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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Industrial and labour Developments in October, 1945.

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

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Government of India:

Employment of Women Underground in Coal Mines: Ban to be Reimposed from 1-2-1946.

Reimposition of the ban on the employment of women underground in coalmines from 1-2-1946, has been decided on by the Government of India. By a notification published in the Gazette of India dated 3-11-1945, the Government of India has cancelled, with effect from 1-2-1946, the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Labour, No. M.5731 and No. M. 5962 issued in November and December 1943 respectively (vide page 2 of the report of this Office for November 1943 and page 1 of our report for December 1943), exempting coalmines in Bengal, Bihar, the Central Provinces and Berar, and Orissa from the provisions of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, to the extent to which the rules made thereunder prohibit the entry of women into underground workings for the purposes of employment.

This step is in accordance with the declared policy of the government that as soon as the emergency was over, the employment of women underground would be stopped. It will also restore the position in respect of the International Labour Convention that was ratified by India in 1939. The Government feels that the cessation of hostilities justifies the abrogation of a war-time measure even though the position of coal still remains difficult.

(The Gazette of India, dated 3-11-1945, Part I, Section 1, page 1504; and The Times of India, dated 2-11-1945).

Amendment to Explosives Rules, 1940.

The Government of India has notified at page 1438 of the Gazette of India, Part I, Section 1, dated 20-10-1945, further amendments to the Explosives Rules, 1940, (vide page 1 of the report of this Office for December 1940). The amendments add to the above rules a new chapter on accidents and inquiries.

(The Gazette of India, dated 20-10-1945, Part I, Section 1, page 1438).

Mines Maternity Benefit Rules, 1942: Draft Amendment.

The Government of India gazetted on 29-9-1945 the draft of an amendment which it proposes to make in the Mines Maternity Benefit Rules, 1942. The amendment seeks to extend the rules to the whole of British India including those excluded and partially excluded areas to which the Act has been or may hereafter be applied by notification by the Government of India. The draft will be taken into consideration on or after 1-11-1945.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Section 1, dated 29-9-1945, page 1330).

Industrial Statistics Act, 1942 to come into force in British Baluchistan: Draft Rules.

The Chief Commissioner, Baluchistan, has directed that statistics relating to matters concerning factories shall be collected in British Baluchistan under the provisions of the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942. The draft of the rules framed under the Act is published at pages 309-312 of the Gazette of India, Part IIA, dated 20-10-1945.

The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 5-11-1945.

(The Gazette of India, Part II-A, dated 20-10-1945, pages 309-312).

Assam:

Non-Seasonal Factories to submit Returns relating to Workers employed: Fresh Rule proposed under Factories Act, 1934.

The Government of Assam gazetted on 17-10-1945 the draft of an addition it proposes to make, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 77 of the Factories Act, 1934, to the rule under the Act published by the Government of India on 8-8-1935 (vide page 19 of the report of this office for August 1935). The fresh rule proposed requires from the factory, unless it is a seasonal factory, on or before the 15th July of each year, with effect from the period January to June 1945, a return for the preceding half year January to June in a prescribed form. In the return in addition to other information, details have to be given as to the average number of workers employed daily, under the following heads: adults, men, women; adolescents, male, female; and children, boys and girls.

The draft will be taken into consideration after 30-12-1945.

(The Assam Gazette dated 17-10-1945, Part II, page 1015).

Bengal:Application of Labour Acts to partially excluded Areas
in Bengal.

By a notification dated 8-10-1945 the Government of Bengal has directed that the following Acts and Ordinances shall apply to the partially excluded areas of the Mymensingh district from the date of publication of the notification, namely, ~~The Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941~~; ~~The Mines Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 1943~~; ~~The Mines Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 1945~~; The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Ordinance, 1944; and the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1944.

(The Calcutta Gazette, dated 25-10-1945,
Part I, page 1739).

Central Provinces and Berar:Draft Rule under Payment of Wages Act, 1936: Deduction
from wages not to exceed 40 per cent of wages.

The government of the Central Provinces and Berar gazetted on ~~12-10-1945~~ the draft of a rule it proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred on it by the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

According to the draft rule no deduction to be made under clause (k) of subsection (2) of section 7 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, from the wages of an employed person, shall be such, as, together with all other deductions authorised under the Act, will exceed 40 per cent of the amount of wages earned by him.

The draft will be taken into consideration on or after 15-1-1946.

(The Central Provinces and Berar Gazette,
dated 12-10-1945, Part III, page 367).

Madras:Weekly Holidays Act, 1942: to come into force in
Municipalities of Madras on 1-1-1946.

By a notification published in the Fort St. George Gazette dated 9-10-1945 the Government of Madras has directed that the Weekly Holidays Act, 1942, shall come into force in the City of Madras and in the other municipalities of the Province of Madras on and from 1-1-1946.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, dated
9-10-1945, Part I, page 681).

Factories (Holidays) Rules : Draft.

The Government of Madras gazetted on 14-8-1945 the draft of the factories (Holidays) Rules it proposes to make for the province. They are on the lines of the draft Factories (Holidays) Central Rules framed by the Government of India (vide page 1 of the report of this Office for August 1945). The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 15-11-1945.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, dated 14-8-1945, Rules Supplement to Part I, pages, 25-28).

Punjab:

Punjab Payment of Wages Rules, 1937: Draft Amendment.

The Government of Punjab has gazetted on 26-10-1945 the draft of an amendment which it proposes to make in the Punjab Payment of Wages Rules, 1937. The amendment proposed relates to the maintenance of the registers prescribed by the rules. The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 25-1-1946.

(The Punjab Gazette, dated 26-10-1945, Part I, page 713).

Rules and Forms under Industrial Statistics Act, 1942, Cancelled.

By a notification dated 4-10-1945, the Punjab Government has cancelled the Rules and Forms it had notified under the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942, on 19-6-1945. (Reference is made to the draft rules at page 5 of the report of this Office for March 1945).

(The Punjab Gazette, dated 12-10-1945, Part I, page 680).

United Provinces:

Managers of Non-Seasonal Factories in U.P. to submit Half-Yearly Returns: Fresh Rule proposed under Factories Act, 1934.

The Government of the United Provinces gazetted on 6-10-1945 the draft of certain amendments and an addition it proposes to make to the rule under the Factories Act, 1934 published by the Government of India in a notification dated 8-8-1935 (vide page 19 of the report of this Office for August 1935). The new rule which the U.P. Government proposes to add requires the manager of every non-seasonal factory to furnish to the Chief Inspector of Factories, on or before the 15th July and 15th January each year, a half-yearly return in a prescribed form. The return requires the manager to furnish, among other

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details, the nature of the industry carried on, the average number of workers employed daily including the number of men, women, adolescent boys, adolescent girls, boys and girls and the number of days worked ~~average~~ during the half-year.

The draft rule will be taken into consideration on or after 7-1-1945.

(Government of Gazette of the United Provinces dated 6-10-1945, Part I-A, page 263). *

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SOCIAL POLICY.

Mr. Nimbhar, Labour Welfare Adviser, Resigns.

Mr. R.S. Nimbhar, Labour Welfare Adviser, Government of India, reference to whose appointment was made at page 2 of the report of this Office for May 1942, has, it is learnt, resigned his post. The resignation has been accepted.

It is also learnt that another labour leader, Mr. J.N. Mitra, Deputy Labour Welfare Adviser to the Government of India, has resigned his post to resume trade union work.

5-10-1945
(The Hindustan Times, ~~5-10-1945~~
The Vanguard, 5-10-1945).

Seventh Plenary Labour Conference, to be held on 27 and 28-11-1945: Items on the Agenda.

The seventh (plenary) Labour Conference will be held at New Delhi on 27 and 28-11-1945. The subjects on the agenda are: (1) Unemployment—(a) involuntary unemployment resulting from controls; and (b) in transition period; (2) Reduction of working hours under the Factories Act; (3) minimum wage legislation; (4) attitude of employment exchanges during strikes and or lockouts; and (5) industrial canteens.

48-hour Week.— In India the limiting of the daily hours dates back to 1871 when it was confined only to women workers. In 1911 the daily limit of 12 hours was first imposed for adult men employed in the textile industry. In 1922 the 12 hour limit was reduced to 11 hours and was extended to non-textile industries. The weekly limit was unknown to the Indian Factories Act and a 60 hour week was first introduced in 1922 in pursuance of a special provision relating to India in the Washington Hours Convention. A further reduction in the daily and weekly limits from 11 hours and 60 hours to 10 hours and 54 hours respectively for perennial factories was incorporated in the Factories Act, 1934, as a result of the Royal Commission's recommendations. The main object in having shorter working hours is to provide the worker with enough leisure to attend to the needs of his household and enough time for recreation. At present the 9 hour day with 1 hour of rest, make an aggregate of 10 hours a day which he has to spend in the factory premises, to which must be added, where the worker does not live on the premises, another couple of hours for going to and returning from work. It is recognised that it is both unjust and unwise to deny the worker a reasonable amount of spare time away from the factory, which is indispensable for the building up of citizenship and the development of life. The Government of India must consider that the present is an opportune time to consider the adoption of a 48-hour week. The proposed reduction will, in the Government's opinion, enable industries to work 3 shifts (they cannot work more than 2 shifts at present), and thus lead to increase production, particularly, in the textile industry.

where there is a ready market to absorb increased production. This will, in turn, absorb more men in industries and ease, to some extent, the employment problem which is expected to be acute in the near future. Information collected by Government shows that the total number of persons employed in the textile industry at present, is about 700,000, and that in the majority of the textile mills working hours are 54 per week; the reduction to 48 hours will create greater employment. Investigations in the case of engineering, iron ore, sugar and cotton ginning and baling industries, as also in regard to labour in tramways and bus services of two provinces and in ports, have revealed that in most cases the present working hours are only 48 a week. The number of employees covered by these is about 947,000; there is thus a substantial number of already enjoying the benefit which is proposed to be extended to factory labour in general. A 48 hour week will also provide immediate relief to factory workers who worked at great strain during the long period of the war.

It is emphasised that the proposed reduction in hours should not be accompanied by any reduction in basic wages. Such reductions cannot be contemplated at a time of high prices. Similarly, there should be no reduction in dearness allowances also except to the extent this can be justified by fall in prices or other considerations wholly unconnected with the reduced working hours. So long as there is no fall in prices, the dearness allowance is for all practical purposes a part of the wages. If the proposed relief in reduction of hours is allowed to time workers, the rates of piece workers should be adjusted roughly on the principle that a piece worker should earn by working for the normal hours, which will now be 9, not less than a time worker earns as daily wages.

Attitude of Employment Exchanges during Strikes and Lockouts.- The Government of India is anxious that Employment Exchanges should avoid all activities which may cause mistrust or dissatisfaction among employers or employment seekers on account of the attitude they adopt during strikes or lockouts. The Government is anxious that Exchanges should remain neutral, and would like to have the opinion of the representatives of organised employers and workers on the following two points: (1) Should Exchanges submit workers for vacancies which have arisen either directly or indirectly as a result of a trade dispute? and (2) Should Exchanges help workers engaged in, and unemployed through a trade dispute to find other employment? Three courses are open to the Exchanges and are suggested for discussion: (i) to refuse to accept vacancies or to register workpeople; (ii) to accept vacancies and to inform suitable applicants of the existence of the trade dispute before submission; to register workmen and to submit them for other employment, informing the prospective employers that they are unemployed as the result of an existing trade dispute; and (iii) to accept vacancies and to submit workmen for employment without reservation.

Industrial canteens.- The Government of India recognised that the provision of canteens in the industrial establishments provides inexpensive and wholesome food to workers and thereby promotes their health and well-being, upon which productive efficiency and the welfare of the trade in which they are engaged largely depends; also communal feeding makes for substantial economy in the use of food-stuffs, and creates a sense of solidarity among workpeople and a feeling of attachment to their work-place. With a view to encourage rapid development of canteens, it has offered concessions to the managements (a) allowing

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any loss incurred by them in running canteens to be treated as a revenue loss in their income-tax and excess profits tax assessments; (b) placing at their disposal the expert advice of the Factory Inspectorates and Labour Officers of the provincial governments with regard to plant, layouts and other technical matters connected with construction of canteens; and (c) providing, in the case of Central undertakings, facilities for free accommodation and initial equipment (i.e., cooking utensils and furniture) for running canteens.

The Government is of opinion that permanent legislation to enforce provision of canteens in industrial undertakings is desirable. Such canteens should be run on a non-profits basis and the prices charged for the food served therein should not exceed the prices prevailing in public restaurants and eating-houses in their vicinity. The managements will be required to provide for canteens, on such scale as may be prescribed by the provincial Government or by the Chief Inspector of Factories accommodation free of rent or at a concessional rent and all cooking utensils and furniture free of charge. Representatives of workers will be required to be associated with management of canteens. The managements will be required to set up canteens for their factories within such time as may be prescribed, say 3 months, in conformity with such standards as may be laid down by provincial Government or by the Chief Inspector of Factories regarding construction, size, accommodation, equipment, food to be supplied, services to be rendered therein and other matters regarding the construction and use of canteens. These proposals can be met by a suitable amendment to section 33(1) of the Factories Act, 1934, which would enable provincial Governments to require the managements of factories to provide canteens.

The opinion of the conference is to be invited on the above proposal with particular reference to (a) the advisability of making statutory provision for canteens; and (b) factories to which it should apply (with reference to the number of workers employed).

(The Indian Labour Gazette, October, 1945,
and the Memoranda on the items on the
Agenda sent to this Office by the
Department of Labour, Government of India).

9

CONDITIONS OF WORK.

Hours of Work and Weekly Rest, etc.

Working Time Agreement in Jute Industry: Extension for
FIVE YEARS.

Reference was made at page 11 of our report for October 1944 to the working the Working Time Agreement in the Jute industry, during 1943. According to the Report of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, for 1944, the Principal Agreement of 9-1-1939, which expired on 11-12-1944 was replaced by another Principal Agreement dated 12-6-1944, almost identical in terms. This became effective on 12-12-1944 and will continue to be the main factor in the governance of the industry's working programme for 5 years from that date. During the period January-December, 1944, mills were permitted to work 54 or 72 hours in every week (according to their loomage strength as is provided for in the Principal Agreement). Actually, availability of coal governed the ability to work these hours. A special meeting of the committee of the Association held on 11-12-1944 sanctioned the continuance of the industry's working hours, 54 for mills with over 380 looms and 72 for others.

(Report of the Committee of the Indian Jute
Mills Association for 1944). .

Wages.

Wages of Railway Employees, 1943-44: Annual Report on the Working of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

According to the annual report on the working of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, for the year 1943-44, the total amount of wages paid to railway employees earning less than Rs. 200 per month rose from 324,137,030 in 1942-43 to Rs. 377,267,540 in 1943-44.

Number of Workers and Delays in Payments.- The provisions of the Act applied during the year to approximately 969,174 railway employees, including persons employed by railway contractors, as against 806,301 employees in the previous year. During the year under review, 6,003 cases of delay in payment of wages were discovered; most of these cases related to the payment of increments, overtime allowances, leave salary, officiating allowances, etc.

Inspections.- The Inspectors of Railway Labour inspected during the year 7,741 railway establishments, 180 contractors' establishments and 225 paymasters' offices on Class I railways, as compared with 7,047,209 and 278, respectively, in the ~~maximum~~ previous year.

Fines Imposed and Refunded.- The amounts of fines imposed and of deductions due to damage or loss were Rs. 18,657 and Rs. 1,007,443, respectively. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 8,055 and Rs. 67,907. The number of cases in which one or the other requirement of law had been overlooked in imposing fines and which ~~were~~ were detected during the year was 183 as against 199 in the previous year. On the advice of the Chief Conciliation Officer (Railways) and Supervisor of Railway Labour, all such fines were refunded to the employees ~~concerned~~ concerned.

The report comments that generally speaking the Railway authorities extended a commendable spirit of co-operation in the administration of the Act.

(The Hindustan Times, 25-10-1945). +

Industrial Disputes.

Calcutta Tramways Dispute Settled: Terms of Settlement.

A settlement has been reached between the Calcutta Tramways Company and the Calcutta Tramway Workers' Union of the two points of dispute, which, following the recent strike, the Government of Bengal referred to a Conciliation Board of four, with Mr. J.C. Gupta, M.L.A., as Chairman (vide page 6 of the report of this Office for September 1945). Under the settlement, firstly, all workers of the Tramways Company who were in service on August 31, 1945, will receive a month's pay as bonus; secondly, two of the three discharged workers will be reinstated conditionally, while the case of the third will be referred to a court of law and the company will abide by the result.

The other 30 issues in the dispute which the Government referred to a court of adjudication will come up for hearing before an Additional District and Sessions Judge, on November 7, 1945.

(The Statesman, 6-10-1945). + +

Welfare.

Labour Welfare Activities of the Government of Bengal.

The Beginning.- The Government of Bengal made a beginning with their labour welfare measures in the year 1937-38. For a few days years during the initial stages these measures took the shape of payments of grants-in-aid to private organisations working for the benefit of labour. The amounts of the grants-in-aid sanctioned each year during the first three years are given below:-

Year	Amount sanctioned
1937-38	Rs. 2,250
1938-39	Rs. 15,050
1939-40	Rs. 3,005.

Labour Welfare Centres.- In the year 1939-40 the Government of Bengal plan its labour welfare assumed a twofold character. While on the one hand Government remained alive to the necessity of maintaining the grants-in-aid to private organisations, it was also decided to launch a scheme of activities under its direct administrative control. The task was entrusted to the Labour Commissioner, Bengal. The nucleus of welfare institutions already existing, i.e., the primary schools started by the Bengal Labour Welfare League, remained, but with a view to carrying out the labour welfare measures more effectively by establishing direct contact with the workers, the Labour Commissioner began to establish labour welfare centres in the different industrial areas of the Province. In 1940-41 a start was made with ten centres. Since then progress has been made as shown below:-

Year	No. of Welfare Centres
1940-41	10
1941-42	16
1942-43	22
1943-44	38
1944-45	41.

Many private industrial undertakings and their associations including the Indian Jute Mills Association have also in recent times established labour welfare centres for the exclusive benefit of the employees.

