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Report for August 1945

C6/P/65

INDUSTRIAL LABOR REGULATIONS.

Government of India:

Amendment to National Service (Technical Personnel)
Rules 1940 and Form of Service Certificates to
Technical Personnel.

The Central Government has gazetted on 11-8-1945, further amendments to the National Service (Technical Personnel) Rules, 1940. The amendments relate to the filling up of a service certificate giving personnel particulars and details of employment (name of industrial undertaking and department in which employed; nature of employment; period employed; trade (if any); proficiency in trade; appointment on leaving; rate of pay on leaving service; reasons for leaving employment, etc.) on or before the date of discharge of technical personnel for industrial undertakings; and, secondly, provide that no industrial undertaking shall engage any person included in the definition of technical personnel unless he produces either a service certificate or an introduction card from a Government employment exchange.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Sec.1,
dated 11-8-1945, pages 1288-1289).

Factories (Holidays) Central Rules, 1945.

The Government of India has gazetted on 25-8-1945, the draft Factories (Holidays) Central Rules. The Rules extend to all Chief Commissioners' Provinces, including British Baluchistan. The Rules relate to the following: (1) Compensatory holidays under Section 35A(1) of the Factories Act, 1944, (2) maintenance of a Register of Holidays with Pay by employers, (3) obligation of employer to provide each worker with a Holiday Book and to submit annual returns regarding compensatory holidays and holidays with pay.

The draft will be taken into consideration on or after 25-11-1945.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Sec.1,
dated 25-8-1945, pages 1180-1181).

Provinces :

Factories (Holidays) Rules, 1945.

Various provincial Governments have gasetted Factories (Holidays) Rules; these provincial Rules are on the same lines as the Factories (Holidays) Central Rules. The relevant gazette references are given below:

- Assam: (The Assam Gazette, Part II, dated 15-8-1945, Pages 830-832).
- Bengal: (The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary, dated 15-8-1945, Pages 195-198).
- Bihar: (The Bihar Gazette, Part II, dated 15-8-1945, Pages 482-484).
- Bombay: (The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary, dated 15-8-1945, Pages 115-A-115-D.).
- Central Provinces And Berar: (The Central Provinces and Berar Gazette Extraordinary, dated 14-8-1945, Pages 113-114)
- Sind: (The Sind Government Gazette, Part VI-A, dated 15-8-1945, Pages 267-271).
- United Provinces: (The United Provinces Gazette, Part I-A, dated 25-8-1945, Pages 222-223).

SOCIAL POLICY.

7th Meeting of the Standing Labour Committee, New Delhi, 29-8-1945: Discussion on Industrial Housing, Draft Rules Relating to Holidays with Pay, etc.

The 7th meeting of the Standing Labour Committee was held at New Delhi on 29-8-1945, the Hon'ble Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, presiding. The items on the agenda were: (1) Report of the Sub-Committee on the constitution of the Tripartite Organisation. (2) Industrial housing and the responsibility of employers in connection therewith. (3) Draft Rules under the Factories (Amendment) Act, 1945, relating to holidays with pay. (4) Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1938) — Definition of "Workman" (Wage level).

Industrial Housing.— The Committee resolved that a sub-committee should be appointed to consider the following matters relating to housing for workers: (a) Whether there should be a building fund for the housing of workers, the manner in which it can best be raised, and, in particular the manner in which the cases of those employers who have already provided housing can be dealt with; (b) the basis on which workers should be required to pay rent; (c) the minimum standards to be prescribed for workers' houses; (d) the most suitable manner of administering any fund which becomes available (whether from Government, employers or other workers) for the housing of workers; and (e) the facilities that should be granted by the Central and Provincial Governments and local authorities to speed up housing schemes for workers.

The Sub-Committee will be composed of 2 representatives each of the Central Government, Provinces, and the Indian States, and 3 representatives each of employers, and employees, including representatives of Municipalities and municipal workers.

Holidays with Pay.— The Standing Labour Committee discussed draft rules relating to holidays with pay tentatively framed by the Central Government, under the Factories (Amendment) Act, 1945.

Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act.— There was general agreement on the advisability of amending the Workmen's Compensation Act so as to include in it a more precise definition of workman.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Central and Provincial Governments, the Indian States, the Chamber of Princes, the Organisation of Industrial Employers, the Employers' Federation of India, the All-India Trade Union Congress, and the Indian Federation of Labour, and certain other employers' and workers' groups.

(The Indian Labour Gazette, August, 1945, and "vanguard", dated 30-8-1945).

Lab. Report

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3rd Meeting of Statutory Labour Advisory Committee,
Hyderabad State: Review of Labour Welfare Work.

Addressing the 3rd meeting of the Statutory Labour Advisory Committee, Hyderabad State, held in August, 1945, the Hon'ble Nawab Zaher Yar Jung, Labour Member of the Nizam's Government, reviewed the work done in the State to promote the welfare of labour. (The 2nd meeting was held in April 1945; vide page 4 of our report for May 1945). The main points brought out by the Labour Member are given below:

Legislative and Executive Measures.- The Labour Member told the meeting that the Standing Orders touching the conditions of employment had already been enforced; the Employment of Children Regulation was in operation; the Trade Union Act would soon be an accomplished fact; proposals for bringing the Factories and Boilers Inspectorate and the Labour Welfare Inspectorate of Coal Mines under the Labour Department were under active consideration; while the Employment Exchange was to be amalgamated with the Employment Bureau and the whole organization affiliated to the Labour Secretariat.

Improvement in Conditions of Depressed Classes.- As regards improving the conditions of the Depressed Classes, the Labour Member informed the meeting that the Government was particularly concerned with the question. The stopping of the "begari" system (forced labour), prevention of land belonging to petty cultivators passing into the hands of money-lenders, protection against atrocious rates of interest and the special "laoni" rules for the assignment of lands to landless members of the Depressed Classes, were some of the measures already taken in the direction. Further concrete proposals had also been invited. Another step welcomed by the labour representatives was an agreement to keep the Committee in touch with the post-war schemes for labour.

Industrial Relations.- The Labour Member announced that relations between employers and workers in the State were daily improving, as borne out by the increasing recognition that workers unions were receiving and by the desire on the part of labour to develop constructive leadership. Many disputes had been settled in early stages through the Labour Department in co-operation with District Officers, and only on a few occasions had it been found necessary to appoint a conciliation board.

Personnel for Employment Exchanges.- Recognising that trained and experienced personnel was essential for the success of the Department, the Manager of the Employment Exchange had been sent to gain experience in similar Exchanges at Delhi, Bombay and Madras. Besides, a labour officer would soon be leaving for the United Kingdom to undergo about eight months' training there.

Development of Labour Welfare Centres.- As to the development of labour welfare centres, the Labour Member referred to his recent visit to Bombay where he was able to see important labour welfare centres organised by the Bombay Labour Welfare Department, the Municipality and the Port Trust, as well as the welfare work carried on by mills and factories. Extracts from his notes regarding the conclusions reached and the proposals envisaged were placed before the meeting.

(The Times of India, 16-8-1945). r

Mines, Oilfields and Minerals of Strategic and Industrial Importance: Government of India's Move to bring under Central Control.

It is understood that the Government of India has now under consideration a proposal to bring under Central control all mines, oilfields and minerals of strategic and industrial importance. It is stated that experience during the war and requirements of reconstruction and development policy for India as a whole necessitate a Central Policy, and it should be better for the Centre to frame rules and laws with regard to mines, oil fields, minerals, etc.

The Government has in view general law authorizing control over power to lease and export minerals like mica, petroleum and coal.

(The Hindustan Times, 13-8-1945).

CONDITIONS OF WORK.

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Industrial Disputes.

Arbitration in Kolar Gold Fields Dispute: Issues Referred to Arbitration Court.

The court of arbitration of three members, appointed by the Government of Mysore, under the chairmanship of Mr. T. Singaravalo Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor, Mysore University, to decide the issues involved in the recent strike by about 20,000 labourers in the Kolar Gold Fields commenced its sitting on 23-8-1945 at Oorgaum. The issues referred to the court are: (1) payment of service gratuity to workers who desire to retire after putting in 5 years underground or 20 years surface service; (2) whether certificates of physical unfitness issued by qualified medical authorities ~~should~~ should be accepted by the gold mining companies for payment of gratuity, instead of the present arrangement, whereby only certificates from the mining companies' medical authorities will enable the workers to claim service gratuity; and (3) certain changes in the companies' standing orders.

(The Statesman, 1-9-1945).+

Industrial Disputes in British India during 1944.

According to the statistics published by the Government of India of industrial disputes in British India during the year 1944, the total number of stoppages of work during the year (including 13 in progress at the close of the year) was 658, and the number of workers involved 550,015 as compared with 716 stoppages and 525,088 workers during 1943. The total number of man-days lost was 3,447,306 as compared with 2,342,287 in 1943. There were 24 stoppages involving 5,000 or more but less than 10,000 workers and 3 involving more than 10,000 workers. There were 7 stoppages each resulting in a loss of man-days ~~lost~~ exceeding 100,000; 3 of these stoppages involved less than 5,000 workers.

Provincial Distribution.- The largest number of disputes occurred in Bombay where 230 disputes involving 171,063 workers were responsible for the loss of 714,927 working days. In Bengal there were 202 disputes involving 213,674 workers and resulting in the loss of 784,725 working days; in Central Provinces and Berar there were 65 disputes involving 73,388 workers and resulting in the loss of 1,625,049 working days; in the United Provinces there were 61 disputes involving 47,551 workers and resulting in the loss of 155,408 working days; in Madras there were 59 disputes involving 20,994 workers and entailing a loss of 103,679 working days; in Bihar there were 23 disputes involving 18,933 workers and resulting in the loss of 52,022 working days; in Sind there were 6 disputes involving 1,205 workers and resulting in the loss of 2,781 working days; in Assam, Orissa and Punjab there were 3 disputes each involving 1,033, 1,265, and 125 workers and resulting in the loss of 1,494, 5,866 and 314 working days respectively; in Delhi there were 2 disputes involving 763 workers and resulting in the loss of 977 working days; and in the North-West Frontier Province there was 1 dispute involving 16 workers and resulting in the loss of 64 working days.

Classification by Industries.- The largest number of disputes occurred in the textile industries (cotton, silk and woollen mills) in which there were 138 disputes involving 155,826 workers and resulting in the loss of 1,988,344 working days; followed by engineering workshops with 74 disputes involving 55,719 workers and resulting in the loss of 177,599 working days.

There were 44 disputes in jute mills involving 130,351 workers and resulting in the loss of 427,308 working days; 25 disputes in railways, including railway workshops, involving 68,076 workers and resulting in the loss of 188,180 working days; 10 disputes in mines involving 4,488 workers and resulting in the loss of 19,733 working days; and 367 in other industries involving 135,555 workers and resulting in the loss of 646,163 working days.

Causes and Results of the Disputes.- Textile (cotton, silk, woollen and jute) mills accounted for 28 per cent of the stoppages, 52 per cent of the workers involved and 70 per cent of the loss in man-days. In 422 stoppages or 64 per cent the demands related mainly to wages or bonus. 82 related to questions of personnel; 35 to leave and hours of work and 118 to other causes; in one case the demand was not known. In 119 disputes the workers were wholly successful, in 175 partially successful and in 297 they were unsuccessful, while in 49 cases the results were indefinite, and in 5 not known. 13 disputes were in progress at the close of the year.

(Communiqué issued by the Department of Labour, Government of India, on 10-8-1945).

Adjudication in Trade Disputes: Bengal Government's Experiment.

The Government of Bengal, it is reported, proposes, as an experimental measure, to appoint assessors to advise the adjudicator of trade disputes on technical matters. They will be selected for each case by the Government from panels of employers and workers to be constituted for different industries.

(Industrial Bulletin of the Employers' Federation of India, No. 472, dated 6-8-1945).

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Welfare.

Medical, Educational and Recreational Facilities and
Co-operative Societies for Miners: Welfare Work in the
Hyderabad State Coal-Mines.

