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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Industrial and Labour Developments in January, 1945.

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

<u>Contents.</u>	<u>Pages.</u>
1. <u>National Labour Legislation.-</u>	
<u>Government of India:</u>	
Bill to amend Indian Companies Act, 1913: Clearing Position re. Withdrawal of Provident Fund deposits by Employees.	1
<u>Hyderabad State:</u>	
The Hyderabad Mines Maternity Benefit Regulation, 1944.	1
<u>Assam:</u>	
Assam Draft Rules regarding Exemptions from Hours of Work and Rest Provisions of the Factories Act, 1934.	2
<u>Bombay:</u>	
The Draft Employment of Children (Railways other than Federal Railways) Rules, 1944.	2
2. <u>Social Policy.-</u>	
Separate Labour Department to be set up in Hyderabad State.	3
3. <u>Conditions of Work.-</u>	
<u>Hours of Work and Weekly Rest, Etc.:</u>	
Ahmedabad Mill-workers object to Night Shift Working.	4
<u>Women's Work:</u>	
Madras Secretariat: Women Clerks to be Employed.	5
<u>Industrial Disputes:</u>	
Conciliation of Trade Disputes in Central Government Undertakings: Mr. S.C. Joshi Appointed Labour Commissioner.	6
<u>General:</u>	
(a) Labour Welfare Measures by Associated Cement Companies, Ltd.	7
(b) Working of Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938: Labour Union's Criticism.	7-8
4. <u>Economic Conditions.-</u>	
(a) Radio Apparatus to be manufactured in India.	9
(b) Central Jute Committee Proposes Creation of a Jute Fund.	9
(c) Damodar Valley Project Conference: Preliminary Investigation taken up.	9-10
(d) 27th Session of Indian Economic Conference, Delhi, 30-12-1944 to 2-1-1945.	10-12
(e) Working Class Cost of Living Index for Various Centres in India during June and July, 1944.	12
(f) India (Estate Duty) Bill in British Parliament.	13

Social Insurance.-

- (a) Health Insurance for Industrial Workers: Prof. B.P. Adarkar to be Officer in Charge. 14
- (b) Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Assam during 1942. 14

Migration.-

- Marshal Smuts' Decision to reserve Assent to Natal Residential Property Regulation Ordinance. 15-16

Agriculture.-

- (a) Manufacture of Artificial Fertilisers in India: Government of India's Decision. 17
- (b) Madras Government's Agricultural Workers' Training Scheme. 17
- (c) Assam Government's plan for Land Settlement. 18
- (d) The Bengal Alienation of Agricultural Land (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1944. 18

Navigation.-

- (a) Increase in War Risk Money for Indian Seamen. 19
- (b) Conditions of Work of Indian Seamen: Government of India's Plans for betterment. 19

Professional Workers, Salaried Employees and Public Servants.-

- (a) Bengal Provincial Shop Assistant's Conference, Calcutta, 11-1-1945. 20
- (b) Hours of Work of College Teachers: Maximum of 16 Teaching Hours fixed by Nagpur University. 20
- (c) Demand for Increased Salary Scales and 36 Hourx Week: 2nd U.P. Press Conference, Allahabad, 21-1-1945. 21
- (d) U.P. Conference demands Higher Pay for Sanitary Inspectors. 22

Co-operation and Cottage Industries.-

- (a) Bombay to develop Export Trade in Cottage Industries Products. 23
- (b) Co-operative Societies for Distribution of Yarn in Assam and Bengal. 23
- (c) Unemployment among Hand-loom Weavers in Bengal due to Yarn Shortage. 24
- (d) Rs. 100 Million Grant to A.I.S.A. Recommended. 25
- (e) Distribution of Yarn in Bombay: Government Assumes Complete Control. 25
- (f) The C.P. and Berar Co-operative Societies Amendment Bill, 1945. 25

Living Conditions.-

Nutrition:

- Scheme for supply of Nutritive Food to Members of Bombay Police Force. 26

Housing:

- (a) Punjab's Schemes for Post-War Housing and Town-Planning. 27
- (b) Better Housing in Calcutta: Bengal Officials to study Conditions in Bombay. 28
- (c) 'Urban Area Development Board' for Cawnpore. 28-29
- (d) Post-War Reconstruction Committee proposed for Bombay City. 29

Organisation, Congresses, Etc.-

Workers' Organisations:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| (a) Progress of Trade Unions in Bihar during year ending 31-3-1943. | 30 |
| (b) 21st Session of A.I.T.U.C., Madras, 19 to 22-1-1945. | 30-34 |
| (c) Progress of A.I.T.U.C. from May 1943 to December 1944: General Secretary's Report to the 21st Session. | 35-38 |
| (d) Congress enters Field of Labour Organisation: 10 Congress Unions set up in Bombay. | 38 |

Miscellaneous:

- | | |
|---|----|
| 32nd Session of Indian Science Congress, Nagpur, 2nd to 4-1-1945. | 39 |
|---|----|

Social Conditions.-

- | | |
|---|----|
| Prevention of Dowry Payment Bill in Cochin State. | 40 |
|---|----|

Public Health.-

- | | |
|--|----|
| (a) Mobile Medical Units in Hyderabad State. | 41 |
| (b) Council of Post-Graduate Medical Education set up in Madras. | 41 |
| (c) Malaria Prevention Liaison Board to be set up in Sind. | 42 |

Education.-

- | | |
|---|-------|
| (a) Government's Five Year Plan for Educational Uplift in Bengal. | 43 |
| (b) 9th All-India Educational Conference, Cawnpore, 29, 30 and 31-12-1944. | 43 |
| (c) Education Problems of India: Meeting of the Central Advisery Board of Education, Karachi, 16, 17 and 18-1-1945. | 44-45 |
| (d) Progress in Basic Education: Basic Education Conference at Sewagram, 11, 12, 13, 14-1-1945. | 45-46 |

Social Policy in War Time.-

Wages:

- | | |
|--|----|
| (a) Dearness Allowance for Assam Teachers. | 47 |
| (b) Higher Dearness Allowance for Bombay Corporation Employees. | 47 |
| (c) Wages of Plantation Workers in Ceylon. | 47 |
| (d) Increased Amenity Allowance for Jute Mill Workers. | 48 |
| (e) Enhanced Dearness Allowance for Teachers in Aided Elementary Schools in Madras Province. | 48 |
| (f) Ahmedabad Mill Workers demand Four Months' Wages as Bonus. | 48 |
| (g) Indore Mill Workers to receive Compensation for Loss of Earnings during Stoppage of Mills. | 49 |
| (h) War Allowance for Government Servants in Punjab. | 49 |
| (i) Three Months' Wages as Bonus demanded by Sholapur Mill Workers. | 49 |
| (j) School Fees to be raised in Bihar to give Dearness Allowance to Teachers. | 50 |

Employment:

- | | |
|---|----|
| (a) Working of National Service Labour Tribunals during 1943-44. | 51 |
| (b) Coal Mines in British India to submit Labour Returns to Government. | 51 |

Welfare:

- (a) Meeting of Coal Mines Labour Welfare Advisory Committee, Dhanbad, 23-1-1945. 52
- (b) Hyderabad Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund: Welfare Measures for Coal Mines in State. 53

Control Measures:

- (a) The Timber Control Order, 1945. 53
- (b) New Scheme for Distribution of Cloth. 54
- (c) The Coal Tar Products Control Order, 1945. 54

Production:

- Hydari Mission to U.K. to relieve Strain of Indian War Production. 55

Food:

- U.P. Scheme to augment Fish Supply. 56

Cost of Living:

- (a) Effect of Inflation and Price Control on Middle Class Families in Bombay City: Inquiry to be made by Bombay University. 57
- (b) Economic and Social Survey of Lahore city by Board of Economic Inquiry, Punjab. 57

Post-War Reconstruction:

- (a) 89 Industrial Fabs being set up by Government of India. 58
- (b) Post-war Plans for Madras: Decisions of General Committee. 59-60
- (c) Indian Industrialists to Visit Australia. 60
- (d) Punjab's Rs. 1,000 Million Post-war Plan. 60
- (e) Rs. 400 Million Road Plan for Punjab. 61
- (f) Rs. 330 Million Five-Year Development Plan proposed for Orissa. 61
- (g) Sind's Rs. 350 Million Road Plan. 62
- (h) Government of India appoint Mineral Adviser for Planning. 62
- (i) Technological Institute in India: Committee to consider establishment appointed. 62
- (j) Five-Year Development Plan for Baroda. 63
- (k) Punjab's Post-war Irrigation Plans. 63
- (l) Government of India's Scheme for Foreign Technical Training: 500 Students to be sent abroad in 1945. 64
- (m) Railway Rates Policy in Post-war Period: Discussion at 1945 Annual Session of Indian Railway Conference Association, New Delhi, 19-1-1945. 65
- (n) Post-war Transport Policy in India: Meetings of Transport Advisory Council and Policy Committee on Transport. 66-67
- (o) Indian Central Cotton Committee: Demand for Import of Textile Machinery. 67
- (p) Fifth Meeting of Consultative Committee of Economists, New Delhi, 3-1-1945. 68
- (q) A Plan of Economic Development for India - Part II. 68-76

- List of more important publications received in this Office during January, 1945. 77

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Government of India:

Bill to amend Indian Companies Act, 1913:
Clearing Position re. Withdrawal of Provident
Fund deposits by Employees.

A Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913, was gazetted by the Government of India on 27-1-1945. The statement of objects and reasons says: "Sub-section (2) of Section 282B of the Indian Companies Act, 1913, provides that where a provident fund has been constituted by a company for its employees, all moneys contributed to such fund shall be either deposited in a Post Office Savings Bank account or invested in Government securities. The sub-section was not designed to preclude the withdrawal by an employee, in accordance with the rules of the fund, of money standing to his credit therein; but certain registrars of joint stock companies have held that the sub-section has the effect of prohibiting such withdrawals. This view is not only contrary to the intention of the law but is destructive of the normal operation of all provident funds maintained by companies". Provision is therefore made in the amending Bill to remove all doubts on the right of an employee to withdraw, according to the rules, money standing to his credit in the fund.

The Bill was introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly by Sir Asquith Hume, Commerce Member, Government of India, on 12-2-1945, but on account of certain opposition members raising objections to the wording, further consideration of the Bill was postponed until the draft was suitably amended.

(The Statesman, 29-1-1945 and
 13-2-1945).+ ✓

Hyderabad State:

The Hyderabad Mines Maternity Benefit
Regulation, 1944.

The Government of Hyderabad State has recently issued the Hyderabad Mines Maternity Benefit Regulation, 1944, under which women workers who have been in continuous service in collieries for six months will be entitled to receive maternity benefit. The measure has also received the assent of the Nizam.

(Hyderabad Information, November, 1944).+ ✓

Assam:

Assam Draft Rules regarding Exemptions
From Hours of Work and Rest Provisions
of the Factories Act, 1934.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 43 of the Factories Act, 1934, the Government of Assam has gazetted on 6-1-1945 the draft certain rules by which it proposes to exempt certain classes of adult workers in certain specified industries from the provisions of the Factories Act, 1934, pertaining to hours of work and rest. The workers exempted, either partially or wholly, include those engaged in urgent repairs, maintenance of machinery and plant, despatching and receiving goods, certain classes of workers engaged in continuous processes in iron and steel factories, water, electricity and gas works, paper mills, sugar factories, distilleries and etc. and certain specified classes of workers in tea factories, rice and ~~pin~~ flour mills and tanneries.

(The Assam Gazette dated 17-1-1945, Part II, pages 24 to 26). *

Bombay:

The Draft Employment of Children (Railways
other than Federal Railways) Rules, 1944.

The Government of Bombay has, on 2-1-1945, gazetted the Draft Employment of Children (Railways other than Federal Railways) Rules, 1944, for regulating employment of children in sections of certain Indian State Railways running through in the province. The two State Railways now included in the schedule annexed to the Rules are the Gaekwar's Baroda State Railway and ~~the~~ of the Bhawanagar State Railway. The Rules provide that an Inspector appointed by the Provincial Government under section 6 of the Employment of Children Act, 1938, may at any time enter any of the sections specified wherein persons are employed in any occupation connected with the transport of passengers, goods or mails, and may require any person to give evidence and may take such evidence on the spot or otherwise. A Medical Officer in charge of any of these sections may grant certificates of age in respect of young persons in employment or seeking employment in such section. No charge shall be made for the issue of any certificate.

The draft will be taken into consideration by the Government of Bombay on or after 11-2-1945.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated 11-1-1945, Part IV-A, pages 7 to 8).**

SOCIAL POLICY.

Separate Labour Department to be set up
in Hyderabad State.

In view of the increasing urgency and importance of labour problems, the Government of Hyderabad State has decided to create a separate Department of Labour under a Commissioner.

Four years ago a special Labour Officer was appointed to ensure the welfare of the ~~working~~ working classes, and recently a Labour Investigation Committee has been set up. In addition, a Statutory Advisory Committee on Labour has been constituted as an integral part of the reformed constitution of the State. There is also a Post-war Planning Committee on Labour to ensure that the interests of this important section of the community receive the attention they deserve in any scheme of post-war development and reconstruction.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 26-1-1945).

CONDITIONS OF WORK.

Hours of Work and Weekly Rest, Etc.

Ahmedabad Mill-workers object to Night Shift Working.

The Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association has given notice to the Millowners' Association under the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act regarding night shift working, which it considers to be harmful for the health and social well-being of the workers.

The Association urges that no mill should work after 1 a.m. (present standard time) barring on exceptional occasions; night shifts must not be closed without giving proper notice and compensation to the workers concerned; workers of day and night shifts shall change over every month; special arrangements shall be made for workers who, due to age or other reasons, cannot work at night; employment of women must not be adversely affected by these changes and workers' representatives shall be given adequate facilities to ensure discharge of their duties as representatives.

(The Hindustan Times, 26-1-1945).

5 |

Women's Work.

Madras Secretariat: Women Clerks to be
Employed.

The Government of Madras has passed orders directing that women may be employed in the Madras Secretariat Service as lower and upper division clerks. A number of women are already serving in the Secretariat as clerks.

(The Hindu, 28-1-1945). ✓

6

Industrial Disputes.

Conciliation of Trade Disputes in Central
Government Undertakings: Mr. S.C. Joshi
Appointed Labour Commissioner.

Mr. S.C. Joshi, President, All India Railwaymen's Federation, has been appointed Labour Commissioner with the Government of India, with effect from 1-2-1945.

The appointment is in pursuance of a scheme for appointing a Labour Commissioner and Deputy Labour Commissioners in different zones with a view to improving and strengthening the machinery for conciliation of industrial disputes arising in undertakings owned or controlled by the central government, including Federal Railways, mines, oilfields and harbours. Mr. D.G. Jadhav, Conciliation Officer for the East Indian, Bengal and Assam Railways, has been appointed to one of the posts of Deputy Labour Commissioners. Two more Deputy Labour Commissioners will be selected by the Federal Public Service Commission. The Commissioners will be charged with the duties of securing the fullest information regarding conditions of service, etc., in "central sphere" undertakings. They will take steps to prevent, or settle by conciliation, incipient industrial trouble. The Labour Commissioner will co-ordinate the work of Deputy Commissioners. Where a dispute cannot be settled by the Deputy Commissioner, it will be referred to the Department of Labour by the Labour Commissioner.

(The Hindu, dated 28-1-1945). ✕

7

General.

Labour Welfare Measures by Associated
Cement Companies, Ltd.

The labour welfare measures adopted by the Associated Cement Companies, Ltd., India, during 1944 were briefly dealt with by Sir Homi Modji (Chairman), in the course of his address at the annual general meeting of the Companies held at Bombay on 12-1-1945.

Sir Homi Modji stated that a beginning had been made during the year with a fairly comprehensive scheme of welfare to be carried through by successive stages, but that, owing to the inadequacy of materials and labour, progress had been slow. The object aimed at was to make provision for housing, education, medical relief and recreational facilities on a much larger scale than had been undertaken in the past. It had also been decided to set aside every year a fairly substantial sum to be utilised for labour welfare. The amount set aside under this head in 1944 was Rs. 55,200. Further increases were granted in the year in wages and bonus allowance and special attention was paid to the maintenance of canteen, soap and cloth shops. In spite of all this, he said, the companies were still faced with the problem of securing adequate and suitable labour on account of the general scarcity of food-grains in industrial areas and the recruitment of labour for military requirements.

(The Times of India, 15-1-1945). ✓

Working of Bombay Industrial Disputes
Act, 1938: LABOUR UNION'S CRITICISM.

The Girni Kamgar Union, Bombay, has raised the following issues in its criticism of the working of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, in the province: (1) Conciliation proceedings under the Act in cases in which they are compulsory are made complicated and dilatory; (2) The workers concerned are not allowed to be represented by their union if it is not a 'representative' union; and at the same time, the qualification for a union to be considered representative is too high to be fulfilled by ordinary unions. Preference has been given in the Act to unions recognised by employers, thus putting independent unions at a disadvantage. The treatment meted out to the different unions is discriminatory. (3) No provision is made for access by the workers involved in a dispute to the relevant records of the employer. (4) The Industrial Court has not been given powers to grant specific relief and issue positive injunctions. (5) The Conciliator is given absolute powers as regards the proceedings to be followed in conciliation cases and the custody of their records. (6) No time limit is fixed in the Act within which the Labour Officer should take up a dispute. He has been vested with absolute powers regarding the manner, method and the time during which it should be disposed of. These defects in the Act, it is pointed out, have given rise to several 'illegal' strikes in

the province and have thus hindered the healthy development
union movement.

The Ghani Kamgar Union has therefore passed a resolution
the BPTUC to convene ~~at Bombay~~ a Bombay Industrial District
of all textile workers in the province, with a view to press
ment to call a Tripartite Conference to amend and improve ti

(The Trade Union Record)

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Radio Apparatus to be manufactured in India.

According to a Bombay message dated 8-1-1945, a company with a capital of Rs. 5 million is being started in India for the manufacture the first time of radio receiving and transmitting sets and accessories. The necessary permission to start the company has already been granted by the Government of India.

(The Hindu, dated 9-1-1945).

Central Jute Committee proposes Creation of a Jute Fund.

A number of suggestions for improving the Indian jute industry have been put forward by the Indian Central Jute Committee. At its winter meeting held in the third week of January 1945 at Calcutta, it decided to approach the Government of India for the creation of a jute fund, allocating to it 10 per cent of the existing export duty on jute and jute ~~and placing the entire proceeds of this fund at the disposal of the committee in order to put it on the same sound footing as the other commodity committees.~~ It also appointed a jute planning sub-committee to take into the planning of production of jute in future years. Its recommendations, after the consideration by the full Committee, will be submitted to the Government of India for consideration in connection with the preparation of an All-India crop plan.

Among other problems relating to the jute industry that engaged the attention of the Committee were the possibilities of manufacturing jute or jute-cotton-union fabrics for wearing apparel, a scheme to study the effect of X-rays and other radiations of different wavelengths and their effects on jute seed and the effect of coal shortage and other factors on the purchase of raw jute by mills during 1943-44. Though the percentage of the total output of raw jute purchased by the mills did not fall during 1943-44, the manner in which the total purchases were redistributed over the year seems to have adversely affected the average price received by the ~~spinner~~ cultivator.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 19-1-1945).