Activities of Labour Welfare Centres.- The labour welfare centres established by Government are placed in charge of experienced labour welfare workers who are well acquainted with the problems of labour. Two labour welfare workers are attached to each important centre and one to each of the others. The centres are kept open in the mornings and evenings and remain closed one day in a week. The labour welfare workers are required to give periodical reports regarding the attendance of workers and the working of the centres to the Labour Officer in charge of the area in which a particular centre stands. The Government Labour Officers, the Assistant Labour Commissioners and the Additional Labour Commissioner in charge of labour welfare make periodical inspections of the centres and look to their efficient management and working. The main activities of the centres are: day school for children of labourers; night school for adult workers; instructional classes on

(a) labour laws, (b) trade unions, (c) health and ~~hygiene~~ hygiene, (d) first aid and nursing, (e) co-operation, (f) prohibition, etc.; indoor games, music ~~and~~ by radio, and other recreations; establishment of ~~clubs~~ and organisations of sports meetings and out door games; organisations of voluntary corps for social service, e.g., basket cleaning; organisation of maternity and child welfare lectures and establishing creches; exhibition of cinema films for entertainment and labour welfare propaganda; playing of gramophone records for propaganda with music; facilities for reading and having newspapers read; facilities for rendering ~~various~~ services to labour, i.e., writing of money orders, letters, etc.; facilities for giving advice to workers for redress of grievances regarding employment.

Attendance at Labour Welfare Centres.- Below is given a statement of the approximate attendance of workers at the centres:-

Year	Approximate attendance of workers at Labour welfare centres per month.			
	Children's class	Adults' class	Indoor games	Outdoor games.
1940-41
1941-42	851	745	494	343
1942-43	897	732	500	213
1943-44	492	759	579	259
1944-45	212	221	458	299

Government Expenditure on Labour Welfare Activities.- The amounts sanctioned and spent by Government on Labour welfare activities since the inauguration of the Government labour welfare centres are noted below:-

Year	Amount spent on labour welfare centres
	Rs.
1940-41	6,926
1941-42	10,740
1942-43	18,144
1943-44	28,628-6-9
1944-45	34,720

In addition a considerable sum has been spent as grants-in-aid to private organisations in the Calcutta industrial area.

Cooked Food Canteens for Industrial Workers.- Further, in conformity with the policy of the Government of India, particular attention of the Labour Commissioner, Bengal, and of the Provincial Rationing Authorities is focussed upon encouraging the establishment of cooked food canteens for labour in industry. Good progress has been made and a number of industrial concerns have thought fit to open cooked food canteens for their labour or propose to do so as the result of the activity of the Government Labour Officer for canteens appointed some months ago. The number of cooked food canteens already established in the Calcutta industrial area is 66 while tea canteens have been started.

An experienced officer is at present undergoing welfare training in England and it is hoped that on his return this part of the Labour Commissioner's activities will rapidly develop.

(Indian Labour Gazette, September, 1945).

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General.

Boiler Inspection in the United Provinces in 1944.

As a result of the recommendation made by the Royal Commission on Labour in India and owing to industrialisation of the Province the hitherto combined office of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers, United Provinces, was split up into two independent sections with effect from 1-4-1944 and an officer was appointed officiating Chief Inspector of Boilers.

According to the annual report on the working of the Indian Boilers Act, 1928, in the United Provinces during the year 1944, 1489 boilers (including those newly registered and those transferred from other provinces) were offered for inspection as compared with 1467 in 1943. There was an all round increase in all the types of boilers inspected over the figures of the previous year. The number of inspections (including steam hydraulic and steam tests) made by the inspectors was 1835. Besides these 1485 casual visits were also made by the inspectors and chief inspector. Thus the total number of inspections was 3420 as against 2776 in 1943. Four prosecutions were instituted by the department during the year against the boiler owners and their agents for breach of the Act.

Twenty-five boilers were registered during the year under report as against 16 in 1943. The total number of boilers in the province amounted to 3,047. Also 42 boilers were transferred to the province as against 38 in the previous year and 33 boilers were removed from the province as against 35 in the previous year. Nearly three-fourths of the boilers transferred during the year to this province were working in concerns manufacturing war supplies.

During the year under report the receipt increased by Rs. 7,327 and the expenditure decreased by Rs. 4,386 over the previous year. The decrease in the expenditure was mainly due to the separation of the combined offices of Factories and Boilers with effect from 1-4-1944 which has resulted in a great improvement in the working of the Boilers' Section.

(Labour Bulletin, April-June, 1945).

Trends of Factory Employment in the United Provinces
during 1944.

The trends of factory employment in the United Provinces in 1944 are analysed in a note on the working of the Factories Act in the United Provinces published in the Labour Bulletin, April-June 1945. The note is based on the annual report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934 in the United Provinces for the year 1944.

Growth of Factory Employment.- The following comparative tables give the growth of factories and factory employment in the United Provinces between 1939 and 1944.

Table I - Number of Factories

Class of Factory	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Non-Seasonal	392	508	656	701	715	803
Seasonal	154	146	155	139	141	140
Total	546	654	811	840	856	943

Table II - Average daily number of Workers

Class of Factory	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Non-Seasonal	108,537	129,997	174,025	182,403	202,826	227,431
Seasonal	51,201	50,637	50,291	50,121	52,013	50,807
Total	159,738	180,634	224,316	232,524	254,839	278,238

From these tables it will be seen that the number of factories has increased by 10.2 per cent during the year under review as compared with the previous year and by 72.7 per cent as compared with 1939. The percentage increase in the average daily number of workers shows a close proximity to the above figures, the increase being 9.2 per cent and 74.2 per cent as compared with 1943 and 1939 respectively. Taking the case of non-seasonal and seasonal factories separately, we find that both the number of seasonal factories and the average daily number of workers have slightly declined during the year under report as compared with the previous year; but the decline is appreciable as compared with 1939, the number of seasonal factories having declined by 8.1 per cent. As compared with the previous year the number of non-seasonal factories has increased by 12.3 per cent with a corresponding increase of 12.1 per cent in the number of workers; and as compared with 1939 the number of non-seasonal factories has increased by 104.8 per cent with a slightly greater increase of 109.5 per cent in the number of workers.

Industrywise Development.- There has been an increase in the average daily number of workers since 1939 in all industries except in engineering and gins and presses. As compared with 1943 the average number of workers in the textile groups fell by 1.7 per cent, though as compared with 1939 the number showed an increase of 34.3 per cent. The highest increase in the average number of workers in 1944 over 1943 were in the Government and Local Fund Factories 43.2 per cent, gins and presses 29 per cent, and chemicals, dyes etc. 18.7 per cent. On the other hand as compared with 1943, the average number of workers declined in the engineering industry by 44.5 per cent and in the miscellaneous group by 19.3 per cent. The number of factories and the average number of workers employed in 1944 for each class of industry, are given in the table on the next page.

Regional Distribution of Factories.- 18.7 per cent of the factories employing 39.4 per cent of total number of workers in the province (as against 19.6 per cent and 40.5 per cent last year) are located in Cawnpore District. Some other districts in order of industrial importance are Gorakhpur, Agra, Lucknow, Allahabad, Meerut, Shahjahanpur, Saharanpur, Bareilly, Aligarh, Benares and Sitapur. Since 1939 some districts have increased in industrial importance, e.g., Allahabad, while others have declined, e.g., Aligarh. These variations are largely accounted for by Government factories doing war-work.

Class of Industry	1944	
	Number of factories	Average number of workers.
1. Government and Local Fund Factories.	123	86,177
2. Textiles .	70	71,367
3. Engineering.	106	6,470
4. Minerals and metals	80	6,228
5. Food, drink and tobacco.	199	64,064
6. Chemical, dye, etc.	79	8,985
7. Paper and printing.	68	5,076
8. Processes relating to wood, stone and glass.	124	11,542
9. Processes connected with hides and skins.	26	12,751
10. Gins and presses.	63	4,175
11. Miscellaneous.	5	1,403

(Labour Bulletin, April-June, 1945).

Does 'Bonus' form part of Wages? Bombay High Court's Decision.

An important decision as to whether a 'bonus' to workmen is an ex gratia payment or a payment which the workmen can legally claim as of right and whether a dispute relating to bonus is a 'trade dispute' was given recently by Mr. Justice Bhagwati at the Bombay High Court in a petition brought by the Indian Hume Pipe Company, Limited.

The Dispute.- It appears that since 1941, the employees of the Indian Hume Pipe Company Limited had been demanding bonus and threatening to go on strike. As a result of conciliation, the petitioners paid bonus for the years 1941, 1942 and 1943 but refused to pay bonus for 1944. Thereupon the Government of Bombay appointed Mr. V.E.M. Namavathy, I.C.S. (Retired) to adjudicate in the matter. The Company contended that the payment of bonus was a voluntary payment by way of concession which ~~it~~ they were not bound to pay and that the question whether the workmen were entitled to receive bonus was not a dispute which could be referred for adjudication within the meaning of clause 5 of rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules read with ~~rule~~ 3-2(J) of the Trade Disputes Act 1929. They, therefore, submitted that the adjudicator appointed by Government had no jurisdiction to enter upon the matter and to adjudicate.

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The Judgment.- Giving his judgement Mr. Justice Bhagwati said that the word 'bonus' had been considered in various cases decided in India as well as in England and referred to several decisions on the subject. These established beyond doubt the proposition that bonus was used to describe payments of grace as well as payments as being legally due to workmen as of right. His Lordship, therefore, held that the bonuses were paid in respect of past work done and not paid merely as a matter of grace or to induce or ensure better or more efficient work, and decided that the demand of bonus was a "trade dispute" within the meaning of the definition thereof in s.2(J) of the Trade Disputes Act and could, by virtue of the operation of rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules, be the subjectmatter of reference to the adjudicator.

(The Times of India, dated
2-10-1945).

Conditions of Work in Bengal Jute Industry.

The conditions under which workers are employed in the jute industry of Bengal are reviewed in a note published in the October 1945 issue of the Trade Union Record. The following is a brief summary of the note.

The jute industry of Bengal, located within a 60-mile radius of Calcutta, is one of the oldest, biggest, and best organised industries in India. The 78 principal jute mills are organised in the powerful Indian Jute Mills Association and employ about 300,000 workers. The industry has been turning out enormous quantities of jute manufactures to meet heavy war demands, and the index of its annual net profits has risen from 100 in 1939 to 926 in 1943.

Wages.- But the rate of wages of jute workers is exceedingly low and there has been no substantial increment in the last 20 years. No increments in wages have been given even during the war. The wages for jute workers are not standardised. The wage scale varies from one mill to another even under the same management. The average monthly wage of daily-rated workers is about Rs. 20 and that of piece-rate workers ~~is about~~ Rs. 23. Even the average as calculated by the Indian Jute Mills Association comes to Rs. 24 per month. Thousands of workers in departments such as batching, ribbing, finishing, sewing, etc., get as little as between Rs. 11 and Rs. 15 per month. A weaver's weekly wages vary between a minimum of Rs. 7 and maximum of Rs. 13/8; and a spinner's weekly wages between a minimum of Rs. 5 and a maximum of ~~Rs. 8/6~~ Rs. 8/6. But in actual fact, due to prolonged spells of involuntary unemployment these workers have not had a chance during the last 2 years to earn anywhere more than 50 per cent or 70 per cent of the possible maximum.

Dearness Allowance.- Jute workers are paid a uniform Dearness Allowance of Rs. 8 each per month. Besides this, they get some rations at subsidised rates, whose concession value amounts to another Rs. 6 per month. Thus the total Dearness Allowance received monthly by a jute worker is only Rs. 14. How inadequate this is, can be seen from the fact that, according to the Bengal Labour Commissioner's Office the working class cost of living index for Calcutta in May 1945 was

282 (Base: Aug. 1939: 100), and for Jagatdal - the main Jute Mill area - 291.

Service Conditions.- There are at present no provisions whatsoever for ~~possibility of service~~, leave facilities, minimum wages, bonus, pensions or gratitudes, provident fund, etc. Recently after years of agitation, the employers have decided to introduce some sort of service conditions, and their proposed draft is now under consideration by the T.U.C. and the Government. (Vide page 9 of the report of this Office for May 1945). Even this draft does not provide for many of the benefits mentioned above and suffers from other serious defects. For instance, there are no safe-guards against victimisation, no provisions for an appellate authority or for changes in the service rules, and no means of enforcing the correct application of these conditions, since they are to have no legal sanction or even official Government backing behind them.

Involuntary Unemployment.- During recent times, the jute workers have ~~also suffered considerably~~ from enforced idleness. Sixteen jute mills were requisitioned by the military for purposes unconnected with jute, and only a fraction of the 35,000 workers involved were reabsorbed. Since July 1945 short supplies of coal have forced the mills to shut down for weeks at a time. Despite the employers' "Plan" in July 1944 to close down some of the "uneconomic" mills and to concentrate production in 12 big mills working two or three shifts each, production still ~~remains below the target and all steam-driven mills have to shut down in weekly rotation.~~ ~~This means every week from 15 to 20 mills are closed.~~ ~~Thus~~ An average of 45,000 workers weekly, or 180,000 monthly ~~must sit unemployed for a time.~~ As compensation they get Rs. 5 per week in cash and four seers (1 seer = about 2 lbs.) of grains at cheap rates.

Housing.- The conditions are appalling. As long ago as 1929, the ~~Royal~~ Commission on Labour in India drew attention to the appalling housing arrangements and since then little has been ~~done~~ to ameliorate these conditions.

A. Company Quarters.- 20 per cent of the workers live in quarters ~~provided by the mills.~~ These are one-roomed tenements, 6 cubits square with one door, no window and no verandah, shared by 4 to 12 workers in each. (No dependents are allowed). Rent varies from annas 8 to Re.1/8 per month. The floor is usually brick paved. ~~There~~ is no privacy for females and no separate bathrooms for them. Usually there is one watertap and latrine for nearly hundred workers. The quarters have no electric lights and owing to wartime shortage of kerosene workers have to live in darkness.

B. Private Quarters.- These quarters are worse than the Company quarters. ~~Mostly~~ they consist of thatched huts with tin shades. No arrangement exists for their repairs either by the landlords, the Government or the Municipality. Nearly 50 per cent of the workes live in these dingy, dirty, insanitary quarters. Rents for these vary from Rs. 5 to Rs. 12.

The remaining 30 per cent of the workers live in their own village cottages far away from the mills.

(The Trade Union Record, October, 1945).

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Factories Act, 1934: Administration in British India
during 1943.

The following report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the British India during the year 1943 is taken from the October, 1945, issue of the Indian Labour Gazette. No amendment of the Factories Act, 1934, was issued during the year. The Factories (Punjab Amendment) Act, 1940, was brought into force in that Province from 1-4-1943. The Bombay Factories Rules, 1935, were also slightly amended: Rule 61 was amended to discontinue reporting of minor accidents to the District Magistrate. Rules 31 and 32 regarding storage of drinking water were also replaced by new ones to obtain more effective care and treatment of drinking water supplies.

Number of Factories.- The number of factories actually working increased from 12,527 in 1942 to 13,209 in 1943. The increase was confined only to perennial factories; seasonal factories, on the other hand, registered a small decrease from 3,681 to 3,675. Among the provinces that shared the increase in perennial factories, most prominent were Madras (211), Bombay (210) and the Punjab (103). Baluchistan, however, recorded a fall of 1. The total number of notified factories increased from 2,505 to 2,680. This increase was mostly accounted for by Madras, followed by Bombay, where the number of perennial notified factories increased by 120 and 55 respectively. The proportion of notified factories increased from 32.2 per cent in 1942 to 32.6 per cent in 1943 in the case of perennial factories but decreased from 10.5 per cent to 10.2 per cent in the case of seasonal factories. The figures were as follows:

Category	Perennial factories		Seasonal factories	
	1942	1943	1942	1943
Factories as defined under section 2 (j) ...	6,690	7,192	3,332	3,337
Factories notified under Section 5(I) ...	2,156	2,341	349	339

As regards perennial factories the proportion of notified factories was largest in the case of Bombay (84.4 per cent), followed by the Central Provinces and Berar (73.3 per cent), Assam (67.9 per cent), Sind (49.3 per cent), and Madras (36.5 per cent). It may be observed in this connection that in Bengal the number of notified factories is extremely small, the total (both perennial and seasonal) being only 14 as against a total of 1,925 factories coming under Section 2(j) of the Act. In the case of seasonal factories, leaving aside N.W.F. Province and Bangalore and Coorg, it was again Bombay that took the leading place, the proportion of notified factories being 29.7 per cent in that province.

Statistics of Factory Employees.- An analysis of the statistics of factory employees in British India during 1943 has already been reported at pages 35-38 of our report for November 1944.

Women, Adolescents and Children.- The table below shows the total number of women, adolescent and child workers during 1942 and 1943. The last two groups have been further classified according to sex:-

Category	1942	1943	percentage increase(+) or decrease(-)
Women	261,704	262,144	+0.2
(Males.....)	22,916	24,697	+7.8
Adolescents .. (Females.....)	3,414	3,365	-1.4
(Total .. .)	26,330	28,062	+6.6
(Boys.....)	9,794	10,574	+8.0
Children .. (Girls.....)	2,010	1,910	-5.0
(Total .. .)	11,804	12,484	+5.8

There was a slight increase in the number of adult female workers, but a decrease of female workers in the other two groups. Employment of male adolescents and boys registered an increase; this was most marked, so far as adolescents were concerned, in Bengal (1,728), and in Assam (672). Employment of boys also rose by 780, the increase being noticeable in the United Provinces (483) with the Punjab (293) and Bihar (222) in the second and third places. The percentage of women to the total factory population was 10.8 ~~as against~~ as against 11.5 in 1942; that of adolescents for the year under report stood at 1.2 and of children at 0.5. It was observed in the Bombay report that very little increase occurred in the total number of women or children employed in all factories.

Convictions.- The number of convictions secured under the Act was ~~1,712~~ ~~as against~~ 1,896 in 1942. Of these, 539 related to "employment and hours of work", and 534 to notices, registers and returns. In the United Provinces part-time Standing Counsel was appointed in two industrial centres for the conduct of the cases of the department and outside these two, the District Officer was authorised to appoint a pleader in any important case.

Inspections.- Out of the 13,209 working factories, 11,053 or 83.7 per cent were inspected and the remaining 2,156 were not inspected at all. The Bengal report referred to the inadequacy of inspection staff and the additional miscellaneous duties arising out of the war with which the department was burdened, which made it difficult to visit more factories or visit them more often.

