the interests of industrial workers and shall secure for them, by suitable legislation and in other ways, a living wage, healthy conditions of work, limited hours of labour, suitable machinery for the settlement of dispute between employers and workmen, and protection against the economic consequences of old age, sickness and unemployment.

Agricultural Planning.- The resolution appointing this Committee does not mention agriculture as such but it is impossible to conceive of any scheme of national planning in any country, and least of all in India, which does not include agriculture. Agriculture is and will remain the largest single industry of this country, and it is associated with a host of subsidiary industries. Any improvement of variation in agriculture has far-reaching results in the economy of the nation. Cottage industries are intimately connected with it, more especially as providing suitable occupations for the spare time of the agriculturists. Agriculture must therefore inevitably be considered by this Committee in its scheme of national planning.

(The Bombay Chronicle,
10-6-39).

29 Sub-Committees appointed.- After considering the replies to the Committee's Questionnaire received from various provincial Governments, Universities, chambers of commerce, trade unions, etc., the Committee appointed 29 sub-committees. The reports of the sub-committees, which will bring together a vast body of co-ordinated information on all aspects of the subject, will later be considered by the full Committee. The sub-committees are divided under the following main heads:

1. Agriculture, 2. Industries, 3. Demographic relations, 4. Commerce and Finance, 5. Transport and Communications, 6. Public Welfare, and 7. Education.

Agriculture.- Under the category "Agriculture", it was decided to appoint eight sub-committees, each dealing with the following subjects: 1. Rural marketing and finance. 2. River training and irrigation. 3. Soil conservation and afforestation. 4. Land policy, agricultural labour and agricultural insurance. 5. Animal husbandry and dairying. 6. Crops, planning and production. 7. Horticulture. 8. Fisheries.

Industries.- The second group which relates to industries will be in charge of seven sub-committees. Cottage and rural industries, including marketing and finance will be in charge of one sub-committee. The other subjects to be dealt with under this group are: (a) power and fuel, (b) chemicals, (c) mining and metallurgical industry, (d) engineering industry which will deal with the manufacture of machine tools, prime movers, etc., including transport industry, (e) manufacturing industry, (f) industries connected with public services such as sanitation, making of scientific instruments and appliances.

Labour.- A labour sub-committee and a population sub-committee will be appointed to deal with the subjects which the Planning Committee refers to ^{upon} demographic relations.

Commerce and Finance.- The following are the five heads to be dealt with by different sub-committees under the category of commerce and finance: (a) trade both inland and foreign, (b) industrial finance, (c) public finance, (d) currency and banking, and (e) insurance.

Transport and Communications.- Two sub-committees will be appointed under this head, one dealing with transport services such as railways, roads, rivers, coastal and overseas transport and air. The second sub-committee will deal with communications, namely, telegraph, telephone and radio.

Public Welfare.- This subject will be divided into two sub-heads, namely, national housing and public health.

Education.- Of the two sub-committees under this head, one will be in charge of general education, including mobilisation of labour for social service, and the other in charge of technical education, both industrial and agricultural and also developmental research.

The Planning Committee will circulate to all the sub-committees a general questionnaire which will help them in the matter of collection of data and formulation of specific proposals for development of each industry. Besides this, each sub-committee will issue a special questionnaire dealing with the industries. The objective which each sub-committee will be expected to place in view while making its recommendations will be the raising of national wealth by 200 to 300 per cent. in the course of the next decade.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 18-6-39).

Secretariat of National Planning Committee.- The Committee has decided to reorganise and enlarge the staff of its Office. Professor K.T. Shah has been appointed Honorary General Secretary, with three Joint Secretaries, Mr. K.D. Guha, Mr. H.V. Kamath, and Mr. P. Huthesingh to assist him. (Mr. Kamath has since expressed his inability to accept the post).

SPG.6

Programme of Work.- It is expected that by December 1939 or earlier the work of all the sub-committees will be completed, and that early in 1940 the National Planning Committee will be able to submit its report to the Congress Working Committee and to the Governments. The Working Committee has extended the time for submission of the Committee's report to March 31, 1940.

(The Times of India,
1-7-39). +

Employment and Unemployment.

Educated Unemployed in Mysore; Employment Bureau set up by the Mysore University..

It is understood that the Mysore University has instituted an Employment Bureau, the object of which is to obtain from the authorities concerned notifications relating to the appointments available in the public departments and circulate them among University institutions, to maintain a register of graduates and under-graduates desiring employment, and to maintain a register of employers desiring to be put in touch with suitable graduates and under-graduates for employment.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 23-6-1939)..

Unemployment in the Punjab; Recommendations of Punjab Unemployment Enquiry Committee. .