Damodar Valley Project Conference:
Preliminary investigation taken up.

A conference of representatives of the Central, Bengal and Bihar Governments was held at Calcutta on 3-1-1945 to discuss a multi-purpose project, designed to exploit the river Damodar for irrigation, electrification and navigation. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, presided.

Explaining the Central Government's attitude towards the project, Dr. Ambedkar said that Government ~~was~~ considered that it would be possible to model the Damodar Valley Project on the lines of the Tennessee Valley Project of the U.S.A., if the provincial Governments concerned, i.e. (the Governments Bengal and Bihar) offered the fullest co-operation. As a preliminary step for securing the best use of the waterways of the country, he said, Government had already created a Central Technical ~~and~~ Power Board and was contemplating to create another to be called the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission. The object of settling up ~~these two organisations~~ these two organisations was to advise the provinces as to how their water resources could be utilized and how development projects could be made to serve purposes other than irrigation. The Damodar Valley project would be the first to be taken up. Dr. Ambedkar added that the authority in charge of the project would be constituted on the lines of the T.V.A. It would be a co-operative undertaking in which the Centre, and the provinces of Bihar and Bengal would be partners. The Government of India was anxious that no time should be lost in bringing the project into being.

While there was general agreement at the Conference on the question of making the Damodar Scheme a multi-purpose project, representatives of the Bengal Government emphasised the view that the difficult problem of control of floods in the river should be given primary and adequate consideration ~~before~~ before the Project is taken up. The Central Government had outlined certain suggestions on the Project ~~and~~ after some discussion, it was agreed that investigations on the lines suggested by the ~~Central Government should start under Mr. Man Singh, Special Engineer (Irrigation)~~ should start under Mr. Man Singh, Special Engineer (Irrigation) with the Government of Bengal.

(The Hindustan Times, 5-1-1945). ✓

27th Session of Indian Economic Conference, Delhi, 30-12-1944 to 2-1-1945.

The 27th session of the Indian Economic Conference began at Delhi on 30-12-1944. About 90 economists from all parts of India attended the session which extended over four days.

Sir Ardeshir Dalal's Inaugural Address.- Inaugurating the session, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Planning and Development Member, Government of India, pointed out that a great deal of research work had to be done in India into the various aspects of the country's economic life, not only for facilitating the formulation of proposals for planning but also for watching progress and making readjustments from time to time to ensure the success of the plan. Then again, even elementary data relating to some aspects of the country's economy were not readily available; and as far as statistics were concerned, not only were there substantial inaccuracies in the material available but there were also large gaps even in such statistical material as had been so far collected in the country. Further, there would be many problems of policy on which the trained analytical judgment of the professional economist would be of the greatest value to Government in the formulation and execution of their detailed proposals. For all these things, said Sir Ardeshir, he relied on the co-operation and goodwill of economists. The Consultative

11

Committee of Economists was already doing very useful work. He proposed to have in addition to this large committee a small sub-committee of non-official economists who would meet more frequently—perhaps, once a month—and give him their advice. (vide page 63 of our report for September 1944). In the course of his address, Sir Ardeshir also replied to the criticism that the Government of India had not provided a plan for the ordered development of the country in as much as the two reports issued by the Reconstruction Committee did not indicate the overall target in respect of increase in India's national income which it was intended to achieve during a given period. Only the Government of a country with a totalitarian economy like Russia can lay down such an a priori target for a certain period and achieve it, said Sir Ardeshir. It would involve the most rigid regimentation of every aspect of the country's life and may mean years of acute tribulation to a large number of people. Such a policy, said Sir Ardeshir, "is neither feasible nor desirable. What the Government can do, however, is to make a survey of its resources in men, material and money, estimate to what extent it is possible to employ them for as large an improvement in the economic life as is feasible within the limitation set by the political, social and other conditions of India, and thus arrive at a reasonable target to be achieved within a given period of time. That is what the Government is now doing. It is now trying to consider in detail the extent to which it is possible to obtain an increasing output of goods and services for the various heads of production, and to determine the targets separately for the different branches of the country's economic life. On this foundation, it is possible to put forward an overall target in terms of the country's income." Even the religious and communal difficulties obstructing India's progress have, according to Sir Ardeshir, economic aspects and he concluded "if the economic condition of the Muslims and the backward classes can be bettered, a great deal of the present stress and strain through which we are passing will be relieved and we shall be enabled to march together on the road to social and political progress."

Presidential Address.— Presiding over the Conference, Prof. L.K. Jaisankar, ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Aligarh~~ ~~Muslim~~ ~~University~~, stressed the great need for the establishment of independent bureaux of economic research for the study of the economic problems of the country. Discussing the question of the standard of living, Prof. Hyder referred to the recognition by the International Labour Conference at Philadelphia, in May 1944, of the solemn obligation to further among the nations of the world programmes which will achieve full employment and the raising of the standards of living. To raise the standard of living in India economic progress is essential and such progress, according to Prof. Hyder, inevitably involves (i) a decrease in the proportion of the population engaged in agriculture, (ii) an increase in the proportion engaged in industry, commerce, transport and services of all kinds, and (iii) an increase in income. In conclusion he advocated a system of planned economy for India with the State playing a more active role in the economic sphere, planned localisation of industry and an agreement as to the line of advance in the process of industrialization between the people of India and England.

Subjects discussed.— The main problems discussed at the Conference were (i) transition from the war to peace economy; (ii) social security; (iii) India and international cooperation and (iv) plans for the economic development of India. As regards the first, the consensus of opinion was that a positive policy is needed for regulating transition from war to peace and that if a slump were allowed to set in it would completely destroy planning and economic development. With regard to social security, a number of economists welcomed the interest the Government of India had been taking in devising measures of social security for

Industrial workers, and the opinion was expressed that the best way of starting the scheme would be in the sphere of health, because that would increase productivity and raise the national income. It was also urged that attention should be paid to the rural population and agricultural workers, and that the primary requirement in India is to increase output for international cooperation, while general opinion was in favour of it; it was emphasized that such cooperation can only be on the basis of relative equality, that it should not mean subordination or exploitation. Discussion on the plans for India's economic development centred round the need for a guaranteed minimum of income for every one during the planning period, the need to put a similar limit on the maximum income, the population trend and planning and the relation between Indian planned economy and that of other countries.

(The Hindustan Times, 31-12-1944 and 7-1-1945). ✓

Working Class Cost of Living Index
for various centres in India during
June and July, 1944.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during June and July, 1944, as compared with May, 1944.

Name of Centre	Base=100	May, 44.	June 44.	July 44.
Mumbai	Year ending June 1934	235	236	241
Madabad	Year ending July 1927	203	205	211
Calcutta	Year ending January 1928	195	195	199
Coimbatore	August 1939	258	259	265
Madras	1931-35	351	356	357
Chennai	August 1939	315	315	327
Delhi	Average cost of living for five years preceeding 1914.	320	330	337
Ujjain	Ditto	327	336	355
Varanasi	Ditto	366	380	379
Patna	Year ending June 1936	202	204	203
Allahabad	Ditto	207	208	206
Bombay	Ditto	224	229	226

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India for June and July, 1944). ✓

India (Estate Duty) Bill in British
Parliament.

Following a decision of the Federal Court of India to the effect that power to levy estate duty was not implied in the Sections of the Government of India Act, 1935, dealing with powers to impose succession duties, a Bill called the India (Estate Duty) Bill, was introduced in the British Parliament some time back. Lord Listowel, Under-Secretary of State for India and Burma, moving the second reading of the Bill in the House of Lords on 30-1-1945, pointed out that, "the object of the Bill is to enable the Government of India and the Provincial Governments to levy estate duty on property passing at death. The strain of war upon India made it more essential than ever before for the Central Government to be in a position to add death duties to existing methods of taxation. By mopping up purchasing power that might otherwise have been used to buy consumer goods, such a tax will put a break on the rising price level in India, thereby serving as a valuable weapon against the danger of inflation.... But the new tax will not only serve the negative and immediate purpose of checking rising prices. It is expected that estate duties will also provide funds to assist the provinces with their plans for post-war economic development". He added that the Government of India would like to introduce a Bill imposing the new duties not later than March, 1945, as otherwise there would be a year's delay in the collecting of the tax.

Lord Strabolgi, supporting the Bill, pressed that: (i) There should be a lower limit to the scale of taxes levied, so that the smaller estates might not suffer; (ii) Soldiers' and sailors' estates should not be exempted; (iii) Levies on agricultural estates should be such as not to displace the cultivators; and (iv) The proceeds should be used for vital purposes.

(The Hindustan Times, 31-1-1945).. ✓

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Health Insurance for Industrial Workers:
Prof. B.P. Adarkar to be Officer in Charge.

Prof. B.P. Adarkar whose scheme for Health Insurance of Industrial workers in India was referred to at pages 24 to 25 of our report for October, 1944, is, it is learnt, being appointed Officer on Special Duty, Department of Labour, Government of India, to be in charge of measures for social security. It is further learnt that this appointment is part of a general scheme to strengthen the Labour Department leading to the setting up of an organisation intended to cope with the increasingly important labour problems. The full proposals for social security for labour will be worked out by the mixed planning committee which Government will set up in pursuance of the resolution adopted at the Tripartite Labour Conference in 1943, (vide pages 4-10 of our report for August, 1943) and Mr. Adarkar's organisation may make a start and provide the machinery for implementing social security measures when they are formulated.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 8-1-1945).. ✓

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act
in Assam during 1942.

According to the annual statistics for Assam ^{regarding the working of} ~~under~~ the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, during the year 1942, compensation for 'adults' was paid in 28 cases of fatal accidents, 69 of permanent disablement and 1,707 of temporary disablement. The amounts of compensation paid were respectively Rs. 20,135, Rs. 15,402 and Rs. 14,026. The average compensation paid for fatal accidents was Rs. 719 and for cases of permanent disablement, Rs. 223. In respect of 'minors' there was one case of fatal accident for which a compensation of Rs. 200 was paid, and 35 cases of temporary disablement for which a compensation of Rs. 91 was paid. It was observed that a majority of the accidents was sustained by workmen in the low income groups. During the year under review there was no fatal case nor any ~~any~~ case of disablement due to occupational diseases.

(Indian Labour Gazette, January, 1945). ✓

MIGRATION.

Marshal Smuts' Decision to reserve Assent
to Natal Residential Property Regulation
Ordinance.

The Residential Property Regulation Ordinance passed by the Natal Provincial Council (vide pages 27-28 of our report for October 1944) and other Ordinances proposed in Natal, viz., Housing Ordinance and Expropriation Ordinance, have been strenuously opposed by the Indian community in Natal. A deputation of the Natal Indian Congress, in a memorandum submitted to Field Marshal Smuts, the Union Premier, has pointed out that (a) the provision in the Residential Property Regulation Ordinance for the control of acquisition of residential and other property is basically and fundamentally foreign and extraneous to the Pretoria Agreement (vide page 11 of our report for April, 1944) which was concerned only with the occupation of individual dwellings; (b) the provisions of these Ordinances justify the fear of Indians of territorial segregation which they have always opposed; and (c) in the Pretoria Agreement the Union Government had accepted the principle that protection of the Indian community in South Africa shall remain constant and that any solution of the question should rest on negotiations between the Union Government and the Indian community. The Natal Indian Congress, therefore, urged the Premier to recommend to the Governor-General-in-Council to refuse his assent to the Ordinances.

The Government of India also has taken up the position that these Ordinances violate the Pretoria Agreement which the Union Government had entered into with the Indian community in South Africa. On 1-12-1944, the Government of India therefore took retaliatory action by issuing orders under the Reciprocity (Amendment) Act 1943, imposing certain restrictions on the entry into British India, trade and voting rights of citizens of the Union of South Africa, not of Indian origin (vide page 18a of our report for December 1944).

A decision has now been taken on these Ordinances by the Government of the Union of South Africa.

(a) The Union Government have decided to advise that assent to the Residential Property Regulation Ordinance be reserved. The Pegging Act, which was to be repealed on the passing of the ordinance, will remain temporarily unrepealed and in force, ~~while~~ "while other ways of settlement are being explored". The Pretoria Agreement is dropped and is now to be considered of no further effect.

(b) The other two Ordinances dealing with housing and expropriation are, according to the Union Government, essential for proper housing—a purpose in which the houseless or the badly housed Indian community has as deep an interest as any other section of the community. The Union Government, therefore, propose to recommend these for assent. All matters involving special or differential treatment of Indians fall, under the South Africa Act, within the jurisdiction of the Union Government and Indians have this protection of the Union Government against unfair discrimination.

To clear up the atmosphere of misunderstanding and suspicion which

Now prevails the Union Government has suggested that the Indian community might appoint a small standing committee to keep in contact with the Administrator and the Minister of the Interior and, where necessary, the Premier. The Government would welcome some such regular machinery, which would not only deal with points of difficulty or differences as they arise, but also with suggestions for further improvement in the relations between the authorities and the Indian community.

(The Hindu, 30-11-1944 and
The Statesman, 7-12-1944).x ✓

AGRICULTURE.Manufacture of Artificial Fertilisers
in India : Government of India's
Decision.

The Government of India has announced its decision on the report of the United Kingdom Technical Mission appointed to advise on the production of artificial fertilisers in India. (Vide page 20 of our Report for November 1944.)

The United Kingdom Technical Mission were in favour of a single unit at Harduaganj near Aligarh. It was, however, considered that Sindri in Bihar, had greater potential advantages than the site recommended by the mission. Sindri being near the coal deposits, it may be possible to develop subsidiary industries from nitrogenous products. Therefore, the Government of India has decided to establish, initially a factory at Sindri, near Dhanbad in Bihar, for manufacturing 350,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia per annum. It is also investigating the prospects of erecting another unit of 100,000 tons per annum on a site somewhere south of the Vindhya. As regards ownership and management, the Government has decided that the factory at Sindri should be State-owned and State-controlled. While the factory will be managed by the Central Government, the ways and means for associating the States and Provincial Governments in the Scheme are being considered.

It has also been decided to send a mission consisting of Sir James Pitkeathly and Dr. H.K. Sen, Director of Industries, Bihar, to the United Kingdom and the United States of America to negotiate for the purchase of the plant and its erection.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 27-1-1945).

✓ Madras Government's Agricultural Workers'
Training Scheme.

With a view to intensifying the "Grow More Food" campaign and to meet post-war requirements, the Government of Madras has made arrangements for the training of agricultural subordinates at a cost of about Rs. 220,000, half of it being met by the Government of India.

It is proposed to train 520 candidates as fieldmen. The training will be given at each of the six agricultural stations, Anakapalle, Samalkote, Nandyal, Aduthurai, Koilpatti and Pattambi, in batches of twenty candidates for a period of four months. No tuition fee is to be charged for the training, but candidates are to make their own arrangements for boarding and lodging. They will be paid a stipend of Rs. 20 per mensem. If men with S.S.L.C. qualifications are not available, persons who have studied ^{up to} ~~in~~ IV form may also be admitted to the course.

Training is also proposed to be given to 2,740 candidates as Maistries. Twenty candidates will be taken up at one time in each of the 20 stations considered suitable for the purpose and the period will be four months. No fee will be charged for the training, and candidates will be paid a stipend of Rs. 15 per mensem towards boarding and other charges.

Government has already doubled the number of admissions to the Agricultural College, Coimbatore. (The Hindu, 28-1-1945).

✓ Assam Government's Plan for Land Settlement.

The Government of Assam propose to adopt a new scheme of land settlement under which the waste lands in the province will be systematically allotted to landless people who are in need of such land (vide page 20 of our report for December 1944). A resolution on land settlement published in the Assam Gazette dated January 17, 1945 outlines the main features of the scheme.

The object of the scheme is to settle all available areas in the Assam Valley, as early as possible, with landless people so that the expiration of a period of 3 years at the outside, the 4 lower Assam Valley districts at least may be regarded as having been fully settled and fully developed. Waste ~~and~~ land will be allotted to landless people of all classes in the province ~~is~~ praying for lands, applications from those among them who have come from outside the province being entertained if they have come ~~it~~ into the province before 1st January 1938. Lands will be allotted to members of the various communities in blocks which may vary in size according to the availability of lands in the locality. In the allotment of lands preference will be given to landless persons who have lost their lands from erosion or on account of military requisition. The maximum allotment is restricted to 30 bighas per family of five persons and where a family consists of less than five persons the allotment will be proportionately less (1 bigha = roughly $\frac{1}{5}$ acre)

Provision is also made for future expansion by reserving from settlement under ~~thexp~~ this plan approximately 30 per cent of the cultivable waste land as it stood in the year 1940, in each district.

The scheme also makes special provision for the protection of tribal groups. A tribal belt is to be created in the submontane tracts where they predominate and an ~~an~~ special Special Officer is being appointed to calculate the areas already occupied by 'tribals' in this region.

(The Assam Gazette, dated 17-1-1945, Part II, pages 43-44; and Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 25-1-1945). +

The Bengal Alienation of Agricultural Land (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1944.

Reference was made at page 13 of our report for April, 1944, to the Bengal Alienation of Agricultural Land Bill, 1944, introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly. The Bill as passed by the Legislature has been assented to by the Governor and is gazetted as the Bengal Alienation of Agricultural Land (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1944. (Act V of 1944) at pages 1 to 6 of part III of the Calcutta Gazette, dated 4-1-1945. +

NAVIGATION.

Increase in war Risk Money for Indian Seamen.

It is learnt that shipping companies in India have agreed to grant Indian seamen a further increase in war risk money in respect of service rendered after December 31, 1943. The increase will be, ~~subject~~ equivalent to 200 per cent of the wages ruling on August 31, 1939, subject to a maximum of Rs. 66 per mensem. Half of the increase will be paid in the form of war risk money and the balance will be allocated to the post war benefit of seamen.

(The Times of India, 13-1-1945).

Commenting on the present increase in war risk money, the Vanguard 1-1-1945 points out:

In 1939, at the time of the outbreak of war in Europe, Indian seamen, compared to British and Chinese seamen, were paid low wages. During the few years of war, however, their position in this regard has considerably improved, owing partly to war-time increases in their basic wages which aggregate 100 per cent of the pre-war basic wages and partly to the addition to them of war risk money equal to pre-war basic wages, in addition.

Thus, an Indian seaman, who on August 31, 1939, only received Rs. 25 p.m. as basic wages and Rs. 25 p.m. as war risk money. Similarly, a serang who was paid Rs. 60 p.m. on August 31, 1939 has been receiving Rs. 180 per month, i.e. Rs. 180 p.m. as basic wages and Rs. 60 p.m. as war risk money.

Despite the above mentioned increases, however, Indian seamen have remained at a disadvantage vis-a-vis British and Chinese seamen. Shipping companies in India have therefore, in consultation with their London principals, agreed to the present further increase, in the shape of war risk money equal to twice the pre-war wages.