The following information regarding the welfare of coal miners in the Hyderabad State is taken from "Hyderabad Information" for August 1945:

General.- 12,000 persons are employed in the ~~mining~~ coal-mining industry (Tandur and Kothagudium coalfields) in Hyderabad of which the Nizam's Government has recently acquired a controlling interest. The record annual output was 1,214,019 tons in 1942. The wages paid are comparable with those in other coalfields in India. A 50 per cent dearness allowance is paid at present to workers receiving Rs. 25 per month or under. There is a graduated allowance on salaries above this, sliding down to 15 per cent in the case of those drawing salaries between Rs. 100 to Rs. 300 per month. Besides, an attendance bonus of two annas per day is given to coal-face workers who work five to six days in the weekly payment period. Grain, cloth, cigarettes, and other consumer goods are sold to miners at concession rates. A canteen is being run, providing tea, coffee and meals. Free tea and coffee are issued to underground workers during the cold season. There is a provident fund for the monthly paid staff, the contribution being one month's salary per annum with the same amount contributed by the employers and compound interest at 4 per cent per annum on the total amount. A savings scheme has been introduced for daily paid workers who wish to become members with 5 per cent compound interest per annum on deposits.

Medical Facilities.- Arrangements have been made for providing free medical attention to employees and their dependents. At Kothagudium and Tandur there are up-to-date hospitals equipped with X-ray, ultra violet ray and short-wave therapy plants, in addition to a bacteriological laboratory and a rehabilitation centre and dispensaries. Both male and female workers receive 'bhatta' (subsistence allowance) and other concessions during the period of sickness. Maternity benefit is payable to all women workers employed in or about the mines in accordance with the Coal Mines Maternity Benefit Regulation, while compensation for accidents is paid to workers in accordance with the rules made under the Hyderabad Workmen's Compensation Act.

Educational Facilities.- Educational facilities for children of the employees are available at both coalfields. There is a Government Middle School at Tandur and also a Methodist Mission Primary School which is recognised by the Education Department. At Kothagudium, there is a Mission Primary School, and a Government Primary School is under construction. It is contemplated to open a Middle School also.

Recreational Facilities.- ~~Great~~ keen interest is taken by the management in encouraging recreational activities. A new recreation club has been built at Kothagudium for subordinate staff and artisans. There is already a club at Tandur, while it is proposed to found one at Andrews' Incline. There are two picture-houses at Kothagudium and one each at Andrews' Incline and Tandur. These recreational facilities are supplemented by dramas and variety shows as well as interdepartmental football tournaments and annual sports, the expenses of which are ~~largely~~ borne by the management.

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Under the Hyderabad Coal Mines Labour Welfare Regulation, a cess of four annas a ton is levied on all coal raised from the collieries. It is proposed to devote the entire proceeds amounting to nearly Rs. 200,000 per year to the provision of further amenities for labourers.

Co-operative Stores.- With a view to meeting the requirements of labourers, co-operative stores have been established in the Birley Pit and Andrews' Incline areas. As this venture has been attended with considerable success, a central store building is being constructed at Andrews' Incline under the new Town Planning Scheme. This store will cater to practically all the needs of the people living in the area. It is proposed to open a branch of the Kothagudium Co-operative Society at Tandur Collieries.

Mining Education.- In order to induce suitable people to take to this important branch of work, scholarships in mining and geology, tenable at the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, are given from the Industrial Trust Fund. The Mines Department has also introduced a scheme for giving training in practical mining at Kothagudium and probationers, if found suitable, are likely to be sent abroad at government expense for further training.

(Hyderabad Information, August, 1945).-1

General.

Creation of Debt Redemption Fund in Factories: Bihar
Government Circular.

It is understood that the Department of Labour of the Bihar Government has sent circulars to industrial concerns in the province to seek their opinion on the question of creation of Debt Redemption Fund in each factory for the purpose of relieving the indebtedness of workers.

It may be recalled that the Bihar Enquiry Committee had recommended that such a Fund should be created in each factory with a view to save workers from the clutches of money-lenders. It is reported that industrial concerns in Bihar favour the establishment of such Funds, with certain conditions.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated
17-8-1945)

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Economic Conditions in India during the Year ended 30-6-1945*.

The following information regarding economic conditions in India during the year ended 30-6-1945 is taken from the Report of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India presented at the 11th General Meeting of the Bank held at Delhi on 6-8-1945:-

Defence Expenditure and General Economic Development.- As the war in Europe entered its concluding phase, the position of India as a major arsenal and centre for the Allied operations against Japan assumed increasing importance. The total defence expenditure during the war period brought to account in India's books amounted to Rs. 27,410 million of which India's share was Rs. 13,470 million (including Rs. 1,490 million on capital account) and His Majesty's Government's share Rs. 13,940 million. The aggregate Governmental expenditure on defence in the financial year 1944-45 is placed at Rs. 8,960 million (or 33 per cent of the total expenditure during the war) as against Rs. 7,740 million in 1943-44. The general level of wartime economic and business activity was higher during the year than in the preceding year, although shortages of power, skilled labour and transport affected production in certain industries. Further extension of the measures of economic control and continued Allied successes, contributed to the comparative stability of the price level and cost of living and generally of the country's internal economy during the year under review. The growing strain on the country's economy was partially relieved by less restricted imports of food, consumer goods, essential raw materials, machinery and transport equipment consequent upon an improvement in the shipping and exchange position, while further relief was provided by release of additional quotas for civilian consumption in respect of a limited range of articles. A Mutual Aid Agreement signed between India and Canada in August 1944, provides for imports of railway equipment including locomotives, rolling stocks and component parts.

Food and Cloth situation and Cost of Living Index Number.- The food situation in the country showed a distinct improvement as a result of co-ordinated movement of supplies from surplus to deficit areas, further extension of rationing and compulsory procurement of foodgrains as well as larger supplies through imports and higher local production. While it was an aim of policy to secure fair prices to the consumer, the Central Government also issued instructions to provincial authorities to implement, wherever necessary, their undertaking to buy all wheat, jowar (a cereal) ~~and~~ and bajra (a cereal) offered in the assembling markets in the main producing areas, in order to ensure an adequate return to the producer. An acute over-all shortage of cloth developed in the country during the year, which was aggravated in certain areas by difficulties of distribution resulting from lack of

* Report of the Central Board of Directors, Reserve Bank of India, for the Year ended the 30th June 1945 presented to the shareholders at the Eleventh Annual General Meeting held at Delhi, on the 6th August 1945. pp.24.

adequate transport. Alleviating measures taken or announced recently include improvement in supplies through increase in production as well as reduction of exports and defence requirements under the arrangements made by the Hydari Mission, through further increase in production as a result of the standardisation of mill output in terms of the Textile Industry (Control of Production) order issued on the 1st June 1945 and through a beginning in the direction of rationing of cloth, e.g., in Bombay and Delhi. In respect of the supplies and distribution of other consumer goods fresh specific control orders were issued or existing measures extended during the year under review. The Bombay cost of living index (July 1933-June 1934=100), after a temporary rise from 236 in June 1944 to 250 in August 1944, tended to decline thereafter, falling to 235 by March 1945 and stood at 230 in May 1945; the index, however, mainly represents the trends in the prices of controlled articles and does not reflect the abnormal rates for black market dealings.

Expansion in Foreign Trade.- As a result of a distinct improvement in the shipping situation and the greater attention bestowed by principal trading countries on the development of export markets, the foreign trade of India showed a further substantial expansion, the aggregate value of the sea-borne trade in private merchandise during the nine months ended March 1945 being Rs. 3,311.8 million or Rs. 791.1 million more than the corresponding figures for the previous year. Over 80 per cent of this increase was accounted for by a rise in imports. The value of total imports went up by 52.4 per cent from Rs. 929.9 million to Rs. 1,566.3 million. Exports also continued to improve but at a slower rate, their value showing an increase of 9.7 per cent from Rs. 1,222.2 million to Rs. 1,748.5 million. In consequence the balance of trade in private merchandise in favour of India showed a sharp decline by Rs. 481.7 million from Rs. 660.9 million to Rs. 179.2 million, being the smallest during the period of war. It appears from the figures for the first eight months ended February 1945, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, that the increase under imports was spread over all principal groups. It was relatively most marked in food, drink and tobacco, which rose from Rs. 51.6 million to Rs. 136.4 million, but the absolute increase was largest in raw materials from Rs. 420.6 million to Rs. 778.9 million, while imports of manufactured articles improved by 35 per cent from Rs. 321.8 million to Rs. 434.8 million. Under exports, raw materials, which had started on an upward grade last year, rose by 10 per cent from Rs. 391.3 million to Rs. 430.9 million, while manufactured articles also went up by 8 per cent from Rs. 696.0 million to Rs. 748.5 million. A feature reflecting the improvement in the shipping position during the year was the substantial increase in India's trade with countries like the United Kingdom and the United States.

Repatriation of Sterling Debt.- With the virtual completion of repatriation of India's sterling debt, the operations during the year under review were confined to acquisitions of stray parcels of Government of India's sterling stocks and of railway debentures, surrendered either under vesting orders or under special arrangements. The amount thus repatriated during the year came to £ 383,513, which reduced the outstanding amount of sterling debt to £ 10.56 million at the end of June 1945 (excluding the liability for British Government 5 per cent. War Loan (1929-47) taken over by India as part of the last war contribution). The aggregate sterling liabilities redeemed since repatriation first began in 1937 upto the end of June 1945 are £ 322.96 million. The Government also acquired during the year the Beral Nagpur Railway at a cost of approximately £ 3.6 million.

Activities of the Agricultural Credit Department.- The Agricultural Credit Section of the Reserve Bank of India continued to study the problems connected with the co-operative movement, land mortgage banks, marketing, Agri

agricultural credit, etc., with special reference to the conditions created by the war and those likely to arise in the post-war period. The services of the Section were, as in previous years, utilised by co-operative banks, Registrars of Co-operative Societies and Governments. With a view to opening an important avenue for the Reserve Bank for providing finance to agriculture, a draft bill for the regulation and establishment of licensed warehouses in India was prepared by the Department and sent to the Provincial governments and important Indian States with the recommendation that legislation on the lines proposed, ~~by us~~ with modifications to suit local conditions, might be undertaken by them.

Department of Research and Statistics. Owing to the considerable expansion in the scope of work of the statistical and research section with many urgent problems claiming the Bank's attention, and the need for placing ~~the~~ research on monetary and economic subjects, including rural economies, on a properly extended basis, the organisation of a new Department of Research and Statistics was approved by the Central Board in its meeting held on the 22-4-1945. The Department will function under the general supervision of the Economic Adviser to the Bank. It will consist of Division of Economic Intelligence and Monetary Research to organise fuller study of the subjects and problems of central banking relating to currency, banking and finance and of general economic questions in the post-war period. There will also be a Division of Statistics to prepare new statistical series and indices and to collate and record economic and financial statistics, and a Division of Rural Economics to conduct research in problems of agricultural economics and ~~finance, co-operation and agricultural marketing.~~

Monetary Expansion and General Economic Situation.- In the year under review, the rate of monetary expansion slowed down on the whole, though it tended to quicken during the latter part owing to larger expenditure in connection with the prosecution of the war against Japan; the indices of wholesale prices, of cost of living and of food prices tended steadily downwards though essential goods continued in scarce supply; the prices of Government and fixed yield industrial securities reflected a widening demand on the part of large classes of investors. The absorption of excess purchasing power and the augmentation of the supply of essential goods continued to be the main objectives of Government's policy, and the physical and financial measures already concerted to this end were further strengthened and extended during the year; the visible approach of peace also damped hoarding and speculation, and assisted the authorities in maintaining a relative measure of stability in the economic field. The sustained campaign to stimulate savings, complete immobilisation of excess profits and "the Pay-as-you-earn" collections of income tax, on the one hand, and the extension of the Orders regulating the distribution and prices of vital supplies, the short and long-term measures to stimulate production and encouragement of a freer flow of imports, referred to earlier in this report, on the other, contributed to the improvement in the general economic situation.

India's Participation in the Bretton Woods Conference.- At the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference held at Bretton Woods in July last, India was represented by a Delegation which included the Governor of the Bank as a member and Dr. Madan, the Director of Research as its Secretary. The Conference rejected the demand of the Indian delegation for a partial multi-lateral clearing of the sterling balances through the machinery of the International Monetary Fund, as the Fund was held to be incapable, owing to its limited resources, of dealing with a problem of such magnitude, and their settlement, therefore, remained a question for bilateral negotiations. India also failed to secure a larger quota and a permanent seat on the executive bodies of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; but, the report states, her quota is large

enough to assure ~~her~~ her continuous election to the executive committees of both the Fund and the Bank.