Reference was made at page 67 of our April 1937 report to the appointment by the Government of Punjab of an Unemployment Enquiry Committee with the Hon'ble Sir Chhotu Ram, Minister for Development, as Chairman to advise and report on the means the Government should take to cope with the unemployment problem in the Punjab. An advance summary of the recommendations made in the ~~same~~ Committee's report (including a majority report and a dissenting minute), has now appeared in the press; the more important of the recommendations are given below;

Extent and Nature of Unemployment.- The Committee was not able fully to gauge the exact nature and extent of unemployment in the province, but is of opinion that on a conservative estimate there are over 150,000 unemployed in the Province. The majority of the Committee is understood to have expressed the opinion that a rise in the standard of living has contributed to the growth of unemployment. That there is no permanent unemployment amongst agricultural classes in the narrow meaning of the term is understood to be another conclusion of the majority, whose report, there is good reason to believe, attributes the large-scale unemployment of village shoe-makers, potters and other artisans to the increased use of imported boots, hurricane lanterns, crockery, and umbrellas, etc.

Expansion of Industries.- Of the 131 recommendations made in the majority report, relate to the need of developing employment by expanding the industrial and agricultural activities in the pro-

vince and of compulsorily retiring Government servants after they *have* put in 25 years' service. The minute of dissent does not differ from these two recommendations, although it is supposed to have made concrete proposals for ending poverty and unemployment. Apart from Unemployment Insurance schemes, the dissenting note advocates, the establishment of a Statistical Bureau by means of legislation making it obligatory for every institution, public authority and Government Department to furnish to the Bureau correct statistics regarding its activities.

Supreme Economic Council.- That a Supreme Economic Council should be set up to make the necessary surveys and control the planned projects appears to be another suggestion. The Council is to be constituted of reputed economists, industrial and financial experts. The planning, it is suggested, should be financed by a vast loan to be raised by stages up to, if necessary, Rs. 500 millions or Rs. 1000 millions.

State Enterprise.- Still other suggestions are that the State should acquire electrical power producing concerns in the province, that it should introduce the system of collective farms, that a planned economy should undertake the immediate development of communications in the province, and that the State should organise cheap transport in all the areas of primary production.

National Housing Scheme.- Then a National Housing Scheme is advanced. Improvement Trusts are to be set up where they do not exist and energised where they do. In the villages, the rammed earth houses are to be constructed on a planned scale. Furthermore, Local Self-Government must be organised.

Local-Self-Government.- It has been suggested that a provincial Local Government Board be set up, which would exercise the power of the Government, in Local Self-Government matters, with a final appeal to a Tribunal. All local bodies would be constituted on the elective adult franchise basis, and taxation for the purpose of rural reconstruction would be on a local and provincial basis by means of graduated taxes exempting a minimum holding or an income. The cost of police administration is intended to be reduced by the entrusting of ordinary police duties to civil guards operating under the authority of Local Bodies, chosen on the basis of adult franchise and proportional representation in order to assure correct representation of minorities.

Other Steps to reduce Unemployment.- Apart from the recommendations forecast above, the Unemployment Committee have recorded suggestions by Government officers, principals of colleges, head masters of schools, local bodies and mercantile associations as to how the problem of unemployment should be tackled. Other steps suggested are: birth control, increase in the import duty on foreign wheat, starting of cottage industries, use of Indian-made goods, protection of nascent industrial institutions, resuscitation of village industries, consolidation of holdings, arrangements for marketing Indian products abroad, as well as satisfactory trade agreements, improvement of communications, formation of Agricultural Co-operative Societies, Trade Unions and Employment Exchanges, colonisation of new areas and development of cattle breeding, dairy farms, bee-keeping, poultry-farming, etc.

(The Tribune, 27-6-39).+

31

Social Conditions.

Wages for Work done for Prisoners: Jail
Reform in U.P. *

Acting on the recommendations of the Jail Inquiry Committee appointed some time back by the United Provinces Government to investigate the possibilities of reform in the system of jail administration in the province, the Government has decided that wages should be paid for work turned out by prisoners in jails. The Cawnpore Jail has been selected experimentally for the purpose, where a tailoring department has been started and entrusted with the task of supplying the uniforms of the police force of the province. The experiment is progressing satisfactorily. The earnings of the prisoners average between Rs. 5 and Rs. 7 per month. Encouraged by the success of the experiment, the Government is understood to be contemplating its introduction in other jails of the province.

Other reforms recommended by the Committee are: (1) the starting of a training school for jail officials, (2) the setting up of a training school for the training of convict-teachers, (3) the starting of panchayats of the prisoners themselves for dealing with minor jail offences, (4) the setting up of different prisons for male convicts, female convicts and juvenile offenders, and (5) the adoption generally of more humane methods of prison management, including the abolition of flogging, cross-bar fetters, etc.