An Indian seaman, whose pre-war wages were Rs. 25 p.m. and who has been receiving till recently Rs. 75 p.m. in all, will now receive Rs. 125 p.m. from 1-1-1944, of which Rs. 25 will be held in deposit to his credit. Similarly, a serang, who drew Rs. 60 p.m., as basic wages in the pre-war period will with effect from 1-1-1944, receive Rs. 246 p.m. of which Rs. 33 will be held to his credit in deposit.

Conditions of Work of Indian Seamen:
Government of India's Plans for betterment.

According to the New Delhi correspondent of the Leader, Allahabad, proposals for the fixing of hours of work of Indian Seamen and for the setting up of a national maritime board or a tripartite seamen's labour conference are under the active consideration of the Government of India at present. India comes third in the world in the number of seamen employed on sea.

Also, ~~to~~ experts, including Prof. B.P. Akarkar, are being appointed to examine all international conventions governing Indian seamen with a view to have them enforced by India. The question of building up the Indian Mercantile Marine is actively under examination, as by this alone, it is felt, the status and conditions of work of Indian seamen could be effectively safeguarded. The question of securing adequate quota of ships for India is also being considered.

(The Leader, 31-1-1945).

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES
AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Bengal Provincial Shop Assistant's Conference,
Calcutta, 11-1-1945. ✓

The fourth session of the Bengal Provincial Shop Assistant's Conference was held at Calcutta on Thursday 11-1-1945. Mr. Tushar Kanti Ghosh, Editor, Amrita Bazar Patrika, Calcutta, presided.

Mr. Ghosh advocated the extension of the operation of the Bengal Shops and Establishments Act (vide page 2 of our Report for October 1940), which at present applies only to Calcutta and Howrah, to the whole of Bengal province and urged a stricter enforcement of the provisions of the Act. He pleaded for measures which would secure for the shop assistants at least a specified minimum salary, regular increments, reasonable security of service, benefit of provident fund and compensation for injuries. Again, in view of the wide prevalence of tuberculosis among shop employees, he ~~recommended~~ suggested that the Co-operation of Calcutta should take steps to ensure that shop rooms are constructed according to modern health standards.

Resolutions. - The Conference adopted a number of resolutions designed to improve the conditions under which shop assistants work. One of these drew the attention of the Government to the need for regular inspection, fixation of a uniform date for closing shops in a week and imposition of heavy penalties on the law breakers. Another requested the Government of Bengal to amend the Shops and Establishments Act to secure for the shop assistants the following additional privileges: (a) Stability of service; (b) Benefit of provident fund; (c) Guarantee for compensation for injuries, etc.; (d) Grant of full pay during casual leave; and (e) Grant of holidays ~~and~~ on the important festivals. A third resolution requested the shopowners to increase the salary of the shop assistants by 50 per cent in view of the abnormal rise in the cost of living. Finally, the Conference requested the Government of Bengal to extend the application of the Bengal Shops and Establishments Act to all the districts of the Province.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 13-1-1945). ✓

Hours of Work of College Teachers: Maximum
of 16 Teaching Hours Fixed by Nagpur University.

Under the new regulations of the Nagpur University, no college teacher shall be allowed to teach more than sixteen periods in a week of six days. To comply with the regulations, the Education Department will shortly proceed to appoint 56 college teachers or one for every two already in the cadre for the four Government colleges in the province. The new rules to be enforced from the next academic session in July 1945.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 19-1-1945). ✓

Demand for Increased Salary Scales and
36 Hour Week: 2nd U.P. Press Conference,
Allahabad, 21-1-1945. ✓

A number of resolutions for improving the conditions of service of journalists in the United Provinces was passed at the U.P. Press Conference held at Allahabad in the third week of January, 1945. The Conference was attended by about 150 journalists, proprietors and editors of English, Urdu and Hindi language newspapers and periodicals from all over the province.

Service Conditions.- The Conference having considered the recommendations of the standing committee of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference at its recent session held at Lahore (vide pages 31-32 of our October 1944 report) expressed the view that the said recommendations were inadequate, unsatisfactory and disappointing. It made the following recommendations about service conditions:

(1) The basic minimum salary of a working journalist, reporter or sub-editor, after a period of apprenticeship of six months, during which period he shall be paid an allowance at Rs. 75 per month, should be Rs. 150 per month in the province on all newspapers and news agencies and there should be an automatic increment in his salary of Rs. 25 a year. The salary of subeditors and reporters who have put in five years' service should be immediately raised to Rs. 200.

Provided that where the Standing Committee of the conference, after enquiry, finds that the resolution will work hardship on a particular person, these provisions may be modified for a period.

(2) There shall be no discrimination in the matter of salaries between the English and the Indian language papers.

(3) Provident fund should be instituted on the basis of 6 1/4 per cent contribution from working journalists and an equal amount from the employers.

(4) Employees should be given annual bonuses on the basis of the profits earned.

(5) One month's privilege leave, 14 days' casual and 15 ~~six~~ days' medical leave on full pay should be allowed every year. Privilege leave and medical leave should be allowed to accumulate for three years.

(6) Hours of work shall not be more than 36 a week when on night duty and 42 hours a day duty.

(7) When a journalist's services are terminated he should be given three months' ~~his~~ salary if he is a junior and six months' salary if he is a senior (10 years) service.

Unemployment Insurance Fund.- The Conference also adopted a resolution proposing an unemployment insurance fund for journalists. The resolution suggested a central association with branches at Allahabad, Lucknow, Benares, Cawnpore and other places and levy of an unemployment subscription of one rupee per month from every member; it also appointed a committee to go into the matter.

Mr. Mahipat Ram Nagar, News Editor, Leader, Allahabad, was elected secretary of the Working Committee of the Conference for 1945.

(The Leader, 23-1-1945). ✓

U.P. Conference demands Higher Pay
for Sanitary Inspectors.

The 8th annual Conference of the U.P. Sanitary Inspectors' Association met at Allahabad on 29-12-1944; R.S.B.P. Mital, Assistant Director of Public Health, presided. The Conference regretted the decision of the U.P. Government postponing the increase in the number of inspectors till the end of the war and requested Government to reconsider the question as the inspectors, whose strength was based on the pre-1941 census of population, were very much over-worked and unable to do full justice to their work, resulting in complaints regarding the insanitary conditions prevailing in the towns. Other resolutions adopted by the Conference demand the sanction of dearness allowance at the rate allowed to Government servants and an increase and an early revision of the scales of pay of sanitary inspectors. The grades demanded are: sanitary inspectors — Rs. 70-5-100 EF-7¹/₂-130-10-150; chief sanitary inspectors — Rs. 150-10-50.

(The Leader, dated 1-1-1945).

CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Bombay to develop Export Trade in Cottage Industries Products.

To organise and develop export of the products of cottage industries in the Province, the Bombay Government has created a temporary post of special officer, cottage industries products, in the handloom section of the Industries Department. The main duties of the special officer will be to build up and deal with the export trade in handloom fabrics and art crafts; to have suitable fabrics to meet overseas orders woven through the agency of the industrial weavers' co-operative associations under the Department of Industries and arrange to have them processed in Bombay and shipped abroad; to deal with all correspondence with the industrial weavers' co-operative associations and overseas customers; to scrutinise the periodical sales reports of the district sales depots with a view to taking proper steps for the efficient control of the depots and their development on sound commercial lines; and to reorganise the Bombay sales depot.

(The Leader, dated 5-1-1945).+

Co-operative Societies for Distribution of Yarn in Assam and Bengal.

A Provincial Society called the Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society has been registered at Shillong in Assam under the auspices of the Co-operative Department. It is intended to be a federation of the sub-divisional cloth and yarn dealers' co-operative wholesale societies either already formed or being formed in the different subdivisions of the province. The objects of the society will 'inter alia' be to procure and import cloth and yarn in bulk from the sources of production and to distribute the same among the various dealers' societies according to the requirements of each, subject to the quota allotted to each by the Commissioner, to secure a steady flow of cloth and yarn and their equitable distribution through the dealers' societies, to promote the development of a handloom industry in Assam with special reference to the supply of adequate quantities of yarn at reasonable prices and the provision of facilities for the marketing of handloom products, to impart textile training to a few youngmen of the province by awarding scholarships tenable at weaving establishments, particularly mills and powerloom factories and to explore possibilities of starting spinning and weaving mills in Assam.

A scheme to organise all handloom weavers into co-operative societies for ensuring a proper distribution of yarn has been drawn up by Mr. A. Zaman, I.C.S., Subdivisional Officer of Naraingunj, Bengal. The scheme proposes that henceforth distribution of yarn shall only be done through registered co-operative societies of weavers and in no other manner. The whole subdivision will be covered by a network of such primary societies, whose number will be not less than 200; no weaver will be left out except those who deliberately refuse to come in. It is further proposed to group these primary societies under 3 industrial unions, of which one is already functioning, which will act as central societies. All the supplies of yarns, to be received henceforth solely on Government account, will be made over to the 3 industrial unions, which in their turn, will fix the quota of each primary society according to the number of members in each. (Amrita Bazar Patrika, 13-1-1945).

Unemployment among Hand-loom Weavers in Bengal due to Yarn Shortage. +

Mr. Humayun Kabir, General Secretary of the Krishak Proja Samity, in a statement to the Press, issued about the middle of January, 1945, dealing with the wide-spread unemployment among hand-loom weavers in Bengal ~~are~~ due to shortage of yarn says: "The scarcity of cloth is creating serious problem in Bengal's social and economic life but, alongside, there is another problem which has not attracted the notice it deserves. This is the problem of starvation and death which face over 4 millions of Muslim and Hindu weavers of Bengal. Most of them have little land of their own and are not suited for heavy physical labour. Nor do they have ~~the~~ capital for starting any small scale industry or business. Formerly, they used to secure yarn on a weekly credit and sell the ~~woven~~ woven cloth at the weekly market and thus earned a bare pittance, while at the same time meeting the rural demands for cloth. The Government yarn control orders have hit them hard for they are not assured even their immediate requirements at controlled price. In fact, almost the only effect of the control orders has been to drive whatever yarn was available to the black market. Either Government should assure them the minimum requirements or this useless restrictions and control orders should be abolished. We draw the immediate attention of the Textile Commissioner with the Government of India and the Textile Controller with the Government of Bengal to this crisis. Unless immediate steps to relieve the situation are taken it will do irreparable damage to the economic life of Bengal in two ways. On the one hand, an essential class of industrialists and honest artisans may be wiped out, and on the other, the problem of cloth shortage in rural areas is bound to become still more acute."

With a view to ensure an ~~an~~ equitable distribution of yarn, the Government of Bengal has decided to freeze the existing stocks of yarn in the province and to make arrangements for its distribution to the weavers on a quota basis.

A meeting of the Dacca District Weavers' Conference, to discuss the problems arising out of the shortage of yarn, was held at Dacca on 13-1-1945. The Meeting adopted a resolution expressing the view that, while the Conference welcomed the decision of the Government to freeze all yarns of 20 counts and above and equitably distribute them to all weavers, it was necessary to emphasise that the crisis in the production, supply and distribution of cloth and yarn had gone too deep to be solved in this piecemeal manner. The Conference, therefore, suggested the following measures: (i) A joint board of production of yarn with representatives from textile millowners, textile workers, weavers' organisations and merchants' organisations be immediately set up; (ii) All ~~yarn~~ yarn produced in mills be frozen not excluding yarn under 20 counts; ~~and~~ (iii) Yarn Control Advisory Boards be organised with representatives of Chambers of Commerce, weavers' associations and co-operative societies and Relief and Rehabilitation Committees—the Textile Commissioner, Government of Bengal, being an ex-officio member of the Board.

The Conference also urged that (iv) The present system of distribution of yarn be replaced by distribution through weavers' associations and cooperative societies; and (v) Statistics be collected of those weavers who are unable to buy yarn and arrangements be made for free distribution of yarn to them for some time to come.

Rs. 100 Million Grant to A.I.S.A. Recommended.

It is understood that at a meeting of the panel of the Textile Control Board, held at Bombay recently, it was decided to recommend to the Government of India to give Rs. 100 million as grant to the All-India Spinners' Association for the encouragement of the production of more Khadi (hand-made cloth) to make up for the present acute shortage of mill cloth.

(The Hindu, dated 29-1-1945).. ✓

Distribution ^{of Yarn} ~~and stocks~~ in Bombay: Government assumes Complete Control.

The Government of Bombay has assumed complete control over the distribution of yarn in the Bombay province. In pursuance of this, the provincial textile controller has served an order seizing stocks of yarn from about 80 wholesale yarn merchants in Bombay city. These stocks will be distributed by the provincial textile controller directly to the weaving and powerloom associations in the districts.

(The Leader, 31-1-1945).. ✓

The C.P. and Berar Co-operative Societies Amendment Bill, 1945.

A Bill ~~the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar Government has published~~ to amend the Co-operative Societies Act of 1912, in its application to Central Provinces and Berar, to validate orders for the realization of debts passed by liquidators appointed under that Act, has been gazetted by the Central Provinces Government, for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon before 5-2-1945.

According to the statement of objects and reasons, the object of the Bill is: firstly, to ~~xx~~ validate contributory orders passed by liquidators of certain co-operative societies; and secondly, to accelerate the rehabilitation of co-operative societies which are showing promise of emerging from their moribund condition. Clauses 2 and 3 of the Bill are designed to validate the contributory orders already passed by liquidators for the recovery of debts due from their members to cooperative societies and to make provision for empowering liquidators to pass such orders in future. Clause 5 of the Bill aims at helping the Co-operative Central Banks in the province to take advantage of the rise in agricultural prices caused by war-time conditions and enabling them to pay off their creditors and terminate any arrangements they might have entered into with their creditors in the past. ~~This will have the~~ This will ~~have the~~ leave the Cooperative Banks free to function normally without being hampered by any past arrangements with their creditors.

(The Central Provinces and Berar Gazette, dated 5-1-1945, Part II, pages 1-3).. ✓

Living Conditions

26

Nutrition.

Scheme for supply of Nutritive Food to Members of Bombay Police Force.

A common canteen has been opened by the Government of Bombay at the ~~ana~~ District police lines for supplying balanced, nutritive food to ~~ertain members of the district police force.~~ This is a sequel to investigations following complaints of ill-health from members of the force. ~~ocial attention has been given in the scheme to provide all the essential~~ ~~tritious elements in the diet.~~ *needed in a balanced diet.*

The scheme, which at present is only in an experimental stage and ~~efined to 50 men~~, is believed to be the fore-runner of many such ~~chemes~~ ~~chemes~~ shortly to be undertaken by Government. Following the success ~~this~~ ~~scheme~~, it is understood, Government proposes to open a bigger ~~nteen~~ ~~nteen~~ for the benefit of the employees of the Government Secretariat ~~Bombay~~, to be later followed by ~~maintaining~~ ~~canteens~~ canteens for employees of ~~acational~~ ~~acational~~ institutions and industrial concerns.

(The Times of India, 29-1-1945).

Housing.

Punjab's Schemes for Post-War Housing and
Town-Planning. ✓

Housing Plan.- A 20-year housing plan to accommodate the increasing urban population in the Punjab has been formulated by Mr. U.A. Coates, Provincial Town Planner to the Punjab Government. He estimates that the urban population of the Punjab is likely to increase by about 4 million and that the province is likely to require some 800,000 houses during the twenty years following the war. For the prevention of overcrowding and for slum clearance, Mr. Coates suggests (a) legislation requiring slum owners to recondition their property where possible according to prescribed standards; and, where not possible, to demolish at their own expense and without compensation; and (b) subsidizing the housing of the very poor. Mr. Coates estimates that the province will have to spend about Rs. 2,000 million on housing.

Plan for Better Villages and Towns.- Mr. Coates has also evolved a plan for new villages and market towns in the post-war period. The plan aims at separation of human beings from cattle-sheds in villages, and residential quarters from factory areas in towns.

Village Lay-out.- Mr. Coates' ideal village lay-out provides for 232 houses accommodating about 1,200 persons and presumes that about 20 acres of land would be allotted for each family. Each village house stands on an area of about 1/6th acre and is planned to answer all family necessities. There are two living rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, a store, and a separate compound for cattle, fodder and water troughs. The plan provides for courtyards indicating where flowers could be grown. The village lay-out is hexagonal with an open grassy lawn in the centre from which radiate eight roads linking the blocks of houses with the market. Overlooking the central lawn are the village meeting hall, the co-operative bank, the post-office, the village library, the village serai and shops. The plan provides all amenities which villages can expect after the war.

Plan for New Market Towns.- Mr. Coates' plan for new market towns is based on the principle that administrative, business and residential centres should be separate. It segregates "the noise and smoke of factories" from residential habitations. The plan houses industrial labour near their place of work and close to a green belt, but separated from industrial areas by wedges of open spaces. A market town is designed to house 12,000 persons and the scheme anticipates such towns growing up round the junction of two trade routes with a railway serving the area.

(The Vanguard, 7-1-1945 and
The Statesman, 25-1-1945). ✓

28

Better Housing in Calcutta: Bengal
Officials to study Conditions in
Bombay.

A Conference of representatives of the Bengal Government, the Calcutta Corporation and the Calcutta Improvement Trust to consider the question of improving the slum areas of Calcutta was held at Calcutta on 3-1-1945, under the presidency of Mr. R.G. Casey, Governor of Bengal (vide page 25 of our Report for December 1944). The conference accepted the Governor's suggestion to appoint a sub-committee to report on the short-term aspect of effecting immediate improvement in the slum areas, on 15 January 1945. As regards long-term improvement, the conference asked the Calcutta Corporation and the Calcutta Improvement Trust to submit within one month expert proposals.

In pursuance of this drive to improve the working class areas in Calcutta, the Governor has also arranged to send certain officials of the Provincial Government and a representative of the Calcutta Corporation to Bombay to study conditions there. These officers will particularly investigate to what extent and by what method the areas in which working class areas in Bombay have been improved and replaced by re-housing schemes and also the conservancy system there with a view to seeing how the procedure followed in Bombay could be adopted in Calcutta with advantage.

(The Statesman, dated 4-1-1945 and
the Amrita Bazar Patrika, 22-1-1945).

'Urban Area Development Board'
for Cawnpore.

The report of the Committee appointed by the United Provinces Government to inquire into the civic problems of Cawnpore (vide page 28 of our Report for November 1944) was submitted to the Government of the Province in December 1944. Among the witnesses heard by the Committee were representatives of the Indian Federation of Labour and the United Provinces Provincial Trade Union Congress.

Urban Area Development Board.- The Committee have recommended the creation of a separate body, which might be called the Cawnpore Urban Area Development Board, and the transfer to it of certain of the functions of the Municipal Board, combined at the same time with the complete merger in this new body of the existing Improvement Trust. This Development Board will consist of 13 members and be appointed for five years in the first instance. It will be fully representative of all main classes of the city, including at least one member to represent labour and one of employers. The particular objects of the Board will be: (a) to look into the modern problems of water supply, sanitation, sewerage, drainage and waste disposal; (b) to deal with the problem of slums and slum clearance; (c) to lay down lines of future development; and (d) in general to effect such improvements as to enable any future corporation to start with a clean slate. The Committee have also indicated the sources from which the Board can be financed.