Wages.- An increase in wages was generally noticeable in all the Provinces. In effect of dearness allowances, bonus, etc. In Bombay the general increase amounted to nearly 100 per cent and more in important industrial places. Even in small mofussil factories such as ginning, bidi and brick, wages increased by 40 per cent. Orissa and Sind reported a continued upward trend in proportion to a further rise in the cost of living. In the Punjab and Delhi, there was an all round increase. In the Punjab this was attributed to scarcity of labour and the higher cost of living. Wage rates remained steady in case of some industries in Bengal, while in others they showed a tendency to rise. In jute mills, however, earnings fluctuated considerably although "wage rates remained the same as that fixed according to the cost of living obtaining for August-September 1942, i.e. 10 per cent increase in normal rates plus Rs. 1/4/- per week by way of dearness allowance". The fluctuations were largely met by employers generally paying a compensatory allowance of Rs. 3 per week plus the amenity allowance for those weeks when mills remained idle. Supply of essential foodstuffs was a common feature in almost all industries in that Province.

Accidents.- The total number of accidents in British India during the year rose from 54,174 in 1942 to 59,176 in 1943, or by 9.2 per cent. The number of fatal accidents rose by 40 to 316 in perennial factories, but decreased by 2 to 45 in seasonal factories, in which the number of serious and minor accidents also decreased by 27 and 165 respectively. Serious and minor accidents in perennial factories, however, rose from 8,799 to 9,731 and from 43,790 to 48,014 respectively. The average per 100,000 operatives was 2,429 in 1943 as against 2,374 in the previous year. The increased number of accidents was generally attributed to the employment of new hands (who have not acquired a safety first consciousness), longer hours of work, etc.

Safety.- Safety posters were distributed in the United Provinces to a number of factories for exhibition in conspicuous places inside the work rooms to inculcate safety first habits among the workers. In Baluchistan the circumstances of various accidents, excluding the minor ones, were enquired into and instructions to ~~provide~~ provide necessary safeguards against the recurrence of similar accidents were issued. Although the provisions of the Factories Act, 1934, were reported to have been well adhered to in respect of fencing and safeguarding of ~~the~~ dangerous machinery, most of the Provinces complained that due to lack of necessary material progress was retarded in this matter. In Bengal, Orissa and the United Provinces, the use of wood and bamboo had to be permitted instead of sheet and angle iron. In Bombay the larger cotton mills generally complied with requirements in safeguarding machinery. It was the smaller plants that required more attention. The efforts to enforce the proper use of protective goggles did not produce effective results due to lack of material and apathy of workers and supervisors. Attempts to revive interest in old Safety First Committees and to get new ones started also did not meet with much response. Factory inspectors in Bengal paid special attention to the enforcement of special preventive measures against ~~the~~ poisoning in printing presses.

Health.- Most of the Provinces reported that the health of operatives was generally good and no epidemic of any marked intensity broke out. In the Punjab, however, influenza ~~was~~ and small-pox in an epidemic form were reported by three factories; their spread was prevented by timely vaccination and other precautionary measures. Some other factories in the Punjab, reported labour shortage due to malaria during the malarial seasons and it could not be stopped due to quinine shortage. It was reported from Bengal that there was a general deterioration in the health of factory workers during the year. In ~~any~~ many tea gardens malaria and cholera took more than their usual toll as their spreading could not be prevented due to insufficient and irregular supply of necessary medicines.

Housing.- Due to the shortage of building material, possibilities of improving the housing situation by way of additional housing accommodation or of welfare involving building construction were limited. Generally, employers were concerned with maintaining housing facilities already provided. The new accommodation supplied in Bengal was of ~~catch~~ catch (temporary) construction. Whereas the Punjab reported "little progress", in Sind there was "no improvement" in the matter of housing and the situation was "much the same" in the United Provinces. It was further stated in the United Provinces report that the provision of welfare activities and suitable living accommodation under sanitary and congenial surroundings "no doubt greatly contributed to the contentment of labour with consequent improvement in industrial efficiency and reduction in labour turnover", but the housing problem was a complicated

one which "cannot be solved by building a few hundred houses". In Bombay the large influx into the Bombay City continued, resulting in shortage of accommodation and overcrowding. In the mofussil areas in that province even sugar factories slowed down their construction programmes. Two textile mills in Sholapur and one in Barsi continued their housing schemes. But generally "control of bricks, cement, etc., and transport difficulties have undoubtedly prevented much construction work". In Madras 73 factories were reported to have provided housing accommodation.

Welfare.— Among the various welfare activities most notable has been the supply of foodstuffs and other necessaries of life at controlled or cheap rates. These have "proved a boon to the workers" during the period of scarcity. Efforts to start canteens were also made in Bombay and Bengal with the help of the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board. Bombay reported 86 tea shops (which also sold light refreshments) whereas in Bengal 35 canteens were provided and gave "service in a manner and to an extent which the workers are willing or able to accept". An increase in the number of rest shelters and creches was reported from Bengal. In Bombay, 130 creches were in existence in factories employing nearly 42,000 female workers. According to the available reports the average daily attendances in the creches was 3,448. Several Bombay creches had nursery classes on Montessori lines. In Madras 11 factories provided creches. In Bombay certain factories held health exhibitions and cinema shows for their workers. The existing welfare schemes in Delhi were reported to have been "well maintained". In Madras 18 factories maintained schools for workers' children; 42 concerns had savings schemes, and 42 had co-operative societies. Medical facilities other than first aid were provided in 63 factories. One concern in the Punjab made provision for the supply of newspapers; one gave free milk, food and medicines to indoor patients in its hospital, while another provided free milk to workers' children. One concern started a dramatic club, and arranged fancy dress shows. It was reported from Bengal that employment of welfare officers in larger types of factories was rapidly on the increase, jute mills being predominant in this respect. The Indian Jute Mills Association appointed a woman labour officer to study matters affecting female labour in jute mills. The Bombay mills now have 34 labour officers for 46 mills regulating, inter alia, working of badli (substitute) control system, dealing with complaints and helping to create a better understanding between workers and employers, the utilisation of leisure and other matters affecting the general welfare of workers.

(The Indian Labour Gazette, October, 1945).

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Industrialisation Plans of Indian States.

Details of extensive plans prepared by the Chamber of Princes for industrialisation of Indian States were given in London to Reuter's Special Correspondent by Mr. H.S. Malik, Prime Minister of Patiala and leader of the States' Industrial Delegation to the United Kingdom and the United States (vide page 9 of our report for September 1945).

According to Mr. Malik whatever money is required for purchase of industrial machinery will be forthcoming from the States. If the mission is successful in placing orders for all its requirements, the bill will run into millions of sterling and millions of dollars.

Requirements of Capital Goods.- Mr. Malik gave the following details of capital goods and services needed to put the Princes plan into operation. In order to place its agriculture on a sound footing Bahawalpur is seeking a steel rolling mill which will manufacture the latest agricultural implements. Mandi wants an iron ore smelting plant, Jaipur is ordering pulverising machinery for grinding soapstone powder and Gasparthala wants steam and turbines to generate electric power. Alwar too intends to produce electricity while Rajkot plans to have a State power house by the acquisition of powerful diesel engine and alternators. Improvements in the iron industry are planned by Jangach which is ordering the latest machinery as well as equipment for the manufacture of various tools and power plant for electric generation, while Indore has a comprehensive plan for industrial development calling for a State electric power station. The machinery for this is being ordered from Switzerland.

Sirmar is to embark on a large-scale road construction and seek to place orders for the latest British and American equipment. In Kashmir the hydro-electric scheme in the Indus valley calls for a mass of technical equipment. Patna is concentrating on road construction while Bikaner is embarking on extensive plans for irrigation and requires a water-drilling plant. Six locomotives are wanted by Gwalior State as well as machinery to provide improvements in sewage. Cateh is expanding irrigation and placing orders for many types of agricultural machinery to implement the "grow more food" drive.

Food Plants.- New food plants are envisaged as follows: A flour mill and biscuit factory in Bahawalpur, an ice plant in Jaipur, a plant for manufacturing sugar and alcohol in Kalahandi, dairy applications for Sirmar and Phanganodhra, and sugar plants in Bansda and Patna. Gwalior is interested in cigarette manufacturing.

Textile and Other Machinery.- The mission also intends to place extensive orders for the textile industry and machinery for the production of pottery, matches, paper, plastics, leather goods, cement, glass and furniture.

(The Hindu, 3-10-1945).

Three Plants to be set up for manufacture of Locomotives.

Addressing a meeting of the Rotary Club of Calcutta on 2-10-1945, Mr. John G. Stolper, Chief Engineer, Tata Locomotive Works, stated that it was proposed, to install three plants for the manufacture of locomotives, one at Tatanagar, which had already started functioning, another at Kancharapara, near Calcutta and the third in South India. He expected that the Indian Railways would require 235 locomotives every year. He believed that India would be self-sufficient in regard to locomotives in five or six years when the three proposed plants were installed. He also believed that locomotives made in India would be cheaper than those imported.

(The Hindu, 3-10-1945).

India's Foreign Trade in 1944-45: Improved Position of Indian Manufactures.

Increase in Value.- Compared with the pre-war year, 1938-39, exports of Indian merchandise (private) increased in value by 46 per cent and imports of foreign merchandise (private) by 88 per cent.

Quantity of Trade.- Trade, however, declined in quantity. That of exports, after maintaining a higher level in 1939-40, declined progressively, reaching the bottom of about 53 per cent of the pre-war level in 1944-45. Imports, except for a spurt in 1939-40, were lower throughout the war, the lowest point being 39 per cent of the prewar level in 1943-44. There was, however, a rise during 1944-45, the war period closing at more than 71 per cent of the pre-war level.

Composition of Trade: Wartime Shift in favour of Exports of Manufactures.- There was a large shift during the war in favour of exports of manufactures as against raw materials. Of the total value of Indian merchandise exported, manufactures improved their position from 29.8 per cent in 1938-39 to 54.3 per cent in 1944-45, while raw materials declined from 45.8 per cent to 21.8 per cent over the period. On the other hand, the trend was reversed in the case of imports. While the value of manufactures imported declined from 62 to 31.5 per cent of the total value of imports—by about a half—raw materials improved their position nearly three times—from 22 to 59 per cent.

Balance of trade.- The balance of trade in merchandise, in favour of India, progressively improved until it reached the peak of 449 per cent above the prewar level in 1943-44. There was, however, a substantial drop in 1944-45; but even this lower figure of Rs. 270 million compares favourably with the pre-war figure of Rs. 170 million for 1938-39. The war-time peak figure (1943-44) was Rs. 820 million.

(The Statesman, 23-10-1945).

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New Organisation to Collect Industrial Data: Government
of India's Proposed Move.

It is understood that the Government of India is contemplating the setting up of an elaborate organisation for the collection and interpretation of industrial statistics. The organisation will be under the Director of Statistics and will be attached to the Industries and Civil Supplies Department. Under the scheme, it is proposed to collect statistics of industrial production covering some 34 industries. Notifications will be issued under the Industrial Statistics Act calling upon manufacturers to submit monthly returns regarding their factories from the beginning of 1946. It is also proposed to collect the data for 1945 on a voluntary basis.

It is hoped that the new organisation will enable the Government of India to assess the progress of industrial development of the country and to examine the question of future development on the basis of reliable data instead of mere guesswork.

(The Times of India, 3-10-1945).

Silk Industry in Mysore State: Five-Year Scheme
For Expansion.

The Policy Committee on Sericulture in the Mysore State has recommended a five-year scheme for the expansion of the silk industry in the State, one of the basic industries of Mysore. The whole scheme is expected to cost Rs. 3,200,000 and the total recurring expenditure will be Rs. 2,500,000, ranging from Rs. 300,000 in the first year to Rs. 600,000 during the fifth year. Establishing co-operative societies with all marketing facilities, sericultural schools for weaving class, scientific nurseries for raising mulberry seedlings and other suggestions to be made by experts on this industry will be additional features of the new scheme.

It is also proposed to institute shortly a Sericultural Research Institute at a cost of Rs. 1,700,000 with an annual recurring expenditure of nearly Rs. 200,000.

(The Times of India, 10-10-1945).

Economic Minerals Bureau: President of Geological, Mining and Metallurgical Society of India urges Establishment.

In his ~~and~~ presidential address to the 21st annual general meeting of the Geological, Mining and Metallurgical Society of India, held at Calcutta on 24-9-1945, Sir Cyril S. Fox., D.Sc., laid particular stress on the need for establishing an Economic Minerals Bureau in India. The plan of the Bureau, according to ~~him~~ included the setting up of: (a) an office to supply accurate mineral and metal facts relating to the Indian mineral and metallurgical industries, including cement, pottery and glass making; (b) a Bureau for the collection of information and data relating to geological discoveries and the mining and metallurgical industries throughout the ~~the~~ world; (c) an Agency for registering and recommending geologists, mining engineers to firms and Indian States carrying out surveys, explorations, etc.; (d) a Laboratory for making chemical analyses and assays and conducting physical tests on mineral and metallic substances, quickly and cheaply and efficiently; and (e) a council or board to control the above office, bureau, agency and laboratory, so that the work is done so well that the Economic Minerals Bureau would be held in high esteem. In this, he said, they required a building in which to house this Economic Minerals Bureau with its office, bureau and library, a agency and consulting room, laboratory and test house, ~~and the board rooms; and funds for furnishing and equipping the Economic Minerals Bureau and~~ ~~staffing~~ it with a skilled staff of statistical, library, scientific and other personnel. Elucidating his idea still further, he explained that the proposed Bureau was ~~intended~~ intended as a means of supplying analytical work, not readily or cheaply obtainable; it was meant to provide a channel for securing reliable technicians; and it would be the very best source for the distribution of scientific discoveries and industrial data on mineral and metallurgical subjects if a special bureau of information was included. There was no such information bureau in India, at present.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 2-10-1945).

Barley

Development of ~~barley~~ Industry in India: Report on Marketing of Barley.

The Report on the Marketing of Barley in India, published recently by the Central Agricultural Marketing Department of the Government of India, makes recommendations for the development of the barley industry in India. The report observes that the manufacture of malt extracts and other malt products from barley is practically non-existent in India and offers good scope for development. It suggests that the brewing industry in India should be developed on sound lines in the post-war period so that it can face foreign competition, and provide a good market ~~market~~ for the better quality barley. It also notes that there is scope for improving and expanding the manufacture of pearl barley and barley ~~powder~~ powder. As regards marketing, the Report recommends the establishment of regulated markets and invites consideration of the transport authorities to accord a suitable reduction in the freight rates of barley as compared with wheat, in so far as barley is normally a cheaper grain than wheat.

(The Times of India, 2-10-1945).

Index Numbers for Industrial Raw Materials:
New Series issued by Economic Adviser.

A new series of index numbers of industrial raw material prices has been issued by the Economic Adviser to the Government of India. The base period is the year ended August 1939. It consists of 19 items under the group textile fibres, oil-seeds, minerals and other materials. The combined index-number was 232.5 in May, 238.1 in June, 244.5 in July, 242.4 in August and 238.1 in the first four weeks of September 1945.

(The Times of India, 23-10-1945).†

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923: Working in British India during 1943.

The working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in British India during 1943 is reviewed in a note published in the Indian Labour Gazette, September, 1945. The note points out that all employers are not required to submit returns and some of those who are so required fail to submit them or furnish incomplete ones. In Madras 23 out of the 2,122 establishments from which returns were called, only 2,977 submitted them. In Bombay no returns were received from employers as the notification issued under Section 16 of the Act requiring those returns was cancelled. The following statistics showing the number of accidents and compensation paid for the same during 1943 in the Provinces (excluding Bombay), Posts and Telegraphs and on Railways (excluding workers employed as railway servants in a factory or a mine), are, therefore, subject to the above limitations.

Statistics of Accidents.- The total number of accidents increased from 32,000 in 1942 to 44,826 in 1943, i.e., by 41.2 per cent. Compensation paid for these however rose from Rs. 1,408,035 in 1942 to Rs. 2,222,000, or by 58.2 per cent. In case of accidents to adult workers an increase in the number of cases reported in 1943 over the corresponding figures for 1942 was registered in all provinces except Bihar, in which there was a decrease and in Bangalore and Coorg in which the number of accidents remained constant. The highest increase was reported from Bengal (8,691), followed by the Punjab (8,217). Increases in other provinces were less than 1,000 each, the least being in N.W.F. Province, viz., 4.

Of the total of 44,826 accidents in 1943, 44,785 affected adults and 41 minors. 1,114 accidents among adults and 9 among minors resulted in death; 2,435 among adults and 1 among minors in permanent disablement; and 41, 282 among adults and 31 among minors in temporary disablement.

Amounts of Compensation Paid.- The amounts of compensation paid also increased in all provinces; Posts and Telegraphs however showed a decrease to the tune of nearly Rs. 6,000. As may be expected the increase was maximum in case of Bengal (being a little over Rs. 450,000), followed by the Punjab (to the extent of over Rs. 108,000). The amount of compensation paid per case was Rs. 51 in 1943 as against Rs. 43.8 in 1942. Figures for Bombay are however excluded from these statistics for the reason already stated. But in that Province the total amount of compensation awarded in contested cases, voluntarily deposited under Section 8(1) and (2) of the Act, and paid under agreements registered with the Commissioners under Section 28, during the year under report, came to Rs. 626,285. This amount is exclusive of the compensation paid direct by employers to the injured workmen by way of half-monthly payments in respect of injuries of a temporary nature as such cases (except these of accidents to women) need not necessarily be referred to Commissioner under the Act. Taking into consideration only the corresponding figures for 1942, the total amount of compensation paid in Bombay rose from Rs. 503,175 in 1942 to Rs. 626,285 in 1943.

Of the total amount of compensation paid, compensation paid for death amounted to Rs. 971,886 for adults and Rs. 400 for miners; compensation for permanent disablement, Rs. 801,253 for adults and Rs. 240 for miners; and compensation for temporary disablement Rs. 510,032 for adults and Rs. 181 for miners.