(The Statesman,
8-6-1939)..*

Meeting of Committee of A.I. Criminal
Tribes Association, Bombay, 25-6-39; Demand for
Repeal of Criminal Tribes Act. *

A meeting of the Committee of the All-India Criminal Tribes' Association was held under the presidentship of Mr. M.S. Aney at Bombay on 25-6-39.

The Committee accepted the draft of the "Habitual Offenders Reformative Act" prepared by Mr. V. Raghaviah, the Secretary, and requested all the Provincial Governments to repeal the much condemned Criminal Tribes Act and replace it by the above Act. The draft

bill seeks to restrict the provisions ~~in~~ only to previously convicted offenders, to individuals and not to Tribes, and provides for a judicial trial before registration, with appeal to the District Judge.

Another resolution requested the provincial Governments to discontinue the management of the Criminal Tribes' Settlements by missionary and other proselytising agencies, and to take over the management thereof themselves.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 27,6-39).

Public Health.Health Conditions in Jharia Coal Mines - 1937-38 +

Jharia Mines Settlement; Vital Statistics:- The area of the Jharia Mining Settlement is 787 square miles, and the corrected population 536,480. (The area under the Asansal Mines Board of Health, it may be noted, is 413 square miles and the corrected population 405,341). The birth rate during 1937-38 increased by 1.64 as compared with 1936. The death rate during the year decreased by 0.6 due to the fact that there were no epidemics in the Mining Settlements during the year. The infant mortality decreased by 16 per 1,000 infants born. The rate of increase of population i.e. the excess of the Birth Rate over the Death Rate was 9.83 in 1936 and 12.07 in 1937. The Bihar figure for 1936 was 13.6.

Average Daily Labour Force.- The average Daily Labour Force employed in 1937 was 62,190 as against 61,064 in 1936; of these, 36,107 and 1,316 were respectively male and female underground workers, and 17,263 and 7,504 male and female above ground workers.

Accidents.- 858 accidents were reported in 1937, as against 808 in 1936. Of the 808 accidents, 104 were fatal, 566 reported as recovered and 188 minor.

Water-supply.- In the course of the year, 7 collieries were connected to the Jharia Water Board mains, bringing the total number of connected collieries to 192, while notices were served by the Jharia Mines Board on 5 collieries, requiring them to link up.

Housing in Colliery Areas.- The five years' housing programme of the Board remained in force during the year. The following table of licences issued during the past two years will show that the improvement effected in the colliery housing has been consistently maintained.

	Permanent.	Temporary.	Total.
31st December, 1936 ..	23,379	5,069	28,448
31st December, 1937 ..	24,996	4,020	29,016

Food Adulteration.- During 1937, proceedings were initiated in 161 cases under the Food and Drug Adulteration Act, and of these 127 resulted in conviction, 15 were dropped, 3 were stayed, 3 were disposed of after taking evidence under Sec. 512 Criminal Procedure Code and 13 were pending at the end of 1937.

* Annual Report of the Jharia Mines Board of Health for the year 1937-38. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna.

Public Health Propaganda.- Lantern lectures on health subjects were no longer confined to Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, but were also delivered at other convenient places. A number of lantern lectures was held in important collieries for the benefit of labourers and their families. The leprosy relief work within the Jharia Mining Settlement ~~continued to be carried on~~ by the Dhanbad and District Leprosy Relief Fund under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health who is the Honorary General Secretary of the Fund. The fund at present maintains 4 clinics and all these continued to do useful work.

Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.- During the year under report, there were 10 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres managed by the Board.

(Health Conditions in the Jharia Coal Mines Area during 1936-37 were reviewed at pages 34-35 of the report of this Office for April 1938)..

Housing of Workers in Indore City; Maharaja
donates Rs. 300,000.

To give an impetus to the movement for providing better housing for workers, the Maharaja of Indore has recently announced a grant from his privy purse of Rs. 100,000 every year for three years for providing improved housing to workers in Indore City, with the stipulation that the work should be executed in co-ordination with the big scheme for housing of workers in Indore City which the State Government had already sanctioned.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 22-6-39)..

Progress of Safety First Association of India,
Bombay, in 1938.

The following information relating to the work of the Safety First Association of India in regard to industrial safety during 1938 is taken from the Annual Report of the Association for 1938.

Industrial Safety Service.- The Association improved and expanded its service to industry. During 1938, 12 communiques were issued on industrial safety. The communiques issued by the Association, which number 38 since the beginning of the service in 1935, deal with methods of effecting greater economy and increased production combined with improvement in efficiency and quality.