Increase in the Sterling Assets.- The sterling assets of the Reserve Bank ~~continued to increase~~, the Net Accretions during the accounting year being Rs. 4,225.9 million as against Rs. 3,584.0 million in the previous ~~year~~ twelve months and Rs. 13,528.8 million since the beginning of the war. The total holdings in the Issue and Banking Departments as on the 30-6-1945 amounted to £ 1066.85 million or Rs. 14,224.6 million, which are maintained in the form of cash and investments in short-term British Government securities renewed from time to time. The problem represented by these balances is not one of monetary transfer or exchange but of transfer of resources of an amount equivalent in value to the balances. On the Indian side it is, firstly, the problem of gauging and developing the capacity to absorb the flow of goods, particularly capital goods, from abroad, equivalent to the value of sterling balances, in industries and uses adapted to the requirements of demand, national needs and reasonable efficiency of production and, to this end, of speeding up the preparation of plans of development, private and governmental, including the establishment of the conditions necessary for the creation and growth of industries. For the United Kingdom, the problem is how best to establish, either through direct trade with India or through trade with other countries, the surplus of exports over imports necessary to meet the needs of India and the other creditors in addition to covering the gap in the balance of payments resulting from the loss of overseas investments and of income from these and other invisible exports. Estimates of quantum and form of goods required and of the capacity of the United Kingdom to supply these requirements or alternatively to make available foreign exchange for the purpose, should assist in framing the terms of a satisfactory settlement; any such settlement must provide the assurance of a steady minimum flow of capital equipment essential for the already excessively retarded development of India's resources at a satisfactory rate, as well as a necessary measure of elasticity to take account of the many uncertain factors that will be at work on either side. In this order, however, that the full benefits of the liquidation of sterling balances may be secured for the country, careful attention must at the same time be given to the formulation of an appropriate commercial policy involving consideration of tariffs, necessary priorities for imports and the direction of export trade and to the organisation of trade in certain sectors under official or private auspices, with a view to co-ordinating demand, regulating import costs and ensuring satisfactory terms of trade. The wide disparities in existing national price levels lend particular significance to these aspects of commercial policy on the eve of the resumption of freer and more extensive trading relations with the rest of the world.

Working Class Cost of Living Index for Various Centres in India during January and February, 1945.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during January and February 1945, as compared with December, 1944.

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base=100</u>	<u>Dec.44.</u>	<u>Jan. 45.</u>	<u>Feb. 45.</u>
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	236	229	229
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1927	211	206	195
Sholapur	Year ending January 1928	200	199	195
Nagpur	August 1939	254	249	249
Ludhiana	1931-35	352	372	375
Cawnpore	August 1939	297	301	301
Patna	Average cost of living for five years preceeding 1914	316	286	297
Jamshedpur	Ditto	319	306	300
Jharia	Ditto	313	312	318
Madras	Year ending June 1936	209	213	225
Madras	Ditto	205	213	226
Coimbatore	Ditto	218	220	221

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India for January and February, 1945).†

National Physical Laboratory for India: Recommendation of Committee appointed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The Committee appointed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, which met at Bombay ~~in~~ in the fourth week of August, 1945, examined the final report ~~on~~ on the possibility of establishing a National Physical Laboratory in India on the lines of similar institutions in the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. The tentative proposals of the Committee had been circulated to universities, scientific bodies and eminent scientists abroad and in India. It is stated that these proposals have found whole-hearted support both in India and abroad from eminent scientists and others. It has been decided to locate the proposed national physical laboratory at Delhi. The building and equipments are expected to cost about Rs. 4 million while the recurring expenses are estimated to be about .8million annually. It is proposed that the laboratory should have eight sections, including weights and measures and optics.

The laboratory will be the custodian of primary standards in India and will undertake research on standards of measurements, quality, and performance and on scientific and industrial problems falling within its parview.

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It will assist industrial organisations in drawing up specifications, in finding uses for Indian raw materials, in developing new processes of manufacture and in solving problems of industrial or applied character referred to it. It will undertake pure and applied research in all branches of physics, including the science of electronics.

(The Hindu, 27-8-1945)..

Levy of Sales Tax on All-India Basis: Government of India
consults Provincial Governments.

A proposal for levying the sales tax on all-India basis to finance post-war development plans of the Provincial Governments is being considered by the Government of India. The proposal seeks to entrust the Central Government with the responsibility of administering the tax and of distributing the net proceeds among the Provincial Governments in proportion to the gross contribution made by the territories within their respective jurisdictions.

The Central Government has, it is understood, sought the views of the Provincial Governments on the proposal. If the suggestion is accepted, the Government of India will approach the Secretary of State for India with a request for Section 137 of the Government of India Act being amended to transfer the relevant entry from the Provincial Legislative List to the Federal Legislative List. This change would be necessary in view of the fact that under the present constitution, the sales tax falls within the sphere of the provincial legislature. It is hoped that this change would be possible at an early date and a bill empowering the Government of India to impose the general sales tax can be placed before the Central Legislature in its budget session. The tax may be levied with effect from 1-4-1946.

In this connection, it may be pointed out that a sales tax is at present in force in the Punjab, Bengal, Madras, Bihar, and Assam. The scale of taxation and the scope of the tax, however, varies from province to province. The sales tax in Assam is of a restricted character and covers only sales of luxury goods.

(The Times of India, 16-8-1945)..

17

Damodar Valley Multi-Purpose Project: Conference between
Government of India and Bengal and Bihar Governments,
Calcutta, 23, 24-8-1945.

The construction of eight dams with hydro-electric generating plants and a barrage across the river Damodar, is recommended in a preliminary report of the Central Technical Power Board prepared on the suggestion of the inter-governmental conference on the project held in January 1945 (vide pages 9-10 of our report for January 1945). This would be the biggest project of its kind under-taken in India so far, and the ultimate intention is to constitute a Damodar Valley Authority like the TVA in the United States. The capital expenditure of the project is roughly estimated at Rs. 550 million. The Damodar, which is notorious for its destructive floods and consequent economic ruin, will ~~not~~ be dammed and it is proposed to build a series of reservoirs providing flood control, ~~further down~~ supply of water for irrigation and a system of hydro-electric and thermal power stations. ~~Under~~ the proposed plan, it would be possible to undertake the perennial irrigation of about 760,000 acres; ~~besides water for navigation purposes,~~ and the electrical energy expected is about 300,000 kw. It would serve to promote directly the welfare of five million people and indirectly of many ~~million~~ more millions. According to experts, the project would make available a substantial amount of power at a low cost in a region well suited to become the centre of great industrial development. It would make it possible to carry out important measures of social and economic rehabilitation which, if they were taken up individually, would be much more costly and more difficult of attainment.

Inter-Governmental Conference at Calcutta.- Details regarding the various aspects of the project were discussed recently at a conference of representatives of the Government of India and of the Governments of Bengal and Bihar in Calcutta on 23 and 24-8-1945. At the conference it was agreed to undertake further investigation of various problems connected with the scheme. It was further decided to invite four engineers from the USA to advise on the design and construction of the first two dams to be built under the scheme. These engineers would constitute a technical mission and should arrive, if possible, in India early next year.

While the ultimate intention is to constitute a Damodar valley Authority for the administration and carrying out of the scheme, the conference decided that as an interim measure the Central Government should appoint a high-ranking administrative officer for co-ordinating all preliminary action and for rapidly pushing through investigations connected with the project.

(The Statesman, dated 31-8-1945).-r

Development of Vegetable Oil Products Industry:
Government of India Appoints Committee to Plan
Future Expansion.

The Government of India has appointed a Committee to plan the ~~future~~ future expansion of the Vanaspati (vegetable oil products) industry.

Terms of Reference.- The Committee will consider what further expansion is justified by the deficiencies which are not met by milk, ghee (clarified butter) and edible oils; in what areas expansion should proceed in order to secure economic production and maximum benefits to consumers, and how it should be developed considering the normal demand and the ~~raw~~ availability of the necessary ingredients; what further steps should be taken to standardise production; whether protection is necessary to prevent unfair competition from established concerns; how the demand for technical personnel should be met; what assistance would be necessary from Government for orderly development of the industry and maintenance of high quality produce for export markets, and to what extent efficient plants can be manufactured in India and if Government can render any assistance in this connection.

Personnel of Committee.- The Chairman of the Committee will be the Vegetable Oil Products Controller for India and the Secretary will be the Director of Purchase of the Food Department. For the immediate needs of the country, the Government of India is reported to have already decided to establish ²⁷ ~~vegetable oil~~ factories with a total annual production of 105,000 tons of ~~vegetable oil~~.

(The Hindu, 20-8-1945)..

Import of Capital Goods and Technical Experts: Sir Ardeshir
DALAL'S Mission to Great Britain and U.S.A.

Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Planning and Development Member, Government of India, who recently returned from a mission to the United Kingdom and the United States ~~is~~ mainly for securing capital goods and expert assistance and to have talks with the U.K. Government on the question of the elimination of the commercial safeguard clauses from the Government of India Act, 1935, told ~~XXXXXX~~ press correspondents at New Delhi on 21-8-1945 that it might take two years before India could get imports of capital goods from the United Kingdom, while from the U.S.A. deliveries might be earlier. In regard to commercial safeguards, Sir Ardeshir said that organised bodies of British industrialists were not prepared for any radical change in the safeguards provided for in the Act at present. They would like to consider the question in the context of the larger constitutional issue.

Sir Ardeshir said that his visit to those countries had four objects, namely, (1) to inquire into the possibility of getting capital goods from those countries for India's industrial development, (2) to see if it was possible to get any modifications of the commercial safeguards in the constitution, at least such as to allow Indian control over basic industries,

(3) to consider what facilities were available in those countries for Indian students in various educational institutions and for Indian technicians in factories abroad, and (4) to inquire into the availability of experts who are required for industrial development. He revealed that in both the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. it was now fully understood that the prosperity of India and China meant prosperity for the whole world, and there was no tendency on the part of anybody to regard such industrial expansion with jealousy or suspicion.

Import of Capital Goods.- With regard to the import of capital goods, the ~~Planning~~ ~~Member~~ said that Great Britain was very anxious to help India as it was very important for her to have exports in the post-war period, but first she had to place her own economy on a post-war footing and rehabilitation of her own industries, and it would take some time before capital goods were available from there. There might be exceptions such as machine tools, but in the case of major capital goods, two years and sometimes even longer might be required. Nearly one-third of India's requirements in capital goods ~~was~~ was for textile machinery, the delivery of which would take considerable time. As regards high prices, Governments of India and the United Kingdom were discussing a formula for price control. No special priorities for export to India could be secured, but if India experienced any actual difficulties and if it was brought to their notice, Great Britain would take suitable action.

Imports from U.S.A.- Sir Ardeshir said that conditions were similar in ~~U.S.A.~~ ~~U.S.A.~~ ~~from there~~ might be quicker, while prices will be high, except in the case of goods produced on a mass scale. Dollar exchange was a serious difficulty, but it was likely after a time that it would be removed. Certain negotiations were now taking place between Britain and America and the negotiations were expected to result in easing of the dollar situation and enabling international trade to flow more easily. Dollar difficulties were not formidable and there was the possibility of Indian industrialists getting credits from the export and import banks in the United States of America.

Technical Experts.- On the question of technical experts, Sir Ardeshir said that both United Kingdom and U.S.A. were not in a position to lend ~~such~~ their services. Expert knowledge and the co-operation of industrialists in Britain were necessary, but some industrialists were prepared to co-operate provided they had a controlling voice in the capital or management or ~~both~~ both. There were others who were prepared to co-operate only with a minor ~~and~~ voice. There were others who did not want any participation in the capital at all. The position in the U.S.A. was the same to some extent, except that there were fewer industrialists who wanted control or participation in Indian industries, because India was not well-known and there was a great deal of apprehension in regard to the political future.

Penicillin to be Manufactured in India.

According to a New Delhi report one hundred million units of penicillin are to be produced every month by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Plant and equipment for production on this vast scale are being installed. The Institute was the first in India to produce penicillin.

(The Times of India, dated
30-8-1945).-

Plan to expand Indian Leather-goods Industry.