Trade Unions and Workmen's Compensation.- As in the previous years only a few trade unions were reported to have assisted their members to obtain compensation. In Bombay only the Textile Labour Association at Ahmedabad took much interest in handling cases under the Act. The Association handled 130 claims in 1943 as against 174 in 1942. Of these 71 were successful, 6 were compromised, 20 were withdrawn and 33 remained pending at the end of the year. The total amount of compensation secured through the Association was Rs. 20,230. Insurance companies also played an important part in the speedy disposal of claims in that Province.

Proceedings Before Commissioners.- During 1943, there was also an increase in the number of proceedings before Commissioners, the total number of cases (including those pending from the previous year) being 5,978 as against 2,881 in 1942. The percentage of contested cases to the total number of cases disposed of by Commissioners was 68.9 as compared with 67.8 in the previous year. 3884 agreements were filed for registration in 1943, as against 3,405 in 1942. Eight appeals were filed during the year while 10 were pending at its beginning. Of these 18 were disposed of and 6 were pending at the close of the year. It was reported from Punjab that one more appeal was disposed of subsequently.

Compensation and Wage Groups: Heavier Incidence of Accidents among Low Wage Groups.- From the proceedings before Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation reveal that the total number of adult persons in respect of whom compensation was awarded during the year under report was 2,425 out of whom 2,302 were men and only 123 women. In 1,256 cases the injuries were fatal, in 1,051 they resulted in permanent disablement and in the remaining 118 in temporary disablement. The note points out in this connection that only a comparatively small number of cases involving temporary disablement comes before the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation. The wage group most numerously represented was Rs. 10-15, followed by Rs. 5-10 and Rs. 15-18 groups. Apparently there were relatively more accidents among the workers of lower wage categories. This can be partly explained by the fact that a greater number of workers falls in those categories. It also indicates that a great deal is still to be done to get more attention paid to 'safety-first' methods. It was reported from U.P. that formation of safety-first committees made very little progress and the few ones in existence have not got into their full working stride.

Comparative Figures for Accidents and Compensation in Regulated and Unregulated Industries in U.P.- A comparative study of accidents and compensation paid for them in 2 separate groups of factories, viz., (1) organised and regulated factories and (2) unorganised and unregulated industries in U.P. over a number of years, revealed a phenomenal increase in the number of cases of disablement—permanent and temporary—in the second group. This was attributed to the fact that such industries are not inspected by factory inspectors; also that they employ a large number of low paid and untrained workers.

Number of cases and Compensation paid during 1943 and 1942.

	Adults		Minors	
	1943 Rs.	1942 Rs.	1943 Rs.	1942 Rs.
Number of cases resulting in Deaths.	1,114	825	9	3
Permanent Disablement.	2,435	1,568	1	..
Temporary Disablement.	41,236	28,650	31	43
	44,785	31,043	41	46
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Compensation paid for Deaths.	871,825	744,099	400	600
Permanent Disablement.	801,255	447,725	240	-
Temporary disablement.	510,052	315,495	180	115
	2,283,171	1,407,320	820	715

(Indian Labour Gazette, September, 1945).

Government of India's Social Security Scheme: Awaiting Sir W. Beveridge's Approval.

The Correspondent of the Hindu at Karachi reports that Mr. D.G. Jadhav, Additional Labour Commissioner to the Government of India, and one of the members of the Indian delegation to the International Labour Conference stated in an interview at Karachi that a scheme of social security has been prepared by the Government of India which awaits final approval with necessary modifications by Sir William Beveridge himself. The Government of India began their enquiry on the subject in 1943 and the Labour Investigation Committee would be submitting its final report in about a month. The report has already undergone certain modifications as a result of the suggestions made by a lady officer of the British Labour Ministry who visited India recently.

(The Hindu, 15-10-1945).

Sir William Beveridge unlikely to visit India.

According to a statement issued to the press in London the possibility of Sir William Beveridge visiting India for work in connection with the extension of the social services has been under discussion between the Government of India and Sir William Beveridge. But the work needing to be done in India would involve a greater call upon his time than he is able to devote to this purpose and he is not likely to proceed to India in the near future.

(The Times of India, dated 11-10-1945).

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Skilled Workers for Industry: Technical Training Scheme Advisory Committee's Report.

The report of the Advisory Committee appointed by the Government of India to prepare a technical training scheme to meet the post-war needs of industry was published in the first week of October 1945.

Shortage of Skilled Labour in India: - The report emphasizes the danger of the growth of Indian industry being hampered by the lack of skilled labour. A rapid survey made by the Labour Department regarding the number of skilled workmen employed in Government and private industries and the existing facilities for training, revealed that a large number of skilled workers was required annually by existing industries. In addition, skilled workers would be required to meet the expansion needs of these industries and also of new industries that may be started in the post-war period.

Recommendations: Bevin Training Scheme to be switched over to post-war needs: - To remedy this shortage the Committee recommends that the Bevin Training Scheme should be switched over to meet post-war needs. The scope of the scheme should be widened so as to include industries other than engineering. Industry should recommend for training its best and most promising craftsmen, and final selection should be made by the regional technical committees which should be set up for supervision and co-ordination of technical training in India. The period of training in the U.K., which is eight months at present, should be extended to a minimum of one year. The Report further says that training in the U.K. would be more beneficial in it is of a specialized type. If these suggestions are brought into effect, the Bevin Training Scheme will be in a position to serve well the interests of Indian industry by supplying a nucleus of well-trained supervisory staff, whose widened general outlook and knowledge of up-to-date methods of production will be of immense advantage in the workshop.

Training in India: Apprentice Training Scheme on a National Basis: - The bulk of craftsmen will, however, have to be trained in India. For this purpose the Committee strongly recommends to the Central Government an apprenticeship training scheme, planned and organized on a national basis and leading to a certificate of craftsmanship on the completion of training.

The best way of providing good craftsmen is through comprehensive and systematic apprenticeship. Accordingly the Report advocates that the first part of the training should be given in specially designed training centres and the second in workshops actually engaged on production. The total duration of training should be three and a half years, of which the first two years should be spent in a training centre and the balance as an apprentice in a factory.

The Report recommends that training centres for 4,600 craftsmen should be immediately started in Bengal, Assam, Bombay, Madras, the United Provinces, the Punjab, Bihar and Orissa, Delhi, the Central Provinces, Sind and the N.W.F.P. The annual out-turn of these centres will be 2,304 trainees. This will only be a modest beginning, for the figures collected at the instance of the Committee regarding the number

of skilled and semi-skilled workmen employed in Government and private engineering works showed that the annual requirement of trained craftsmen was approximately 15,000 for which a total of 32,000 seats would be required. The Report, therefore, emphasizes that further effort will have to be made to increase the training facilities if the needs of the industry are to be met in full.

Some of the capacity of the training centres should be reserved for sons and relatives of workmen employed by firms participating in the training scheme. Generally speaking, however, the scheme should be open to all who may wish to qualify themselves for admission to the training centre should be from 14 to 18 years. Boys admitted to the training centre should have studied up to a standard of two years below the Matriculation or its equivalent. According to the Report, training will be imparted in 22 engineering trades, which have been divided into two groups, each group being concentrated around a "foundation trade".

Under the scheme employers will have the advantage of obtaining workmen partially trained at the expense of the Government. They are, therefore, required to provide apprenticeship training not only for those candidates who are admitted to a Government training centre from their factories, but also for an equal number of other candidates from the training centre. During factory training, general education and technical instruction should be provided by the employer. The Report recommends that it will be necessary to have a tripartite agreement between the Government, the employer and the apprentice and his guardian. Provision has also been made in the scheme for general education during factory training, adequate hostel arrangements and factory clothing.

Regional committees.- The Report further recommends that in each region, regional committees should be constituted to deal with the local administration of the scheme, to supervise training, to arrange for trade tests and for providing apprenticeship training to those who complete their training satisfactorily at the centre. These committees should also be responsible for recruiting apprentices.

National Certificate of Craftsmanship.- After the satisfactory completion of apprenticeship training, the trainees should be awarded a National Certificate of Craftsmanship by the National Council of Technical Education which, the Committee hope, will be set up in pursuance of the recommendations made by the Central Advisory Board of Education.

The scheme attempts to impose a measure of control over apprenticeship and the committee are of the view that legislation, as in some other countries, may be introduced to make this control effective after obtaining the views of the regional technical committees.

(The Hindustan Times, 5-10-1945).+

MIGRATION.Indians in Ceylon: Recommendations of Soulbury Commission.

In its report on constitutional reforms for Ceylon published on 9-10-1945, the Soulbury Commission, has dealt with the questions of Indian immigration and franchise and examined the charges of discrimination against Indians in Ceylon.

Discrimination against Indians.- On the charges of discrimination the Commission observes that a careful review of the evidence submitted to it provides no substantial indication of a general policy on the part of the Government of Ceylon of discrimination against minority communities. Nevertheless the Commission feels that, until the minorities become reassured, certain safeguards will be necessary. These safeguards are proposed in the Commission's recommendations.

Indian Immigration into Ceylon: Ceylon Government to have the Right to prohibit or restrict immigration.- On the question of Indian immigration the Commission refers to the Government of India's admission that Ceylon has the right to determine the future composition of her population by the imposition of such restrictions as she may deem necessary upon the entry of newcomers (vide pages 24-29 of the report of this Office for October 1941). The Commission endorses the proposal that the Government of Ceylon should have the power to prohibit or restrict immigration into the Island and that a bill dealing only with that subject should not come within the category of bills which must be reserved for His Majesty's assent. The Commission, however, makes the qualification that it should not be competent to the Government of Ceylon unfairly or unreasonably to prohibit or restrict the re-entry of persons normally resident in Ceylon at the date of the coming into force of an Immigration Bill. The Commission recommends that the new Constitution should enable the Governor-General to reserve and an Immigration Bill, if, in his opinion, its provisions regarding the right of re-entry of persons normally resident in the Island at the date of the passing of the Bill by the legislature are unfair or unreasonable. In this connection the Commission attaches importance among other things to: (1) the declaration of the Ceylon delegates at the conference of September, 1941, that "there is a body of Indians in Ceylon who by birth and by long association have so identified themselves with the affairs of this country that their interests are no different from those of the indigenous population"; (2) the provision in Article eight of the sessional paper 14 of 1944 which proposes to prohibit the Parliament of Ceylon from making any law rendering "persons of any community or religion liable to disabilities or restrictions to which persons of other communities or religions are not liable or conferring upon persons of any community or religion any privileges or advantages which are not conferred on persons of other communities or religions"; and (3) Article 38 of the sessional paper by which "any bill any of the provisions of which have evoked serious opposition by any racial or religious community and which, in the opinion of the Governor-General, is likely to involve oppression or serious injustice to any such community" may be reserved by the Governor-General for His Majesty's assent. The Commission thinks that the new constitution should contain clauses giving effect to these two Articles.

Franchise: to be within the Competence of the Government of Ceylon.-
As regards franchise the Commission states that to the extent that the rights and privileges of citizenship are intended to relate to enfranchisement, it should be within the competence of the Government of Ceylon to determine the conditions under which the inhabitants of Ceylon may acquire the franchise.

Ceylon Indian Demands.- The recommendations of the Soulbury Commission have caused considerable disappointment to the Indians in Ceylon and Ceylon Indian Congress delegation consisting of Mr. A. Aziz, ex-President, Ceylon Indian Congress, and Mr. S. Vythilingam, visited India in the later half of October to make representations to the Government of India. According to the delegation the main demands of the Indians in Ceylon are: (i) full and unrestricted franchise on an equal footing with the rest of the population; (ii) representation in the legislature in proportion to the numerical strength of the Indian population with a definite directive to the delimitation commission to carve out an appropriate number of territorial constituencies, where Indian electors, as distinct from the population, will be in a majority; (iii) right of ~~immunity~~ re-entry to every person who was in Ceylon previous to the introduction of any act regulating immigration; and (iv) the right to acquire the full status of a Ceylon national for any Indian who elects to become a national on a simple test of five years residence and a declaration of intention to make Ceylon his home.

~~On this occasion~~ Mr. M.S. Aney, the Government of India's Representative in Ceylon, had discussions with Dr. N.B. Khare, the Commonwealth Relations Member, during the third week of ~~September~~ at Delhi.

(The Times of India, 12-10-1945;
The Hindu, dated 10-10-1945; and
The Statesman, 24-10-1945).

Natal Housing Ordinance: Governor General Reserves Assent.

Reference was made at page 23 of the report of this office for April 1945 to the South African Union Government's proposal to introduce legislation amending the South Africa Housing Act to enable the Government to exercise the expropriation powers contemplated by the Natal Provincial Ordinances.

The Housing Emergency Powers Act, passed at the last session of Parliament, therefore, included a clause specifically empowering Provincial Councils to constitute Provincial Housing Boards. The Natal Provincial Council, thereupon, again introduced a housing ordinance constituting a Provincial Housing Board which has passed all the stages and is now awaiting the assent of the Governor-General.

But legal difficulties have again arisen and it is now learnt that the assent of the Governor-General-in-Council for the Natal Housing Ordinance is reserved. The clause which is delaying approval of the Ordinance by the Governor-General-in-Council is learnt to be one defining the functions of the Natal Housing Board in the matter affecting the Department of Public Health. To remedy this, regulations by the Department of Public Health are to be gazetted shortly.

The Natal Indian Congress is opposing the Ordinance on a different ground, viz., a subclause which, it argues, would enable the Natal Housing Board to sell land acquired by it subject to servitudes prohibiting future ownership or occupation by the Asiatics or any other specific racial group.

(The Statesman, 24-10-1945;
The Hindu, dated 28-10-1945).

Kenya Reforms: Demands of East African Indian National Congress.

It is understood that the Government of India has telegraphed to His Majesty's Government its views on the proposals for reorganization of the administration of Kenya (vide page 22 of the report of this Office for July 1945). The Government of India is reported to have asked his Majesty's Government that Indians must have their share in any direct association of non-official representatives with the executive of Kenya and that there must be some increase in Indian representation in the new Council.

Meanwhile, the East African Indian National Congress has passed resolutions expressing a unanimous vote of no confidence in the present Kenya Government, a demand for increased Indian representation in the colony's Councils, and an urgent need for a comprehensive inquiry by a Royal Commission on political and other factors concerning all races. Other resolutions adopted during the session deplored the hurried implementation of the Kenya reorganisation proposals and called for a special session to repeal wartime immigration restrictions not achieved before April, 1946.

(The Hindustan Times, 1-10-1945;
Dawn, dated 15-10-1945).

Indian Refugees from Burma: Arrangements for Return.

Plans to repatriate to Burma, Indian refugees from that country, were outlined by Rao Bahadur Manicklal Kapadia, Member of the Civil Supplies Board, Government of Burma, in a speech to Burma refugees in Surat in the last week of October.

According to Mr. Kapadia both the Government of India and the Government of Burma had agreed that all Indians who came to India from Burma after the Japanese invasion and those who had been in Burma once, during the last eight years, were eligible for return to Burma. Half a million Indian refugees from Burma are eligible for repatriation. The repatriation will begin sometime in March 1946. Four Exports—Calcutta, Chittagong, Vizagapatam and Madras—have been selected for the purpose of repatriation. About 100,000 refugees will sail for Burma from each one of these ports. Every refugee over 22 years of age would receive a separate identity card, while dependents under 22 would be allowed to go with the heads of their families (vide page 19 of the report of this Office for September 1945). Such of those Indians who had left

their families in Burma would be given first priority, landholders and merchants coming next in the list. In the four ports of embarkation large camps had been built to house the refugees prior to their departure for Burma and those who were unable to pay their passage money would, on application to the Government, receive aid from the Government of India.

(The Times of India, 27-10-1945).

Indian Labour for Malaya: Government of India may relax ban on emigration of unskilled labour.

Reported Move to relax ban on Emigration of Unskilled Labour.- Negotiations are reported to be in progress between the Government of India and the Secretary of State for Colonies about the status of Indian residents in Malaya and the relaxation of the ban on emigration of Indian labour (vide page 44 of the report of this Office for May 1938), to rehabilitate Malayan economy after the Malayan Government take over the administration from the South-East Asia Command. The Government of India demanded that they should receive definite guarantee of equality of status and citizenship rights to all Indian residents in Malaya and Indians of whatever class should not be discriminated against, in any manner, either in its legislation or by administrative action and that subject to normally accepted qualification, Indians shall be entitled to representation on public bodies. It is learnt that a satisfactory guarantee on the question of status and citizenship being forthcoming and standard wages fixed, the Government would take steps to relax the ban to the extent necessary to meet the labour requirements of Malaya.

In the meantime the Malayan Representative in India is registering names of evacuees who are desirous of returning to Malaya. Indian evacuees from Malaya are reported to number about 4,000.

Indian Immigrants in Malaya: Servants of India Society's Concern.-

Public opinion in India is concerned about the position of the Indians in Malaya and the Council of the Servants of India Society which met at Poona in the middle of October adopted a resolution requesting the Government of India to send immediately its newly appointed Agent, Mr. Chettur, with a few members of the Standing Emigration Committee, to Malaya to inquire into the position of Indians there and to recommend to the Government the steps to be taken to protect Indian interests.

(The Times of India, dated
1-10-1945 and 18-10-1945).

U.S. House of Representatives passes Indian Immigration Bill.

The Indian Immigration (Celler) Bill was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on 10-10-1945. The Bill seeks to authorize immigration of 100 Indians annually and naturalization of some 4,000 Indians now living in the United States.

(The Statesman, 12-10-1945). + +

AGRICULTURE.

Special Officers to give Legal Aid to Backward Class Debtors:
Bombay Government's Step.

In order to protect the interests of backward class debtors and ex-soldiers concerned in proceedings before Debt Adjustment Boards, the Government of Bombay has sanctioned the ~~approx~~ appointment of 16 Debt Relief Assistants. These Assistants, who are to be appointed by the district judges from among practising pleaders not connected with money-lending, will assist backward class and ex-soldiers debtors in the Districts of Panch Mahals, Surat, Thana, Nasik, Satara, East and West Khandesh and Ratnagiri to prepare their applications for adjustment of debts and the statements to be furnished by them to the Debt Adjustment Boards. They will also act as a Government agency to watch the interests of ~~debtors~~ debtors belonging to the backward classes before these Boards.

(The Vanguard, 2-10-1945).

Finance for Crop Cultivation: Bombay Government to help
indebted Agriculturists.