Textile Safety Code.- In response to requests for a comprehensive and authoritative safety code for the textile industry on the lines of its American counterpart, a draft Textile Safety Code was prepared. This draft has been circulated to mill managers and factory executives with a view to eliciting their constructive views.

Organisation of Safety Committees. - There was an alround progress in the number of Factory Safety Committees and the organisation of new ones. Bengal reported 9 committees, Assam 1, Bihar 34, Bombay (excluding Ahmedabad) 17, Madras 2, United Provinces 1, and Central Provinces 1. .

Results of Prohibition in Ahmedabad; Research Advisory Board Formed by Bombay Government. .

The Government of Bombay, finding that a close and accurate study of the effects of ^{the} prohibition measure, introduced in the Ahmedabad area, on the general conditions of the mass of people is necessary, has constituted a Prohibition Research Advisory Board in Ahmedabad with Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda as Chairman, for the purpose of collecting accurate and detailed information regarding the results of prohibition. The main functions of the Board will be to investigate conditions in respect of :

Health: - A. Physique and health level of the population. (existing records and periodic medical inspections). B. Incidence of sickness (and disease) -- (a) Diseases specifically related to use of intoxicants (cirrhosis of liver etc.), (b) Others. C. Mortality and expectation of life. D. Changes in health factors, e.g., food, housing, etc.

Economic Conditions: - A. Chages in standards of living and use of the increased spending power. B. Economic staying power: indebtedness savings, insurance, regularity and promptness in payment of dues. C. Regularity of employment.

Use of Leisure: - A. Attendance at places of amusement, libraries, and reading rooms, recreation facilities, etc.

Domestic and Social Life: - A. Crime and litigation. B. Venereal diseases. C. Education. D. Condition of women and children . E. Atmosphere of domestic and communal life. F. Extent of other vices: gambling, etc.

Industry and Trade: - A. Efficiency: output, absenteeism, punctuality, Labour Turnover, etc. B. Accidents. C. Turnover. (Retail trade at shops of various kinds, restaurants, transport services).

It is left to the Board to amplify the list of necessary. The immediate task of the Board will be to conduct a survey of the results on the lines of a questionnaire provided by Government. The office of the Prohibition Research Advisory Board will be located in the premises of the Prohibition Department, Khanpur, Ahmedabad.

(The Times of India, 26-6-1939).+

Co-operation.Development of Cottage Industries:Mysore's Three-Year Plan.

The Government of Mysore has sanctioned a three-year plan for starting demonstration centres of cottage industries like village tanning, leather stitching, lacquerware, tile-making, pottery, coir industry, village smithy, mat-weaving, paper manufacture and tin toys' manufacture in 43 centres in different districts of the State, so that demonstrations in at least four industries may be conducted in each district simultaneously. The total estimated cost of the scheme is about Rs. 1,81,570, and the realisations by the sale of products are expected to be about Rs. 4,49,740, net cost being Rs. 1,31,830.

(The Hindu, 31-5-1939)..

Cottage Industries in other Countries:Provincial Governments collecting information throughIndian Trade Commissioners.,

Indian Trade Commissioners at London, Hamburg, Milan and Japan are to secure information about small industries in these countries at the instance of Provincial Governments in India.

These industries are ; mechanical toys, rubber balloons, wooden toys, pottery, hosiery, knitted goods, cutlery, articles of stationery (excluding papers), that is, fountain pens, and stationery fittings, lead pencils and crayons and inks, celluloid toys, buttons, toilet requisites, glassware, including glass bangles, clocks and watches, bicycles and tricycles and smoker's requisites. The Trade Commissioners are to be asked to secure information on the following points:-- Organisation of these industries, whether as cottage industries or as co-operative societies or as small factories, raw materials required, sales and the amount of assistance required, etc.

(The Hindu, 3-6-1939).r

Education.

37

Training of Weavers for Bombay Cotton Mills:
Millowners' Association's Scheme.+

The Millowners' Association, Bombay, has had under consideration for some time past the desirability of instituting a system of training weavers as a means of solving the problem of inefficiency and lower earnings brought about by the employment of raw and "badli" (substitute) workers in mills, and has now drawn up a scheme for the purpose.

The scheme, in brief, is to train up in weaving under full-time instructors a limited number of apprentices to be recruited from sons and other relatives of employees and a select number of school boys recommended by mill officials. The apprentices are first taught to knot broken ends, draw ends through healds and reeds, and to work on sample looms. After two months on sample looms, they are to be taken into the weaving shed as "badli" (substitute) weavers on single looms. It is expected that after four months of such learning, the apprentices will be able to look after two looms.