Mr. Kaiser Ahmed, President of the Indian Federation of Footwear Association and a member of the Government of India Leather goods panel and Footwear Advisory Committee, is at present in London negotiating for machinery and equipment which will put India's leather goods industry in the forefront of world's producers. He plans to invite major British manufacturers of footwear and leather goods to set up in India joint manufacturing concerns; to supply machinery for footwear factories with all Indian capital; to purchase high-grade English manufactured footwear for the Indian retail market; and to find in Britain a market for Indian produced leather goods.

Mr. Ahmed hopes to have in India, within five years, ten factory units, turning out 10,000 pairs of shoes per day. He also hopes to place at the disposal of all footwear manufacturers in India the experience gained in his present tour of Great Britain and the U.S.A. The Government of India has just granted Mr. Ahmed's firm a licence to import goods and services to the value of Rs. 1,000,000.

(The Times of India, 30-8-1945).-

Summary

Conservation and Exploitation of India's Coal Resources:
Appointment of a Coal Commissioner Likely.

It is understood the Supply Department of the Government of India will shortly appoint a Coal Commission to consider, among other matters, the possibility of conserving the country's resources of coal by using the appropriate quality for industrial purposes and methods of immediate expansion of the production of coal required for the development of industries in the post-war period.

The Commission, it is believed, will tour the provinces of India, examine expert witnesses and visit the coal mines, investigating the present methods of extracting coal. The Commission is also likely to visit the United Kingdom and America, studying the latest methods of coal mining employed in those countries so that such advanced methods may be adopted in India.

(The Times of India, 2-8-1945).-

21

Textile Industry.

Cotton Textile Mills Industry in India during
1943-1944.

The following are the salient features of the annual statement regarding the progress of the Indian textile industry during the year ended 31-8-1944, issued by the Millowners' Association, Bombay:-

Number of Mills.- The total number of equipped mills in India (excluding Burma) on 31-8-1944 was 407 (excluding 8 mills in course of erection or recently registered) as against 401 on 31-8-1943. The number of mills in Bombay City and Island decreased by 1 to 65 during the year under review. The number of mills in Ahmedabad remained stationary at 73. There was no change in the number of mills in Rajputana, Berar, the Central Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Hyderabad State, Central India, Bengal, Delhi, the United Provinces, Mysore and Pondichery. The number of mills increased by 1 each in the Punjab and Travancore State to 8 and 2, respectively and decreased by 2 to 65 in Madras. Of the 407 mills in the country, 5 were not working, while 3 in Bombay Province and 1 in Madras Province started working in August 1943 and from 1-2-1944, 1-4-1944 and 17-1-1944, respectively. 1 mill in Bombay Island was destroyed by fire on 18-1-1944. Of the 5 idle mills, 1 was in Delhi, 3 in Madras and 1 in the United Provinces.

Number of Spindles and Looms.- The total number of spindles in the equipped mills of the country stood at 10,222,107 as against 10,130,558 in the previous year. The total number of looms was 201,761 as against 200,890. In Bombay City and Island the number of spindles increased from 2,831,328 in 1942-43 to 2,834,052 in 1943-44, while the number of looms decreased from 66,268 in 1942-43 to 66,179 in 1943-44. In Ahmedabad the number of spindles and looms decreased from 1,794,283 and 43,315 in 1942-43 to 1,792,995 and 42,961 during the year under review. In Bombay Province, excluding Bombay City and Island and Ahmedabad, the number of spindles and looms increased from 1,263,880 and 26,624 to 1,290,217 and 26,707 respectively. In Madras the number increased from 1,479,934 and 6,492 to 1,542,314 and 7,382, respectively. In Bengal the number increased from 476,144 and 10,855 to 481,206 and 10,860 respectively. In the Punjab the number of spindles decreased from 108,148 to 102,720 while the number of looms increased from 2,556 to 2,750. In Mysore the number of spindles remained the same, i.e. 162,288, while the number of looms decreased from 2,878 to 2,812. In the Central Provinces the numbers were 301,084 and 5,300 as against 303,897 and 5,293 respectively; in Rajputana 114,761 spindles and 2,814 looms as against 116,174 and 2,715 respectively; in Delhi 111,276 spindles and 3,177 looms as against 112,176 and 3,067 respectively; in Hyderabad 120,308 spindles and 2,462 looms as against 120,308 and 2,461 respectively; in Berar 69,048 spindles and 1,454 looms as against 68,714 and 1,454 respectively; in Pondicherry 83,876 spindles and 1,966 looms as against 83,188 and 1,966 respectively; in Bihar and Orissa 27,040 spindles and 796 looms as against the same number of spindles and looms; and in Travancore 12,656 spindles and 310 looms as against 11,336 and 300 respectively.

Number of operatives.- The average number of operatives employed daily on day shift work was, in 1943-44, approximately 505,562, as against 502,650 in 1942-43. Particulars of the numbers employed in night shift work are not available.

Capital Invested.- The total paid up capital of the industry on 31-8-1944 amounted to Rs. 487,453,411 as against Rs. 485,420,080 on 31-8-1943. The total of paid up capital does not include the figures of 41 mills which made no returns as to capital.

Activities of Mills.- During the year under review the industry consumed 2,422,522 ~~lbs~~ ~~candies~~ (or 784 lbs) of cotton as against 2,445,109 candies in the previous year. The average number of spindles working daily during the year was 9,493,784 out of a total of 10,222,107 installed; in the previous year, the corresponding figures were 9,402,397 and 10,180,568, respectively. Of the 201,761 looms installed, an average of 189,241 were at work daily during the year as against 200,890 and 186,992 respectively in the previous year. The above quoted figures of spindles and looms activity do not include night shift working. The figures of cotton consumed, however, include night and day consumption.

(Summarised from Statement relating to the progress of cotton textile mill industry in India for 1943-44 forwarded to this Office by the Secretary, Millowners' Association, Bombay). +

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Unemployment and Vocational Guidance among Parsis: Co-ordinated Efforts by Parsi Charitable Trusts.

At a conference of the representatives of different Parsi Charitable Trusts on 5-7-1945, a Charity Resources Pooling and Planning Committee was appointed to collect data on the resources of various Parsi charity trusts, with the exception of purely religious trusts, and to interpret the data so collected. The Committee has been asked to suggest means for co-ordinating the charities with a view to give as much help as possible to each family, by way of doles, education, medical relief and rent, and also to suggest means for creating a liaison between various funds in charge of cheap housing schemes, for widening the scope of the employment bureau and for the maintenance of a statistical bureau.

The Committee has also been directed to find means for maintaining a unified scheme of investigation, diagnosis, and treatment of cases of relief on the latest system of welfare work as practised in the Western countries by trained and experienced workers and embracing various fields such as health, sanitation, etc.

The same conference appointed a Vocational Guidance Committee to report on the feasibility of ascertaining mental capacity and aptitude of Parsis thrown out of employment in the post-war period and those unemployed at present. The Committee is also expected to report on the possibility of administering employment aptitude tests to those boys and girls who may be about to leave the school, and to suggest ways and means for guiding children especially of charity and semi-charity schools with a view to give them a vocational bias before they are out of the school.

A Committee on Post-War Reconstruction is expected to report on the feasibility of absorbing the unemployed and the underemployed in industries, the nature and number of such industries, their suitability and productivity, their marketing and sales organization, their capacity to absorb a fairly large number of men on decent remuneration, capital required to finance these industries, methods of finding capital, etc.

The Committees have been asked to submit reports before the end of 1945.

The Parsi community in India in 1941, it is estimated, numbered about 115,000 and the per capita wealth of this small community, as compared to the general Indian standard, is very high.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 13-8-1945).

National Apprenticeship Scheme: Recommendations of the Technical Training Scheme Advisory Committee.

An apprenticeship training scheme, planned and organized on a national basis and leading to a certificate of craftsmanship on the completion of training, has been recommended to the Central Government by the Technical Training Scheme Advisory Committee, at its meeting which concluded at New Delhi on 8-8-1945, under the chairmanship of Mr. S. Lall, ~~Secretary~~ Additional Secretary to the Department of Labour, Government of India.

The salient features of the scheme are: (1) Close cooperation with employers in the field of apprenticeship training and (2) the sharing of responsibility for training craftsmen between training centres and factories. The scheme will serve as an important link between educational and pre-vocational institutions on the one hand and industry on the other.

Details of Scheme.- The main details of the scheme are given below:

The scheme is intended to ensure a steady flow of trained craftsmen into industry ~~and~~ to meet the industry's present and future needs. The Committee advocates that the first part of training should be given in specially designed centres to be run by the Government and the second in workshops engaged on production, thus co-ordinating training and production to the greatest possible degree. The total duration of training should be 3½ years, of which the trainees should spend the first ~~two~~ in a Government training ~~centre and the balance as an apprentice in a ~~factory~~ factory.~~ While the training centre should provide practical training closely related to industrial practice, attention should also be paid to theoretical subjects. The ~~Committee recommends~~ that as a starting measure steps should be taken to open one centre each in Bengal, Bombay, Madras, the U.P., the Punjab, Bihar, Delhi, and the Central Provinces. In all they ~~will~~ will provide a seating capacity of about 4,000 and the annual outturn from these seats will be about 2,000 craftsmen.

In each province or region there should be a provincial or regional technical committee to deal with the local administration of the scheme, to supervise training, to arrange for trade tests and for providing apprenticeship training to the trainees who complete their training satisfactorily at the centre. These committees should consist of representatives of the Central and Provincial Governments, private and Government industry, the workers, the Institution of Engineers and the Regional Inspector of Technical Training. The Committee further recommends that the scheme should be open to all who may wish to qualify themselves for industrial employment. In view, however, of the fact that employers generally give preference to the sons and relatives of their workers, the committee suggested that only a maximum of ~~approximately~~ one-third of the candidates can be from amongst ~~the~~ ~~applicants~~ applicants who are sons or relatives of employees of firms participating in the training scheme.

The age limit for admission ~~into~~ to the training centre will be from 14 to 18 years. Boys admitted to the training centre will be required to have studied up to a standard two years below the Matriculation or its equivalent. In the early stages it may be necessary to make relaxation in educational standards.

Syllabuses of training have been drawn by the Committee. The engineering trades have been ~~divided~~ divided into two groups, each group being concentrated around a "foundation trade". The intention is that there should be a basic training period of six months. It is proposed to impart training in 22

engineering trades. The committee recommends that the scheme should also include textile, leather and printing trades. An employer who participates in the scheme will have the advantage of obtaining workmen who have been partially trained at the expense of the Government. He is, therefore, required to provide apprenticeship training not only for those candidates who are admitted to a Government training centre from his factory, but also for an equal number of other candidates from the training centre. For the remaining trainees arrangements will be made in other factories with the help of Employers' Associations.

Provision has been made in the scheme for general educational instruction during factory training, adequate hostel arrangements, stipends and factory clothing. The committee recommends that there should be an apprenticeship agreement between the Central Government, the employer, the apprentice, and his guardian. After the satisfactory completion of apprenticeship training, the trainees will be awarded a National Certificate of Craftsmanship by the National Council for Technical Education, which, the Committee hopes, will be set up in pursuance of the recommendations made by the Central Advisory Board of Education. The training of instructors is also provided for and the Committee recommends the establishment of a special training centre for the purpose.

The Committee is of the view that, as the scheme attempts to impose a measure of control over apprenticeship, legislation may be necessary. This should, however, be on the basis of the recommendation of the regional committees.

(The Hindustan Times, 9-8-1945). . .

MIGRATION.

Kenya Government's Scheme for Reorganisation of Administration:
Sir Rahimtoola Chinyo appeals to to the Indian Government to
is press for Withdrawal. +

Reference was made at page 22 of our report for July, 1945, to the Kenya Government's proposals for reorganisation of the administration and to the possibility of the reorganisation adversely affecting the Indian Community in Kenya.

In a communication addressed to the Department of Commonwealth Relations, Government of India, Sir Rahimtoola Chinyo, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Imperial Indian Citizenship Association, has protested against the Kenya Government's scheme for the reorganisation of the administration. He says that the scheme is "entirely unacceptable as it aims at reducing Indian subjects in Kenya to political servitude and at bringing about their ultimate economic destruction" and further that it "is a sinister move on the part of the Government of Kenya to make it impossible for Indian subjects to live as a selfrespecting people in that colony". He has urged the Government of India to bring pressure upon the Kenya Government to withdraw these proposals.