The Government has accepted the report and Sir Edward Souter, Chairman

f the Committee, and Mr. N.B. Bonarjee, Secretary of the Committee, are working out details and preparing the necessary Bills for giving effect to the Committee's recommendations.

(The Statesman, 7-1-1945: The United Provinces Gazette dated 6-1-1945, Part VIII pages 1-6).

Post-war Reconstruction Committee proposed for Bombay City.

The Government of Bombay propose to appoint shortly a Post-war reconstruction Committee with a view to co-ordinating the activities of the various authorities in Bombay City and Greater Bombay in connection with post-war development and preventing wasteful overlapping. The kind of subjects the Committee would deal with would be: housing, town planning, improvement of the City's transport, traffic problems and development of the suburbs. The Government feels that the Committee should be small and should appoint separate panels to advise it on the ~~diff~~ different subjects to be considered. According to the present proposals, the Committee will include the Mayor and two representatives of the Bombay Corporation and representatives of Bombay's commercial interests.

(The Times of India, 3-1-1945).

Workers' Organisations.

Progress of Trade Unions in Bihar during year ending 31-3-1945.

Number of Unions.- According to the annual report of the Government of Bihar on the Registration of trade unions in the province during the year ending 31-3-1945, there were 39 "registered" trade unions at the beginning of the year; of these one was a union whose objects were not confined to the province. During the year, 3 trade unions were registered and no certificate of registration of a trade union was cancelled. No federation was registered during the year. Of the 42 unions, only 11 submitted annual returns in due time and in proper form. Nine unions were prosecuted under section 31 of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, for failure to submit annual returns.

Membership.- The total membership of the unions remained more or less steady, ~~having~~ having increased from 18,714 at the beginning of the year to only 18,738 at the close. Of the total at the end of the year, 485 were women. The general tendency in the unions in railways (including railway workshops and other transport excluding tramways), printing presses and the engineering industry was a decline in membership. ~~The decrease in railways the membership of railway unions was from 901 to 811, of printing press unions from 300 to 188 and engineering unions from 101 to 95. Miscellaneous unions however showed an increase in membership from 17,412 to 17,644; all the 485 women members belonged to this group.~~

Funds.- The total opening balance of the unions was Rs. 4,971; the income was Rs. 3,732 and the closing balance Rs. 4,924. No political fund was maintained by any union.

(Indian Labour Gazette, January, 1945).*

X 21st Session of A.I.T.U.C., Madras, 19 to 22-1-1945.

The 21st ~~annual~~ Session of the All India Trade Union Congress was held at Madras from 19 to 22-1-1945. In the absence in England of Mr. S.A. Dange, the President, Mr. Fazal Elashi Qurban, President, Punjab Provincial Trade Union Congress, presided over the Session. Over 950 delegates, representing about 320 affiliated unions all over India, were present, besides a large number of workers and prominent labour leaders from Madras City.

General Secretary's Report.- A summary of the General Secretary's report presented at the Session is included in this report under a separate heading.

Presidential Address.- A survey of the development of the Trade Union Congress during the previous year and of the economic condition of labour, particularly with reference to the increased cost of living, a demand for the release of political leaders and the establishment of a national government at the Centre and a clear definition of labour's

attitude towards social reconstruction planning were the main features of a presidential address of Mr. Fazal Elahi Qurban at the Session. He declared that, with its large membership, of the Congress could now really aim to represent the entire working class in India. He then referred to the low wages of Indian workers and said that they were pressed hard by the growing burden of inflation and the enormous rise in the cost of living. Giving instances of the existing scale of wages, Qurban pointed out that the average wage of textile workers was Rs. 25 per month, engineering workers Rs. 22, mineral and metal workers Rs. 34, chemical and dyes workers Rs. 20, paper and printing workers Rs. 27 to 28, and railway workers less than Rs. 25. The wages in plantations were Rs. 9 per month for men, Rs. 6 for women and Rs. 5 for children. The plea put forth by Government for not increasing the basic scale of wages was that of inflation. The older excuse that the industries are not making profits could no longer hold good. Recent calculations, Qurban said, had shown that the profits index for jute industry stood at 900, as compared with 100 in 1939; for cotton textiles it was 600; for engineering 235; and for all industries in general 327. The dearness allowance, wherever it was granted, he said, was too small to cover the rise in the cost of living, so that the standard of living of workers had steadily deteriorated.

According to him, every rupee now earned by the worker, was worth only five to eight annas, which means a cut of 66 to 50 per cent in the real wage. Only in a few cases was compensation given, which, though not fully, could at least meet this rise in prices partially. But for the vast masses of workers in the jute industry and railways, dearness allowance was far from adequate. Mr. Qurban considered it the duty of both the Government and the employers to see that the working classes are not penalized by the rising cost of living. Turning to the question of coal crisis and its consequent effect on workers, Mr. Qurban remarked that one of the reasons for the crisis was that vested interests in the mining industry were afraid of raising coal production for fear of a fall in the price of coal. He protested against the employment of women in coal mines and thought that a better example of the bankruptcy of the present Government could not be cited.

Outlining the attitude of labour towards problems of social planning, Qurban said that though every worker realized that real planning would take place only when Socialism was achieved, he thought that social production and distribution could be planned to a certain extent even before Socialism came into existence. The object of such a planning might have the limited aim of raising the standard of living of the vast mass of the people. The pre-requisites for such planning in India were the establishment of a government embodying the democratic will of the people, the nationalization of key industries and the exercise of rigid control over other industries, introduction of large-scale farming by the removal of private ownership of land and the re-organization of distribution. Qurban ridiculed the idea of planning by the present government of India, and said that a Government which could not implement even the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour for fear of offending employers could not be trusted to tackle problems of India's production and improvement of the worker's standard of life.

Resolutions.— The following are some of the more important resolutions adopted by the Congress.

The Political Deadlock.— One of the main resolutions adopted by the Congress is a comprehensive one, moved by Mr. V.V. Giri, protesting against the failure of the British Government to accede to the unanimous demand of Indians of all shades of opinion for immediate transfer of power to the Indian people. The Congress stressed the view that the Government's policy of holding on to power autocratically, despite the

clared wishes of the people of India, runs counter to the anti-Fascist democratic professions of the British Government. The present Government's isolation from the people has led to rapid economic deterioration all over the country, intensifying poverty and starvation. The solution, therefore, demands the immediate establishment of a National Government at the Centre, responsible to the people of the country. By another resolution, the Congress protests against the continued detention of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Jidit Jawaharlal Nehru, and other members of the Congress Working Committee and of thousands of congress members and trade unionists and demands their immediate unconditional release. It also protests against the suppression of civil liberties in the country, and demands that the existing restrictions on civil liberties should be removed and full freedom of speech, association and press be restored.

Post-war Planning.- A comprehensive resolution on planning has been adopted by the Congress. The resolution declares that complete planning of social and economic life can be achieved only under socialism after the abolition of private production, the final aim of all planning being the abolition of poverty and exploitation of man by man. The resolution further expresses the view that there is scope for a planned development of India's resources and industries even during the transitional stage, and that as the first pre-requisites for raising the standard of living of the people, it is necessary to (1) nationalise key industries and bring the remaining industries under strict State control, (2) nationalise mines and quarries, (3) abolish the antiquated land system and nationalise land, (4) control profits and change the present unjust method of distribution by ensuring for the mass of people fundamental economic rights.

Wages and Dearness Allowance.- The Congress condemns the failure of the Government to grant adequate dearness allowance to industrial workers whose standard of life has been rapidly deteriorating, and demands full compensation for the rising cost of living. It also protests against the refusal of employers and the Government to increase the basic wages under the plea of fighting inflation, even though the basic rates of wage of the overwhelming majority of the industrial workers are below subsistence level, and demands that the question of wage increase and the fixation of a living wage should no longer be postponed and that the Government should take immediate action in this matter.

Adequate and Uniform Ration demanded.- The AITUC notes with approval that the working of the Government's rationing schemes in the industrial centres of the country is unsatisfactory in certain aspects. The quantity of rations varies substantially from place to place and is inadequate in some industrial centres. The quality of rations is often unsatisfactory. It, therefore, demands that the Central and Provincial Governments should take the necessary measures to prescribe uniform ration for all industrial workers in the various parts of the country. The quantity and quality of the ration should be adequate to maintain the health and efficiency of the workers.

Involuntary Unemployment.- The AITUC views with great concern the involuntary unemployment of thousands of industrial workers in various parts of the country such as Bengal, Bombay, U.P. and C.P., on account of stoppages of factories for lack of coal, raw materials or for other reasons, and deplors the fact that, despite repeated representations to both the Central and Provincial Governments, adequate compensation to the workers affected is not yet being given. The proposals embodying principles for the grant of compensation which the Central Government has recently recommended to the Provincial Government are inadequate, and effective steps are not being taken to secure prompt payment of even the compensation proposed. It is therefore,

ged that effective steps should be taken so that the workers will cure prompt and adequate compensation for involuntary unemployment.

Administration of National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance.—The Congress reiterates its emphatic protest against the working of the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance in general, and amendments Sec. 13 of the Ordinance, in particular. In its view the Ordinance is heavily weighted against employees who are left defenceless against wrongful dismissals. The Labour Tribunals set up under the Ordinance have failed to take action against the offending owners, while in some cases, in Bengal, they have even passed orders, virtually banning the offer of higher wages than at present given to technical workers in unnotified factories. This curtailment of liberties and deprivation of safeguards have led to many cases of workers leaving their jobs. The AITUC notes with disapproval that in such cases the workers concerned were often arrested, prosecuted for violation of the Ordinance, fined and even jailed. The AITUC, therefore, demands (1) immediate withdrawal of the amendments to Sec. 13 of the Ordinance; (2) framing of proper rules for security of service and service conditions; (3) statutory investment of the tribunals with powers of reinstatement apart from those for mere enquiry and recommendation; (4) inclusion of workers' representatives on the tribunals.

Delay in Adjudication and Conciliation.— The AITUC draws the attention of the Government to the inordinate delays caused in adjudication of industrial disputes under the Defence of India Rules. The Government takes an unduly long time in appointing adjudicators; the adjudicator is usually appointed only when a strike becomes imminent and not in the earlier stages of the dispute; the terms of reference are often arbitrarily framed without consultation with the workers; delays are further experienced also in the inquiry, in the giving of the award and in the passing of the final orders. It is therefore demanded that Government should appoint an adjudicator as soon as a dispute is referred to it; that it should put a time limit on the completion of the enquiry and the making thereof by the adjudicator and that Government orders on these awards should be immediately passed. It is further urged that Conciliation Acts be passed in all the Provinces where they do not exist, enabling amicable settlement of industrial disputes, and that, where the Acts are already in operation, greater expedition be shown in the proceedings.

Legislation on Weekly Holidays.— The AITUC demands that the Governments of those Provinces which do not have Acts regulating the conditions of work in shops and commercial establishments immediately make the Weekly Holidays Act, 1942, applicable to all shop and commercial employees in their respective Provinces.

Contract System.— The AITUC deplors the existence in almost all industries in the country of the contract system, under which thousands of workers are placed directly at the mercy of contractors who do not even pay them the full wages which are due to them under the terms of a contract of employment. The AITUC notes with regret that this system of recruiting and exploiting labour is employed even by Government and semi-Government concerns such as railways, docks and the port authorities. It therefore, demands of the Central Government that legislation for the complete abolition of the contract system be passed as soon as possible.

Women Workers.— The Congress deplors that adequate attention has not been paid so far, either by the employers or by the Central and Provincial Governments, to the pitiable condition of nearly 500,000 women workers especially in coal mines, jute mills, cotton mills and sugar mills throughout the country. It therefore, demands that: (1) Equal wages should be paid for equal work; (2) Women workers should not be required to work underground in coal mines, and men workers should be recruited for such work by offering attractive wages and facilities;

3) Maternity benefit should be paid to all women employees, earning below Rs. 200 per month and the minimum rate should not be less than Rs. 1-8-0 per day; (4) Proper arrangements for creches should be made, wherever 20 ~~or~~ or more women workers work; (5) Free sanitary quarters should be provided to all women workers as they have invariably to look after household duties such as cooking, cleaning of clothes, ~~regarding~~ caring up of children, etc.; (6) Separate tiffin rooms, rest rooms, bath rooms, latrines and urinals, should be provided wherever there are women workers; and (7) An adequate number of women factory inspectors and Women Labour Officers should be appointed in all Provinces.

Other Resolutions.- Resolutions have also been passed urging ~~the~~ the ~~Government~~ Government: (1) Payment of higher scale of wages and increased dearness allowances for railwaymen and textile workers; (2) Better regulation of conditions of work and welfare measures of jute mill workers, workers in coal mines, the Kolar Gold Fields and the Khewra salt mines, ~~and~~ and ~~tea~~ tea mines, and tea plantations; (3) Introduction of legislation regarding hours of work, weekly holidays with pay and better service conditions for motor drivers in private employ; (4) Protection of paper-mill and printing-press workers who have been adversely affected by the defective administration of the Paper Control (Economy) Order; (5) Provision of higher pay and provident fund, and grant of privileges like leave with full pay, weekly rest, holidays, and adequate compensation for diseases contracted in the course of their work to conservancy and other employees of local boards and municipalities; (6) Legislative protection for clerical and administrative employees and also employees in shops and establishments and the inclusion of this class of workers in all measures of social security that may be undertaken, especially in the proposed scheme of health insurance.

The ~~Congress~~ Congress welcomed the growing awareness of their strength among domestic workers. It also drew pointed attention to the plight of ~~hand-loom weavers and bidi~~ hand-loom weavers and bidi workers owing to the unchecked rise in price of yarn and tobacco.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. N.M. Joshi, General Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress, said that the number of delegates present at the Session - 963, was the highest so far. He pointed out that the AITUC, although it consisted of different groups with widely ~~different~~ different differing outlooks, had developed into a unique organisation - an all-comprehensive, all-party, all-India Trade Union Congress. He exhorted the members to maintain this unique character of their organisation and not to allow it to become a National Congress-cum-Trade Union Congress, a Muslim League-cum-Trade Union Congress, and the like. Mr. Joshi set down three objectives which labour should strive to achieve: First, to protect the economic and political interests of the working class; secondly, to maintain solidarity by keeping all ~~the~~ workers of the country in one organisation; and thirdly, to help in securing the freedom of the country.

Office-bearers for 1945.- The following are the office-bearers for 1945; ~~President~~ President - Mr. ~~Prinai~~ Kanti Bose (Assistant Editor, Amrita Bazar Patrika); Vice-Presidents - Messrs. S.A. Dange, V. Chakkarai Chettiar, S.S. Rajkar, P.C. Bose, and Juggan Khan; General Secretary - Mr. N.M. Joshi; Deputed Members - Messrs. V.V. Giri, B.T. Ranadive, Fazl Elahi Qurban, ~~Munaji~~ Munaji, S. Bannerjee, Suresh Chandra Bannerjee, R.S. Ruikar, Hariharath Sastri and Yusuf Meherally.

It is learnt that an understanding has been reached regarding the allocation of seats in the General Council of the AITUC between the Communists and the Right Wing, as a result of which 65 seats out of 108 have been reserved for Communists.

(The People's War, 11-2-1945; The Statesman, 22-1-1945 and the Indu, 22 and 23-1-1945 and Text of Resolutions ~~is~~ of ~~this~~ the 21st Session of the A.I.T.U.C. forwarded to this office by the General Secretary.)

35

Progress of A.I.T.U.C. from May 1943 to
December 1944: General Secretary's Report
to the 21st Session.

The following facts relating to the progress of the All India Trade Union Congress during the period beginning with May, 1943, and ending with December, 1944, are taken from the Report of the General Secretary, Mr. N.M. Joshi, presented to the 21st Session of the A.I.T.U.C. at Madras from 19 to 22-1-1945. (The proceedings of the Session, as well as the resolutions adopted, are reviewed under a separate heading in the report).

Strength of A.I.T.U.C.- In May, 1943, the A.I.T.U.C. consisted of 332,079 affiliated unions with a membership of 332,079. 204 new unions were admitted during the period under report. The General Council, during the same period, sanctioned the disaffiliation of 54 unions. Of these, (a) 33 unions with a membership of 34,845 were disaffiliated because they had ceased to function, (b) 9 unions with a membership of 101 were disaffiliated because they had chosen to remain outside the fold of any central organisation and hence ceased to recognise their tie with the A.I.T.U.C., (c) and 12 unions with a membership of 17,604 were disaffiliated because they had joined another central organisation. The A.I.T.U.C., in December 1944, consisted of 369 affiliated unions with a membership of 449,015. This was made up of 90 textile mill workers' unions (including jute mill workers' unions) with a membership of 149,212; 10 unions of workers in the engineering industry with a membership of 17,400; 20 railway men's unions with a membership of 89,803; 20 municipal employees' unions with a membership of 15,042; 20 unions of workers in printing and paper industries with a membership of 10,415; 19 unions of employees in transport other than railways and shipping with a membership of 20,066; 14 unions of distributing workers with a membership of 18; 15 unions of employees in shipping, with a membership of 18,995; 10 unions of workers in the mining and quarrying industries, with a membership of 21,661; 8 non-manual workers' unions with a membership of 10; 3 agricultural workers' unions with a membership of 1,750; and 10 general unions with a membership of 65,902.

Of the 369 unions, 109 were in Bengal, 63 in Bombay, 56 in Madras, 42 in the United Provinces, 22 in the Central Provinces, 18 in the Punjab, 15 in the Indian States, 13 in Sind, 10 in Bihar, 8 in Delhi, 5 in Assam, 5 in Central India and Rajputana, 3 in French India, and 1 in Orissa.

(The Trade Union Record, November, 1944.)

Representation and Collaboration at Tripartite Conferences.- The A.I.T.U.C. has been regularly represented at both the plenary conferences and the meetings of the Standing Committee of the Tripartite Labour Conference; In the second Plenary Conference held at New Delhi from 7-9-1944 a resolution proposed by Mr. N.M. Joshi, AITUC Representative, urging upon the Government of India, the appointment of a representative Committee to make enquiries and draw up plans for providing measures for social security of labour, was adopted by the Conference. During the same session, Mr. S.A. Bange, another AITUC delegate, placed a statement before the Conference, setting out the principles of fixing dearness allowance before the Conference, along with a proposal that a sub-Committee be appointed to frame proposals for a uniform, just and equitable policy for fixing dearness allowance. Other important contributions have been made by AITUC delegates during other Conferences also.

The A.I.T.U.C. has always tried to impress upon Government the necessity of prompt action being taken on the various problems regarding which discussions take place. The General Secretary recently made a suggestion at, in order to make the work of the organisation more effective, progress reports on action taken should be made to the Plenary Conference and to the meetings of the Standing Committee. He also pointed out that on items were placed on the agenda of these meetings, it was necessary at reports giving information regarding the existing conditions, and activities, regarding these subjects should be placed before the meeting. The A.I.T.U.C. has also brought to the attention of the Government the necessity for joint consultation of all the parties in the Tripartite Conference in drawing up items on the agenda of the conference, so that all subjects of urgency and importance may be included therein.