The Association has recommended the adoption of the scheme by member mills.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for April 1939).+

Vocational Education in Bombay: Government converts
5 High Schools into Vocational Institutions.+

The Government of Bombay recently decided, in view of the growing demand for vocational training facilities, to convert five Government High schools in the province into vocational high schools - three Agricultural High Schools, one Commercial High School and one Technical High School.

Courses of Studies.- The courses of the Vocational High Schools, like those of the ordinary high schools, are to cover four years (Standards IV to VII) and will consist of English, regional language, elementary mathematics, science, geography and theoretical and practical training in the vocation taught in the school. There will be an examination at the end of the four years course, conducted by Government, and the holders of the certificate of that examination will be eligible ~~for~~ for entrance into Government service in the same manner as the holders of the Matriculation Certificate and will have preference for appointments for which knowledge of and skill in the particular vocation is considered desirable. Efforts will be made also to

facilitate their admission to such institutions of higher instruction in the vocation, as are existing now or may be created hereafter, and also to obtain recognition of the University for the examination as being equivalent to the University Matriculation. It may be noted, however, that the main objective in starting the vocational high schools is to send out young men with better value in the employment market or better ability to start business on their own initiative.

(Summarised from Communiqué No. P.212 dated 1-6-1939 issued by the Public Relations Officer, Government of Bombay).4

Vocational Bias in Secondary Education in Hyderabad State: Government Sanctions New Scheme. +

The Government of H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad (Deccan) has recently sanctioned certain schemes of re-organisation of secondary education in the State, covering reform of education of girls and introduction of vocational training. A brief summary of the changes contemplated is given below:

Period of Education.- The new scheme, while fixing the total period of education at 14 years, divides the same into four distinct stages, viz., the Primary Stage, the Lower Secondary Stage, the Higher Secondary Stage, and the University Stage, the first two stages covering 4 years each and the last two, 3 years each. In the Primary Stage, however, which excludes the Infant Class, at least one extra year will be provided for such pupils as do not propose to pass on to a secondary school.

Curricula and Examinations.- There will be two public examinations besides the degree examination, one at the end of the Lower Secondary Stage (class V to class VIII), and the other at the end of the Higher Secondary Stage. In order to mitigate the burden of examinations, the curricula have been divided in both Lower Secondary and Higher Secondary classes into examination and non-examination subjects. While the Higher Secondary classes will have three different courses of study viz., (1) Arts, (2) Mathematics and Science, and (3) Biology, (specialisation commencing in class X) the Lower Secondary schools, will be divided into urban schools and rural schools. Manual training and gardening, together with agriculture, will be taught respectively in the urban schools and rural schools as non-examination, but compulsory, subjects.

Education of Girls.- There will be four alternative courses of study for girls in the higher stage, viz., (1) Arts, (2) Mathematics and Science, (3) Biology and (4) Domestic Science; while for the Lower Secondary Certificate Examination, Domestic Science will be an additional examination subject besides those that are prescribed as examination subjects for boys.

Vocational Bias.- At the end of each stage of instruction, vocational education will be provided in separate vocational institutions. At the end of the Primary Stage there will be industrial schools while at the end of the Lower Secondary Stage and the Higher Secondary Stage there will be provided different types of vocational and technical institutions.

Commencement of Scheme.- The new scheme is to come into force in June 1939.

(Summarised from Communique No. P.E. 44 dated 1-6-1939, issued by the Information Bureau, Hyderabad State.) +

Agriculture.

40

Setting up of Provincial Board of Rural
Development in Bombay. *

According to a communique dated 26-6-1939 issued by the Public Relations Officer, Bombay, the local Government has set up a Provincial Board of Rural Development consisting of 7 officials and 33 non-officials, with the Minister for Finance and Rural Development, Bombay, as Chairman, and Mr. M.P. Patil, his Parliamentary Secretary, as Secretary. To facilitate the work of the Board the non-official bloc is divided into four committees, viz., (1) Agriculture and Live Stock Committee; (2) Cottage Industries Committee; (3) Training and Propaganda Committee; and (4) Backward Areas Committee.

Functions of the Board.- The function of the Board and its committees will be to advise on general principles and policy regarding rural development activities. The Board will meet every quarter, but the committees will meet as often as may be necessary. It is not necessary that the official members should attend all the meetings of the Board or its sub-committees. Such of the members as are concerned with the subjects to be discussed at the meeting will, therefore, be invited. The proceedings of the committees will be submitted to Government through the Board of Rural Development for final orders.