It has come to the notice of the Government of Bombay that debtors are hesitating to submit applications for the adjustment of debts to Debt Adjustment Boards, as they do not know how the needs of current crop finance are to be met in future if they sever their connection with the savkars (i.e. moneylenders), who would naturally refuse to lend to them, in future, if their previous loans have been adjusted under the Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act and the security of the land of the agricultural debtors is not ~~forthcoming~~ forthcoming for future loans.

The Government of Bombay is, therefore, taking steps to devise suitable arrangements to provide crop finance to debtors who are either parties to the proceedings or to an award under the Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act. Crop finance will ~~will~~ be made available through cooperative organisations such as rural credit societies, multi-purpose societies and central financing agencies. In areas where there are no cooperative organisations it is intended to open Grain Depots and authority will be given to individuals or associations to advance loans for purposes connected with the raising of crops.

The purposes for which crop finance will be given will include the following: Raising of crops during the ploughing season or later; for ploughing, harrowing, weeding and harvesting; for the purchase of seed or manure, or for such other purposes as may be prescribed under the rules under the Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act.

(Bombay Information, dated 6-10-1945).

Bihar Agricultural Statistics Bill.

The Government of Bihar gazetted on 24-10-1945 the draft of the Bihar Agricultural Statistics Bill, 1945. The Provincial Government has decided to carry out plot to plot surveys of crops with a view to make accurate estimates of yield and acreage under each crop. The Bill is intended to confer on the staff engaged on the crop survey statutory power to enter upon the land to be surveyed and to ascertain the area, the crops and the yields.

(The Bihar Gazette, dated 24-10-1945, Part V, pages 59-62). †

Agricultural Indebtedness Sub-Committee's Report.

The Agricultural Indebtedness Sub-Committee appointed by the Government of India is understood to have submitted its report recommending, among other things, establishment of a chain of village co-operative banks. The recommendations of the sub-committee, it is learnt, are not likely to be put into operation in the near future.

-The agricultural indebtedness of eight provinces amounts to Rs. 8,250 million, including Assam, 220 million, Bihar, 1,480 million, Bengal, 970 million, Bombay, 580 million, C.P. and Berar, 360 million, Madras, 2,000 million, Punjab, 1,400 million and the U.P. 1,240 million. The figures of N.W.F.P., Orissa and Sind are not available. It is stated that ~~the~~ agricultural indebtedness has been greatly reduced during the latter part of the ~~war~~ war period.

(The Hindustan Times, 31-10-1945). †

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NAVIGATION.

Shipping Sub-Committee to be appointed.

The Shipping Policy Committee which met at New Delhi on 26-10-1945, decided to appoint a Sub-Committee to recommend a tonnage target for Indian shipping and measures to regulate the shipping industry. Sir Muhammed Azizul Haque, Commerce Member, Government of India, presided.

The terms of reference to the Sub-Committee are: "To consider the Departmental statement on post-war shipping policy, and to recommend what would be a suitable tonnage target for Indian shipping to be attained within a period of five to 10 years; what percentage shares of the maritime trade of India and other trades in which India is interested, both coastal and overseas, cargo and passenger, should be secured for Indian shipping; and what measures should be taken (1) to regulate the shipping industry with a view to preventing the formation or establishment of combines or monopolies or excessively large units ~~not~~ within the industry and ensuring that the number of shipping companies operating is no larger than is economically adequate; and (2) to ensure fair and equitable distribution, among existing companies and those ~~not~~ yet to be established, of trades which may hereafter be secured for Indian shipping."

The personnel of the Sub-Committee will be Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar (Chairman), Mr. H.A. Bastin, Mr. K.C. Neogy, Sir A.H. Ghaznavi and Mr. W.L.A. Radcliffe.

(The Statesman, 28-10-1945). +

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PROVINCIAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Office-Workers' Cost of Living: Government of India to
undertake Survey.

According to a special message published in the Times of India, the Government of India is preparing a scheme for working out the cost of living of office-going people as is done in the case of the working class. Persons earning Rs. 30 to Rs. 500 per month will be considered as belonging to the office-goers' class and the inquiry will be confined, to begin with, to employees of the Central Government but will be extended, later, to servants of the Provincial Governments and local bodies. As the range of inquiry is very wide, it is to be conducted in two categories; one in respect of those earning Rs. 30 to Rs. 150, and the other in respect of those earning Rs. 150 to Rs. 500.

The government feels that though it had now a scale of dearness allowance in force for its employees, it does not have data to determine exactly how far the cost of living of office-going people has risen. The views of the provincial Governments have also been invited.

(The Times of India, 18-10-1945).

Improved Service Terms for Bombay Municipal Employees:
Special Officer's Recommendations.

Rao Bahadur D.V. Nadkarni, who had been appointed by the Bombay Municipal Corporation, to consider revision of salaries and improvement of service conditions of the municipal employees, has, in a report submitted recently, made recommendations for providing a rising scale of salaries for all employees of the Bombay Municipality and housing accommodation for all inferior staff.

The report suggests that scavengers, etc., should be provided with free quarters; all employees should be given a weekly holiday, casual leave for at least 15 days and privilege leave ~~xxxx~~ of 15 days in a year, the latter leave being allowed to be accumulated up to 45 days; and that all temporary employees who have been continuously in service for two years and have a reasonable prospect of being continued for a long period, should be placed on the permanent schedule. Suggestions for the appointment of a Labour Officer, formulation of a health insurance scheme for municipal workers, the appointment of a municipal service commission and the establishment of a municipal research bureau have also been made.

(The Times of India, 13-10-1945).

Impending Retrenchment of Central Government
Employees' Association Formed to
Press Demands.

To deal with the situation arising out of their impending retrenchment due to the end of the war and to press their demands, employees of the Supply Department, and General, Air and Naval Headquarters, numbering several thousands, have formed the Government of India Employees' Association. A meeting of the general body of the Association, held at New Delhi on 13-10-1945, adopted a memorandum to be sent to the Viceroy. The memorandum says that considerable employment could immediately be created by undertaking programmes of public welfare such as public works, immediate conversion of war industrial plants into consumers' goods production plants, and schemes for educational reconstruction of the country. It further suggests that direct recruitment to the different departments should be stopped and displaced Government clerks be appointed. A large number of clerks and officers whose services were requisitioned from provincial Governments during wartime may now be sent to their provinces to give place to bona fide employees of the Government of India. Some more employment could be found for other discharged clerks by the repatriation of BORS, by stopping the importation of all WYS and ATS personnel and by retiring all persons with more than 50 years' service.

It is understood that a special officer has been appointed in the Supply Department to help in the re-employment of personnel affected by the retrenchment scheme.

(The Hindustan Times, 7-10-1945;
The Statesman, dated 14-10-1945).

Telegraph Clerks All-India Association to be formed.

At a meeting of the clerks of the Central Telegraph Office at New Delhi on 19-10-1945 it was decided to form an All-India Telegraph Clerks Association and, in this connection, to seek the opinion of the telegraph clerks throughout India.

(The Statesman, 20-10-1945).

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Increased Representation of Nurses on Nurses
Registration Council: Bihar Nurses Registration
(Amendment) Act, 1945.

The Bihar Nurses Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1945 to which reference was made at page 41 of the report of this Office for June, 1945, has become law on receiving the assent of the Governor of Bihar on 19-10-1945. The Act is published at pages 31-33, Part IV of the Bihar Gazette dated 31-10-1945.

(The Bihar Gazette, Part IV, dated
31-10-1945, pages 31-33). +

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LIVING CONDITIONS.

Spare Time.

Utilisation of Leisure Time by Cawnpore Mill-workers:
L.P. Labour Office to conduct inquiry.

A departmental inquiry, into the utilisation of leisure time by the local mill workers has been started by the Labour Office, Cawnpore. Two permanent investigators have been put in charge of the inquiry, and about 2,000 inquiry cards are expected to be filed. The object of the inquiry is to discover the recreations and the hobbies of the mill workers. The inquiry cards cover questions about the domestic duties, special hobbies, outdoor games and other interests of the labour community.

(The Statesman, 4-10-1945). ++

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Nutrition.

Milk to underground Women Workers in Mines to be supplied
free of cost.

By a further amendment to the Notification of the Government of India in the Department of Labour, No. M. 5731 dated 24-11-1943, the Central Government has directed that in condition (iii) of the said Notification (vide page 44 of the report of this Office for June 1945) after the word 'milk' the words 'free of cost' shall be inserted.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Section 1
dated 29-9-1945, page 1330). +

Planning Better Diets : Meetings of Sub-Committees of
Technical Panel of Food Department.

Food and Vitamins : Steps to establish a Vitamin Industry in India.-
Fortification of Indian Foods and the manufacture of vitamins in India were the subjects discussed at a meeting of the Vitamin Technology Committee of the Technical Panel of the Food Department at its meeting held in New Delhi recently. The meeting recommended that edible oils and vanaspati should be fortified with carotene or vitamin A depending upon the availability of material, that wherever there are big ghee heating centres, fortification with requisite amounts of vitamin A and D should be adopted, and that 'atta' should be fortified with calcium carbonate. The Committee further recommended to the Food Department that a mission of three officers of high standing and with the necessary background of experience in vitamins and allied subjects should be sent overseas to work out details about the establishment of a vitamin manufacturing industry in India. It was agreed that steps would first have to be taken by the Government to buy the processes of vitamin manufacture from foreign firms and have their co-operation on a royalty or other suitable basis before the deputation is sent.

Standards for Feedstuffs.- The Food Standards Sub-Committee of the Technical Panel of the Food Department has recommended that a Food Standards Section should form an integral part of an Institute of Food Technology, when set up. It has further recommended that an officer be appointed whose functions, inter alia, would be to appraise the various steps taken in different departments on the application of food standards on more scientific lines than has been done hitherto, to collect information of existing local and provincial specifications and regulations under food laws, to make recommendations about food standards where sufficient information is available, and to indicate lines of future progress.

Conversion of Dehydration ~~and~~ Factories.- With the termination of the war plans are now being worked out for the switch-over of dehydration from war to peacetime production. The Dehydration Committee of the Technical Panel of the Food Department has appointed a committee to report on the utility of existing dehydration factories with reference to localities in which they are situated and the raw-materials available

for dehydration, as well as the efficiency of existing dehydration and the economics of the processes involved. The Committee has also recommended investigation on different dehydration methods to be applied to various food products such as fruits, fish and vegetables. It favoured the establishment of a permanent dried fruit industry on sound economic and scientific lines in India in the light of present researches which are being carried out.

(Indian Information, 1-10-1945). +

Housing.

Madras Government Proposal to set up Committee to consider Housing Schemes for Madras City.

It is understood that the government of Madras, will shortly constitute a committee composed of officials and non-officials to consider and frame proposals for providing housing accommodation to Government servants and industrial labourers employed in the City.

Assistance to Corporation for House Construction Scheme.- The government has also informed the City Corporation that it will give the necessary assistance in the matter of procuring building materials such as steel, cement and timber required by the Corporation for the execution of its scheme for the construction of middle class houses in the City.

(The Hindu, 25-10-1945).

400,000 Tenements for Bombay City and Suburbs: Bombay Housing Panel Committee's Scheme.

A scheme costing Rs. 800 million for the construction of more than 400,000 tenements in the city of Bombay and suburbs has been prepared by the Housing Panel Committee appointed by the Government of Bombay. Of the 400,000 tenements, 100,000 will be in the city and 300,000 in the suburbs. The committee has suggested that a sum of Rs. 350 million should be spent on the reconstruction of the existing houses in Bombay City and Rs. 450 million on the construction of new tenements on up-to-date lines outside the city.

The scheme contemplates the demolition of all existing single-room tenements, and envisages the construction of colonies in the suburbs, which now come under the Greater Bombay Scheme. According to the panel's recommendation, 1,000 tenements will form a single colony and will have a primary school, a welfare centre, a public meeting place, a dispensary and a co-operative store each.

Another novel proposal made by the Committee is for the provision of accommodation for bachelors and men in search of jobs. As an experimental measure, the Committee is stated to have favoured the starting of hostels for these men, with a common kitchen.

(The Statesman, 31-10-1945).

Workers' Organisations.Progress of Trade Unions in Bombay, during 1943-44.

Number of Trade Unions.- According to the annual report on the working of the Indian Trade Union Act, 1926, there were 85 'registered' trade unions (including one federation and 7 unions whose objects were not confined to the Province) at the beginning of 1943-44, in Bombay Province. Twelve new unions were registered during the year while the registration of six unions was cancelled. The number of trade unions at the end of the year under report was thus 91 which included 88 unions and one federation whose objects were confined to the Province, and 8 unions whose objects were not so confined. Of these only 78 submitted correct annual returns.

Unions whose objects are confined to the Province.- These numbered 71, and included one federation - the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad.

Membership.- The total membership stood at 149,359 at the close of the year under report as against 129,213 at the beginning. Substantial increase in membership occurred in the "Textiles" group (12,955) followed by the "Docks and port trusts" (2,208), "Miscellaneous" (2,480) and "Printing Presses" (2,127) groups. The "Municipal" group was the only group that recorded a decrease of 2,200. The report points out, however, that the figures of membership of certain unions are in excess of the number of actual members, as subscriptions are often written off without debiting the defaulters from membership. The position as regards female membership showed a distinct improvement during the year. Whereas during 1942-43 there were 22 unions having 7,276 female members on their rolls, during the year under report the numbers increased to 31 and 8,017 respectively, the highest so far reported.

Financial Position of Unions.- All unions except 6 opened the year with credit balances. Of these six, four however showed credit balances at the end of the year, but the position of one union with a credit balance could not be maintained at the end of the year. The principal liability of the majority of the unions was the general fund. The total amount at the credit of the general fund account of all the unions was Rs. 452,296 and other liabilities amount to Rs. 56,261 as against total assets amounting to Rs. 809,147. These assets, however, include an amount of Rs. 144,735, or 23.45 per cent, for unpaid subscription due, "the real value of which is doubtful". A feature of certain unions was that expenditure was mainly financed not by members' subscriptions, but by donations from unspecified sources. Constitutions of certain unions offended against the Act in that executive control was vested in advisers who were not engaged in the industry, and steps were taken to remedy such constitutions.

Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad.- The Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, the only federation on register, had a general fund of Rs. 105,071, a political fund of Rs. 11,111, a staff provident fund of Rs. 26,014, Shahpur Society Sinking Fund of Rs. 22,106 and other liabilities amounting to Rs. 257,185. The Association paid Rs. 37,569 by way of educational, social and religious benefits and granted other benefits such as funeral, old age, sickness, unemployment,

etc., to the extent of about Rs. 15,500. The unions affiliated to this Federation were reported to have a total membership of 54,318 on 1st December 1943.

Unions whose Objects were not confined to the Province.- The total membership of the 7 unions in this group for which information is available was 34,848 in 1943-44 as against 33,334 at the close of the previous year. The increase in membership over the the previous year was mostly accounted for by unions in the "railways" group. There were only 13 female members belonging to 2 unions. The total amount at the credit of the general fund account of all the unions was Rs. 121,777 and other liabilities amounted to Rs. 11,280 as against total assets amounting to Rs. 133,887. Of these assets an amount of Rs. 23,255, or 17.48 per cent, was unpaid subscriptions due.

(Indian Labour Gazette, September, 1945).

Progress of Trade Unions in Orissa during 1943-44:

The number of 'registered' trade unions in Orissa during 1943-44 remained constant at 5, as no new union was registered nor was any registration cancelled.

Membership.- The total membership of the three unions increased from 308 in 1942-43 to 683 in 1943-44. The increase was confined only to 2 unions, the third union under "Printing presses" showing a slight decrease in membership. There were no female members.

Finances.- The total opening balance of the general fund of the three unions was Rs. 144 and the income Rs. 259. One of the unions spent more than its assets. Only 2 unions had therefore a closing balance of Rs. 144.

No union maintained a political fund.

(Indian Labour Gazette,
September, 1945).

All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Conference, Madras
17-10-1945: Demand for Revised Scales of pay and 40 Hour
Week.

At an open session of the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Conference held at Madras on 17-10-1945, resolutions were adopted urging Government to implement the revised scales of pay recommended by the Bombay Postal Enquiry Committee, and to appoint a committee of representatives of the Union and the Government to consider the question of post-war retrenchment. By another resolution the Conference demanded the introduction of 40 hours week, pensioning off of the older categories, and extension of the postal services to the ~~most~~ remotest corners of India to absorb the retrenched hands.

The Conference further decided to register the Postal and Lower Grade Staff Union under the Trade Union Act, and to affiliate it to the All-India Trade Union Congress.

(The Hindu, 19-10-1945). +

Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh, Bombay: New
Organization of Textile Workers under
Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh.

Mr. S.K. Patil, President of the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh Provincial Board, Bombay, has announced the formation of the "Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh", amalgamating two textile labour unions of Bombay city which are guided by responsible Congressmen and which have now undertaken to accept the guidance of the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh.

The Sangh will frame the demands on behalf of textile workers; the immediate demands will be : increase and standardization of wages, increase in dearness allowance and adequate and unconditional bonus.

(The Times of India, 18-10-1945). +

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Free Compulsory Education in Ceylon.

Free State education from kindergarten to the University has been started in Ceylon with the beginning of October, 1945. Tuition in all Government educational institutions is now free and all aided schools willing to come into the scheme have been invited to hand over their management to the government. Ceylon has now over 4,500 schools of all kinds with about 800,000 pupils but when the new scheme is fully worked out, a large number of new government central schools will be started and the age for concluding compulsory education may be raised to 16.

Ceylon will spend ~~Rs. 370,000,000~~ or about 15 per cent of her total revenue on education this year and this may be doubled in the next few years under new arrangements.

(The Hindu, dated 5-10-1945). +

EDUCATION.

Travancere Primary Education Act: State to provide Free and Compulsory Primary Education.

H.M. the Maharaja of Travancere has assented the Travancere Primary Education Act.

The special feature of this Act is that it aims at giving universal, free and compulsory primary education to boys and girls. For this purpose, the Act has drawn up a definite programme, as a result of which, within a period of ten years, full control of all primary education in the State will be undertaken by the Government. Under the Act, a School Attendance Committee will be appointed for the purpose of implementing the programme of free and compulsory primary education. If any parent fails to comply with the provisions of the Act and the School Attendance Committee is unable to see any reason for such non-compliance, the Committee is empowered to prosecute the defaulting parents before a Magistrate. Non-compliance will be punished with a fine not exceeding Rs. 25 and in case of continued offence or persistent default, with imprisonment for a term not exceeding two months or a fine not exceeding Rs. 50 or both.