Representations to Government.- During the period memoranda were submitted by the A.I.T.U.C. to Prof. B.P. Adarkar and to the Labour Investigation Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. V.D. Rege. Representations were also made to the Government in connection with the proposed amendments to Rules regarding adjudication of trade disputes, control of employment and recruitment of labour and amendments to the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance.

The most important problem regarding which representations were made to the A.I.T.U.C. to the Government of India was the question of labour conditions in coal mines, occasioned by the withdrawal of the ban on men's employment under-ground. The General Secretary, in his communication to the Government on this subject, protested against the withdrawal of the ban and suggested that Government should try to solve the problem of labour scarcity by improving the conditions of labour, raising compensation to the level of wages in other industries and granting compensation for the rising cost of living. A suggestion was also made that a tripartite conference should be called, in case prompt action is required. But Government always tried to defend the step as being temporary and necessitated by the exigencies of war.

Nomination of Indian Labour Delegation to I.L. Conference.- Referring to the nomination of representatives of Indian Labour to the 26th Session of the I.L. Conference exclusively from the ranks of the Indian Federation of Labour, the report points out: "A protest regarding this action of the Government of India was sent to the Acting Director of the I.L.O. by M. S.A. Dange, President, A.I.T.U.C., requesting that it should be decided before the credentials committee of the Conference, and that a delegation which was nominated by the Government of India, should be allowed to participate in the work of the Conference. The protest was considered by the credentials committee of the I.L.C. at its sitting held on 29-4-1944. The Committee held that the delegation of the Federation was duly accredited, and expressed assurance that the Government of India will continue their endeavours to make provision for the representation of both the organisations in an appropriate manner for the future sessions of the Conference. The decisions given in this matter by both the Government of India and the I.L. Conference are obviously wrong, as they have been arrived at without any impartial inquiry. The A.I.T.U.C. has to continue to press its claim for recognition, as the only representative organisation, till the wrong is righted."

A.I.T.U.C. Delegation to World Trade Union Congress.- Messrs. M.A. Dange, R.A. Khandekar and Sudhindra Pramanik were elected by the General Council to represent the A.I.T.U.C. at the World Trade Union Congress to be held at London from 6 to 16-2-1945.

Coal Shortage.- In the opinion of General Council of the Congress, the main cause of the coal shortage that has prevailed throughout the period under report was the unwillingness of owners of mines to increase or even to maintain ordinary production of coal, unless Government

mitted them to make profits beyond the present permissible limits. The well therefore suggested to the Government of India that Government should compel mine-owners to maintain production at the necessary level and take the mines under its own control in cases where the mine-owners refused to do so. The welfare measures adopted by the Government and the reduction in the number of employees engaged in mines are held to be of no great consequence in effecting any considerable improvement. "The coal problem", says the Report, "cannot be solved by giving inducements to owners by bonus or putting restrictions on the employment of miners or by more paying occupations, or by the promise of welfare measures, but first, acquiring and exercising full control over mines and mining operations, and, secondly, by giving to the miner full and adequate wage".

Earnings of Workers.- On the earnings of workers, the Report points out, since the commencement of the war, when production of goods has undergone tremendous development, and the high cost of living has continued over a long period, no increase in real wages has taken place in any of the industries. Complaints have been received, on the other hand that, due to strain on machinery and changes in lines of production, wages at different rates have actually diminished. The Government of India has been considering the adoption of a minimum wage scheme for the mining regions as the mining industry is one of the lowest-paid; but no steps whatever have been taken to formulate a plan. As regards payment of dearness allowance, it is more than a year by now (December 1944) since the report of the Gregory Committee has been prepared, but the principle of full compensation by way of dearness allowance for low-paid workers, which is said to have been accepted by the Committee, has not been implemented by Government; the report of the Committee has not even been published. Prolonged negotiations made by organised labour to obtain adequate compensation proved futile.... No basic principle has been accepted by Government in respect of grant of dearness allowance. Dearness allowance varies from Province to Province, and even in major industries in certain Provinces, such as the jute industry in Bengal, the standard of payment is allowed to be extremely low. On the other hand, industrial concerns, during the period under report, have enjoyed an unprecedented boom. In cases of demands for bonus, Government has, at times, hindered generous action by employers — in the rare instances where they were willing to be generous — by fixing low percentage limits to the amounts to be allocated for payment of bonus; in such action the Government was actuated by undue concern for Excess Profits Tax realisations. It will be thus seen that, except for payment of an inadequate dearness allowance and bonus, industrial workers all over the country have not been given adequate compensation for the rise in the cost of living, nor have they shared in the prosperity of industry. Our movement must now make a great and concerted effort, not merely to secure a temporary allowance, but to secure permanent increases in the basic rates of wages".

Repression of Trade Union Movement.- Several Provincial Governments have pursued their policy of repression of the trade union movement. Many leading members of the A.I.T.U.C. were held in detention. Orders for arrest and internment of some trade union organisers still continue. In Assam and in the mining areas of Jharia and Raniganj, normal trade union meetings are placed under ban.

Adjudication of Trade Disputes.- The machinery provided by Government for the adjudication of industrial disputes under the Defence of India Act has been slow and unsatisfactory in its working. Besides, it has generally been found by experience that in a large number of cases, adjudication is limited only on the labourers giving notice of strike. The machinery for adjudication as provided at present is heavily weighted

inst the interests of workers. Impartial and independent adjudicators hard to find. No arrangement is made by Government to implement the rd of the adjudicator within a reasonable time. As there is no definite eement reached by Government regarding basic principles, adjudicators' rds are hardly consistent in their implications. The awards in respect previous cases can hardly be quoted as a precedent in any future cases. s, the functioning of the machinery of adjudication has increased the trust and suspicion of workers in methods of peaceful settlement of de disputes by conciliation and arbitration.

copy of the General Secretary's Report was sent to Montreal with minute No. F.5/289/45 dated 16-2-1945).

Congress enters Field of Labour Organisation:
10 Congress Unions set up in Bombay.

As part of the new constructive programme outlined by Mahatma Gandhi Congress workers, the Indian National Congress has recently started a ~~crucial drive for starting trade unions working on congress principles.~~ the result of a drive initiated for this purpose by the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee, ten such new unions have already been started ~~it is proposed to organize all sections of labour within a few~~ this time.

The aims of the Congress drive are dealt with by Mr. S.K. Patil, eral Secretary, Bombay Provincial Congress Committee, in an tructional circular entitled "The New Congress approach to the Problems Industrial Labour" issued recently. The main points stressed are:

The exploitation of labour by professional politicians, and by italists must be stopped. (2) Labour must be encouraged and made to y on its own ability and resourcefulness in managing its affairs.

Emphasis should be placed on the development of a healthy class-scious-ness rather than class hatred. (4) Attempts should be made to elop harmonious relationships and a better understanding between loyers and workers. (5) Strikes should be reserved as the last means settling industrial disputes, and are to be resorted to only when they ome inevitable. They should not be used as a means for increasing on membership. (6) The idea that national industries are the nation's lth should be inculcated both among employers and workers.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 6-1-1945 and Amrita Bazar Patrika, 8-1-1945).

39

Miscellaneous.

32nd Session of Indian Science Congress,
Nagpur, 2 to 4-1-1945.

The 32nd Session of the Indian Science Congress was held at Nagpur on 2 to 4-1-1945. The Session was inaugurated by Sir Henry Twynam, Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar.

Sir S.S. Bhatnagar in his presidential address (read out in his absence in America by Mr. S.N. Bose, Professor of Physics, Dacca University) pointed out that the best and quickest way to bring about national development in India is for the country to have a National Government representative of the people. He pleaded for help from European friends. India ~~must~~ so that industry in India should largely be managed by Indians themselves. He also suggested that members of the Council of State and the Central Assembly should form an organization like the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee in England. This would keep them in touch with all problems of modern interest such as technology, science, agriculture, food and health. He said, that as a result of the visit to England and America of the Indian Scientists' Mission, it might be possible to persuade the Government of India to have scientific liaison offices in Washington and London and possibly Moscow so that Indian scientists and Indian Government departments might be in touch with the rapid ~~great~~ strides in science and technology were making in those countries. These offices would have to be staffed by Indian scientists of standing. Sir Pradyumn K. Swarup thought that it would be possible to get a large number of Indian students and technicians admitted into the universities and industrial concerns in these countries.

Among the high lights of the session were the presidential addresses given by Dr. K. Venkataraman, Director, Department of Chemical Technology, Bombay University, at the Chemistry section; Prof. G.P. Majumdar, Prof. of Botany, Presidency College Calcutta, at the Botany section; and Prof. S.W. Rastogi at the Medical and Veterinary section.

(The Statesman, 4-1-1945). ✓

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Prevention of Dowry Payment Bill in Cochin State.

The Cochin Legislative Council has, during the third week of January, 1945, passed the first reading of a non-official Bill, called Prevention of Dowry Payment Bill, for the abolition of dowry system in the State. The Bill has been circulated to elicit public opinion.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 26-1-1945). r ✓

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Mobile Medical Units in Hyderabad State.

A new scheme for bringing medical facilities more readily within reach of villages throughout the State has been drawn up by the Government Hyderabad. Two mobile medical relief units, each estimated to cost Rs. 300,000 initially and a similar amount yearly, are to be established under the scheme. These units will work on lines of regular hospitals, each having its own medical, surgical, public health, maternity, child welfare, rural sanitation, ophthalmic, dental and laboratory sections in charge of specialists. They will be fully equipped and staffed with provision for 100 beds. Suitable sites will be chosen throughout the State, and at each of these ~~sites~~ a unit will camp for three ~~or~~ four months. It is estimated that each Unit will be able to cater to the needs of people residing within a radius of 50 miles from the camp. Besides giving medical attention, the units will carry on health propaganda, give advice on sanitation and open temporary child welfare centres. The main object will be to bring medical aid to people in rural areas and make them health-conscious so that they will be able to understand and take advantage of the facilities.

('Dawn', dated 8-1-1945). ✓

Council of Post-graduate Medical Education
set up in Madras.

The Council of Post-graduate Medical Education of the University of Madras was inaugurated by the Governor of Madras on 12-1-1945. One of the objects of the Council is to make recent advances in medical science readily available to the profession and to provide the public with more up-to-date and better informed doctors. The Council will also make provision for higher specialised instruction to physicians or surgeons, while the University would provide refresher courses for the general practitioner.

('Dawn', dated 14-1-1945). ✓

Malaria Prevention Liaison Board
to be set up in Sind.

A conference of the representatives of the Central and Provincial Governments and local bodies, attended by Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah, Premier of Sind, and Col. Bozman, Joint Secretary, Public Health Board, Government of India, was held at Karachi on 27-1-1945 to discuss the problem of malaria in Sind. The conference decided to set up a permanent body to be called the Malaria Prevention Liaison Board to tackle the problem and to co-ordinate the efforts of all the interests concerned.

(The Statesman, 29-1-1945).

EDUCATION.

Government's Five Year Plan for Educational Uplift in Bengal.

A five-year plan estimated to cost Rs. 160 million for the post-war educational upliftment of Bengal has been tentatively drawn up and submitted to the Central Government for approval, according to the Hon. Mr. Tamizuddin Khan, Education Minister, Government of Bengal. The plan covers a wide range of subjects and all stages of education from the primary stage right up to higher specialised studies abroad. If the plan is worked out properly and successfully, Mr. Tamizuddin had no doubt that illiteracy would be obliterated in Bengal within a decade. The plan in devotes special attention to technical education on the most modern lines.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 22-1-1945).

20th All-India Educational Conference, Cawnpore 29, 30 and 31-12-1944.

The 20th All-India Educational Conference was held at Cawnpore in the last week of December 1944. More than 300 delegates from different provinces, including prominent educationists, attended the Conference, and Mr. K.M. Panikkar, Prime Minister, Bikaner State, presided.

Presidential Address.- Defining the objectives of national education in India, Mr. Panikkar stressed the importance of a system which educated the population as whole and did not separate the educated from the general masses of the people; which regarded education as a continuous process throughout life; recognised that the educated were the very people who most needed such continuous education; and allowed for a wide variety of experimental educational institutions and provided facilities for aesthetic education. All education in India must aim at raising the standard of the average man, providing at the same time for leadership in ~~national~~ every sphere of life. Referring to the poor salaries of the teachers in India, Mr. Panikkar emphasized that the first thing required in any scheme of educational reforms in India is the improvement of the social and economic ~~condition~~ condition of the teachers.

Resolutions.- The Conference adopted a number of resolutions relating to post-war education in India. One of these urged that higher and university education in India should be imparted through the medium of the mother tongue. Another expressed the opinion that training in ideals and democracy should form the chief basis of ~~post-war~~ post-war educational construction. The Conference also emphasised the need for an increase in the salaries and grades of teachers in Government recognized educational institutions.

(The Leader, 31-12-1944. The Hindustan Times, 30-12-1944, 1 and 5-1-1945).

44

Education Problems of India: Meeting of
the Central Advisory Board of Education,
Karachi, 16, 17 and 18-1-1945.

Agricultural education in India, religious instruction in educational institutions, the service conditions of teachers, and machinery to select students for higher education and to advise parents and pupils on careers were among the subjects discussed at the 11th meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India, inaugurated by Sir Hugh Dow, the Governor of Sind, at Karachi on 16-1-1945.

Sir Jogendra Singh's Address. - In his opening address, Sir Jogendra Singh, Minister for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, reviewed the Board's work since it met last in Baroda (vide pages 32-34 of our report for January 1944) and answered some of the criticisms recorded at the report of the Central Advisory Board of Education on post-war educational development in India. The various provinces and Indian States had the report under consideration and the detailed proposals already received from some of them appear to follow the general lines indicated in the Board's report. The Government of India has accepted the view that for any large-scale development the provinces need financial assistance from the Centre and has already indicated in general terms the amount of the subvention which it will be prepared to grant during the next five years. Provincial Governments have already begun to move in regard to the setting up at the earliest possible date of the proposed all-India Council for technical education. The Government also propose to set up a University Grants Committee to deal with the Central Universities in the first instance. Sir Jogendra mentioned that Sir Walter Heberly, Chairman of the University Grants Committee in Great Britain and Sir Cyril Norwood, a recognised authority on examinations, are expected to visit India next month to advise Central and Provincial Governments in India and Indian universities in this connection.

Proceedings: Agricultural Education. - The Board, after full discussion, accepted the report of the Agricultural Education Committee, which was specially appointed in 1944 at Baroda to consider the problem of agricultural education in all its aspects. The report lays down a comprehensive scheme of agricultural education right from the elementary up to the post-graduate stage. It recommends the setting up, beyond the senior basic stage, of (1) senior basic (middle) schools where agriculture could be adopted as the basic craft, (2) agricultural high schools which should combine central education with a strong agricultural bias, (3) farm institutes (on model farms), (4) agricultural schools imparting technical education in agriculture, (5) agricultural colleges and agricultural departments (or faculties) of universities, which would prepare students for the bachelor's and post-graduate degrees in agriculture and (6) central institutes of advanced research. Another recommendation of the Agricultural Education Committee which has been adopted by the Board is the setting up of an All-India Agricultural Council in order to ensure a suitable standard of agricultural training and research throughout the country.

Religious Instruction. - The Board next discussed the tentative report of the Religious Education Committee and decided that, in view of the great importance of the question and divergence of opinion expressed, the Religious Education Committee should meet again to continue its work in the light of the discussion in the Board.

Service Conditions of Teachers.- With regard to teachers, the Board appointed a committee to consider the various matters affecting the conditions of service of teachers at all stages of education, e.g. size of classes, hours of work, holidays, sick leave, etc.

The Board has also appointed another committee to examine the best ways and means of selecting students for various stages of higher education and ~~advising~~ advising the parents and pupils in regard to the choice of careers, with due regard to the experimental work in this connection which is now being carried out in this country.

(The Statesman, 17-1-1945,
The Times of India, 19-1-1945 and
The Vanguard, 21-1-1945). * *

Progress in Basic Education: Basic Education
Conference at Sewagram, 11, 12, 13, 14-1-1945.

The progress made during the past six years in the experiment of basic education in various provinces and States was reviewed at a four-day conference of educationists, professors and teachers inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi at Sewagram, Central Provinces, on 11-1-1945; Dr. Zakir Husain presided. (For particulars of basic education scheme vide pages 32-34 of our report for January 1938.)

Representatives of various provinces, officials as well as non-officials, gave an account of the experiments in their respective provinces. Mr. Sahib Ramsaran, representative of the Bihar Government, said that the work of basic education in his province was being conducted by Government entirely on an experimental basis. There were 27 schools functioning in a small area and elementary gardening, spinning, weaving, and metal and wood work were being taught in the various classes. All articles produced in these schools were of good quality. It was also agreed that mental alertness, development of personality and the spirit of social service were achieved by these schools. He also explained a Government scheme to establish two high schools in order to continue further education of basic school pupils. The position in Bombay, Bengal and Orissa was explained by the representatives from these provinces.

The more important resolutions adopted by the conference are noticed below:

Success of Basic Education Scheme.- The conference felt satisfied that ~~basic schools, which~~ basic schools, which had followed the syllabus recommended by the Basic National Education Committee, had fulfilled the expectations of the committee and that the children in basic schools were showing a marked improvement and developing the qualities of citizenship envisaged in the scheme.

Form a Joint Expert Committee to draw up Scheme of Studies.- The conference recommended that a committee consisting of teachers engaged in basic education and experts in various academic subjects and crafts should be set up to work out, on the basis of experience, a scheme of correlated studies both according to subjects and units of activities based on all the three centres of correlation, namely the basic craft and the social and physical

ironment of the child.

Pre-Basic and Post-Basic Education.- The conference felt that the Hindustani Talimi Sangh should enlarge its scope and concern itself with both pre-basic and post-basic education. It therefore urged the Hindustani Talimi Sangh to appoint a committee to draw up a scheme of pre-basic education that would serve as a foundation for basic education.

Adult Student to pay his Way.- The conference was of opinion that education should be organised that a normal adult pupil can earn enough fees during the period of training to defray his cost of education. To achieve this end, educational institutions in villages should become producers of articles of use and of true educational value. Technical research should aim at making decentralised and small-scale production economically successful. The primary object of production should be the general self-sufficiency of the nation and providing the means of happiness instead of earning profit and interest through trade and commerce.

The conference also recommended that the Hindustani Talimi Sangh should take steps to form an association for teachers and workers in basic education to create solidarity and inspire greater confidence among them.

(The Times of India, 13 and 18-1-1945). X 4

47

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME.

Wages.

Dearness Allowance for Assam Teachers.