As the functions of the existing Divisional Boards of Agriculture will be taken over by the Agriculture and Live Stock Committee of the Board of Rural Development, there is no necessity of a separate organisation as Divisional Boards of Agriculture. Government has, accordingly, directed that these Boards should be dissolved as soon as the Board of Rural Development comes into being. *

Effect of Removal of Restriction on Employment
of Lascars in Cold Latitudes: European
Seamen not affected. +

The following information about the effects of the decision made by the Government of India in September 1938 to suspend for a period of three years the restrictions on the employment of lascars (Indian seamen) in latitudes above 38 degrees North during winter months is taken from a contribution on the subject published in the Times of India, Bombay, dated 1-6-1939.

No Elimination of European Seamen.- The fear expressed in certain circles that European seamen may have to lose their jobs to lascars as a result of the recent decision of the Government of India to suspend all restrictions on the employment of lascars as deck hands on vessels proceeding to certain North American ports, during ~~winter~~ winter months, is regarded in Bombay as being unfounded. Inquiries made at the Government Shipping Office, Bombay, reveal that the only persons hit by the decision are Malayan and Chinese deck hands hitherto employed on ships for voyages to the prohibited ports. It is pointed out that there is no question of competition between Indian and European seamen.

Conditions of Employment of Lascars.- In September 1938, the Government of India suspended the restrictions on lascars for a period of three years with a view to gaining experience, at the end of which final orders would be passed. Indian lascars can now go to the prohibited ports provided they do so voluntarily. The rules require that the crew should be provided with adequate warm clothing in these ports at the expense of the owners. The master of the vessel is required to see that the clothes are actually worn by the crew and that the seamen are not subjected to undue exposure. Food suitable to cold climate is to be provided. On the termination of the voyage, the master of the vessel has to submit a report on the weather conditions, its effect on the efficiency of the crew and a medical report on the health of the crew to enable Government to judge the measure of success of the decision.

(The Times of India, 1-6-1939).+

Health of Returned Lascars Satisfactory.- Questions were recently asked in the British Parliament regarding the health of Indian lascars in view of the removal of the above restrictions. Lt. Colonel Muirhead, replying on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, said that since last September, when the restrictions were suspended, medical reports on the health of lascar seamen returning from northern latitudes had been received only from Calcutta, no such crew having been discharged at Bombay. The reports from

Calcutta covered 11 vessels, and in no case were ill effects due to cold climates mentioned as calling for special notice. The Shipping Master at Calcutta was of the opinion that the lascars had stood the climate very well, and the Government of India considered that this opinion was justified.

Effect on Employment of British Seamen.- Questions were also asked as to the effect of the admission of Indian lascars into colder climes on employment conditions of British seamen. Colonel Muirhead pointed out that the Government of India was not concerned with that aspect of the question but was concerned only with the health aspect of the removal of the ~~XXXX~~ restrictions.

(The Hindu, 23-6-1939)..

Indians in West Indies; Memorandum of
Mr. Tyson to the Royal Commission on the West Indies.

Following widespread labour unrest during the past three years, culminating in serious rioting, a Royal Commission was set up in August 1938 to inquire into social and economic conditions in the West Indies and Guiana. The presence of some 300,000 Indian settlers, forming a third of the total population in these areas, led to the demand that the Government of India should depute an officer to represent the settlers' views before the Royal Commission, and to assist them to prepare their case. Mr. J.D. Tyson, I.C.S., was chosen for the purpose by the Government of India; and it has now published the memorandum on the condition of Indians in the West Indies, submitted by Mr. Tyson to the Royal Commission. The salient features of the memorandum are summarised below:-

Jamaica.- Indians in Jamaica number 17,380 and almost all of them are engaged either in agriculture or work as labourers. There is a general wave of unemployment, the effect of which on the backward and helpless Indian community has been severe. The Indian worker is also meeting with competition from West Indies workers repatriated from Cuba and other places. On many sugar and banana estates, Indians are hardly getting more than two days' work per week. Due to pressure of competition from other communities and racial prejudice, unemployed Indians fail to get absorbed in industries or in the Colonial Government's schemes for the unemployed. The community feels that its interests are not adequately safeguarded, especially since the abolition of the post of the Protector of Immigrants, and demands that repatriation, closed in 1929, be revived.

Mr. Tyson has urged the revival of the post of the Protector and has expressed the opinion that, in view of the conditions in India of Indian nationals repatriated from other countries, repatriation is not likely to be the best solution. He suggests that the money which would be required for repatriation could more usefully be spent on ameliorative schemes like the education of the settlers and their settlement on land as a means of solving the present unemployment problem. Mr. Tyson also recommends, the extension of poor law relief to Indians also.