In another communication to the Government, Sir Rahimtoola Chinyo refers to the assurance of the Kenya Government to the India Government regarding the temporary nature of the regulations about the entry into the colony of non-natives and says that, so far as the Association was aware, the Government of Kenya had no intention whatsoever either of rescinding or relaxing the immigration regulations against the entry of Indians. Sir Rahimtoola requests the Government of India to make known the step it proposes to take to protect the legitimate rights of Indians to enter Kenya after the war emergency is over.

(The Hindu, 10-8-1945).

AGRICULTURE.

Irrigation Research and Projects in India.

The research committee of the Central Board of Irrigation held its fifteenth meeting at Simla in the first week of August under the chairmanship of Mr. F.H. Hutchinson, President of the Board. Delegates from various provinces, Indian States and Ceylon attended the meeting. The committee discussed ~~the subject of regeneration and absorption in rivers~~, the effect of glaciers in the Himalayas on the waters available for irrigation and the possibilities of forecasting river supplies by surveys. The committee undertook to make concrete proposals for countrywide investigations for estimating river supplies from a study of rainfall, snow and glaciers data. Another subject discussed at the meeting related to tube wells. Progress was recorded on the investigations with regard to the science of flow in rivers and canals, and the committee discussed various problems in connection with the design of irrigation channels and works thereon. The committee also discussed the economic aspect of different kinds of flood control works with their effect on river channels.

Post-War Irrigation Projects in Indian States.- It is understood that ambitious post-war irrigation schemes have been chalked out in many Indian States to bring additional land within the orbit of irrigation. Hyderabad has planned a scheme of Rs. 650 million to irrigate three million acres of new land; Junagadh has set aside a sum of Rs. 175,000 for harnessing the waters of the rivers Hiren and Meghal; Bhavnagar intends to build a masonry dam across the river Ghelo for raising the level of sub-soil water in the surrounding wells; Bhopal has projects for bringing 50,000 acres of land under irrigation; Mysore has drawn up a five-year programme comprising 28 works of irrigation which will cost about Rs. 20 million and will irrigate 66,000 acres of land; Jaipur has under contemplation the construction of five big tanks and a dam across the river Banas; Bundi has set aside a sum of Rs. 1 million for the completion of three main schemes, namely, the Mez project, the Ghora pachhar River project and the Pai Balapura project; Dhrangadhra has chalked out the Bombham irrigation project, which will cost Rs. 1.2 million; Bikaner has devised a plan of Rs. 80 million for the implementation of the Bakhra Dam project, which will eventually serve 1,205,600 acres of new land.

(The Times of India, 9-8-1945, and
The Hindustan Times, 2-8-1945).

28

✓ Protection of Peasants and Artisans: Resolutions of
Indian Rural Peoples' Society Working Committee
meeting.

A number of resolutions seeking to protect the rights and interests of the peasants and artisans of the country were adopted at a meeting of the Working Committee of the Indian Rural Peoples' Society held at New Delhi in the third week of August under the presidentship of Mr. N.G. Ranga, M.L.A. (Central).

The Committee, by a resolution, declared that it was the duty of the Government of India to take steps to afford the necessary protection to Indian peasants and artisans as well as the industrial masses from the competition of foreign imports, to provide them with adequate tools and implements, and to help in the regaining of western markets for Indian processed agricultural products. The Committee was of opinion that, unless the Government declared its readiness to enter the market and operate to maintain foodgrain prices at remunerative levels, a serious slump was likely to be induced by the interests concerned. The Committee requested the Government to hasten its measures for the stabilisation of agricultural prices, and also to see that the fall in agricultural prices was less than the fall in prices of manufactured goods. The Committee called upon the Government to perfect its machinery for the maintenance of minimum prices of cotton. It ~~is~~ noted with alarm the shortage of yarn supplies to weavers and their consequent underemployment, and warned the Government against unrestricted yarn imports. Regarding restrictions on growing of short-staple cotton, the Committee urged Government to exempt such local production intended for use in the local khaddar industry.

(The Hindu, 25-8-1945).→

✓ Agricultural Labourers' Wages Board: Tamil Nad
Agricultural Workers' Union's Demand.

A deputation of the Tamil Nad Workers' Union met Mr. E.M. Gawne, Adviser to the Government of Madras, on 22-8-1945 at Madras and represented to him the grievances of agricultural labourers in the province in general and in Manargudi and Damal (near Conjeevaram) in particular. It urged that protection should be given to agricultural workers by the Government, and suggested the enactment of legislation calculated to provide for the constitution of an Agricultural Labourers' Wages Board on the lines of those in existence in western countries. The Adviser is said to have told the deputationists that the steps suggested by them could well be undertaken by a popular government which was likely to come into being in the near future.

(The Hindu, 26-8-1945).→

29

✓ Tenancy Rights for Landless Peasants of Sind:
Select Committee's Report.

That 'Hari', landless peasant class of Sind, should be given tenancy rights, and that a time-limit for attaining such rights should be laid down, and two proposals recommended ~~in the~~ inter alia, in the report submitted in August 1945, by ^{the} Select Committee appointed by the Government of Sind in 1943. The committee considers it desirable to give rights as freely as possible, but at the same time, recognizes that the zemindar is entitled to protection against being forcibly tied to an inefficient 'Hari'. For this and other reasons, the Committee has laid down conditions to prove a 'Hari's' fitness to acquire tenancy rights. For instance a 'Hari' shall be given tenancy rights if he has personally cultivated at least four acres of land for the same zemindar for a period of eight years either before 1-4-1945, or before the coming into force of the legislative enactment in this behalf. The Committee agrees that to avoid fragmentation of holdings sub-division of tenancies should not be allowed.

As for the present system of rent collection, the Committee recognizes that the method of paying rent by a division of crop (batai system) is not altogether desirable; but to seek to enforce its substitution by cash rents whereby the benefits of increased efficiency would go to the 'Hari' is also not practicable at present. So the Committee has contented itself to agreeing to the continuance of the batai system, while recommending that cash rents should be encouraged wherever possible.

(The Statesman, 19-8-1945). +

X Restoration of Agricultural to Military Servicemen:
Bihar Enactment making Temporary Provisions.

To provide for the restoration to raiyats (tenants) and under-raiyats (under-tenants) of agricultural lands sold for arrears of rent during the period of their absence on military service, the Government of Bihar has enacted the Bihar Restoration of Agricultural Land (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1945. The statement of Objects and Reasons points out that under the existing tenancy laws agricultural lands are saleable in execution of a decree for arrears of rent. A raiyat or under-raiyat who is absent from his home due to employment in military service is unable to make his defence in a court of law when a rent suit is brought against him. It is therefore essential to safeguard the interest of such raiyat or under-raiyat, who is absent on military service or if he is dead, of his legal representative and whose holding has been sold during his absence in execution of a decree for arrears of rent. The Act is intended to achieve that end.

(The Bihar Gazette, Part IV, dated
1-8-1945, pages 19-25). +

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✓
Protection of Aboriginal Tenants against Loss of Land:
Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1945.

With a view to give additional protection to tenants belonging to aboriginal tribes, against loss of their lands, the Government of Bengal has enacted the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1945. Under the existing provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, the entire tenure or holding of an aboriginal tenant must be sold in execution of a decree for arrears of rent and it is not possible to resort to the expedient of selling a part only of the tenure or holding. Such provisions are inequitable in as much as the tenant thereby loses his entire tenure or holding, which is the very means of his subsistence, although its value may be much greater than the decretal amount involved in the execution of the decree.

The amending Act, ~~inter alia~~ provides inter alia that no decree or order shall be passed by any Court for the sale of the right of an aboriginal tenure-holder, in his tenure, except to the extent needed for recovery of arrears of rent; and that when a decree for an arrear of rent which accrued in respect of a tenure or holding of an aboriginal tenant has been passed, such decree shall be executable solely by the Collector; and that the Collector may, if he is satisfied that the rent of the tenure or holding has been illegally enhanced ~~for~~ or is substantially in excess of the rent payable by tenants of the same class for lands of the same description with similar advantages in the vicinity, pass an order altering the amount of the rent of the tenure or holding to an amount which he considers to be fair.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part III,
dated 2-8-1945, pages 46-48) • + +

NAVIGATION.

Social Insurance Scheme for Indian Seamen and setting up of Advisory Committee Meeting, New Delhi, 4-8-1945.

Reference was made at page 30 of our report for July 1945 to the appointment by the Government of India of an ad hoc Advisory Committee on Seamen. The first meeting of this committee was held at New Delhi on 4-8-1945, the Hon'ble Sir N. Azizul Haque (Member of Commerce, Industries and Civil Supplies), the Chairman of the Committee, presiding. Besides, representatives of the Government of India, representatives of the Calcutta Liners' Conference and the Indian National Steamship Owners' Association on behalf of ship-owners, and representatives of the Indian Seamen's Union, Calcutta, the National Seamen's Union of India, Bombay and the Indian Quartermaster's Union, Calcutta, on behalf of seamen, attended the meeting.

The following were the subjects on the agenda: (1) A Social Insurance Scheme for Indian Seamen employed on coastal and foreign-going ships registered in India as well as in foreign countries - (feasibility of covering the risks of sickness, accident, unemployment and old age). (2) The formation of suitable permanent machinery (for discussion and) for advising Government on matters relating to seamen and dealing with all matters of concern to ship-owners and seamen, either in the shape of (a) a National Maritime Board or (b) a tripartite conference. (3) The Regulation of hours of work of Indian Seamen. (4) Recruitment. (5) Holidays with pay. (6) Clothing for seamen. Of these, the first two items were considered fully, and the third partially; consideration of the remaining items was postponed.

The Chairman's Speech.- Sir Azizul Haque, the chairman, in his opening speech said:

The Government of India has for sometime past ^{been} trying its best to tackle the immediate problems - problems connected with wages, amenities, comforts both within and outside India, ~~of our~~ ^{of our} seamen. The Government of India has also taken up the question as to how seamen fare in the different countries both while on shore and while on ship. It has been able to organise a strong Welfare Directorate. And yet, while tackling these immediate problems, it has not lost sight of some of the other outstanding problems, both immediate and long-range ones. For some time past, its attention has been drawn to the question of improvement of the conditions of employment of our seamen generally. But a detailed examination of the question had to be held in abeyance for some years past due to the conditions of war. It was felt that even at the initial stage and before Government was able to formulate its views on all the complicated questions, it would be a very great advantage if it were able to associate the representatives of the various interests concerned in a joint deliberation. It therefore decided to constitute for the time being this ad hoc advisory Committee; ~~though~~ ^{though} the committee is for the time being ~~an~~ ^{an} advisory one and the responsibility for taking decisions on the important matters that lie ahead will be Government's.

From the point of view of the number of seamen employed, India ranks as one of the most important maritime countries of the world. The conditions of employment of seamen in other countries are, however, admittedly superior to those obtaining in India. Great Britain, the United States, France, Belgium, Norway, all have their social insurance schemes for seamen. They have other measures for dealing with questions of health of seamen. The

conditions of employment of seamen of other countries are regulated by statutes or by maritime boards. In India there has not so far been any such regulation. Considering the immense increase in State activity in other directions, we cannot possibly pursue a policy of isolation or laissez faire in India. For years past the the question of employment of ~~labour~~ generally and of seamen particularly has been assuming more and more an international character, and this is bound to continue. Indian seamen are employed with the seamen of other countries. But the fact that Indians are employed on much the inferior terms is regarded as not fair. Moreover, the I.L.O. has adopted 13 Conventions on ten different subjects with regard to the employment of seamen, and of these India has so far been able to ratify only three Conventions.

The merits of the case also justify taking some active action in this matter. The Joint Maritime Commission of the I.L.O. in January last adopted as the basis for discussion the International Sea-faring Charter embodying the minimum conditions of employment for the post-war period. This Charter demands ~~inter alia~~ standard minimum wage rates for all seamen irrespective of colour or creed, continuous employment, eight hours' work a day, special provision for essential work at sea, 40 hours a week in port, overtime pay, social insurance, etc. This Charter will be discussed at the maritime session of the International Labour Conference possibly in January, 1946. ~~The maximum~~ To examine in detail the questions that are likely to be taken up at this Conference, the I.L.O. have called a preparatory technical meeting in October next. The Government of India propose to have itself represented both on the committee and in the Conference.