It is understood that the Government of Assam, have decided to grant dearness allowance to the teachers of the aided primary and secondary schools with effect from the 1st November, 1944, in the following manner: (1) a dearness allowance of Rs. 3 per month to the teachers of Government aided primary schools; (2) a dearness allowance of Rs. 5 per month to the teachers ~~of all Government~~ and clerks and Rs. 3 per month to the menials of all Government ~~and~~ aided secondary schools. This dearness allowance will ~~be~~ be given, however, only if the managing committees of these institutions agree to provide 40 per cent of the cost of raising the rates of fees of their schools, the Government bearing the remaining 60 per cent of the total cost of such allowances.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 27-1-1945)

Higher Dearness Allowance for Bombay Corporation Employees.

The Bombay Municipal Corporation adopted on 11-1-1945 a resolution granting an increase from Rs. 18 to Rs. 22 a month in the dearness allowance of its employees drawing pay of not more than Rs. 200 a month. Employees drawing Rs. 201 to Rs. 1,000 per month will be given an allowance equivalent to 10 per cent of their pay. These grants will take effect from 1-1-1945.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 13-1-1945)

Wages of Plantation Workers in Ceylon.

It is learnt that the Wages Board for ^{the} rubber and tea industries of Ceylon has recommended the following uniform rate of daily ~~wages~~ wages throughout the Island: Re. 1.25 cents for a man; Re. 1 for a woman; and 50 cents for a child. Of this, the basic wage will be 58, 46 and 41 cents respectively, and the remainder will be special allowance which will be payable as long as the cost of living index number stands at 215, as at present. ~~For every~~ For every variation of five points in this index number, adjustment will be made of three cents for a man and two cents for a woman or a child.

(Industrial Bulletin of the
Employers' Federation of India, Bombay
22-1-1945)

Increased Amenity Allowance for Jute Mill Workers.

To meet the marked rise in the prices of ~~these~~ articles such as, vegetables, meat, fish, etc, which the food shops in jute mills are able to supply to the workers, the Indian Jute Mills Association has commended to member mills increase of the cash amenity allowance payable to workers from Rs. 1-4-0 to Rs. 2/- per head per week, irrespective of earnings. The increase is to be given effect from the week ending 9-12-1944.

(Industrial Bulletin of the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, 22-1-1945).

Enhanced Dearness Allowance for Teachers in Aided Elementary Schools in Madras Province.

The Government of Madras has passed orders directing that the amount dearness allowance paid to teachers employed in aided elementary schools in the province be increased from Rs. 4 to Rs. 8 a month, with effect from ~~1-12-1944~~ 1-12-1944.

(The Hindu, 4-1-1945).

Ahmedabad Mill Workers Demand Four Months' Wages as Bonus.

The Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, has given notice, on behalf of the textile workers of Ahmedabad, to the Millowners' Association demanding four months bonus for 1944 of 33 per cent of their total earnings. The Labour Association had previously written to the Millowners' Association urging submission of the bonus demand to the arbitration of the Industrial Court, but the Millowners' Association did not accept it. The workers' demand for bonus will cost the mills about . 15 million. The profit of the textile mills for the year was about . 180 million. The ~~last~~ average earning now of a ~~millowner~~ millworker in Ahmedabad, including dearness allowance, is Rs. 100 a month.

The Labour Association has given another notice to the Millowners' Association demanding compensation for loss of wages of workers from January 9 to 14 owing to stoppage because of coal shortage.

(The Times of India, 19-1-1945).

Indore Mill Workers to receive Compensation
For Loss of Earnings during Stoppage of Mills.

An agreement has been reached between the Millowners' Association and the Labour Union at Indore, after conciliation was enforced by the State, whereby the Mills will pay Rs. 17 to each of their operatives as provisional compensation for loss of earnings due to stoppage by reason of coal shortage experienced periodically in Indore during the last four months of 1944. The final amount of compensation will be fixed after a similar settlement is arrived at in centres, like Ahmedabad.

(The Times of India, 23-1-1945). + ✓

War Allowance for Government Servants
in Punjab.

It is understood that the Punjab Government have decided to give relief to their employees who are drawing salaries varying ranging from Rs. 275 to Rs. 1,500 a month at 10 per cent of their salaries. Those who are married will be given the full allowance, while bachelors will be entitled to half the allowance. The allowance has been sanctioned with retrospective effect from 1st July 1944.

In this respect, the lead was taken by the Government of India (vide page 44 of our report for September 1944) and a number of provinces have already followed suit (vide pages 42 and 33 of our reports for October and November 1944 respectively).

(The Dawn, 27-1-1945). ✓

Three Months' Wages as Bonus demanded by
Sholapur Mill Workers.

A resolution demanding three months' wages as bonus to mill workers was passed at a labour meeting held at Sholapur, on 6-1-1945, under the auspices of the Lal Bawta Girni Kamagar Union. The resolution also demanded compensation for the days lost on account of the closure of mills owing to the shortage of coal.

(The Times of India, 9-1-1945). + ✓

School Fees to be raised in Bihar to
Give Dearness Allowance to Teachers.

The Bihar Government have decided to sanction a uniform increase by per cent in the fees in all recognised high schools to enable their managements to give dearness allowance to teachers in accordance with a memo to be approved by the inspectors of schools concerned. The Government of Bihar had sanctioned in April 1944, an increase of 20 per cent in the minimum salary of assistant teachers of recognised high schools for the duration of the war and for such further period as may be considered necessary. But as these orders effected improvement only in the salaries of a restricted number of teachers, the above new decision had been taken.

(The Hindustan Times, 31-1-1945). ✓

Employment.

Working of National Service Labour
Tribunals during 1943-44.

The working of National Service Labour Tribunals from July, 1940, March, 1943, was reviewed at page 35 of our report for August, 1943. During 1943-44 the Tribunals took into national service 3,654 persons. Appeals were preferred against the orders of the Tribunals taking technical personnel into national service, and in 12 cases the orders were modified. The Tribunals received 4,494 applications from technical personnel employed in industrial undertakings served with orders under the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, 1940, for permission to leave their employment and permission was refused in 889 cases on the ground that the men were already engaged on work of national importance. Revised terms of service were fixed for 74 of the 889 men who were thus refused permission. Employers applied for Tribunals' permission to discharge their men in 4,927 cases and in 30 cases permission was refused. Employers gave ex-post-facto notice of discharge in 17,934 cases. The Tribunals were able to find employment for the discharged men in 769 cases. Prosecutions were launched for contravention of the provision of the Ordinance in 1,713 cases. 245 prosecutions against employers were successful. Many cases were withdrawn as the defaulting employers returned to work.

(Indian Labour Gazette, January, 1945).

Coal Mines in British India to submit
Labour Returns to Government.

The Government of India has published, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (e) of sub-rule (2) of rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules, a notification in the Gazette of India requiring the owner, agent or manager of every coal mine in British India to submit every month, beginning from February 1945, returns in a prescribed form giving information under the heads: labour attendance, wages and bonus earned by labour (on day wages; on piece wages; and under contractors) in the coal mine concerned during the preceding month. Such returns will have to be submitted by the management separately to the Chief Inspector of Mines in India and to the Coal Commissioner with the Government of India.

(Notification No. M-275 dated 17-1-1945,
The Gazette of India dated 20-1-1945,
Part I, Section 1; page 83)

52

Welfare.

Meeting of Coal Mines Labour Welfare Advisory
Committee, Dhanbad, 23-1-1945.

A meeting of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Advisory Committee was held at Dhanbad on 23-1-1945 under the presidentship of Mr. H.C. Prior, Chairman of the Committee, and Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India.

Mr. Prior, in his opening remarks, emphasised that the workers should have a real interest and share in the welfare work. Referring to certain questions which would arise in considering detailed items now or in future, he said that the Welfare Fund created under the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Ordinance, 1944, (vide pages 44-45 of our report for January, 1945), could not provide for all the capital and recurring expenses for measures that had to be taken. The mine owners and the Provincial Governments who were responsible for public health would have to shoulder part of the responsibility. He further indicated that it may be necessary to impose on colliery owners certain minimum statutory obligations regarding medical relief. Capital expenditure was a fair charge on the Fund, but the Jharia and Raniganj Mines Boards of Health were not at present paying their rates to the maximum possible limit, and it might be necessary for them to increase the rates to meet maintenance charges. ~~These suggestions raised important issues, the Committee agreed that~~ the interests concerned should have to consider them.

Referring to the welfare work already done, Mr. V.K.B. Pillai, Mines Welfare Commissioner and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, said that over 250 collieries had been inspected with the full co-operation of the owners and a survey of medical, educational and recreational facilities provided to them had been carried out. He said that in smaller collieries arrangements were generally unsatisfactory, and compliance with legal requirements was often only technical.

The Committee recommended that a provision should be made for an anti-malaria scheme for 1945-46, with a recurring expenditure of Rs. 700,000 and non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 300,000. The staff for the scheme should be selected on a permanent basis and the scheme should be administered by the Director of Malaria Institute. It would cover cases within individual collieries also but it was felt that the Labour Welfare Fund could provide anti-malaria measures in outlying areas. The estimated expenditure on anti-malaria measures during 1944-45, was over Rs. 200,000. Provision of two regional hospitals in the Jharia coalfields at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 300,000 and two hospitals for the Raniganj coalfields at an estimated cost of Rs. 134,000 were among the other budget items approved by the Committee. It also approved the provision of a grant of Rs. 300,000 each towards the capital cost of two Central hospitals one each in Jharia and Raniganj. Provision was also made for propaganda measures and for growing vegetables. Tokens were also made for a water supply scheme costing Rs. 500,000 and a housing scheme costing Rs. 1 million were made at the meeting. The general feeling at the meeting was that all welfare expenditure, both capital and maintenance, should be met from the Fund and that the cess may be increased if necessary.

(The Vanguard, 26-1-1945). X.

13

Hyderabad Coal Mines Labour Welfare
Fund: Welfare Measures for Coal
Mines in State.

The Government of Hyderabad has recently issued the Hyderabad Coal Labour Welfare Fund Regulation, 1944, which provides for the levy of an excise duty on all coal and soft coke despatched from collieries in the State. The proceeds of this duty will be utilised for providing ~~medical~~ medical aid, water-supply and educational facilities for colliery workers for improving their standard of living.

The State Government has also appointed a Labour Welfare Officer for bringing to the notice of Government all matters connected with conditions of work in mines and for redressing ~~all~~ mine-workers' grievances. The workers have been getting increased dearness allowance (50 per cent of wages) from January, 1944. Arrangements have also been made for the supply of rice, jowar, cloth and cigarettes to them at cheap rates and for the housing and ~~free~~ medical aid in up-to-date hospitals.

(Hyderabad Information, November, 1944).

Control Measures.

The Timber Control Order, 1945.

The Government of India gazetted, on 13-1-1945, the Timber Control Order, 1945. This extends only to the Presidency-town of Bombay and vests the Director, Timber Directorate, Bombay, control over all timber brought into the port of Bombay from any port in the west coast of the Province of Madras and empowers him to require the owner of such timber intended for sale to sell the whole or part of it to the Central Government or to such person ~~or~~ or persons as may be specified by him (the Timber Director).

(Notification No. 33/317 dated 8-1-1945, the Gazette of India, dated 13-1-1945, Part I, Sec. 1, page 51).*

Textile Control Board.

New Scheme for Distribution of Cloth.

Despite measures taken from time to time by the Government of India in consultation with the Textile Control Board and by the Provincial Governments to put down black market practices in cloth distribution (vide pages 57-58 of our report for October, 1944), the black market, as is stated, has continued to thrive. A new scheme for the distribution of cloth on an All-India basis, which will reduce to the minimum, if not altogether eliminate, the black market in the cloth trade, has now been framed upon by representatives of the Government of India and members of the Industries and Distribution Committees of the Textile Control Board.

Under the new scheme, which is to be brought into force at the earliest possible moment, it will be possible hereafter for the Textile Commissioner to assure to each Provincial and State Government its allotted quota of cloth at a given margin above the ~~quantitative~~ ex-mill price. The maximum margin to be allowed to dealers in the manufacturing centres of cloth going to the deficit zones and the commission payable to commission agents employed on the buyer's account have been reduced. This will provide a slightly bigger margin for the distributing channels in the ~~manufacturing centres.~~

The scheme also contemplates special measures for the distribution of ~~these~~ fine cloth in respect of which black market operations have been particularly serious due to the fact that the production of Indian mills alone is not adequate to meet the present demand.

This new plan has to be finally approved by the Textile Control Board.

(The Times of India, 26-1-1945).

The Coal Tar Products Control Order, 1945.

The Government of India gazetted on 13-1-1945 the Coal Tar Products Control Order, 1945. This order prohibits the sale of coal tar products ~~except~~ except by registered persons who have been licensed to do so by the Government and requires every person wishing to purchase or use coal tar products to obtain a permit from the licensing authority appointed by Government. Persons dealing in or using coal tar products are also required to submit monthly returns of stock to the licensing authority and maintain accounts in the form prescribed by the Central Government. The order extends to the whole of British India and is to come into force at once.

(Notification No. 23/278 dated 8-1-1945, the Gazette of India dated 13-1-1945, Part I, ^{Sec. 1} page 50). * + ✓

55

Production.

Hydari Mission to U.K. to relieve Strain of
INDIAN WAR PRODUCTION.

An official mission headed by Sir Akbar Hydari, Secretary, Industries and Civil Supplies Department, and consisting of Lieut-Gen. Leeh, the Quarter-Master-General of Ordnance in India, Mr. Waugh, Secretary, Supply Department, and Mr. Mohammad Ali, Additional Financial Adviser, Military Department, with a small staff left India for the United Kingdom in the first week of January 1945. They will explore with His Majesty's Government the extent to which war demands on India can be reduced or effect help in other directions. The mission is expected to be away from India for about a month.

The objects of the mission, were briefly explained by Sir Akbar Hydari, at a press conference at Delhi on 18-1-1945. The aim was to secure by discussion and mutual understanding with the representatives of His Majesty's Government, such an adjustment of the burden which India is carrying as will, in the Government of India's judgment, enable India fully to continue to pull her weight during the period of hostilities still remaining. India's long-term post-war industrial requirements are not its concern but would be looked after by the industrialists of the United Kingdom and Australia. The mission would try to get more of certain consumer goods, but wherever possible this object would be achieved by releasing or increasing India's productive capacity for ~~war~~ civilian purposes. When the war was over, India could look forward to some relief from the burden of producing essentials, and it would of the mission's objectives to discuss how productive capacity so released could best be applied.

(The Statesman, 17-1-1945 and
The Times of India, 20-1-1945). ✓

Food.

U.P. Scheme to augment Fish Supply.

In connection with the 'Grow More Food' campaign the United Provinces Government, with the financial assistance of the Government of India, will shortly start a scheme of stocking fish in large tanks in the eastern districts. The scheme, if successful, will result in a substantial addition to the present fish supply of the province. In addition, the Government hopes that this will develop as a subsidiary industry and extend to all parts of the country. With the success of this scheme, the income of agriculturists engaged in this industry will be increased. The Government expects that within three months it will be possible to acquire the necessary tanks and restock them with good quality ~~of~~ fish.

(The Statesman, 22-1-1945). x

57

Cost of Living.

Effect of Inflation and Price Control on
Middle Class Families in Bombay City :
Inquiry to be made by Bombay University.

The School of Economics and Sociology of the University of Bombay undertaken an inquiry into the effects of inflation and price control on middle class families in Bombay City. In order to have as correct as possible, families whose incomes ranged from Rs. 75 to Rs. 300 a month in August, 1939, are being approached with a detailed questionnaire consisting of two parts. The first part aims at giving a broad and general idea of the relative position regarding income and expenditure pre-war days and now. The answers to the second part will help to assess the comparative change in ~~the~~ the ~~quality~~ quantity of various articles consumed and the expenditure on those items. Inquiries in this connection are to be addressed to the Director, School of Economics and Sociology.

(The Times of India, 18-1-1945). ✓

Economic and Social Survey of Lahore City
by Board of Economic Inquiry, Punjab.

It is learnt that the Punjab Board of Economic Inquiry is undertaking a survey of economic and social conditions in Lahore city and its suburbs and that the Punjab Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 75,000 for the purpose. Dr. L.C. Jain, Professor of Economics, Punjab University, is Secretary of the Board.

(The Hindustan Times, 4-1-1945). ✓

58

✓ Post-war Reconstruction.

29 Industrial Panels being set up by Government of India.

It is learnt that, as the first stage in the preparation of a detailed plan of industrial development for the first effective five-year post-war period, the Department of Planning and Development of the Government of India is setting up 29 panels to advise the Government on the more important Indian industries. Among the panels expected to be set up soon are those on industries like: iron and steel (major); sugar, alcohol and food-yeast; and heavy chemicals, light chemicals and petro-chemical. It is understood that the provisional targets aim at a 100 per cent increase in five years in the production of iron and steel, 50 per cent in textiles and 100 per cent in cement.

For the development of the textile industry, the existing Textile Board will act as the panel. It is understood the iron and steel (major) panel will include Sir Padamji Ginwala (Chairman), Sir J.J. Ghandy, General Manager, the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Mr. Bashir of Cawnpore, and Mr. Parr, Steel Commissioner to the Government of India. Its terms of reference will include alloy steel, special steel, tools steel, rolled products, fabricated and structural steel, forgings, castings, pipes, tin plate, wire, nails and screws, nuts and bolts.

The panels will be supplied with factual information by Government. In the case of new industries, the information will consist of a general survey of the industry and the importance of starting it in India, the availability of raw material, the power requirements, the demands of the Indian market and the probabilities of exports. In the case of existing industries, the information will be more comprehensive. It will indicate, in addition, the location of existing units, the types of goods produced, the total production under each category and the assistance, if any, given by Government. Each panel will be required to report on the scope and extent of development; the question whether the industry could be owned by the State either on grounds of national interest or because private capital is unlikely to take it up; the capital required for development; the extent to which technical advice from abroad may be necessary; the manner and the degree of co-operation with foreign firms, both as regards capital and management; the location of the industry; the nature of assistance required from Government in the form of protective duties, bounties, research grants, expert advice, etc; the control that Government should exercise in the case of private ownership; and questions as to whether the industry should cater for the export market and whether it should develop, as in Japan, on the cottage industry basis and if so, to what extent. Joint meetings of the panels will be held, wherever necessary, to secure co-ordination, particularly where the processes and the products of the industry are connected with those of other.

(The Times of India, 15-1-1945).+✓

59

Post-War Plans for Madras: Decisions of
General Committee.

The General Committee on Post-War Reconstruction set up by the Government of Madras met at Madras on 28-12-1944, the Governor of Madras presiding. The reports submitted by the various Sub-Committees appointed to deal with individual subjects such as transport, women's interests, industries and agriculture (vide page 55 of our Report for December 1944) were considered.

Transport.- The General Committee turned down the recommendation of the Transport Sub-Committee that post-war road (motor) transport should be on private ownership and private operation, but under very strict State control. The General Committee declared itself in favour of state-ownership and adopted a resolution that the public passenger transport services of the province should be owned and managed by the State itself, not including local boards and municipalities. The resolution recommended that immediate steps be taken by the Government to work out detailed plans for taking over existing bus services, opening up new routes not covered by existing companies and working out service conditions on a uniform standard.