(The Times of India, 22-10-1945).

25 Year Education Plan for Jodhpur.

According to the Correspondent of the Hindustan Times at Jodhpur, the Government of Jodhpur has prepared a 25-year scheme spread over five successive periods of five years each to educate the 2.6 million people of Marwar.

At present for an area of 36,000 square miles and 4,200 villages, there are only 268 schools. There are no High Schools in the district and the Middle Schools are also few. The Post-war Education Committee has now recommended the opening of numerous schools and colleges during the first five years. Besides this, it has also been laid down that an element of compulsion is to be introduced in the selected areas as an experimental measure prior to the introduction of universal compulsory education throughout the State.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-10-1945).

Education of Indian Soldiers: New Drive of Directorate of Army Education.

The Directorate of Army Education has launched a drive to educate the Indian soldiers in the army numbering about two million, and to fit them for their return to civil life. The objective of the drive is that a million soldiers at present illiterate in their mother tongues shall attain literacy, and that the remainder, already literate, shall receive an education to fit them for their return to civil life.

At least 15 periods per week are allotted for educational purposes. Four of these periods are allotted to discussions on citizenship, current affairs and post-war reconstruction. The remaining 11 periods will be devoted to teaching illiterates to read, write and do simple calculations in their own language. Eleven languages—Urdu, Hindi, Pushtu, Punjabi, Bengali, Marathi, Nepalese, Kanarese, Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam—will be taught. The literate may select their own subjects to fill the remaining 11 periods. They may choose a general education course conducted in English or Hindustani or study English as a subject in itself. There will also be classes in hobbies and handicrafts and, for those sufficiently qualified, training in commercial subjects and teaching.

(The Statesman, 20-10-1945). ✓ +

Control Measures.

Centre to Consult Provincial Governments on Relaxation of Controls.

According to the Special Correspondent of the Hindustan Times the Government of India is convening a meeting of representatives of Provincial Governments in Delhi towards the end of November or early in December, when the question of control measures in regard to civil supplies will be discussed. After ascertaining the provincial governments' views on the matter a decision will be taken as to how far controls can be relaxed.

(The Hindustan Times, 14-10-1945).

Cloth Rationing comes into force in Calcutta.

and
Cloth rationing came into force in Calcutta/the surrounding industrial area on 1-10-1945. Over 500 selected retail shops and 260 ~~employees' shops~~ function under the scheme. Ten varieties of cloth are rationed and rationing is carried out through the issue of cloth-folders.

An adult can buy 10 yards of cloth in the first quarter (October to December 1945) and five yards each in the second and third quarters respectively.

(The Statesman, 3-10-1945).

Imported Engineering Stores Control Relaxed.

By a notification in the gazette of India dated 6-10-1945 the Government of India has revised the existing schedule to the Control of Imported Engineer Stores Order, 1943, by excluding a number of engineering stores from the purview of the Order.

Important among the imported stores thus decontrolled are: A.C. Motors and generators, rubber insulated electric cables and flexible cords, TBS (CTS) cables and flexible cords, exhaust fans, ball-bearings, portable electric tools, refrigerators and certain types of metal working tools and hand tools. Importers and dealers will henceforward be free to dispose of these stores without obtaining a release permit from the Controlling Officers.

(The Gazette of India ~~dated~~ dated 6-10-1945, part I, Sec.1, pages 1370-1371.
The Hindustan Times, 6-10-1945).

Housing of "Less Wealthy Classes": Bombay to relax Control over Building Materials.

Various public bodies and institutions had made representations to the Government of Bombay urging relaxation of the wartime restrictions on private buildings in Bombay City and the Suburban area. While the population of Bombay had increased tremendously, the stoppage of private building had led to considerable overcrowding.

After considering the situation in detail, the Government of Bombay has decided to continue the present control measures, with modifications, in order to guide supplies into the most useful channels and to make materials available, on a priority basis, for building dwellings for the less wealthy classes, which is the greatest need at present. It is accordingly proposed to grant permits freely, with immediate effect, for the erection of residential accommodation by local bodies for working classes, by industrial and business concerns for housing their employees, and by co-operative housing societies and religious and other trusts for housing their members, in fact by all agencies concerned with the housing of the less wealthy classes, other than mere profit-making concerns. It is also proposed to liberalise the grant of permits for the erection of minor additions to existing structures which are required for the use of their owners and to permit completion of those buildings which were in progress at the time of the imposition of control measures, and construction of which had to be stopped at an intermediate stage.

("Bombay Information", 20-10-1945). + +

Food.

Implementing Recommendations of Famine Commission: Special Officer Appointed.

It is learnt that Sir Clarence Bird, Regional Food Commissioner, North-Western Region, is being appointed Special Officer in the Central Food Department to implement the recommendations of the Famine Commission Report (vide pages 44-49 of the report of this office for September 1945). His duties will include co-ordination of the activities of the several departments of the Government of India, as well as of various provincial Governments, in the light of the recommendations made in the final Report of the Famine Commission.

(The Hindustan Times, 7-10-1945). +

Compensation for War Injuries.

Ordinance to Amend War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act,
1943; Ordinance No. XLI of 1945.

The Government of India has gazetted on 27-10-1945 an Ordinance amending the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1943. The amendment inserts in section 2 of the above Act an additional clause defining "termination of the present hostilities" as such date as may be declared by the Central government.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary,
dated 27-10-1945, page 100). * *

Demand for Adjudication.- The resolution further directs the President and Secretary of the Federation to move the Labour Department of the Government of India for the immediate appointment of an Adjudicator for the settlement of the disputes in case of refusal of Government to accede any of the above-mentioned demands, and instructs the affiliated Unions to observe 31st October, 1945 as All-India Anti-Retrenchment Day, with a view to mobilise public opinion in favour of the Federation's demands.

Demand for Unemployment Benefit.- The General Council also strongly urged the Government to immediately constitute a scheme for unemployment benefit with a view to adequately provide relief for the victims of unemployment on the railways.

In pursuance of the above resolution Mr. V.V. Giri, President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation met Mr. S. Lal, Secretary of the Labour Department, Government of India, in the third week of October, 1945. He is understood to have explained the point of view of the Federation and asked for the appointment of an adjudicator or court of inquiry to go into the dispute.

(The Hindu, 2,3-10-1945; The Hindustan Times, dated 19-10-1945).

Meeting of General Council of I.F.L., Bombay, 28-9-1945:
Demand for Bold Employment Policy and Incorporation of
Dearness Allowance in Basic Wage.

Resolutions demanding the incorporation of dearness allowance in the basic wages and the adoption of a bold employment policy by the Government of India were adopted at a meeting of the General Council of the Indian Federation of Labour at Bombay on 28-9-1945, Miss Mani Ben Kere, presiding.

Threat of Unemployment: Remedial Measures.- The General Council viewed with alarm the growing unemployment in the country owing to the stoppage of war-work industries and felt that the situation would be worsened by the release of sailors, soldiers and airmen from the war services who would also compete in the employment market. If the situation was not tackled satisfactorily at an early date, it would give rise to economic convulsions of a very serious character. The Council, therefore, urged the Government to adopt a bold policy of employment for all in consultation with the Indian Federation of Labour. Pending the adoption of such definite policy and plan the resolution demands that the Government should (1) see that workers are not thrown out of employment unless arrangements are made for securing them alternative employment; (2) make arrangements for giving training to workers to enable them to take up alternative employment that may be available; (3) give displaced or discharged workers, a monthly allowance equal to their unemployment or for six months which ever is less; and (4) associate representatives of labour with any committees that may be set up for considering schemes of employment, retrenchment etc. in various industries and areas.

Dearness Allowance.- On the question of dearness allowance the Council adopted a resolution condemning the attempts already being made by some employers to cut down the present scale of dearness-allowance and asserting that the real wages of workers had actually gone down during the war owing to the failure of dearness allowance to keep pace with the rise in the cost of living. The resolution demands the incorporation of the dearness allowance in the basic wages and warns the Government and employers that any attempt to reduce wages will be vigorously resisted by the workers.

The General Council, further decided to contest all labour constituencies in the coming provincial elections and demanded adequate representation in the Central Legislative Assembly.

(The Hindu, 1-10-1945, and Communication to this Office dated 27-10-1945).

"Release and Resettlement"—Booklet outlining Government of India's Plans.

Details of the Government of India's release and resettlement plans to help Servicemen and women on their return to civilian life are given in a booklet—'Release and Resettlement'—published by the Welfare Council in India. All persons domiciled in India who have served in the Indian Defence Services, States Forces or units under the Crown, or British Services, are eligible to benefit under these plans.

Vocational Training for those awaiting Release.- The first step is the provision of educational and vocational courses for those in the Services awaiting release. Indian sailors, soldiers, and airmen have the choice of a number of subjects. Those qualified in English can try for the Naval Higher Educational Test or Indian Army Special Certificate of Education, accepted by most universities as the equivalent of matriculation. Tradesmen can refresh their knowledge of technical subjects in Service workshops.

Placement.- On demobilisation, those who wish for advice on their careers can apply to the Resettlement Advice Service. This service, staffed by officers of the Labour Department, is designed to assess the returning servicemen's aptitude for various types of employment and advise him on his chance of a job. Employment exchanges will help to place men in jobs. Those whose careers have been interrupted by the war may, under certain conditions, receive civilian training free of charge. This post-release training will be given available in a wide range of subjects, including skilled manual occupations and engineering. The National Service (European British Subjects) Act, the booklet points out, lays an obligation on employers to take back into their employment former employees under conditions not less favourable than those which would have been applicable had their employment not been interrupted. Application for reinstatement must, however, be made within two months of the termination of national service.

Women's Services.- Members of women's Services will be eligible for ~~post-release~~ waiting facilities provided for British Service personnel and for any of those provided for the Indian Defence Services which are suitable and which can be made available to them. Special courses in domestic science and economy will be a feature of the scheme.

All these benefits are additional to the war gratuity and leave with pay to which every demobilised Serviceman is entitled.

(The Statesman, 14-10-1945).

Employment Exchanges collecting information regarding demobilised Servicemen and Discharged War Workers.

It is reliably learnt that the employment exchanges set up by the Labour Department are collecting information regarding demobilised Services personnel and discharged war workers who are in search of civil employment.

Card Index for Discharged Servicemen and War Workers.- Their main source of information will be the card index envelopes which are being completed at release centres for every man and woman discharged or released from the Services. These envelopes are being despatched to the employment exchanges to provide them with complete information about the released ex-Servicemen and women residing within their area.

Arrangements have also been made for the completion of card index envelopes for persons discharged from concerns under or working for the Supply Department. Similar arrangements are being made in respect of concerns under other departments of Government of India. The completed card index envelopes will be sent to the employment exchange concerned.

Servicemen who wish to contact civilian employers while still in the Services have been instructed to send particulars to the Central Employment Exchange at Simla. This exchange is arranging to bring the names of such applicants to the notice of prospective employers, both Government and private.

(The States Vanguard, 4-10-1945).

Government of India preparing "Guides to Occupational Classifications" to help Employment Exchanges.

To facilitate the work of the employment exchange machinery, the Central Government are preparing a series of "Guides to Occupational Classifications", which will clearly define all occupational terms and provide a common nomenclature and uniform standards for civil and military trades. At present, the Defence Services alone have about 1,000 trade categories and the types of occupations in civil employment are not identical with those in the Defence Services. One of these Guides will accordingly contain information regarding the qualifications and occupations of the demobilised Services personnel showing against each qualification or occupation its equivalent in civil employment. The other Guides are designed to be complete and descriptive lists of occupations in civil life. They will also contain a short questionnaire enabling employment exchanges to ascertain the employment-seeker's specific knowledge of a particular occupation.

Employers will be provided with copies of the "Guide to Ex-Services Personnel's Qualifications" so that by reference to it they can select

the persons most suitable for their industries and then communicate with the Employment Exchanges. The guides are being compiled on information collected from all services personnel and the particular industries in which they can be placed.

A meeting between representatives of the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment, the Employers' Associations and Government Departments is to be held in Simla on October 8, to scrutinize the qualifications of the ex-services personnel and to assist the Directorate-General in giving civil equivalents to them.

(The Hindustan Times, 4-10-1945).

Proposal to set up Mobile Employment Exchanges.

In an interview to a pressman Mr. D.R. Pradhan, Regional Director for Resettlement and Employment, Bombay Province, and one of the main advisers to the Indian delegation to the International Labour Conference at Paris, stated that the problem of resettlement of ex-servicemen in areas where their numbers were relatively few was engaging the attention of the Government of India. In areas where there were no soldiers', sailors' and airman's committees to help them, the establishment of mobile employment exchanges was under consideration of the Government. These would be an extension of the existing employment exchanges in the country.

(The Times of India, 4-10-1945).

Ex-Servicemen's Job Preferences: Replies to Resettlement Directorate's Questionnaire.

As a result of a questionnaire sent by the Resettlement Directorate, G.H.Q. (India), to thousands of Indian troops, it has been revealed that about nine per cent of those questioned have jobs awaiting them on demobilisation. A further 35 per cent desire agricultural employment, more than 31 per cent wish to enter industry, another seven per cent require clerical or non-technical employment and about the same percentage desire work as vehicle drivers. Of the remainder, rather more than five per cent want non-clerical employment, nearly four per cent wish to become domestic servants and only one per cent desire to enter the teaching profession.

Of the men who have shown preference for agricultural employment, including cottage industries, the majority have had no training. About one-third of the men attracted by industrial employment are army tradesmen (skilled workers). Less than one-third of those who favour clerical or non-technical employment are matriculates. Of these who have shown preference for employment as teachers about one-half possess a degree or have passed the matriculation, the rest have 1st Class Army Certificates in Roman Urdu.

(The Hindu, 19-10-1945).

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Employment for Demobilised Men: Sir Homi Mehta's
Recommendations.

Sir Homi Mehta, who visited the Indian troops overseas on behalf of the India Government in June and July 1945, to inquire into the welfare and amenities provided for Indian troops serving in overseas theatres, has in his report, made a number of suggestions for finding employment for India's demobilised troops. More than half of Sir Homi's report is devoted to the future of the Indian soldier. Throughout his tour he found that the principal worry of the Indian soldier was about his future after demobilisation. Positive constructive steps need to be taken to re-absorb the soldiers into civil life and to find them jobs for which their career and experience in the army best suit them.

The main suggestions of Sir Homi are summarised below:

Engineering.- Men who have acquired good technical knowledge should be absorbed in large engineering works all over India.

Roads.- All sappers and miners will be useful, because of their knowledge of up-to-date techniques, in the construction of the thousands of miles of roads which are under consideration.

Agriculture.- Jawans (^{Soldiers} ~~Indians~~) are still interested in agriculture and want to great pains to learn European methods. Hundreds of thousands of acres of India's virgin fallow land can be put to use. Demobilised men should be given plots of two acres or so to work on. Manures and chemicals, as well as expert advice, should be given free, and no ~~assessment~~ should be levied for at least ten years.

Welfare.- Demobilised men should be cared for by the Government for at least six months, till they are well placed in suitable jobs to prevent them from being reduced to destitution.

Land disputes.- When a demobilised man finds he has been robbed of ~~land or property~~, the Government should see that he gets justice without expense and delay.

Clubs.- Government huts built for war purposes should be allotted for use as clubs in every district.

(The Times of India, 18-10-1945).

Madras Bill to provide for Acquisition of Lands for
EX-Servicemen.

The Government of Madras has gazetted on 4-10-1945 the draft of a bill it proposes to enact to facilitate the acquisition of lands for the benefit of ex-servicemen.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill, one of the problems to be faced immediately is that relating to the settlement of demobilised soldiers, sailors and airmen who will return to their villages. It is necessary that the Government should acquire lands for making grants to or for the benefit of such ex-service men. The Land Acquisition Act, 1894, does not give power to acquire lands for this purpose. It is therefore considered necessary to take power: (a) to acquire lands in ryotwari tracts and in estates or take over such lands for temporary occupation and use; and (b) to acquire ~~lands in~~

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only the kudiavaram (i.e. tenancy) right where it is desired to grant only an occupancy right to ex-service men.

The Bill is intended mainly to achieve these objects. It provides that every acquisition or temporary occupation of land will be on payment of compensation in accordance with the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, with an important modification as regards the valuation of vacant sites in a village.

The Bill is to be considered on or after 5-11-1945 and has been published for eliciting public opinion.

(The Fort St. George Gazette dated,
4-10-1945, Part IV-A, Extraordinary,
pages 1-2).

Roads and Building Projects to absorb Demobilised
Servicemen: Madras Government's Plans.

Road Projects.- Vast road projects costing millions of rupees, which will not only provide Madras with a network of fine highways linking different parts of the province but give employment to thousands of demobilised soldiers, are understood to be one of the priority items in the Madras Government's programme designed to meet the situation arising out of demobilisation. A large proportion of the Madras troops are motor vehicles drivers, and it is expected that road construction will absorb more than 3,000 drivers, who will be required to carry building material from the quarters to the place of construction. It is gathered that the Chief Engineer, P.W.D., is ready with his plans, but lack of machinery is holding up the start of operations.

Public Building Projects.- Another item of work which is expected to provide employment to demobilised personnel is the construction of public buildings which should assist materially Government's nation-building programme. Such constructions include a Government Training Centre at Chickaldurg, in Vizagapatam District; quarters for children's hospitals; Government Secondary Training Schools; and pucca huts for the armed reserve at Madura. These works are calculated to be of great benefit to the returning soldiers, for they will be undertaken, not by contractors as in the usual way, but by co-operative Labour Societies composed of the demobilised personnel. Any profits that may accrue will be shared by them—money which in the ordinary course would go to the contractors.

(The Hindu, 25-10-1945). +

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Employment Exchanges to be set up in Hyderabad State:
Resettlement Plans for EX-Soldiers.

According to the Correspondent of the Times of India, the Nizam's Government has decided to initiate a system of employment exchanges to facilitate ex-servicemen and civilians obtaining suitable jobs. The Exchanges are not expected to function as bodies meant for creating employment, but to help the right men to get the right job.