British Guiana.- Indians in British Guiana number about 130,540 and form 41 per cent or the largest single element in the population of the colony. The present economic prosperity of the colony is attributable largely to the Indian worker. So far as wages, housing, water supply and transport on sugar estate are concerned, matters for the improvement of which the industry contends that better times must be awaited, it is recommended that labourers in the estates should also share the benefits of the preference in British markets enjoyed by the sugar industry of the colony. In view of the grant of preferences, the Colonial Office should conduct an independent scrutiny of the accounts of the industry and all its subsidiary activities and ascertain the real state of the industry. For the better control and regulation of general working conditions in the plantations, a strong and independent Labour Inspectorate should be set up. The Colonial Government should take steps to fix minimum wages in all industries. Steps should be taken to prevent labour flocking to the sugar industry alone and creating unemployment; for this purpose, alternative employment should be provided and plantation labourers should be made less dependent on wages than now through ~~and~~ land settlement schemes and allotment of more lands on the estates for cultivation of rice and vegetables. There should also be better security of tenure in estates. Trade unionism should be encouraged and for the purpose a Labour Officer with sufficient experience of labour organisation should be appointed.

Trinidad.- Since, in Trinidad, Indians form one-third of the population, one of the four Executive Councillorships should go to a man conversant with Indian affairs in the island. Referring to the complaint of discrimination against Indians in the matter of entrance into and training in mechanical trades, Mr. Tyson suggests that, apart from directing the attention of private employers to the need for removing such discrimination, Government departments and concerns, like railway workshops etc., should take qualified Indian apprentices and give them training.

(The Statesman, 1-6-1939). +

Repatriation of Indian Workers in Ceylon:
Scheme to take immediate Effect. +

References were made at pages 38 and 55 of our March and May 1939 reports respectively to the decision of the Government of Ceylon to replace daily-paid Indian workers in Government Departments of the Colony by Ceylonese workers as a measure of solving the unemployment problem among the indigenous population. Further particulars are now available about the scheme.

Government's Proposals to affect about 9,000 Indians.- The Government proposes to repatriate with a small gratuity immediately about 1,000 daily-paid workers who entered service after 1-4-1934. As regards those who joined earlier, estimated to number about 8,000, a circular letter recently issued by the Chief Secretary to the Ceylon Government to the Heads of Government Departments states that non-Ceylonese daily paid workers engaged before April 1934 will be offered up to the last day of December 1939 the opportunity of retirement with tickets to their homes and bonuses.

(The Hindu, 4-6-39).

Policy of Government.- The future policy of the Ceylon Government in regard to immigration was laid down at a meeting of the Board of Ministers held on 14-3-1939; the decisions reached at the meeting are understood to be as follow;

(1) There should be no refusal of entry of any person into Ceylon, except in the interest of health or public tranquillity or on the ground of lack of means. (2) At the time of entry into Ceylon every non-Ceylonese should be required to complete a form indicating the purpose of his entry into Ceylon and the period for which he is likely to stay in Ceylon. (3) Non-Ceylonese without passports will be given identification cards. (4) No non-Ceylonese will be allowed to stay in Ceylon more than three months without a permit. (5) Persons with identification cards must report monthly during their first three months in Ceylon. (6) A permit to stay in Ceylon for more than three months will not be granted to persons desiring to carry on a business or profession or to be employed in Ceylon, unless the Immigration Authority is satisfied:-- (a) in the case of a ~~bank~~ business or profession, that the business or profession is in the interests of Ceylon and will not compete unduly with Ceylonese business, and (b) in the case of employment that no suitable Ceylonese is available for the post.

The above six clauses will not apply in full to estate labourers. They will be given identification cards marked specially "Estate Labour," and will be precluded from taking up any other occupation without first obtaining a permit under (6). Their employer must keep track of them and notify the Immigration authority whenever they change their addresses. It was also decided that power is to be taken to fix a quota for each class of employment whereby no employer in Ceylon may employ more than the fixed proportion of non-Ceylonese appropriate to his class. Every person in Ceylon employing a non-Ceylonese should pay a special tax, which should vary with the ~~ex~~ class of employment, the tax being fixed in each class at a level which will provide a definite inducement to employers to substitute Ceylonese for non-Ceylonese.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 8-6-1939).

Developments in June 1939.- The Government of India is now in correspondence with the Ceylon Government for concluding a trade treaty between the two countries and actual negotiations, according to the suggestion of the Ceylon Government, have been postponed to October 1939. The Government of India, it is understood, has agreed, provided that, first, the subject of status of Indians in Ceylon

should definitely form part of the negotiations and, secondly, that till the negotiations are concluded, no action should be taken by the Ceylon Government to alter the status quo in any way.

(Statesman, 24-6-1939).