Summary of Discussions:
Social Insurance:

~~Mr. L. N. Balcombe~~ (Representative, Indian Seaman's Union, Calcutta), said that the existing liability of the shipowner to provide medical aid and maintenance to the sick and injured seamen on board ships and compensation to the injured in case of permanent disablement should be clearly differentiated from the liabilities of the social insurance scheme. This was necessary in view of the fact that while seamen would contribute to the social insurance fund, they would not share any of the existing liabilities of shipowners. With a view to assure such differentiation, ~~the~~ he suggested that the provisions in the Seamen's Compensation Act defining the liability of the shipowner in respect of injured seamen should be retained, but that they should be liberalised. Moreover, the Government of India should impose the same conditions in regard to compensation on all employers. He expressed himself against making reciprocal arrangements with other countries to secure contributions from foreign employers of Indian seamen and favoured Government of India taking unilateral action. He suggested that the Scheme of Social Insurance should be based upon Indian legislation.

"Continuous employment" for seamen from the point of view of seamen should not be regarded as a long period of employment without any break. What the seaman wanted was that his employment on the seas should be interspersed with brief periods of rest at home. Efforts should therefore be made that at the end of every 'rest period' employment should be ~~readily~~ available to him.

The Scheme of social insurance for seamen should be kept separate from the scheme for factory workers in view of the difference ~~at~~ between the nature of employment of the two categories of workers.

Mr. L. N. Balcombe (Representative, Calcutta Liners' Conference) said that the items on the agenda were of extreme importance and that a decision could not be arrived at just then. He wanted time to discuss the memoranda with other members of the Calcutta Liners' Conference. In his personal opinion

the principle of having a participatory scheme was a sound one, but it had to be considered whether it was practicable.

Mr. Mirza Akhtar Hasan (Representative, National Seamen's Union of India, Bombay) wanted a separate scheme for seamen. He pointed out that there was no provision for compensation in the Workmen's Compensation Act for natural accidents and occupational and climatic diseases which seamen contracted during the course of employment. He, therefore, suggested that these risks of seamen should be covered either by the Workmen's Compensation Act or by the insurance scheme. The time limit of one year under the Workmen's Compensation Act within which claims had to be instituted reacted against seamen. There were other difficulties as regards procedure. He suggested that the Workmen's Compensation Act should be suitably amended. He was in favour of taking unilateral action and thought that reciprocal arrangements would not be suitable.

Professor Adarkar (Deputy Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India) pointed out that the scheme for seamen might be separate, but for some purposes it might have to coalesce with the scheme for factory workers. This was necessary as the number of seamen was only 60,000 as against more than 2 millions of factory workers, and duplication of administrative machinery and medical facilities would be wasteful.

He stated that the contribution of seamen in respect of risks already covered by shipowner's liability, viz, those of sickness and accident while on articles, would be negligible, ~~or zero~~, even if it was decided to have a unified scheme.

~~He also pointed out that 'continuous employment' was not a sine qua non of social insurance for any category of workers. The difficulty created by lack of continuous employment could be met by prescribing a 'protective period' during which after discharge, seamen would be protected.~~

As regards taking unilateral action, he pointed out that in any case there would have to be comprehensive Indian legislation on the subject. It had to be considered how best to collect contributions from foreign employers. The limits of unilateral action would be determined by the extent of extra-territorial powers vested in the Indian legislature. Obviously, therefore, the question of extra-territorial powers had to be studied in detail.

National Maritime Board:

Mr. Master (Representative, Indian Steamships Owners' Association) wanted the establishment of a National Maritime Board in India more or less along the lines of the U.K. National Maritime Board. He favoured parity in representation but added, as his personal opinion, that if, in the larger interests of Indian seamen Government wanted to give larger representation to British shipowners, he would not object.

Mr. Aftab Ali wanted that National Maritime Board should find employment for seamen. As regards the constitution of the Central Board, Government should nominate only the Chairman but should not have any other representatives. As for the port panels, Government should have no representation on them. Government should have no executive authority in this Board.

Regulation of Hours of Work.- This question was only partially considered. ~~Seamen's representatives were~~ of opinion that there should be regulation of hours of work of Indian seamen. Shipowners representatives, however, expressed no opinion. The Chairman said that he would meet the Calcutta Liners Conference representatives in Calcutta in the last week of August to get their views. In the meantime the representatives would discuss the question with other members of the Conference.

The consideration of other items on the agenda was postponed.

Tentative conclusions:

Seaman Insurance.- (i) A social insurance scheme for Indian seamen should be introduced. (ii) The existing liabilities of shipowners should be clearly defined and seamen should not be asked to share the burden. (iii) For the rest, the scheme should be a contributory one. (iv) Seamen's scheme should be separate from the scheme for factory workers. (v) Government should take unilateral action in the matter and should base the scheme on comprehensive Indian legislation. (vi) A detailed scheme should be prepared on these lines which would be considered by shipowners' and seamen's organisations.

National Maritime Board.- (i) It should be set up and should consist of the representatives of Government, shipowners and seamen. (ii) In the larger interest of Indian Seamen, British shipowners should have larger representation on the Board than the Indian shipowners.

Regulation of Hours of Work.- For lack of time, this was considered only partially. The Chairman would meet the Calcutta Liners Conference in the last week of August to discuss the question in detail.

(Summarised from the Summary of Proceedings of the First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Seamen, supplied to the New Delhi Office by the Department of Commerce, Government of India).

War Bonus of Indian Seamen: Shipowners planning stoppage after end of war.

With the termination of hostilities the problem of ensuring equitable wages to the 200,000 Indian seamen engaged by shipping companies operating in India has again come to the forefront. In this connection a special article in the Times of India points out that before the war Indian lascars used to be paid wages ranging from Rs. 22 to Rs. 26 per head per month, in addition to free shelter, food and medical and other facilities. After the outbreak of the war, their wages were raised to Rs. 52 per month, and with the war bonus equivalent to 100 per cent of the basic wages, an average Indian lascar was able to get Rs. 78 per month before January 1, 1944. Thereafter, through the intervention of the Hon. Sir M. Azizul Haque, Commerce Member, the Liners' Conference agreed to give an additional war bonus of Rs. 52, thereby raising his total wages to Rs. 130 per month irrespective of the consideration that the Indian seamen continued to get free shelter, food and other facilities.

It is now reported that the Calcutta Liners' Conference which is composed of representatives of almost all the shipping companies is reviewing the question of war bonus in view of the fact that the bonus is paid to the seamen specifically as compensation for the risk to which they are exposed owing to war conditions. With the end of the war, the risk has disappeared and it is claimed that the question of war bonus on that account does not, therefore, arise. It is, however, probable that the views of the Commerce Department, Government of India, with which the Conference has secured a "gentleman's agreement" on the subject, will be elicited before a decision is taken.

(The Times of India, 28-7-1945).

Indian Seamen's Demands: Bonus must be treated as
Basic Wage.

Mr. Aftab Ali, M.L.A. (Bengal), President of the All-India Seamen's Federation and President of the Indian Seamen's Union, Calcutta, outlined at a Press Conference in Bombay on 27-8-1945, the three main demands of Indian seamen on which depended the future relations between shipowners and workers. The main demands as formulated by Mr. Aftab Ali were:

The present wages of seamen, two-fifths of which are deemed by owners as being the basic and the remainder as the war wages, should be considered as the basic wage and in addition an increase should be allowed consistent with the cost of living.

Secondly, the system of indirect recruitment, which is in operation in the Port of Bombay, should be abolished and substituted by the open master system which is in force in the port of Calcutta.

The third demand is that they should get at the end of the war a due share of the reparations money collected from enemy countries.

Mr. Aftab Ali said that he had made representations to the Government of India recently pointing out the grave consequences which would follow if the shipowners decided to cut the wartime wages of seamen. The system of indirect recruitment in vogue in Bombay port, he said, had been responsible for corruption and bribery. He calculated the amount of bribes paid by seamen seeking recruitment at not less than Rs. 20,00,000 in the port of Bombay alone. As regards the third demand, Mr. Aftab Ali said that at the end of the last war large sums of money were collected by the British Government from Germany a part of which was paid to British seamen. Indian seamen who had also contributed to the war effort were not paid anything. But this time, he said, Indian seamen were determined to see that they got their share of the reparations money. If the shipowners get a share of it for their losses, the seamen, Mr. Aftab Ali maintained, also should get their share for risking loss of their lives.

If these demands were not conceded, Mr. Aftab Ali stated, there will be a trial of strength between the shipowners and seamen. He compared the wages of seamen of other nationalities and said that, whereas the Chinese fireman was getting Rs. 125 and the British Rs. 160, the Indian fireman was getting only Rs. 46. The position continued till 1943 and only in 1944, the Indian seaman was given Rs. 92. In these circumstances, the Indian seamen asked shipowners to treat the war-time wage as basic wage and not as war bonus. He had asked the shipowners to continue the present scale of ~~pay~~ wages at least till the meeting of the Tripartite Conference. But if they failed, the seamen would be forced to take direct action and the Federation of Indian Seamen would stand by the workers.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 29-8-1945). +

Indian Seamen's Delegate to the International Maritime Conference: Protest Against Nomination by A.I.T.U.C.

An extraordinary general meeting of the National Seamen's Union of India was held in Bombay on 28-8-1945, Mr. A.H. Mirza presiding.

President's Address.- Mr. Mirza expressed satisfaction at the keen interest taken by the Commerce Member of the Government of India in the welfare of Indian seamen and hoped that the plans of the Central Government ~~that the~~ scheme of social insurance, establishment of a Maritime Board and fixing hours of work, would be completed and enforced immediately. He requested the government of India not to attempt to thrust demobilised personnel of the Royal Indian Navy on the merchant navy. He felt that continuation of war allowance to the seamen—it might be in the shape of dearness allowance—was inevitable, and refuted the charges of corruption at Bombay Port.

Resolutions Delegate to Maritime Conference.- The meeting passed a resolution reiterating that it was the privilege of seamen's organisations to nominate delegates to the International Maritime Conference and expressed itself against the attitude of the T.U.C. in nominating any delegates to the said conference. Another resolution stated that the proposed seamen's conference to be held in Bombay had not the confidence of the seamen of ~~the seamen of the ports of~~ either Bombay or Calcutta.

(The Times of India, 30-8-1945). ++

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Family Index of Middle Class Government Servants: Central Government consults Provincial Governments.

It is understood that the government of India has invited the views of provincial governments on a scheme for drawing up of a family index of middle class government servants all over India, and that a conference of representatives of the Central and provincial Governments will shortly be held in New Delhi to give the scheme practical shape.

(The National Call, 1-8-1945).

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CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

All-India Handloom Board: Inaugural Meeting, Nagpur, 10 and
11-8-1945. +

Reference was made at page 35 of our report for March 1945 to the establishment by the Government of India of the All-India Handloom Board, consisting of 30 official and unofficial members. The inaugural meeting of the Board was held at Nagpur on 10 and 11-8-1945, Mr. M.K. Vellodi, Textile Commissioner, Government of India, presiding.

Opening the meeting, Sir Azizul Haque, Member for Industries and Commerce, Government of India, held out the hope that the handloom industry would occupy in future a prominent position, not only in the internal economy of India, but also for external purposes. ~~Continuing~~ Outlining the experiences of the handloom industry in the past and the vicissitudes through which it had passed, he declared that India would not allow the industry to die or lead a feeble life in "decaying condition. The problems of its future, he admitted, was a complicated one, but hoped that this industry would become an industry of which India would be ~~pround~~ proud. "I am aware of the difficulties that handloom weavers had to meet under the existing conditions" he continued, and added: "Unfortunately actual receipt of yarn by weavers after its actual production in mills has to pass through a complicated process of distribution, and agencies for distribution do not always play their part to the best interests of anybody except themselves. Actually yarn reaches weavers at a much higher price than the cost of production, including transport and distribution charges. With all their best craftsmanship, the class of weavers as a whole has been economically the most exploited class in India. Something will have to be done to eliminate this exploitation. Weavers must have a living wage, must be able to live a decent life and after working hard for eight or ten hours a day or more, they should not be allowed to starve".