The Government has also sanctioned a scheme for the training of the demobilised soldiers in the methods of agriculture and co-operation, with particular reference to rural reconstruction, ~~and~~ health and sanitation and animal husbandry. The scheme will cost Rs. 30,000. Soldiers will be trained in batches of 50 at the rural reconstruction centres, 25 miles from the city.

(The Times of India, Dated 4 and
18-10-1945).

Employment Exchanges Set up in Gwalior State.

Two employment exchanges are being set up in Gwalior State—one at Gwalior and the other at Ujjain. The Exchanges will work under two Labour Officers and will be placed under the Commerce Department of the Government. The machinery of the employment exchanges is initially meant to deal with the registration and voluntary placement of skilled and semi-skilled workmen, who will be thrown out of employment as a result of the termination of hostilities.

(Dawn, dated 15-10-1945).

Vocational Training for Demobilised Soldiers: Training
Centres Start Work.

Training Centres under Central Command.— The 19th Hyderabad Regimental Centre at Agra, which started work recently, is typical of about 40 training centres in the Central Command engaged in the resettlement training of Indian Soldiers. The Hyderabad Regimental Centre is training about 100 men in the first batch. These men are at present working in fields, in poultry yards and dairy farms, in vegetable gardens and orchards or in huts at various cottage industries. Training is imparted through lectures, demonstrations, display of exhibits and opportunities to handle and work with tools and implements of the particular handicraft. The training which is intensely practical is expected to last from two to three months.

Training Centres for Sappers at Bangalore and Poona.— Resettlement training courses have also been opened at the Madras Sappers and Miners headquarters at Bangalore and the Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners Depot, Poona. In the workshops at Poona soldiers are engaged in tasks as varied as turning out agricultural implements to reassembling a railway engine. Training is also given in carpentry, modern farming, gardening and fruit cultivation. In dairy, poultry and rabbit farms modern scientific methods are being taught. A resettlement training course is ~~the~~ to be

started in November when 500 boys will be trained every month in cottage industries and rural reconstruction.

(The Times of India, 30-10-1945).

Demands of Railwaymen: Railway Board's Reply.

The reply of the Railway Board to the demands of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation (vide pages of this Report) is summarised in a statement issued to the Press by Mr. S. Guruswami, General Secretary, All-India Railwaymen's Federation.

Retrenchment. The Railway Board state that it is impossible to tell the exact number of railway servants whose discharge will ultimately be unavoidable, but they feel that there is no reason to believe that the figure is anything like 250,000. As it is anticipated that railway traffic will continue at a high level for some time to come and the recruitment of ex-servicemen will be a gradual process, there is no reason to believe that it will be necessary to discharge suddenly large bodies of railway servants, but the Railway Board cannot accept the proposition that the men should continue in service when no work can be found for them to do. Railway administrations will work in close touch with Labour Exchanges so that such men whose discharge is unavoidable may, as far as possible, be able to find employment elsewhere.

Remedial measures: Refusal to reduce Hours of Work. As regards the remedial measures suggested to avoid unemployment, the Railway Board state that no railway workshop works normally more than a 48-hour week and the Board are not prepared to consider any ad hoc alteration in the hours of employment regulations. Instructions have been issued to railways to grant earned leave to permanent staff where suitable temporary relieving staff are available or employment of substitutes is feasible. The question of leave to which daily rated and inferior service staff are eligible during the first three years of service is under examination. The question of engaging departmental labour where contract labour is employed is being considered. The Board anticipate that, due to the increased repair work in the Railway workshops, reduction in workshop staff will not be heavy, but it is improbable that a great many workers will be absorbed by manufacture of rolling stock for another 18 months or two years.

Revision of Scales of Pay. As regards revision of scales of pay, collection of such data and co-ordination with other departments of the Government of India will be necessary, but the matter is receiving the active attention of the Railway Board. They are prepared to discuss with the Federation, at some convenient time, details in regard to the structure of cadres and the principles on which revisions can be made, although it will not be possible to anticipate the actual scales which will be introduced. On the question of dearness allowance, the Railway Board state that the subject continues to engage the Board's attention, but there seems little scope for further discussion at this juncture.

Demand for Adjudication refused. The Railway Board do not agree to join with the Federation for an adjudication application but the Board are prepared to discuss these questions with the Federation, if so desired.

(The Hindu, dated 30-10-1945). + +

Textile Industry.

Post-War Planning of Indian Textile Industry: Views of
Members' Association, Bombay, on Post-War Plan of
Textile Control Board.

Post-War Size of Cotton Textile Industry: Target Suggested by
Post-War Planning Committee of Textile Control Board. - Early in August 1945, the members of the Committee of the Members' Association, Bombay, had access to certain decisions which appeared to have been taken by the Post-War Planning Committee of the Textile Control Board, on the question of the size of the Indian cotton textile industry in the post-war period. It appeared that, in the opinion of the Post-War Planning Committee, the productive capacity of the Indian cotton textile industry should be enhanced so as to yield an output of 7,200 million yards of cloth per annum with sufficient extra quantities of yarn for the handloom industry to enable that industry to produce 2,000 million yards of cloth per annum. It was further understood that machinery covering 4,000 looms and 2.75 million spindles would be supplied within the next five years for new mills, and that machinery covering 200,000 looms and 10 million spindles would be supplied over a period of ten years for expansion of machinery in existing mills. These proposals meant that the target figure of 7,200 million yards was to be secured by the additional looms and spindleage allocated for expansion in the next five years. Now, according to the proposals accepted by the Post-War Planning Committee, expansion programme appeared to take precedence over replacement of machinery in existing mills.

Good for Cotton in Plans for Post-War Expansion. - These proposals were carefully examined by the Committee of the Association, and subsequently discussed with the Industrial Adviser to the Government of India. The proposals, if given effect to, would mean, in the opinion of the Committee, that the country would have at its disposal in the year 1950-51, 7,200 million yards of mill-made cloth and 2,000 million yards of handloom cloth making a total of 9,200 million yards as against the present supply of approximately 6,700 million yards. The Committee had serious doubts as to whether the purchasing power of the masses in India would have increased to permit of such an increase in the offtake of cloth. It was aware of the fact that a substantial increase in the purchasing power of the masses was the main idea behind Government's many post-war schemes and plans; but having unfortunately gone through a long period of trade depression before 1940, and also bearing in mind the fact that the mills were, immediately before the outbreak of the war, finding it extremely difficult to dispose of, at reasonable prices, even the lower production of 1938-39, and were seriously considering plans for restricting production, the Committee advocated a more cautious policy in the matter of the post-war expansion of the Indian cotton textile industry. Its view was that the enhancement of the industry's productive capacity, if necessary, should be attained by instalments so as to ensure that the increase in the purchasing power of the masses really kept pace with increased production, and also to ensure that what was produced was readily absorbed without any danger of accumulation of stock and consequent slump in prices to unreasonably low levels. They accordingly suggested, that the allocation of a million spindles for the

establishment of new mills in certain deficit areas, which they understood had already been made, may be allowed to stand, but that whatever machinery India might be able to secure over and above this allocation, should be divided in the ratio of 66.2/3 per cent for the immediate rehabilitation and modernisation of existing units and the rest for new mills, ~~modernisation~~ balancing of existing plant. The Committee had no objection to the proportion being adjusted temporarily to meet the situation if, at any time, the need for acceleration of expansion programme was proved.

The Committee advocated a cautious policy in regard to the post-war expansion of the cotton textile industry from another point of view also. It was not clear whether the target figure which the Post-War Planning Committee had in view made any provision for imports into and exports from British India; no provision seemed to have been made for imports, though a figure of 600 million yards appeared to have been mentioned as the probable exports from this country. The Committee felt, after taking all the relevant facts into account, that due allowance would have to be made for reasonable quantities of imports. In this view of the case, the total quantity of cloth available in this country including imports would be considerably in excess of 9,200 million yards, the figure which the Post-War Planning Committee had in view.

Imports and Overseas Markets.— Turning to exports, the Committee felt that ~~it might be reasonable~~ to anticipate India being able to export considerable quantities of cloth in the immediate post-war period, it was extremely doubtful whether, in the years to come, when India's overseas competitors would emerge from their war seclusion in a strengthened form and compete with the Indian industry in the overseas markets, any ~~significant~~ sizeable export of cloth from this country would be possible. Cotton mills were now springing up in various countries which had hitherto been buying cloth from India also; besides, in view of the fact that this country could not reasonably be expected to have any control or influence over the tariff and foreign policies of the overseas countries concerned, it would be extremely unwise to lay our plans in anticipation of a share in the piecegoods trade of the countries concerned. However, successive tariff boards had expressed the view that export trade provided a welcome safety valve to relieve depression in the industry and looking at the question from this angle, the Committee thought that it would help the industry in the post-war period if the Planning Committee recommended to Government that the following disabilities from which the Indian industry at present suffered in overseas markets vis-a-vis its competitors, ~~should~~ should be neutralised by appropriate action: (a) The duty on imported cotton; (b) the duty on imported stores and dyestuffs; and (c) the high freight which has to be paid on Indian goods in respect of shorter distances to be covered, as compared with the United Kingdom and Japan.

Immediate Need of the Industry.— The Committee felt that immediate need of the ~~Indian~~ Indian textile industry was the replacement of its worn-out machinery by more up-to-date plant. Without modernisation and the adoption of various labour saving devices, the industry could not reasonably expect to be able to hold its own against foreign competition even in the home market. Machinery prices are, however, abnormally high at present, and as the cessation of hostilities is likely to be followed by a drop in commodity prices, the industrialists expect some assurance from Government on the question of securing a fair return on the high capital expenditure which would have to be incurred in rehabilitating

their mills. The Committee, therefore, suggested that the Post-War Planning Committee might consider the question of making suitable recommendations to government to provide for higher depreciation allowances than at present and / or a rehabilitation allowance.

Registration and Import of Post-War Requirements of Capital Goods for Cotton Textile Industry. In accordance with a scheme formulated by the Government of India, in December, 1944 applications for the registration of all categories of capital goods both for war and post-war requirements were to be made to the Chief Commissioner of Imports. Applications falling under the category of post-war requirements were however subsequently placed before the Post-War Planning Committee for their scrutiny and recommendation. Towards the end of August, the post-war planning Committee formulated certain principles for the disposal of such applications; they laid down that no recommendations would be made for the import of second-hand and/or reconditioned textile productive machinery, productive machinery being defined as all spinning machinery upto and including ring frames and doubling frames and all weaving machinery upto and including looms. Applications for the import of reconditioned machinery of a non-productive character such as bleaching, dyeing and finishing plants were, however, to be considered. The Post-War Planning Committee also took the view that an economic size for a composite spinning and weaving mill would be 25,000 spindles and 600 suitable looms and decided to enquire whether all composite mills having less than 25,000 spindles and/or 600 suitable looms respectively desired to expand so as to bring their number of spindles and looms, to the economic size which the Post-War Planning Committee had in view. Subject to the cases coming under this group, the Post-War Planning Committee decided to recommend to Government that not more than 10 per cent expansion of spindleage or loomage should be considered in surplus areas as defined in the Cotton Cloth Movement Control Order, 1943. They also decided to recommend that productive machinery which might be replaced by new machinery should not be allowed to be sold or otherwise disposed of without the prior sanction of the Textile Commissioner.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during the Months of June, July and August, 1945).

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Post-War Reconstruction.

Mr. A. B. Lal outlines Government Plans to avert Unemployment:
Speech at the meeting of the Central Policy Committee, Delhi, 29-10-1945.

The Government of India's plans to stimulate increased economic activity with a view to preventing large-scale unemployment consequent on a serious drop in war-time expenditure in India were outlined by Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Planning and Development Member, Government of India, at the fourth meeting of the Central Policy Committee at Delhi on 8.10.1945. The session concluded on 9.10.1945.

Sir A. B. Lal's speech:

Extent of Unemployment Threat:- The first economic consequence of the termination of the war, said Sir Ardeshir Dalal, was that expenditure on account of the war must cease within a short period and the Government of India's expenditure on defence must progressively decline. Even on the most favourable view, the decline of employment associated with the cessation of public expenditure must be large. The demobilisation plans of the army envisaged a fall in the army strength of 500,000 men in the course of about eight months. The bulk of the unskilled labour employed on defence works, roughly a million men, could also no longer be employed by the Government. Thus, even if the possible contribution of the staff employed by the Government was not taken into account, this meant a fall of employment of the order of two million and the secondary effects must also be considered with it. The problem was to find employment for as many of these men as possible.

Countervailing Factors.- Fortunately, however, there were factors which could counteract unemployment. There was at the moment a great deal of reserve purchasing power in the country. This included the increase in bank deposits, since September 1939, amounting to about Rs. 5,000 million, the increase in notes in circulation of over Rs. 10,000 million, deposits in the Excess Profit Tax amount, to over Rs. 500 million, various categories of payment that would have to be paid to troops such as war gratuities, deferred pay, undischarged pay, etc., amounting to Rs. 1,000 million and an increase in savings bank deposits, National Savings Certificates, etc., amounting to some Rs. 700 million. This reserve of financial power could be effectively used for providing economic employment and raising the national income.

There were also various arrear demands for various types of economic services, such as house building. The Government of India were actively considering a scheme for the housing of its own industrial labour. Research on prefabrication, standardization of types, mass production of fittings, designs, etc., was being undertaken by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research which was setting up a building research section. The question of providing a special stimulus to the building industry by the grant of loans on easy terms through building finance corporations required careful consideration. Also, the demand for goods, particularly consumer goods which were in short supply, was considerable. And, quite apart from development plans, including large irrigation and hydroelectric works, the Central and provincial Governments had to recondition plants, buildings, roads, etc., neglected during the war.

Capital Equipment.- An important limiting factor was the availability of capital equipment. The position in this respect was not an easy one. Even in the matter of road construction, which one would ordinarily suppose to be an easy matter if funds were available, India was handicapped for want of road rollers and lack of adequate technical personnel for preparing surveys, plans and designs.

Government Plans for Transition: Assistance to Provinces for ~~at least~~ ~~to carry out~~ ~~development~~.- ~~Following~~ ~~the~~ ~~plans~~ ~~to~~ ~~provide~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~transition~~, ~~Mr~~ ~~Ardesir~~ ~~said~~ ~~that~~ ~~projects~~ ~~were~~ ~~being~~ ~~urgently~~ ~~prepared~~, ~~both~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~Central~~ ~~and~~ ~~provincial~~ ~~Governments~~, ~~to~~ ~~start~~ ~~public~~ ~~works~~ ~~such~~ ~~as~~ ~~irrigation~~ ~~works~~, ~~anti-erosion~~ ~~works~~, ~~roads~~, ~~etc.~~ ~~These~~ ~~would~~, ~~as~~ ~~far~~ ~~as~~ ~~possible~~, ~~form~~ ~~part~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~five-year~~ ~~plans~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Government~~, ~~but~~ ~~where~~ ~~for~~ ~~any~~ ~~reason~~ ~~this~~ ~~was~~ ~~impossible~~ ~~and~~ ~~hse~~ ~~works~~ ~~would~~ ~~also~~ ~~be~~ ~~undertaken~~. Provincial Governments had ~~been~~ ~~informed~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~choice~~ ~~of~~ ~~projects~~ ~~should~~ ~~be~~ ~~determined~~ ~~in~~ ~~accordance~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~following~~ ~~considerata~~, ~~namely~~, ~~that~~ ~~they~~ ~~should~~ ~~be~~ ~~capable~~ ~~of~~ ~~being~~ ~~put~~ ~~into~~ ~~operation~~ ~~at~~ ~~short~~ ~~notice~~, ~~and~~ ~~that~~ ~~they~~ ~~should~~ ~~be~~ ~~those~~ ~~in~~ ~~which~~ ~~the~~ ~~ratio~~ ~~of~~ ~~expenditure~~ ~~on~~ ~~employment~~ ~~was~~ ~~high~~ ~~relatively~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~total~~ ~~expenditure~~.

Central revenue surpluses out of which grants for development are contemplated are not expected to accrue until two years after the termination of the war. In the meanwhile most provincial Governments have already certain resources and they might undertake some of the development ~~work~~ ~~immediately~~ ~~they~~ ~~are~~ ~~found~~ ~~necessary~~ ~~for~~ ~~combating~~ ~~incipient~~ ~~slump~~ ~~or~~ ~~unemployment~~ ~~tendencies~~ ~~without~~ ~~waiting~~ ~~for~~ ~~Central~~ ~~assistance~~. To reassure the provinces, the Government of India have offered to ~~reimburse~~ ~~provinces~~ ~~up~~ ~~to~~ ~~55~~ ~~per~~ ~~cent~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~expenditure~~ ~~incurred~~ ~~by~~ ~~them~~ ~~on~~ ~~unproductive~~ ~~schemes~~ ~~undertaken~~ ~~urgently~~ ~~for~~ ~~this~~ ~~purpose~~ ~~subject~~ ~~to~~ ~~a~~ ~~maximum~~ ~~of~~ ~~Rs.~~ ~~500~~ ~~million~~.

Assistance to Private Industry.- Sir Ardesir, also pointed out that ~~the~~ ~~Government~~ ~~which~~ ~~would~~ ~~not~~ ~~be~~ ~~the~~ ~~decisive~~ ~~or~~ ~~the~~ ~~most~~ ~~important~~ ~~factor~~ ~~in~~ ~~immediate~~ ~~economic~~ ~~development~~. A great deal of responsibility lay on private enterprise and private investment would be the main factor in maintaining economic activity.

Changes in the taxation system to meet the new set of circumstances were engaging the Government's attention. A revival of international trade might also be looked upon as one of the channels through which economic activity could be maintained, and the Government of India would endeavour to secure for India a fair share of the trade of Germany and Japan, particularly Japan.

Measures to augment supply of Technicians.- Surveying the progress of ~~the~~ ~~war~~, ~~Mr~~ ~~Ardesir~~ ~~referred~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~need~~ ~~of~~ ~~hundreds~~ ~~of~~ ~~thousands~~ ~~of~~ ~~trained~~ ~~technicians~~, ~~doctors~~, ~~teachers~~ ~~and~~ ~~agriculturists~~ ~~and~~ ~~said~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~training~~ ~~of~~ ~~such~~ ~~men~~ ~~was~~ ~~a~~ ~~special~~ ~~priority~~ ~~measure~~ ~~which~~ ~~must~~ ~~be~~ ~~undertaken~~ ~~first~~. About 700 students with high science qualifications were selected this year to undergo advanced training in the United Kingdom and the United States of America in various technical subjects. They were waiting for shipping facilities. There was another scheme under which technicians already employed in factories were to be further trained in factories in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Here again the men had been selected but there was delay in securing places for them in factories abroad.