Women's interests.- Maternity leave for women workers:- The General Committee accepted the report of the Women's Sub-Committee, which contains two important proposals, viz., that the period of maternity leave granted to women employees after child-birth should be increased from four to six weeks and that the managements of factories be compelled to provide creches.

Industries.- As regards industries, the General Committee adopted the recommendations of the Industries Sub-Committee, together with the proposals of the various sub-committees dealing with particular industries. The report of the Industries Sub-Committee has recognised the vital need for increased production of electric power in the Province and recommended taking up of various schemes including the linking up of Madras and Coimbatore, the extension of power production at Pykara and Pananasam, the development of power under the Kachkund scheme and at the Tungabhadra reservoir and also the new scheme under examination in the Madure district. With such a development, Madras would have a grid of electric power linking up the North and South of the Presidency. The Sub-Committees dealing with particular industries also have made valuable recommendations to the industries under each head which need the attention of the Government and of industrialists and indicated the action that the Government should take up for their development. They have also pointed out the need to consider industries based on agricultural products.

Agriculture.- The General Committee then discussed the report of the Agriculture Sub-Committee. The main recommendations of the Sub-Committee were increased rice production in Madras to make the Province self-sufficient in rice, the fixing of a fair price for rice, the stimulation in Madras of the production of long-staple cotton, groundnut, sugarcane and tobacco and of industries based on these products, the planned use of cultivable waste and prevention of soil erosion, the provision of chemical manures and the exercise of State control over the procurement, storage and distribution of food through co-operative societies. The proposals, so far received to reach these objectives, involve an expenditure of nearly 120 million rupees in the coming five years. The General Committee adopted the report with some amendments. These amendments recommend to Government that the Indian Agricultural Service should be revived, land newly reclaimed by irrigation works should be brought under cultivation on co-operative or communal lines,

ority should be given to the manufacture of agricultural implements, especially tractors and lorries, and that an attempt should be made to use all the available animal manure now extensively used as fuel.

(The ~~Hindustan~~ Hindu, 29-12-1944)..

Indian Industrialists to Visit Australia.

It is learnt that a group of representative Indian industrialists will be visiting Australia, early in February, 1945, to explore the possibilities of closer commercial and industrial relations between the two countries, particularly during the post-war period. The delegation ~~likely to consist of~~ Sir Datar Singh, Punjab; Mr. Neville Wadia, Bombay; Mr. Abdul Wahid Dawood, Calcutta; Mr. Ram Rattan Gupta, Cawnpore; Mr. Viswanath, Mysore; and Mr. Shanti Prasad Jain. While in Australia, the group will be guests of the Commonwealth Government and will be making an extensive tour of Australian industrial centres.

(The Hindu, dated 16-1-1945)..

Punjab's Rs. 1,000 Million Post-War Plan.

A post-war reconstruction plan estimated to cost over Rs. 1,000 million has been nearly completed by the Punjab Government. The various government departments have worked out their own schemes, which are being co-ordinated by the newly-created Post-war Reconstruction Department. The plan contemplates the development throughout the province of irrigation, roads and road transport, agriculture, fisheries, education, rural uplift and industrial research and training. While the scheme applies to the entire province, it is proposed to have concentrated development in selected areas which have helped most in recruitment for the war. Concentrated development in such areas will mean more village roads, schools, medical and health facilities, water supply and co-operative institutions.

(The Statesman, 4-1-1945)..

Rs. 400 Million Road Plan for Punjab.

A post-war road plan which will cost the province Rs. 400 million take 10 years to complete has been recommended for the Punjab by Communications Board. The plan would double the mileage of existing roads. Its ~~aim~~ ideal is to link all towns with a population of 100 and over by metalled roads and leave no village more than a mile from an all-weather road. To achieve this object, it will be necessary to build 6,000 miles of arterial and 18,000 miles of rural roads. The proposals have taken into account the growing needs of industry, trade and agriculture, and have been adopted after careful surveys of industrial centres.

(The Statesman, 12-1-1945)..+

Rs. 330 Million Five-Year Development Plan proposed for Orissa.

The provisional draft of the first five-year post-war development plan proposed by the Government of Orissa was published in the first week of January 1945.

Provision is firstly made for the restoration of demobilised men to normal life. As regards industry, it is proposed to establish an electrical power system largely fed by hydro-electric power which will greatly facilitate the establishment of major industries in Orissa and the adjoining States. The plan proposes that Orissa should, in conjunction with the Government of Madras, carry out the Doduma project and erect thermal power stations fed by coal for the supply of power in North Orissa. The establishment of major industries comes within the purview of the Government of India, but the provincial Government will concern itself with the development of medium and small-scale industries. It is assumed that the establishment of these industries will be left to private enterprise, Government efforts will be directed to the setting up of facilities for training skilled technicians, granting loans in approved cases and supply of cheap power. Scholarships will be established for training in electrical technology, electrical communication, engineering, paper technology, industrial chemistry, metallurgy, enamelling, mining and other essential branches of industrial knowledge. In some subjects the candidates will be sent for training even now, where the provision of employment for demobilised men is considered of special priority. The plan also proposes a number of other schemes which include combating floods, public health, irrigation, fisheries and town-planning.

This first five-year plan is expected to involve a total expenditure of Rs. 330 million. The plan is to be financed by borrowing as well as increased taxation. As Orissa is a deficit province the plan looks to a certain amount of assistance from the Central Government.

(The Hindu, 9-1-1945 and Amrita Bazar Patrika, 15-1-1945)..+

Sind's Rs. 350 Million Road Plan.

A 10-year plan for the development of Sind's communications at a cost of Rs. 350 million has been prepared by the special division of the Public Works Department of the Province. The programme envisages a network of tar-macadam roads linking all parts of the province to provide easy means of transport for agricultural produce and highways connecting Sind with the main arterial roads in other parts of India. When completed the plan would add nearly 12,000 miles of new roads to the existing system of communications in Sind.

(The Statesman, 12-1-1945).-

Government of India appoint Mineral Adviser for Planning.

Mr. Wadia, formerly Geological Adviser to the Ceylon Government, has been appointed Mineral Adviser to the Planning and Development Department of the Government of India, according to the special representative of the Hindustan Times. The Geological Survey of India has of course done useful scientific work, but its discoveries were not co-related with national policy. This has resulted sometimes in valuable minerals being exploited by foreign interests. It is expected, the Mineral Adviser to the Planning and Development Department will advise the department on the conservation and utilization of India's mineral resources so that the country's riches may be harnessed primarily for India's good.

(The Hindustan Times, 9-1-1945).-

Technological Institute in India: Committee to consider establishment appointed.

It is understood that the Government of India is appointing a committee to consider the establishment of a highgrade technological institute in India on the lines of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The committee, which may be presided over by Mr. N.R. Sarker, Ex-Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, will consist of men interested in business, applied science and technological education.

(The Hindu, 12-1-1945)..

Five-Year Development Plan for Baroda.

The salient features of Baroda's post-war reconstruction plan were before the Board of Industrial Advice (the Board has been set up by Baroda Government to enlist the cooperation of the leading industrialists in Baroda's post-war development plans), by Mr. S.V. Mukerjee, Member for Post-War Development, on 12-1-1945.

The five year plan of development (vide page 60 of our Report for September 1944) is expected to cost the State over Rs. 100 million. The main schemes include: facilities for the improvement of agriculture at a cost of Rs. 8.4 million, the putting into operation of the Sabarmati and Khari irrigation projects at a cost of Rs. 25.4 million, the development of electric energy facilities at a cost of Rs. 7 million, the establishment of a college of engineering, a medical college, a technological institute and an institute of agriculture. In the sphere of transport, the plan proposes the laying down of 1,246 miles of roads at a cost of Rs. 28.6 million and 157 miles of railway at a cost of Rs. 20 million, schemes of extension in 23 towns. As regards industrial development the plan envisages the establishment of a textile research institute, expansion of textiles, chemicals and oils and the training of teams of workers in various branches of science. In the field of education the main proposals are a programme of improvement in the junior and senior secondary grade, provision of nursery schools, technical instruction and ~~raising facilities in secondary education~~ at an additional annual cost of Rs. 24.3 million.

Mr. S.V. Mukerjee revealed that the State had already accumulated a nucleus fund of Rs. 11.4 million during the past three years to finance the post-war schemes. In addition to this, it expects some assistance from the Central Government and private philanthropists.

(The Statesman, 16-1-1945 and
The Times of India, 17-1-1945).

Punjab's Post-War Irrigation Plans.

Eight major dam projects for generating about one million kilowatts of power for industrial development and for storing about ten million acre-feet of water for irrigation purposes are under the active consideration of the Punjab Government. The eight schemes are: the Kishau dam scheme, the Kalsi dam scheme, the ~~Shakardam~~ Bhakra dam scheme, the Hingarh dam scheme, the Marhu tunnel scheme, the Larji dam scheme, the Rohang tunnel scheme and the Rasul Hydro-electric and tube-well scheme. In the preparation of these schemes the Punjab Government have secured the expert advice of Mr. J.L. Savage, the American expert on dams and formerly President of the International Commission on Large Dams of World War Conference.

(The Statesman, dated 15-1-1945).

Government of India's Scheme for
Foreign Technical Training: 500
Students to be sent abroad in
1945.

Details of a new scheme sponsored by the Government of India to send abroad a number of selected students for training in scientific and technical subjects related to India's post-war development plans (vide page 60 of our Report for December 1944) are explained in a press communique issued in the last week of January 1945.

The Government of India hope to send abroad in the autumn of 1945 about 500 students for courses in subjects directly related to the various plans for post-war development now under consideration or in preparation. Some of these students will be selected direct by the Central Government; others will be selected, in the first instance, by Provincial Governments. In the former case the Central Government will provide the financial assistance required to enable the students to complete an approved course. In the latter case the cost of such financial assistance will be shared equally between the Central and Provincial Governments. The selected students will be required to give an undertaking that on completion of the course abroad they will enter such employment in India as may be indicated by the Central or Provincial or State Government as the case may be.

The main courses for which awards will be available are: 1. Agricultural subjects (including animal husbandry); 2. educational science and practice; 3. mechanical engineering; 4. electrical engineering; 5. civil engineering; 6. chemical engineering; 7. aeronautical engineering; 8. marine engineering; 9. architecture, regional planning, building construction; 10. applied chemistry (including preservation and distribution of food stuffs); 11. applied physics; 12. geology; 13. metallurgy; 14. other forms of applied science; and 15. technical. Courses other than those set out above will be considered only if directly related to probable post-war needs. The numbers selected for each course will be strictly limited and will be determined solely by post-war requirements. Preference will normally be given to students who have already completed a degree at a university in India or elsewhere, but this will not apply to students who possess special qualifications or experience that would make them suitable for one of the courses specified above. Special arrangements will also be made to place the students selected in suitable universities or similar institutions abroad and to look generally after their welfare while they are overseas. The Central Government proposes to set up a special selection committee to select the students who are to be sent abroad and it has suggested that similar selection committees should also be set up in the provinces by the Provincial Governments.

The Central Government has also asked Provincial Governments and Universities to set up students advisory bureaux as soon as possible to advise and assist all students, who desire to proceed abroad at their own expense for courses of study as soon as travelling conditions permit.

(The Leader, 30-1-1945)..*

Railway Rates Policy in Post-War Period:
Discussion at 1945 Annual Session of Indian
Railway Conference Association, New Delhi,
19-1-1945.

The question of railway rates policy in the post-war period came up for prominent discussion at the 1945 annual session of the Indian Railway Conference Association held at New Delhi on 19-1-1945.

Proposal for Central Rate Fixing Authority.- Addressing the session, G.K. Caffe, General Manager, Bengal and Assam Railway and President, Indian Railway Conference Association, suggested the setting up of a Central Rate Fixing Authority for the railways in India. At present each railway administration has full discretion, within certain limits, to fix its own rates. The 20 years between the two world wars had seen a great and rapid expansion of the steel industry in India, and the cotton and growth of, among others, the cement and sugar industries. It was doubtful, according to Mr. Caffe, whether this system will ensure for the new and expanding industries of post-war India a reasonable chance of securing wide markets. Further there will be major questions of policy to settle, such as, what in the best interests of India as a whole should be the relationship between the rates for indigenous products and the rates for imported goods, or between the rates for goods moving ports for export and rates for the same goods moving to markets in India. He, therefore, believed that the best course will be to set up a central rate-fixing authority, which would be assisted by subordinate regional authorities at the main business centres.

Sir Edward Benthall's Criticism.- Criticising Mr. Caffe's proposal, Sir Edward Benthall, War Transport Member, Government of India, said, that such centralisation of rate fixing might entail loss of touch by railways with the business community in provincial centres and the provincial Governments. It might lead to the growth of an inflexible, rigidly central machine which would tend by its very complexity to be a hindrance on development, and particularly where the local co-ordination of road, steamer and rail rates is concerned. The same object, viz., the co-ordination and simplification of railway rates, might be achieved, according to Sir Edward Benthall, by other devices such as the appointment of a rates expert as Director of Rating and the setting up of a permanent Rates Committee consisting of rates experts of the major railways.

(The Statesman, dated 21-1-1945).

Post War Transport Policy in India:
Meetings of Transport Advisory Council
and Policy Committee on Transport.

Problems relating to the post-war development of transport in India are discussed at a meeting of the Transport Advisory Council inaugurated by the His Excellency the Viceroy at New Delhi on 12-1-1945, and at a meeting of the Post-War Transport Policy Committee opened by Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, Government of India, at New Delhi on 15-1-1945.

Sir Edward Benthall's elucidation of Government Policy.- Explaining the policy of the Government of India at the meeting of the Post-War Transport Policy Committee, Sir Edward said, "Our primary object is, to raise the productivity of transport and to develop a transport system in India which at the cheapest possible cost in capital and running expenses will provide for India's developing needs, having regard specially to the fact, that agriculture, industry, education, health and in fact most of the plans for post-war development depend upon a transport system which adequately reaches out into the districts and villages". One of the first things to be decided in this connection was to determine the degree to which India's rail, road, air, river and coastal communications is to be developed within the over-all scheme of development. Sir Edward suggested that, now that motor transport is developing rapidly, in the development of new transport routes, in India, it should be accepted as axiomatic that there is no sense in building a railway if a road will do the work equally effectively. As regards road-rail co-ordination, the Government of India proposed to regulate competition between road and rail by control of fares, routes and traffic, together with regulation of conditions of service, exercised by provincial transport controllers in accordance with principles to be agreed upon between the Centre and the provinces. Maximum co-ordination will be sought between road and rail interests, where possible, by the negotiation of financial participation by the state-owned railways in suitable reliable motor transport companies, combined with the correlation of rates and fares and of the sharing of traffic between the two traffic media where they come into competition. Management could be largely in the hands of those with expert knowledge of road transport operation.

Decisions.- Discussion at the meetings was exploratory, but considerable progress was made. The classification of roads into national highways, provincial highways, district roads and village roads was generally accepted. The Central Government are prepared, subject to certain conditions being satisfied, to assume responsibility for the development and maintenance of national highways in British India. As regards other roads, the possibility of assistance financially will depend on the resources available when the full picture of all the development programmes is before the Government. It was decided that the preparation of project estimates for road development on the basis of full surveys of actual needs, but more or less on the lines of the Nagpur plan (vide pages 54-56 of our report for March 1944), should be proceeded with and that the estimates should be phased so as to be adjustable to the rate of expenditure eventually found possible. It was further decided that the Government of India should set up an Indian Road Board consisting of the Controller of Road Transport; the Chief Engineer, Roads; the Financial Adviser, War Transport Department; the Road-Rail co-ordinator; and the Secretary, Railway Board.

In both the meetings there was practically unanimous agreement that co-ordination of all forms of transport, and particularly between road and rail, would be necessary. Various possible means of practically effecting this were discussed, including both regulation of road transport by provincial authorities in co-ordination with the Centre and by some division of financial interests, particularly in the matter of passenger services, as for example, by railways taking a share in bus companies. There was practically unanimous agreement that, whether or not railways participated, it was essential that bus operators should themselves combine into companies able to provide regular, convenient and safe service to the public. As regards goods traffic, there was general agreement that long distance was the function of railways and short distance the function of road transport, and that regulation and control should be exercised to secure a proper division of functions in practice.

Among the other subjects discussed were the methods of employing mobilised personnel and the provincialisation of road motor transport.

(The Statesman, 13, 16 and 18-1-45) ✓

Indian Central Cotton Committee: Demands for import of textile machinery.

The Indian Central Cotton Committee has adopted a resolution recommending to the Government of India to facilitate import of new or reconditioned textile machinery from the United Kingdom or the U.S.A. in order to solve the twin problems of large surplus stocks of short staple cotton and the general shortage of cloth and yarn for handlooms. The resolution urges Government to grant adequate depreciation allowances to mills for the purpose of taxation and Excess Profits Tax concession in order to enable Indian mills to buy such machinery and set it up without loss.

The Committee also decided to recommend to the Government of India to raise the cess on Indian cotton exported or brought under process in the mills in British India from two annas to four annas per bale and to bring the mills in Indian States in line with those in British India as to the matter of payment of cess, so that the committee might undertake more research work and expand its activities.

(The Statesman, 29-1-1945).+ ✓

Fifth Meeting of Consultative Committee of Economists, New Delhi, 3-1-1945.

The fifth meeting of the Consultative Committee of Economists was held at New Delhi on 3-1-1945, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning Development, Government of India, presiding.

A General Purposes Committee, consisting of Sir Theodore Gregory, C.N. Vakil, Dr. P.S. Lokanathan, Dr. Gyan Chand, Mr. M.K. Ghosh, Mr. Gadgil, and ~~Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao~~ Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, all of whom are members of the Consultative Committee, was formed at the meeting. Sir Ardeshir Dalal explained that this Committee was intended to advise and help the Planning and Development Department in drawing up plans, collection of statistics and data and in deciding questions of priorities as between agriculture and industry or as between capital goods industry and ~~consumption~~ consumption goods industry and the various other problems which arose from time to time.

Sir P.M. Bhargat, Additional Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, in his address to the meeting declared that the matter of setting up a Board of Agricultural Economics was under active consideration by the Government. The Board will study problems of agricultural economics, like periods of unemployment and under-employment in agriculture, conditions of agricultural labourers, acts of land tenure on agricultural production, etc. With a view to ~~finding which method of farming had resulted in increased production,~~ consistent with the social need for an equitable distribution of what is produced, it was ~~proposed~~ proposed to carry out experiments in different places in collective and co-operative farming and farming by the State by capitalistic agencies. He added that the question of setting up a Planning and Utilization Committee for the whole country, with other boards related to it in the provinces, was also under investigation.

A Committee has been appointed under Dr. Gadgil for making recommendations regarding agricultural debt.

(The Statesman, 4 and 6-1-1945).