Following the opening address of Sir Azizul Haque, a general discussion took place among the 26 members, including the chairman, present at the meeting. According to the data collected by Mr. M.R. Kazimi, Additional Deputy Textile Commissioner, placed before the meeting, there are 2.5 million weavers in the country and 7.5 million dependents who are supported by the handloom industry. The two aspects of the problem facing the Board ~~are~~, one relating to the employment question of weavers and the other to the industry itself, including the question of yarn supply and the marketing of handloom cloth. Nearly 80 per cent of the weavers are purely labourers, and naturally, the whole ~~problem~~ problem of the handloom industry ~~rested~~ rested on the question of unemployment of weavers. A large number of weavers depend on yarn of finer counts, which is mainly utilised for the manufacture of fancy border saris and dhoties. The yarn ceiling prices are unduly high; and there are too many middlemen in the distribution trade. Owing to the primitive methods of production, the cost of production of handloom cloth is higher. Mr. Kazimi had recommended that considerable economy in production cost could be effected if establishments with improved appliances and beaming are set up under Government control in concentrated weaving centres, and dyeing houses managed by Government agencies are added to them. On the subject of marketing and publicity, ~~the~~ Mr. Kazimi had suggested the establishment of direct contacts between weavers and money-lenders in the producing centres and merchants in the consuming centres. A proposal before the meeting was that the Madras scheme, which has brought over 25,000

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weavers within the co-operative organisation, should be adopted by all ~~provinces~~ provinces and States in order to make a fresh attempt to organise the weavers on proper lines.

The members present at the meeting spoke about the present distribution of yarn in their respective areas and expressed their views on the proposed price control of handloom cloth. Emphasis was laid by many non-official representatives on the ~~need~~ ^{request} for the Government taking immediate steps to make textile mills produce more yarn as such action, in their opinion, was the only way by which handloom weavers could get yarn at controlled rates.

The views of the Board on the subjects discussed will be conveyed to the Government of India, and the Central Government's findings thereon will be placed before the next meeting of the Handloom Board to be held in October, 1945.

(The Hindu and the Times of India,
dated 11-8-1945).*

✓ Debt Relief and Marketing Facilities for Farmers:
Bombay Government's Post-war Plan for Cooperative
Movement. *

The Government of Bombay¹⁵ plans for the post-war period to extend the activities of the Cooperative movement in the province, which has till now confined itself mainly to affording credit facilities on easy terms to cultivators; the new plans are designed to ensure that the cultivator gets full value for his produce.

Debt Relief and Crop Financing.- It is proposed to intensify the movement to supply the farmer with credit on easy terms. Already, by the provisions of the Agricultural Debtors Relief Act, which has been extended to certain areas in the province, agriculturist debtors will be able to secure a substantial reduction in their debts. The application of the Act to an area also creates the need for arrangements to supply the farmer, whose debt has been adjusted, with finance for his essential agricultural operations. The Government has decided that the agency for supplying such finance should be the Co-operative Department. This will mean a large increase both in the number and membership of co-operative societies and the setting up of a more effective machinery for supervision. In order to assist this credit organisation and to protect it from undue risk, the Government has agreed to guarantee to co-operative societies and their financing agencies losses to the extent of 5 per cent of the outstandings~~on~~ on account of crop finance advanced to cultivators whose debts have been adjusted by Debt Adjustment Boards and also to bear the entire cost of supervision.

Marketing Facilities.- The Government proposes to increase the number of co-operative supply and sale societies and unions and to establish a network of regulated markets. At present only 13 markets are controlled under the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act; it is proposed to organise 32 additional regulated markets in the concentrated areas in the first five years. Sale societies and purchase and sale unions require expert guidance and for this purpose steps will be taken to appoint trained managers, the

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cost to be borne by the Government in the initial stages. The Government will also bear the cost of the ~~machinery~~ machinery for the supervision and regulation of markets and will give subsidies to the Market Committees towards the cost of the staff appointed under them, and loans for ancillary purposes such as the construction of godowns.

Aid to Small-Scale Industrialists.- The co-operative movement will also be extended for the rehabilitation of the cottage worker and small-scale industrialist. At present there are 72 producer societies for weavers and other craftsmen. In addition, 9 district industrial associations have been established; the purpose of ~~these~~ is to sell raw materials to weavers as cheaply, as possible; to advise them regarding the production of new qualities, patterns and designs; to supply them with improved implements; and to market their finished goods on the hire-purchase system. It is proposed to ~~widen~~ widen the scope of these associations so as to enable them to organise other ~~and~~ cottage and small-scale industries and also to establish similar associations in other parts of the province, including at least one in each district.

Provincial Industrial Federation as a Co-ordinating Agency.- To co-ordinate the work of district associations, a Provincial Industrial Federation will be established at Bombay. The organisation of a large number of Industrial Cooperatives modelled on "Indusco" in China, which will work as producing centres and feeders to the existing and proposed industrial associations, is visualised.

It is proposed to organise 5 creameries, equipped with laboratories, with a view to supplement agriculturists' income. The Government will provide the staff required to encourage ~~these~~ institutions in the initial stages and also the funds for the installation of the laboratories.

Other Schemes.- It is also proposed to organise milk supply unions in 6 towns where there is a keen demand for milk; and ~~th~~ for this purpose, societies for milk production will be organised in rural areas to serve as feeder societies to the milk supply unions.

The consolidation of holdings on a co-operative basis will be undertaken experimentally in selected talukas where conditions for voluntary consolidation are favourable.

("Bombay Information", 4-8-1945). + +

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LIVING CONDITIONS.

Nutrition.

Nutritional Survey and Food Planning: Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Commissioned by Government of India to prepare Report.

The Food Department, Government of India, has commissioned, Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, at present Director of Statistics, Food Department, to undertake a countrywide investigation of nutritional conditions, resources and possibilities in India. The survey has a threefold objective—first, a detailed investigation of nutrition conditions throughout the country; secondly, an inquiry into the reasons, social and economic, of undernourishment and defective diet; and thirdly, better food planning through organised production and distribution.

It is expected that Dr. Rao's interim report will be ready in the beginning of 1946. The final report, which will be based on a detailed, systematic survey of villages may take another year for completion.

In this connection several questionnaires have already been sent to provincial governments and non-official agencies, including the All-India Women's Conference and some of the inquiries have produced interesting data. Industrial canteens and college messes are yielding many useful lessons for the dietician and food planner. The Bombay Government has submitted a useful account of its nutrition activities which are likely to be extended in the near future.

It may be pointed out that the cost of a well balanced diet in pre-war days was estimated to come to Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 per adult per month. The question that will prominently engage attention in this context is how, in view of the abnormally high prices, a satisfactory minimum standard of nutrition can be maintained in India, where the per capita income is estimated to be only between Rs. 65 and Rs. 85 per year in normal times.

(The Times of India, 24-8-1945)..

Marine Fisheries Training Course in Madras.

It is understood that the Government of India has granted Rs. 21,483 to the Madras Government to meet half the cost of the Marine Fisheries Training Scheme for the Xth second course commencing on Sep 1-9-1945.

Arrangement of Seats

Altogether 20 persons will be trained and the period of training will be for six months. The Central Government has allotted seats to different Provinces and Indian States, giving five seats to Madras, two each to Bombay, Bengal, Sind and Baroda and one each to Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Cochin, Jammu and Kashmir, Hyderabad and Mysore. The cost of the scheme will be equally shared between the Provinces and States and the Central Government.

The Government of India has also granted another sum of Rs. 23,000 towards the scheme relating to revival of the Fisheries Technological Research Station at Calicut. The total cost of the revival will be Rs. 72,000. Research will be conducted at the Station on different methods of preservation of fish on scientific lines.

(The Hindu, 30-8-1945).

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ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.

Employers' Organisations.

Annual Report of Employers' Association of Northern India
for the period 1-2-1944 to 31-12-1944.

The following information about conditions of labour of workers employed in factories controlled by Member concerns of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore, is taken from the 8th annual report of the Association, ~~of~~ for the period 1-2-1944 to 31-12-1944, presented to the annual general meeting of the Association held at Cawnpore on 23-8-1945.

Number of Workers.— The number of workers employed in member concerns of the Association during the period fell from 86,454 to 85,144 in Cawnpore and rose from 18,066 to 22,622 in other areas, the total thus increasing from 104,520 to 107,766.

Complaints.— The total number of cases of complaints received was 728 as against 868 during the previous 12-month period; the number of complaints showed a decrease of 16.12 per cent which is partly accounted for by the 11-month period dealt with in the report under review. The report says that labour continues freely to utilize the conciliation Machinery set up by the Provincial Government under the Labour Commissioner, that the majority of complaints continue to come direct from workers, and that certain of the unions are also taking active part in this conciliation work. It is also pointed out that, although complaints have been lodged by workers direct, in a number of cases union representatives appear on their behalf during conciliation proceedings, but as no unions are recognised by the Association such representatives appear in their personal capacity.

The total number of cases heard by the Labour Commissioner was 357 as against 351 in the previous 12-month period. Decisions in the case of 78.73 per cent of these were in favour of the Association, 15.7 against, 3.33 neutral and 2.24 were pending at the close of the year.

Labour Bureau.— The number of men registered in the Association's Labour Bureau was 13,663 as against 14,130 for the previous year, and the number ~~of~~ for whom employment was found ~~was~~ 9,258 as against 9,161, the relative percentages of men found employment to those registered for the two years under comparison being 67.75 and 64.83. The fall in the number registered is probably due to the shorter period, 11 months against 12. It is regretted that attention has again to be drawn to the fact that not all members of the Association are calling for their requirements from the Association's Labour Bureau. If this was done, more correct figures of the migration of labour from villages to Cawnpore and also of labour available for employment would be available.

During the year a Government Labour Exchange was established to deal with Technical Personnel under the National Service Labour Tribunal. The Association's Labour Bureau co-operated by referring such personnel to the Labour Exchange. The Government has under consideration the question of the extension of the activities of the Government Labour Exchanges to enable them to cover other categories of labour, but at the close of the period under review no further development had taken place.

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99.48 of the workers registered were from the United Provinces as against 99.14 in the previous year.

Literacy among the workers registered showed an increase, the percentage of literates having gone up by 1.7 per cent in comparison to the figures for the previous year. This explained in this connection, that the test of literacy is a very low one, and that it cannot be claimed that there is a high standard of literacy among workers.

Strikes.— The number of workers involved in strikes in member concerns fell from 20,072 in the previous 12-month period to 14,845 (2,698 in Cawnpore and 12,147 in outstations). The number of working days lost was 21,835 (5,424 in Cawnpore and 16,411 in outstations), and the wages lost were Rs. 21,866 (Rs. 5,916 in Cawnpore and Rs. 15,950 in outstations). The Cawnpore figures, the report states, are the lowest on record except for the number of workers involved which was slightly lower in 1940-41, and the outstations figures, despite increase in membership, are the second lowest. The main causes of strikes were demands for higher basic wages, increase in War Dear Food Allowance, and demands for declaration of ~~bonus~~ bonus; very few strikes were for political reasons.

War Dear Food Allowance, Gratuity, and Supply of Food Grains.— The highest weighted cost of living figures recorded during the period under review were for general cost of living index-332, in August 1944 (base August 1939=100) and for the subsidiary cost of living index, 294, in the October 1944, the corresponding lowest figures being 294 and 266 respectively. ~~The War Dear Food Allowance paid by the majority of the Association's Member, is linked to the subsidiary cost of living index.~~ The pay level up to which allowances were paid was Rs. 150 a month in the cotton, woollen and leather industries and in jute industry. In the former, the scale of allowance corresponding to a cost of living index above 200 was a minimum of 6½ annas a day plus 1.4 pies per day per point of increase above 200. In the jute industry the minimum payable was 5 annas a day and 1 pie per point of increase above 200.

As in the previous year, members of the Association declared a gratuity and in the case of the cotton, woollen and leather industries at Re.0-4-0 in the rupee, on basic wages. The majority of the remaining members also declared rewards ranging from Re.0-1-6 to Re.0-4-0, in the rupee on basic wages.

The supply of food grains at concessional rates continued throughout the year, and in Cawnpore there were over 100 mill grain shops operated under the Industrial Rationing Scheme. Supplies, except in the case of sugar, salt and pulses (dals) continued to be drawn from Government. These shops showed an increasing popularity and the total amount expended by concerns for the 11 months under review was Rs. 14,573,526 as against Rs. 10,200,000 for the previous 12 months.