Training institutions had been and were being expanded by provincial Governments. Most provinces ~~are~~ ~~were~~ ~~undertaking~~ ~~the~~ ~~establishment~~ ~~of~~ ~~new~~ ~~colleges~~ ~~for~~ ~~training~~ ~~in~~ ~~engineering~~, ~~agriculture~~,

animal husbandry, forestry, etc. The Central Government proposed to put up high grade colleges for training in agriculture and animal husbandry.

Finally Sir Ardeshir referred to the progress made with schemes for the expansion of the geological survey, for irrigation and hydro-electric works and to S.M.S. the five-year plans prepared by the provincial Governments. The total cost of these plans, except that of the H.W.P.F., amounted to Rs. 7500 million. These plans were in a tentative form and the next stage was to examine them and judge whether they were sound from the point of view of all-India development. In all these matters, there was genuine understanding and co-operation between the Central Government and the provinces, while the States also appreciated that they had an important part to play in the all-India plan of the future. Provided the Government and the people pulled together and certain conditions were satisfied, concluded Sir Ardeshir, there was no reason why economic activity in the country should not be sufficient to avoid a serious drop in expenditure, though its direction and purposes would naturally be different.

Views of General Policy Committee:

Need for stimulating building industry.- The General Policy Committee generally approved Government's approach to the transition problem as disclosed by Sir Ardeshir Dalal in his opening speech. While the need for large public works such as roads and irrigation and power projects was recognized, many members emphasized that special measures should be taken to stimulate the building industry by the provision of easy finance and increased supply of building materials. It was explained on behalf of the Government that the allocation of coal for brick-making had been increased sixfold during October and that the needs of this industry would be given high priority.

Disposal.- Regarding disposal, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Supply Member, explained that Government's policy was to see that there was minimum disruption to trade and minimum loss of markets to industry. The minimum amount of publicity, he said, would be given to all methods of disposal. The disposal of American materials would, under American law, have to be carried out by a U.S. Agency, but it had been agreed that the U.S. authorities would adopt the same policy as the Government of India and work in close co-operation with them. The Supply Member added that the proposal to have a small advisory committee in each region, as well as a Central Advisory Committee to advise on general policy of disposal was under consideration.

Relaxation of controls.- On the question of controls, the general opinion of the committee was that there should be gradual and planned relaxation of controls. The fact that the war was over was in itself no justification for abolishing them; in each case it would have to be considered whether the circumstances which gave rise to the control continued to exist. Several members urged that the administration of controls should be improved and speeded up.

Financial issues.- Sir Archibald Rowlands, Finance Member, dealing with the financial issues raised at the meeting, said that he would welcome concrete suggestions for a review of the taxation structure in order to give the maximum benefit to the country and stimulate initiative and private enterprise. The suggestions that additional depreciation allowance on new machinery and equipment should be allowed and expenditure incurred on research should be deductible expenditure for the purpose of income tax were bound up with the question

of giving the executive with powers to prevent evasion of taxpayment. He announced that steps were being taken to issue the necessary rules enabling voluntary Excess Profits tax depositors to have their money refunded for the purpose of purchase of fresh capital equipment. The Finance Department would consider whether the same concession could be extended to those who had made compulsory deposits. The suggestion about the financing of building industry, the Finance Member said, would be examined with the greatest sympathy and care, but in this, as in other matters, the public should not rely entirely on Government. There was sufficient room for private or corporate financial co-operation in this field. On the question of control of capital issues, the Finance Member felt that control was essential in view of the shortage of capital but he hoped to simplify the capital issue procedure.

Written Vows Agreements.- On the question of India's joining the International Monetary Fund and the Bank for Reconstruction and Development the members of the Committee generally expressed the view that without knowing H.M.G.'s position and in the absence of the Legislature it was inadvisable to arrive at any decision.

(The Statesman, 9-10-1945;
The Hindustan Times, 12-10-1945).

Government of India's Industrial plans: Sir Ardeshir Dalal's answer to Policy Committee on Industries.

The Policy Committee on Industries met at New Delhi on 5 and 6-10-1945 under the chairmanship of Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, to consider reports of the progress made by the several panels appointed by the Government of India for different industries. Opening the session Sir A. Dalal outlined the main proposals the Government of India has under consideration. Sir A. Dalal's speech is summarised below.

Transition Problems:

Proposing Organisation for Capital Equipment in U.K. and U.S.A.-
The source of immediate concern is the contribution which industry can make to the economy of the country during the transition period between now and the time when comparatively stable conditions will have been established. The social consequences of unemployment are bound to be particularly severe at a time when the price level remains high. The Government is taking all steps open to it in order to minimize the economic disequilibrium likely to arise in the transition period.

The problem of industrial reconversion from war to peace in India, unlike in Britain and the United States, was not merely one of reversion to peacetime production but involved mainly the replacement of war-worn machinery. India's reconversion problem is largely dependent on her ability to get machinery from overseas. In this connection the Planning Member announced that a special officer has now been appointed in London and was working at the India House, and the Government proposed that this officer should form the nucleus of the proposed organisation in the U.K. to help industrialists in securing capital goods. The Government has also made arrangements with the Indian Supply Mission

at Washington to find out the capital equipment which India's industries will need that can be obtained out of the huge war surpluses that the United States had. The Government proposes to strengthen the Supply Mission and Sir Ardashir invited representatives of industrialists to be associated with the Mission. Outside of Britain and America, India could obtain her equipment from Canada, Australia, Switzerland and Sweden.

Relaxation of Controls: Assistance to Industry in Conversion.- As regards controls the Government is now examining how much co-control was necessary to minimize interference and delay in building up industry. In addition the Government is prepared to assist industries in transition from war to peace in various ways, such as allocating essential raw materials, providing technical advice, obtaining transport priorities, and the procurement of Government requirements from indigenous production. A co-ordinating organisation has been set up in the Secretariat to assist industries in their problems of reconversion.

Protection to War-time Industries: Tariff Board to be set up.- As regards protection of war-time industries the Government has till now received over 240 applications for protection or assistance. The Government is setting up a Tariff Board under the chairmanship of Sir Shambhoo Chetty to examine the claims of the industries which were started or developed during the war.

Long Range Problems: Industrial Projects under Consideration.- Turning to long range problems Sir A. Dalal drew attention to the Government of India's statement on industrial policy issued in April last (vide page 10 of the report of this Office for April 1945). Without exempting any interference with private enterprise, the Government of India has under consideration the establishment of: (1) A Government shipbuilding yard for building merchant ships and vessels for the Indian Navy; (2) An industry for building civil aircraft and planes for the Indian Air Force; (3) An Industrial Finance Corporation for financing medium and large-scale industries; (4) Provincial Finance Corporations to finance small-scale and cottage industries; and (5) A Tariff Board to examine claims for assistance or protection to industries which have developed during the war.

Turning to the industrial panels set up by Government, Sir A. Dalal said that during his recent visit to the United States he had arranged to obtain the services of Messrs. Ford, Bacon and Davis, an outstanding firm of consulting Engineers in America to advise the Engineering Panel and of the Chemical Construction Company to advise the Chemical Panel. An expert from the latter company is already in the country and is engaged on the work. Concluding Sir A. Dalal hoped that before long the Government of India will have a coordinated blue-print for industry.

(The Times of India, 5-10-1945
The Hindustan Times, 6-10-1945).

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Punjab's Post-War Development Plans.

Details of the five-year development plan of the Punjab Government (a short summary was given at page 60 of the report of this Office for January 1946) were given in a talk broadcast from the All India Radio, Delhi, by Mr. Akhtar Hussain, I.C.S.

Proposal to concentrate on select Areas.- The plan does not claim to be an ~~unlimited~~ blueprint and is subject to such changes as further scrutiny may necessitate. It has been formulated on a long-term basis and the first five years are intended to be a period of preparation, training and experiment. Owing to the limiting factors of finance and staff it is difficult to carry out full-scale development simultaneously all over the province. It has been decided, therefore, to concentrate improvement under certain heads, such as village roads, schools, medical treatment, public health, water supply, etc., in 29 selected tehsils, covering nearly one-fourth of the area of the province. As these ~~the~~ tehsils correspond with areas heavily recruited for the Defence Services, the resettlement and absorption in civil life of ex-servicemen will also be facilitated.

Hydro-Electric and Irrigation Projects.- The plan contemplates an expenditure of Rs. 1,000 million, out of which nearly Rs. 450 million will be spent on irrigation, hydro-electric and electricity projects. ~~With the completion of the Thal project, work on which has already been started, the Punjab canals will have fully utilized the entire winter discharge of the rivers of the province. Investigations have shown that a number of excellent sites are available in the Himalayas for the storage, during the monsoon period, of surplus water which at present runs to waste to the sea. Further development of irrigation in the Punjab will depend on the extent to which these possibilities of storage in the hills can be exploited. Many preliminary projects have been prepared for holding up water by the construction of high dams to extend irrigation and generate hydro-electric power. It is proposed to take up the construction of the Bhakra Dam project first. A dam 480-ft high will be put up across the Sutlej in a gorge near Bhakra, irrigation from which, it is hoped will eventually protect an area of nearly four and a half million acres in the south and south-eastern Punjab. The project will also generate 150,000 k.w. of electric power.~~

Scientific Farming.- To encourage scientific methods of farming, it is proposed to establish a network of experimental, demonstration and seed farms all over the province.

Cottage Industries.- Cottage industries occupy the first place in the ~~provision~~ plan for development of industries. Other schemes provide for specialised industrial training, initiating intensive industrial research in the utilisation of the resources of the province, putting up a pilot workshop for designing and manufacturing machines and appliances suited to Indian conditions and for sponsoring new industries like ~~anti~~-tar distillation, which had not yet been attempted by private enterprise.

Education, Health and Communications.- A 35-year plan for the ~~development~~ of education has been prepared which aims at the introduction ~~of~~ of universal compulsory free education between the ages of 6 and 11, increase of provision for secondary and collegiate education, expansion ~~and~~ of technical, commercial and art education, an efficient school medical service and provision of proper nutrition in needy cases

and a generous system of scholarships. It is proposed to spend Rs. 100 million on education in the first five years.

The activities of the Medical and Public Health Departments are to be extended at a cost of Rs. 120 million.

As regards communications it is proposed to undertake a 15-year road development programme. When the programme is completed, there will be no town with a population of 5,000 or over which is not connected by a metalled road and no village which is more than two miles from an all-weather road. In the first five years nearly 2,000 miles of major roads and over 3,000 miles of village roads are to be constructed.

(The Statesman, 9-10-1945).†

Hyderabad's Post-War Plan: Rs. 3,470 Million to be spent over 15 years.

The Nawab of Chhattari, the Nizam's Chief Minister, outlined at a Press Conference at Hyderabad on 24-10-1945 the main features of the Nizam Government's post-war development programme. The plan is estimated to cost about Rs. 3,470,800,000 during the first 15 years of its operation and aims at raising the general standard of living by increasing the national wealth and purchasing power of the people.

Agriculture.- The agricultural scheme, embracing animal husbandry, is estimated to cost Rs. 512,800,000. The striking features of the scheme are the formation of co-operative farms of 250 acres each, the establishment of a chain of land mortgage banks in the rural areas, liquidation of agricultural indebtedness, and the elimination of the usurious village moneylender. Two and a half million acres will be brought under irrigation, one and a half million acres of which will be irrigated by the Tungabhadra and Godavari valley projects alone, besides generating over 33,000 kilowatts of power.

Industries.- The textile and oil industries are to be developed immediately. Hyderabad being the third largest cotton producing area in India, it is proposed to expand the textile industry by the addition of 40,800 spindles and 7,111 looms. It is also proposed to set up a central oil refinery with a capacity of 30,000 tons of vegetable ghee and deodorised oil.

Public Health.- In the sphere of public health, the plan envisages the establishment of a network of public health organisations reaching down to every village, indigenous systems of medicine being given a place in the health organisation. Village health workers, numbering 15,000 are to receive six months' training in first aid, disinfection of water supply, vaccination and simple home remedies. This scheme will cost Rs. 115,300,000 during the next five years.

Education.- Education in all its aspects is to cost Rs. 458,600,000 more and bring under instruction 33 per cent of the children of school-going age in the first instance.

Measures to check Depression and aid Demobilised Soldiers.- A public works programme has been evolved to meet the period of depression

that may follow the ~~war~~ boom. Village and minor district roads alone are to cost Rs. 73,800,000 ~~more or less~~ during the first 15 years and major roads and highways are estimated to cost Rs. 320,000,000 during the same period. To ~~assist~~ aid in the rehabilitation of demobilised personnel a self-contained colony for ex-soldiers is shortly to be established and run on co-operative lines.

To meet the problems of shortage of technicians and non-technical personnel, the Government has already selected 160 candidates for higher education in technical and specialised training abroad.

(The Times of India, 26-10-1945).

Government of India sets up Co-ordination Committee of Council.

A communiqué issued by the government of India states that the Government has decided to establish a Co-ordination Committee of Council to replace the War Resources and Reconstruction Committees (vide pages 41-42 of the report of this Office for April 1943). H.E. the Viceroy will be the chairman of the Committee and Sir Ardeshir Dalal, deputy chairman.

The communiqué points out that with the termination of the war the War Resources Committee is no longer required for the purposes for which it was originally formed. The immediate task of the Government of India is to develop and use the country's resources to restore and support the civil economy. For this a single committee charged with the work of coordinating the work of all departments will suffice. For the time being the Co-ordination Committee will give priority to the prevention of economic dislocation or distress and to the measures required to ensure that the resources hitherto devoted to the war effort are smoothly and quickly made available for civil development throughout the country. Sir Eric Coates has been appointed secretary to the Co-ordination Committee.

(The Statesman, 24-10-1945).

Scientific and Industrial Research: Second Meeting of Scientific Consultative Committee, New Delhi.

Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, announced at the second meeting of the Scientific Consultative Committee which was held recently at New Delhi that the Government of India has recognized the National Institute of Sciences as the premier scientific body in India and steps are being taken with the authorities in England to give it a Royal Charter.

The Committee considered the Report of the Industrial Research Planning Committee ~~which~~ which was presided over by Sir Shanmukham Chetty (vide pages 65-67 of the report of this Office for August 1945), the Hill Report and certain alternative suggestions received from members regarding the organization of scientific research in India, in particular a scheme based on the Australian pattern. In the light of the discussions at the Committee meeting, Sir Ardeshir Dalal will submit a scheme to the Government of India suitable for present day conditions in India.

Institute of Food Technology: Cess on Industry to Finance Research.-

The Committee decided that it would be wiser to wait for some time before starting the new research institutions proposed by the Industrial Research Planning Committee, as a number of them had recently been started. It was, however, felt that an Institute of Food Technology was essential. On the question of cess to be levied on industries to finance research, the Committee agreed that the principle of cess on industry was sound, but the method of collection should be by a surcharge on income tax paid by industrial undertakings. The amount of contribution by industry should be the same as that of the Government.

Grants to Universities for Research: Pay of Scientists.- The grants to universities recommended by the Industrial Research Planning Committee, it was agreed, should not be made conditional on the universities securing similar grants from other sources. The emoluments paid to scientists, according to the Committee, were very low and it was recommended that no scientist should be given less than Rs. 200 a month whether in Government service or in universities. It was further recommended that the maximum in the case of academic scientists not doing administrative work should not be less than Rs. 1,500.

Other Recommendations.- In view of the fact that the National Chemical Laboratory and the Institute of Glass and Ceramics Research were both going to have pilot plants, it was agreed that no separate pilot plant institute would be required. An interim plan for scientific coordination suggested by Dr. Sir S.S. Bhatnagar, was accepted by the Committee, who also agreed with the Industrial Research Planning Committee's recommendations for a National Trust for Patents and a Board of Standards and Specifications.

The National Institute of Sciences, which is being granted the Royal Charter, was founded in 1935, at the instance of the Indian Science Congress.

(The Statesman, 26-10-1945, and
The Hindu, dated 26-10-1945). †

GENERAL.

Final Session of National Defence Council, New Delhi,
2 to 4-10-1945.

The National Defence Council (reference to its establishment was made at pages 39-40 of the report of this Office for June 1941) met at New Delhi on 2-10-1945. The session lasted till 4-10-1945. The Hon'ble Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar gave an account to the Council of the proceedings of the San Francisco Conference. Later the Council discussed a memorandum of the Labour Department describing plans for the resettlement and employment of demobilised personnel and discharged war workers. On 4-10-1945 His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief made a statement to the Council in which he reviewed the problem of the future composition and organisation of the armed forces of India, and the general principles underlying the approach of the Government of India towards the solution of this problem. According to a press communique the 19th and final session of the National Defence Council then concluded.

(The Statesman, 3 and 5-10-1945). +

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List of the more important publications received in this office
during October 1945

Economic Conditions

- (1) Twenty-third Annual Report for the year ended 31-8-1944. Indian Central Cotton Committee. Price Rs.2/= . British India Press, Bombay.
- (2) The Famine Inquiry Commission. Final Report. 1945. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, and published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. Price Rs.4-10-0 or 7s.3d.
- (3) Poverty and Social Change - A Study in the Economic Reorganisation of Indian Rural Society, by Tarlok Singh. (Longmans, Green & Co., Ltd.) Price Rs.3-8-0.

Social Insurance

Health Insurance in India: Adarkar Plan of Health Insurance: Will It Work? By A.N. Agarwala. East End Publishers, Allengunj, Allahabad.

Employment, Unemployment and Vocational Training

(Beylond)
Syllabus of Training of Managers and Assistant Managers of Employment Exchanges at the staff Training Centre, "Riverview" (Woodlands Hotel), Netaji Road, Delhi. Officer-in-Charge of Training - Mr. K.D. Jones (of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, United Kingdom). Department of Labour, Government of India. Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Simla. 1945.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.

Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for the year 1944. Presented to the Annual General Meeting held on 11-4-1945. Bombay: Printed by G. Claridge & Co., Ltd. 1945. Price Rs.12-8-0.