The Government of India, it is understood, has been informed in the last week of June by the Ceylon Government that it is unable to postpone the measure passed by the State Council for repatriation of non-Ceylonese daily-paid workers in Government service.

(The Times of India, 29-6-39).

Situation discussed by A.I.C.C.- The All India Congress Committee which met at Bombay in June 1939, passed a resolution on 23-6-1939 viewing with concern the developments and commissioning Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to visit Ceylon try to try to bring about an amicable settlement. +

Indian Immigration into Burma; Burma Government appoints Commission of Enquiry. +

The Government of Burma has recently been in correspondence with the Government of India on the subject of Indian immigration into Burma. The matter is one which has been for some time prominently in the public mind and received special attention when the ^{Burma} Riot Enquiry Committee, discussing in its Interim Report some of the underlying causes of the disturbances which occurred last year, made special mention of the widespread uneasiness about Indian penetration into Burma. The Government of Burma has now decided, in agreement with the Government of India, to ascertain by a special inquiry the true facts with regard to the alleged penetration of Indian labour into Burma.

The enquiry is to be entrusted to a sole Commissioner to whom one Burman and one Indian will be attached as assessors. The enquiry will be directed ^{to}ascertaining:- (1) the volume of Indian immigration; (2) to what extent it is seasonal and temporary and to what extent permanent; (3) in what occupations Indians are mainly employed and the extent to which they are unemployed or under-employed. (4) whether in such employment Indians either have displaced Burmans or could be replaced by Burmans, due regard being paid to both the previous history of such occupations and their economic requirements; and (5) whether in the light of the statistics obtained and other relevant factors, ~~and a~~ a system of equating the supply of Indian x unskilled labour to Burman requirements is needed.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. Baxter has been appointed as Commissioner.

(Summarised from pages 696 - 697 of the supplement to the Burma Gazette dated 17-6-1939). +

List of more important publications received
in this Office during June 1939.

Conditions of Labour.-

- (1) **Annual Report on the Working of the Hours of Employment Regulations in the North Western, East Indian, Eastern Bengal, Great Indian Peninsula; Bombay, Baroda and Central India, Madras and Southern Mahratta and Bengal and North Western Railways during the year 1937-38 - by the Supervisor of Railway Labour. Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1939. (Price annas 7 or 8d).**
- (2) **General Wage Census, Part I - Perennial Factories, Fourth Report - Report on Wages, Hours of Work and Conditions of Employment etc. in the Province of Bombay. 1 May 1934. Labour Office - Government of Bombay. 1939. (Price annas 11 or 1s 2d).**
- (3) **Statistics of Factories subject to the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934) for the year ending December 31st, 1937, together with a note on the working of the Factories Act during the year. Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1939. (Price Rs. 1-2-0 or 1s 9d).**

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) **Statistical Abstract for British India with Statistics, where available, relating to certain Indian States from 1927-28 to 1936-37. (15th issue). Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1939. (Price Rs. 5-10-0).**
- (2) **Joint Stock Companies in British India and in the Indian States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, Gwalior, Indore, Travancore and Cochin. 1935-36. (22nd issue). Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1939. (Price Rs. 6-14-0 or 11s).**
- (3) **Bulletins of Indian Industries and Labour No. 67 - Proceedings of the Tenth Industries Conference (held at Bombay on the 23rd and 24th January 1939). March 1939. Delhi: Manager of Publications, 1939. (Price Rs. 3-12-0 or 6s).**
- (4) **Proceedings of the Meetings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, held on 12th, 13th and 15th April 1939. Vol. XVI - No. 1. Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1939.**

Social Conditions.-

Report on the Excise Administration of the Province of Orissa 1937-38. Cuttack: Press Officer, Government Press, Orissa. 1939. (Price Rs. 1-12-0).

Public Health.-

- (1) **Annual Report on the Jharia Mines Board of Health for the Year 1937-38. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1938.**
- (2) **Annual Report on the Administration of the Industrial Housing**

Scheme, 1937-38. Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Bombay. 1939. (Price Anna 1 or 1d).

Co-operation.-

Report on the Working of the Co-operative Societies in Ajmer-Merwara for the year ending 30-6-1938. New Delhi: Manager, Government of India Press. 1939.

Agriculture.-

Proceedings of the Second Meeting of the Crops and Soils Wing of the Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India, held at Lahore from 6th to 9th December, 1937, with Appendices. Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1939. (Price Rs. 4-2-0 or 6s 6d).

Maritime Affairs.-

Maritime Labour in India - by Dinkar D. Desai, Servants of India Society, Bombay. 1939. (*Advance type-written copy*).

Miscellaneous.-

Annual Administration Report of the Delhi Province for 1937-38. Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1939. (Price Rs. 3-6-0 or 5s 6d).