A Plan of Economic Development for India - Part II.*

The first part of a memorandum setting forth a plan for the economic development of India by eight leading Indian industrialists was referred to at pages 41 to 45 of our report for February, 1944. The second part of the memorandum dealing mainly with measures for bringing about a more equitable distribution of the national income and ensuring certain minimum standards of income and living, and discussing problems of State ownership, control and supervision of industries, etc, was published towards the middle of January, 1945. Except for Sir Ardeshir Dalal, who was

* Plan of Economic Development for India: Part II. (Distribution-Role of the State) by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, J.R.D. Tata, G.D. Birla, Shri Ram, Kasturbhai Lalbhai, A.D. Shroff and John Matthai, pages 34.

nable to sign the memorandum having joined the Viceroy's Executive Council as Member for Planning and Development, the signatories of the second part of the memorandum are the same as those of the first. (Sir Urshotandas Thakurdas, Mr. J.R.D. Tata, Mr. G.D. Birla, Sir Shri Ram, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr. A.D. Shroff and Dr. John Matthai). The memorandum is divided into ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ three sections: (I) Introductory, (II) Distribution of the National Income, and (III) the State and Economic Organisation.

I. Introductory.

The approach to the problems of distribution and state-control presented in the memorandum is two-fold. On the one hand, it is recognised that the existing economic organization, based on private enterprise and ownership, has failed to bring about a satisfactory distribution of the national income. On the other hand, it is felt that, in spite of its admitted shortcomings, it possesses certain features which have stood the test of time and have enduring achievements to their credit. It is therefore considered unwise to plan any sudden radical changes in a system which has worked with a fair measure of success in several directions. The plan should be for change in such a way as to ensure stability and orderliness. The future system should afford sufficient scope for productive enterprises and should ensure at the same time that the fruits of enterprise and labour are fairly apportioned among all who contribute to them and not unjustly withheld by a few from the many.

II. Distribution of the National Income.

Present Disparities of Income.- At present production in India is very small and it is not equitably distributed. The average per capita income of Rs. 65 in 1931-32, to which reference was made in the first memorandum, is an arithmetical average which bears little relation to the income realized by the majority of the population, which must be considerably below this figure. The per capita average itself varies from Rs. 51 to Rs. 166 in rural and urban areas respectively. In 1931-32, one half of the total urban income was in the hands of less than 10 per cent of urban workers and "even among the comparatively well-to-do class, whose annual incomes exceed Rs. 2,000 a year, 38 per cent of their number could claim only 17 per cent of their total income, while a little more than 1 per cent were in possession of as much as 10 per cent of their total income". In rural areas, the income of the majority of the people must have been less than the average of 51 rupees. This is because farmers holding less than 2 acres of land form a large proportion of the cultivating class. Moreover, the agricultural labourer, whose wage is sometimes as low as 2 to 3 annas a day, and the cultivator are generally without any work for 3 to 6 months in the year. The increase in population since 1931 must have considerably increased the pressure on this class.

Equitable Distribution and Increased Production.- These gross inequalities in income tend to retard the development of a country's economic resources, and prevent the needs of the vast majority of the population from exercising any influence on the volume of production. Thus, the large increase in production which is postulated in the plan will be difficult to achieve if the present disparities in income are allowed to persist. To this extent, therefore, equitable distribution is necessarily implied in a plan for increased production.

Two fold objective.- A policy aimed at securing a fairer distribution of the national income should have a two fold objective: (1) to secure to every person a minimum income essential for a reasonable

standard of living and (ii) to prevent gross inequalities in the incomes of different classes and individuals. It would be necessary gradually to reduce the existing inequalities of wealth and property and to decentralize the ownership of the means of production. Imposition of death duties and other similar levies, if undertaken, in pursuance of well defined social objectives, by a government fully responsible to the people, would contribute towards achieving the first object. Reform of the system of land tenures as suggested below would further help progress in the same direction. In the sphere of industry, as already indicated in the previous memorandum, the fullest possible scope should be provided for small scale cottage industries, particularly in the production of consumption goods. The process of decentralization would be further advanced by encouraging the widespread distribution of shares in joint stock companies, by regional distribution of industries and through the development of cooperative enterprises. Control by the State, accompanied in appropriate cases by State ownership or management of public utilities, basic industries, etc., will also tend to diminish inequalities of income.

It is however felt that although gross inequalities are undesirable, the abolition of inequalities, even if feasible, would not be in the interest of the country. Subject to the provision of a basic minimum, it is desirable to leave enough scope for variations in income according to ability and productivity. This will provide the necessary incentive for improvement in efficiency which is an important factor in the progress of a planned economy.

Rewards to factors of Production.- Side by side with the decentralization of production, the State's ownership or management of public utilities and basic industries by the State, it is also necessary to adjust the rewards of the various factors of production so as to further the reduction of gross inequalities. As a general rule, these rewards, i.e. wages, interest and profits, should continue to be determined on the basis of demand and efficiency as at present, subject to the overriding consideration that wages should not fall below a certain minimum and that interest rates should be controlled with a view to maintaining full employment. Profits should be kept within limits through fixation of prices, restriction of dividends, taxation, etc. But care should be taken to leave sufficient incentive for improvement in efficiency and expansion of production.

Minimum Standard of Living.- To secure a minimum standard of living for all classes of measures are proposed: (I) those that would raise the general level of income and (II) those that would reduce the burden of individual expenditure on consumption goods and services i.e. the cost of living.

I. Measures for increasing Income.- The measures for increasing the general level of income suggested are: ~~tax measures for increasing the~~ (i) provision full employment, (ii) increase in efficiency, (iii) improvement in urban and rural wages, (iv) security of agricultural prices and development of multipurpose cooperative societies, and (v) reform of the land system.

(i) Full Employment.- Of all the measures for raising the general level of income in India, provision of fuller scope for employment is the most important. Although no reliable information regarding the extent of unemployment or under-employment in this country is available, it is recognized that lack of employment is one of the major causes of the poverty of the people. Provision of full employment for the working part of the population would no doubt present formidable difficulties but without it the establishment of a decent standard of living would remain merely a pious hope. In general terms, provision of full employment means assuring for every grown up person suitable opportunities for earning his

her livelihood, that is, a recognition of the individual's right to work, increased mobility of labour being an essential condition for achieving this object.

(a) Industrial Labour.- It is expected that the industrial expansion outlined in the previous memorandum will absorb a considerable part of the working population when the plan is completed. In order that the new industries which would be established in the country should provide the maximum volume of employment, the planners have suggested a comparatively low ratio of capital intensification i.e. a smaller proportion of capital per worker than is usually met with in industrialized countries, and the simplest possible development ~~industrialization~~ of small scale and cottage industries. In this connection, reference is made to the experience of Japan, where, it is pointed out, about one half of the ~~persons~~ persons employed in the manufacturing industry in 1930 were in work-places employing under 5 persons each, and about 70 per cent were in work-places employing under 50 persons. Besides employment in industries, a large part of the population will be absorbed in trade and other services, which will necessarily increase in the wake of increased production and rising standards of living. And yet this will barely touch the problem of 'disguised unemployment' in agriculture which is the crux of the situation.

(b) Agricultural Workers.- The agriculturist and the agricultural labourer are generally without work for periods extending from 3 to 6 months in the year at present. This unemployment occurs at intervals and is of a seasonal character. Provision of work during these periods of seasonal unemployment is of paramount importance if a policy of full employment is to be successful. The steps contemplated for achieving this object are: (i) introduction of mixed farming i.e. cultivation accompanied by dairy farming, market gardening, etc., (ii) cultivation of more than one crop in a year with the help of better irrigation facilities and increased use of manures, and (iii) provision of subsidiary industries which the cultivator can take up when he has no work on ~~the farm~~ the farm. Among such subsidiary industries ~~the following~~ are mentioned the following: spinning and weaving, shoe making, paper making, tanning, gur making, soap making, oil crushing, fruit preserving, basket weaving, flour and starch making, etc.

Occupational Distribution.- The pattern of occupation distribution when the plan is completed would naturally be different from what it is today. Although sufficient statistical data regarding the present distribution are not available, the figures for the 1941 census having not been published, some indication of the occupational patterns when the plan is completely worked out has been attempted in the memorandum on certain broad assumptions. It is assumed that the proportion of population engaged in different occupations when the ~~plan~~ plan begins to operate will be the same as in 1931 and that the population may continue to increase at the rate of five million per annum, which is the average rate of increase for the decade covered by the 1941 census. The volume of employment in industry, which the investment programme envisaged in the plan would provide, is calculated on the basis of a capital equipment of Rs. 1,500 per worker and is added to the number of persons employed in industry in 1937 when the plan might come into operation. In estimating this ratio allowance has been made for the fact that small scale industries would have an important scope in the economic development of the country and that adoption of shift working would be necessary with a view to economizing capital and providing as much employment as possible. According to the 1931 census, the number of persons employed in services such as public administration, trade, transport, professions, etc. was 30 per cent of that in industry. The development of social services like education and public health on the scale suggested in the plan

the needs of general administration and defence would, on the completion of the plan, absorb a much larger number of people in services than at present. The general economic development of the country would lead to a substantial increase in trade and transport. However, since development in services postulated in the previous memorandum is proportionately much less than in industries, it is assumed that the total employment in services when the plan is completed would be about 60 per cent of that in industry. The rest of the population would be dependent on agriculture. On these assumptions, the distribution of working population according to the principal occupations in 1962, that is, in the year following the completion of the plan, would be somewhat as follows compared with that in 1931.

Occupational Distribution in 1931 & 1962

	1931		1962	
	Millions	per cent	Millions	per cent
Agriculture	106.3	72	129.7	58
Industry	22.1	15	57.9	26
Services*	19.2	13	34.7	16
Total working population	147.6	100	222.3	100
Total population	338.1	...	494.0	...

This category includes trade, transport, government administration, professions and domestic service. Persons living on their own income or engaged in unproductive occupations, whose number was 18 million in 1931, are added to this category for the sake of convenience.)

Unemployment Insurance.- When the plan is sufficiently advanced and economic conditions are to a certain extent stabilized, it ought to be possible to devise schemes of relief like unemployment insurance for workers subject to unexpected and prolonged periods of unemployment. The Government's public works programme, in respect of both new construction and repairs, should be regulated with a view to reducing a volume of seasonal and temporary unemployment. For those who are employed because of technological changes, suitable courses of training fit them for new jobs should be framed. It is believed that during the progress of the plan the amount of construction work, which the investment programme would involve, would itself provide a very substantial increase in the scope for employment.

(ii) Increase in Efficiency.- As a result of the spread of general and technical education among workers, better organization of industries, especially small scale and cottage industries, better organization of agriculture and trade, fuller use of cattle power, provision of cheap electricity, improved tools and appliances and fertilizers, etc., the general efficiency of production is bound to record a marked improvement at the end of the planning period. Under a system of decentralized production, the benefits of higher efficiency will be increasingly available to the smaller producer and the worker in the form of a corresponding increase in their incomes. Since a higher standard of living arises largely from increased productivity of labour, improvement in efficiency of production is a material factor in raising the general level of well-being.

(iii) Urban and Rural Wages.- Generally speaking, the daily wages of agricultural labour under pre-war conditions may be said to range from 5 annas a day for men, 1½ to 4 annas for women and 1 to 2 annas for children. The average wage of unskilled agricultural labour in 1939 was 2 annas per day in the Bombay province and 2 annas 9 pies per day in the

P. Even at these low rates the agricultural labourer hardly found employment all the year round. A number of these workers exist below the subsistence level, always an easy prey to epidemics and famines. When the developments in agriculture which have been broadly indicated in the previous memorandum have taken place and the reforms in the land system suggested elsewhere in this memorandum have been carried out, it will be necessary to fix minimum rates of wages for agricultural labour on a regional or local basis. With the development of co-operative farming, the enforcement of minimum agricultural wages, which otherwise might present formidable obstacles, would become less difficult.

Minimum Wages. - Although the establishment of a basic minimum wage for all occupations cannot be considered at this stage, a beginning may be made in certain well established industries like cotton textiles, sugar, cement, engineering, jute, mining, etc. In the initial stages, a minimum below which wages should not be allowed to fall should be related to the normal wage level prevailing in each industry. The minimum should be revised from time to time till it corresponds with a reasonable standard of living. The fixation of a minimum wage and its subsequent revision should be entrusted to a standing committee constituted for each industry consisting of representatives of employers and workers and a few independent persons.

(iv) Agricultural Prices and Co-operative Societies. - To prevent fluctuation in the prices of agricultural commodities the measures commended are the fixation of fair prices for the principal crops by the Government, maintenance of commodity reserves, and regulation of exports of agricultural produce. Adequate facilities for the storage and marketing of crops should be provided by the opening of a large number of multi-purpose co-operative societies.

(v) Reform of Land System. - Land tenure and land revenue are the two problems which have to be tackled in connection with the ~~major~~ reform of the land system. As regards ownership of land, the signatories suggest that the recommendation made by the Flood Commission with respect to zamindari, namely the replacement of zamindari system by ryotwari system, ~~should~~ should be made applicable to all the areas in India where zamindari system prevails. The land lord affected may be compensated by the payment of a fair rent and later on, when the State is in a better position, this may be commuted into a lump sum payment and the landlord's claim thus finally extinguished. It would also be necessary to check the transfer of land from cultivators to non-cultivators and to control speculators with a view to reducing the attractiveness of land to speculative investors.

Reforms in the present system of land revenue should be in the direction of making the basis of assessment uniform all over the country, as to secure equality in the incidence of revenue, while retaining a certain measure of elasticity by a provision to vary the assessment from time to time in accordance with the trend of prices. The pitch of assessment should also be lowered. Also, agricultural incomes above a certain level may be subjected to income-tax like other incomes.

As a result of the measures indicated above, the lower incomes would record a steady improvement and consequently the income structure of the country would be more broad-based. For individual earners this improvement would arise from increased output as well as better prices. The cumulative effect of the measures proposed on the incomes of the different occupational classes is roughly indicated in the table given below. The table is based on the occupational pattern given above and the estimated income from agriculture, industry and services at the end of the plan. It is assumed that persons following agriculture as their principal occupation would also secure, through subsidiary occupations,

percent of the income from industry and services.

Average Income Per Occupied Person.

	1931	1962	Increase per cent.
	Rs.	Rs.	
griculture	114	220	93
dustry	161	368	129
rvides	204	397	50

II. Measures for reducing Cost of Living.- The measures proposed for reducing the cost of living fall into two categories: (i) provision of social services e.g. primary and middle school education, adult education and medical treatment; and (ii) provision of essential utility services e.g. electricity and transport at low costs.

In the previous memorandum it was proposed that there should be introduced a comprehensive scheme of education and medical relief. Under that every person, whatever his means, should be able to secure the benefits of education and medical relief, it was suggested that primary, middle school and adult education and medical treatment, both in rural dispensaries and in hospitals, should be provided free of charge. This would mean a considerable relief in the cost of living. At present essential utility services such as electricity, gas, transport, etc., are supplied on a comparatively limited scale and for the majority of people at a cost which they cannot afford. The supply of these services should be increased sufficiently and their cost kept down both for domestic use and for cottage and rural industries. In order to achieve this object it is proposed that these services should be subsidized by the State to such extent as may be necessary and that the margin of profit in them should be subjected to control.

National Relief Fund.- It is possible that in spite of these measures, due to unforeseen causes such as a failure of the monsoon or any other natural calamity, conditions of living for large sections of the population may suffer a serious setback. To meet such emergencies, the memorandum suggests the creation of a National Relief Fund on the lines of the present Famine Relief Fund, but larger in resources and in scope, to be utilized as and when the need arises. A part of this Fund should be held in the form of consumption goods which could be mobilized for instantaneous relief in times of emergency.

Social Security.- There are several contingencies such as sickness, drought, technological unemployment, etc, which are not specifically covered by these proposals. These contingencies cannot be met except by a comprehensive scheme of social insurance. Although the need for such a scheme is urgently felt in India, it may not be possible to introduce until (i) a policy of full employment has had time to work itself out and some approximation is made to a position of stable employment for the greater part of the population i.e. until the risks insurable are reduced to manageable proportions, and until (ii) the average individual income has risen sufficiently to meet the contributions necessary under a scheme of insurance. But as in the case of fixing a minimum wage, a beginning in the direction of social insurance may, however, be made by introducing sickness insurance and holidays with pay for workers in organized industries. The scope of the existing legislation in respect of maternity benefits should also be widened by making it applicable to all industrial establishments coming under the Factories' Act in the whole of India.

Prevention of Gross Inequalities of Income.- The measures suggested above will, to a considerable extent, help to reduce the present gross inequalities of income. The most important method, however, of preventing

75

m is direct taxation, which in effect transfers income from the comparatively richer classes of society to the poorer. A steeply graduated income tax, which would keep personal incomes within limits, would obviously be the most important weapon for this purpose in the fiscal armoury of the country. But in any such scheme of taxation, consistently with the development programme envisaged in the plan, it is necessary to emphasize that adequate remission should be granted in respect of the depreciation of the assets employed in production and that incomes ploughed back for rearing industrial or agricultural production should also be granted similar remission. Further, in the taxation of personal incomes, a distinction should be made between earned and unearned income, so as to make the latter taxable at a higher rate. As a means of correcting the existing inequalities of wealth, the device of death duties might also be adopted. The advisability of taxing inherited estates more severely at second and later transfers than at the first would be a further step in the same direction. India's fiscal system will have to place more and more reliance on direct taxation in future if the increase in the cost of administration which planning will involve is to be met and if provision is to be made for free social services like education, medical treatment, and subsidies for essential utility services. Taxation on this scale will place a very heavy burden on the country and will be justified only if its utilization for the purposes for which it is intended is fully guaranteed by a national government responsible to the people of the country. Unless therefore a national government is in existence at the time when the plan is put into operation there can be no assurance that execution will be directed either along right lines or towards right ends, nor that the resources released for the purpose will be wisely and fruitfully expended.

III. The State and Economic Organisation.

The signatories recognise it as inevitable that in executing and putting into effect a comprehensive plan of economic development, especially in a country where the beginnings of such development have yet to be laid, the State should exercise in the interests of the community a considerable measure of intervention and control. They, however, refute the charge made by certain critics that planning necessarily involves a totalitarian form of government. "If democracies can successfully plan and organise their resources for waging wars, it stands to reason that they can do so equally for fighting social evils such as poverty, disease and ignorance". They further declare that the object of planning will be achieved more effectively if the controls inherent in it are voluntarily accepted by the community and only enforced with its consent.

The principles on which the economic organisation for working the plan is to be built up are: (i) that there should be enough scope for individual initiative and enterprise; (ii) that the interests of the community should be effectively safeguarded against the abuse of individual freedom; (iii) that the State should play a positive role in the direction and development of economic resources. The planners are of opinion that the widening of the economic functions of the State in the direction of State ownership, (ii) control, and (iii) management of economic enterprises has become necessary in the interests of the community. Generally, management of these, State control is considered to be of greater importance than State ownership or management. In regard to the considerations which should decide the form of State intervention in industries, it is pointed out that generally enterprises which are financed by the State and which must be controlled in the public interest are not amenable to effective control except on the basis of State ownership should be wholly owned by the State. Enterprises wholly or partially owned by the State, public utilities, basic industries, monopolies, industries using or producing scarce natural

77

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