Supply of Quinine.— During the period under review, the Association was able to procure supplies of quinine through Government sources and thus was able to assist members in combating malarial epidemics.

Legal Aid to Workers in House Rent Cases.— In response to numerous complaints from workers that landlords were increasing rents and were harassing tenants to pay higher rents, the Committee of the Association sanctioned the giving of legal aid to workers where necessary. From September 1944 upto 31-12-1944, 69 such cases had been registered with the Association. Of the 37 cases decided in Court, 30 had been decided by the end of the year; 26 were in favour of workers, 7 cases remained to be decided at the end of the period under review.

General Situation.- As a whole, labour remained steady at work. The report attributes this mainly to ~~the maintenance of~~ continued steady employment being available, the payment of War Dear Food Allowance adjusted to the cost of living index and to increasing popularity of mill-grain shops, at which food grains continued to be sold at concessional rates. Another important factor was the continued use of conciliation machinery by workers and also the timely step taken by the Provincial Government to enforce adjudication proceedings where there was a threat of strike. The report regrets that, although Government take prompt steps in ordering adjudication proceedings under the Defence of India Rules, the provision against those inciting or taking part in illegal strikes has not been generally enforced. As regards unions, during the period under review, they have continued, on the whole, as in the previous year, to supporting the War effort and to persuade workers not to adopt unconstitutional methods. The same three textile unions operated in Cawnpore during the period under review, viz. National Mill Mazdoor Union and the Cawnpore Textile Labour Union (both affiliated to the Indian Federation of Labour), and the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha, affiliated to the Trade Union Congress. As regards other industries, the main ones which operated were the Oil Mills Workers' Union and the Cawnpore tannery and Leather Workers' Union. It is pointed out that the membership figures of these Unions are not truly representative when the total number of workers employed is taken into consideration.

(Summarised from a copy of the report sent by the Employers' Association of Northern India to this office, 23-8-1945).+ +

Annual General Meeting of United Planters' Association of Southern India, 15 and 16-8-1945.

The annual general meeting of the United Planters' Association of Southern India was held at Coonoor on 15 and 16-8-1945.

Tea Section

Presidential Address.- Mr. J.L.H. Williams, chairman of the Tea Section of the Association, in his address, dealt with the procedure for calculating the increased cost of production allowance under the direction of the Ministry of Food Great Britain and pointed out there was a drop in South Indian tea for 1944 by 1 per cent, compared with the record crop harvested in 1943 which approximated to 97 million pounds. The small crop now was due to unfavourable weather conditions. He gave figures of the all-India tea crop during the past three years and said it had fallen by 64 million pounds. Practically the whole of this fall had been in North India. At the last conference of producers and distributors of tea at Delhi, Government had at last recognized that conditions in South India were very different from conditions in North India and that on many tea problems a solution suitable to the North was not necessarily suitable to the South. Accordingly, advisory committees for the North and South had been appointed. Mr. Williams pointed out that there was an enormous and rapidly expanding market for tea in India and wanted the Central Government's co-operation to give the Association figures of actual annual consumption in India on which would

depend a lot of future planning of the industry. Mr. Williams also urged the relaxation of rigid restrictions on the planting of new areas of tea.

Coffee Section

Presidential Address.- Mr. Iver Bull, chairman of the Coffee Section of the Association, in his address, stated that nearly all growers in the Nilgiris and the Shevaroyas had suffered severe losses in the past season, as their crop was the poorest on record. Labour had been in short supply. In Mysore State, in particular, the labour position had been very grave throughout the year due to the extreme shortage of food grains in the planting districts of that State. The price of coffee was lowered by the Central Government for 1944-45, by approximately Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 a cwt. and the returns he received in the years immediately preceding the depression. During 1945 a very careful enquiry has been arranged through the Indian Coffee Board, which has appointed a special Sub-Committee to prepare the growers' case. Costs of production have risen steadily throughout the year, due mainly to higher wages and a continued rise in the price of grains which was reflected in the very substantial losses suffered by estates who issue grains to their labour. Reviewing the position regarding Pepper and Cardamoms, Mr. Bull said that while pepper had enjoyed a degree of prosperity in the year under review, the depression in the cardamom plantations was causing many of the small growers to abandon entirely their holdings.

Resolutions.- Resolutions, among others, were adopted requesting Government to convene a conference of representatives of cardamom growers, traders and shippers and of the governments concerned (viz. the Governments of India, Madras, Mysore, Kerala, Assam, Sikkim and Coorg) to evolve proposals for the long-term regulation of the marketing of South Indian cardamoms and ~~concerning~~ a regulated system of marketing of South Indian Coffee in the post-war period, and requesting Government to convene a conference of all coffee interests concerned to discuss and decide on the nature of the organisation and legislation ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~regarding~~ required, in view of the expiration of the Coffee Market Expansion Act.

(The Hindu, dated 20, 21-8-1945). 4 +

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Workers' Organisations.

Election to World T.U.C. and ILO's Industrial Committees:
Decisions of A.I.T.U.C. Council.

At pages 43-44 of our report for July 1945, a brief report given of the proceedings of the meeting of the General Council of the AITUC held at Calcutta on 27 and 28-7-1945. The following additional information regarding the decisions arrived at the meeting is taken from the Trade Union Record for August 1945, the official organ of the AITUC:-

World Trade Union Conference.- The Council of the AITUC unanimously re-elected Messrs. N.S. Dange and R.A. Khedgikar to represent the AITUC at the next session of the World Trade Union Conference to be held in Paris from 25-9-1945. It was unanimously decided to affiliate the AITUC to the proposed World Federation of Trade Unions whose Executive Committee was requested to grant affiliation to the AITUC with a token affiliation fee of £ 100/- per year for the present. The AITUC delegation to the World Trade Union Conference was requested to pay try to get the Constitution of the World Federation of Trade Unions so amended as to secure one seat for India and one for Middle Asia on its Executive Committee.

Election of Members for I.L.O. Industrial Committees.- The following were elected as members of the various Industrial Committees of the I.L.O.:

(a) Iron and Transport Committee: 1. Mr. V.R. Malappa, M.L.A. (G.P. & Berar) 2. Mr. B.K. Ghosh, M.L.A. (U.P.); (b) Metal Trade Committee: 1. Mr. Fazal Ishaqi Surhan, 2. Mr. K.T. Sule; (c) Coal Mining Committee: 1. Mr. P.C. Bose, 2. Mr. Ismail A. Khan; (d) Textiles Committee: 1. Mr. S.S. Mirajkar, 2. Mr. P. Ramamurthi; (e) Iron & Steel Production Committee: 1. Mr. Indrajit Gupta, 2. Mr. K.L. Mahanta; (f) Building, Civil Engineering & Public Works Committee: 1. Mr. K.N. Joglekar, 2. Mr. Deben Sen.

A.I.T.U.C. Membership - July 1945.- The total number of unions affiliated to the AITUC, as it stood on 28-7-1945, was 413, with a membership of 474,099. The affiliation of 13 new unions with a membership of 38,286 was fully accepted by the Council, while that of 15 unions with a membership of 3,780 was accepted conditionally. 17 Unions with a membership of 5,667 were disaffiliated as they had either become defunct or had failed to pay AITUC dues for more than two years.

Correction.- The names of the AITUC delegation to the Preparatory Technical Conference, November 1945, as given in the Trade Union Record are as follows: Mr. Aftab Ali, delegate; Messrs. Dinkar Desai (Bombay), and A.M. Malik, M.L.A. (Bengal), advisers. (In our report for July 1945 (page 43) the name of Mr. Mohiudeen (Bengal) was given in place of Mr. A.M. Malik.)

(The Trade Union Record, Bombay,
dated August, 1945).

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Membership of A.I.T.U.C.: Rules adopted at Meeting
of General Council at Calcutta.

Reference was made at page 46 of our report for June 1945 to the draft rules for determining membership of unions affiliated to the A.I.T.U.C. The following rules were finally adopted at the meeting of the General Council of the AITUC held at Calcutta on 28-7-1945 for the guidance of the Standing Credentials Committee and the Provincial Credentials Committees:-

(1) The membership as disclosed in the latest Annual Return certificate by the Registrar of Trade Unions should be taken into consideration. (It is therefore necessary for these affiliated unions which have not yet registered themselves under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, to get themselves registered without further delay and in any case before the end of March 1946. A union applying for affiliation should be either a registered union under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, or should apply for registration certificate within the year after affiliation is granted).

(2) The average paying membership of a union under clauses 5(a)(iii) and 16 (b) of the Constitution should be determined on the following basis: A member not paying all his subscription for the year, for a period of six months after the last date for payment which should be 31st March each year, should be considered to lose his membership.

(3) Each Union shall submit to the AITUC office by the end of November each year a statement showing the membership for the year ending 31st March each year, calculated on the basis of Rule 2 above. And a copy of the latest Annual Return accepted by the Registrar of Trade Unions should be supplied accompanied by a written authority to the AITUC office to inspect the latest Annual Return in the office of the Registrar.

Exceptions:

(1) In the case of seamen, the period of six months suggested in Rule 2 above shall be extended to two years. (2) In the case of the seasonal workers membership shall be determined on the basis of the average paying membership for the year.

(The Trade Union Record, August, 1945).

All-India Mine Workers' Federation: Central Organisation
of Mine Workers' Unions Formed.

On the invitation of the General Secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress, 20 representatives from 12 mine workers' unions representing 30,000 mine workers attended the Representatives Meeting at Calcutta on 29-7-1945 and decided to form a central organisation of the mine workers' unions in India to be known as the All-India Mine Workers' Federation. Representatives had come from mine workers' unions of all types: coal mines, mica mines, gold mines, salt mines and even gsum mines. The following Unions were represented:-

(1) Bengal Coal Workers Union; (2) Giridih Coal Workers Union; (3) Indian Miners Union; (4) Jharia Coal Workers Union; (5) Mica Mazdur Union, Giridih; (6) Sambalpur Colliery Workers Union (Orissa); (7) B.N. Railway India Labour Union; (8) G.P. Mine Workers Union; (9) Champion Reef Mines Labour Association, K.G.F. (Gold Mines); (10) Gadar Division Mica Workers Union;

(11) Gypsum Miners' Union, Punjab; and (12) Salt Miners Association, Punjab.

Mr. P.C. Bose, General Secretary, Indian Miners' Union, Jharia, and Chapal Bhattacharyajee, General Secretary, Giridih Coal Workers' Union, were elected, provisionally, as President and Secretary, respectively of the newly formed Federation. ~~They~~ They were authorised to draft a constitution for the Federation and circulate it to the participant unions by the beginning of October 1945. The Secretary of the Federation would convene a meeting of the Federation at the end of 1945 or early next year; at this meeting representatives of Unions affiliated to the AITUC or in sympathy with the aims and objects of the AITUC will be eligible for representation. It was also decided to collect material regarding conditions of work, wages, housing, etc., of the mine ~~and~~ workers in different areas. ~~The~~ The Assistant Secretary AITUC, was requested to draft a memorandum describing the conditions, and to formulate the demands of mine workers in different categories of mines.

(The Trade Union Record, August, 1945). + +

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Provisions for Dealing with Destitute Persons: The Bengal Destitute Persons (Repatriation and Relief) Act, 1945.

For making special provisions for dealing with persons wandering about in a destitute condition as a result of the prevailing economic distress in Bengal, the Governor of Bengal has enacted the Bengal Destitute Persons (Repatriation and Relief) Act, 1945. The Act provides for the maintenance of places of detention for destitute persons, their subsistence and medical treatment and their repatriation to their usual places of residence when the authorities are satisfied that adequate arrangements for ensuring the livelihood of such persons have been made at such place of residence.

The Act has been published in the Calcutta Gazette dated 30-8-1945; the Governor of Bengal gave his assent to the Act on 30-8-1945.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part III, dated 30-8-1945, pages 49-52). + +

EDUCATION.

Post-war Educational Scheme for India: Standing Committee of Indian Legislature on Education Recommends Early Start of Preliminary Work.

The Standing Committee of the Indian Legislature on Education held a three-day session at Simla under the presidentship of Sir Jogindra Singh, towards the middle of August 1945, and discussed, among other subjects, the scheme for educational development in India prepared by the Central Advisory Board of Education (vide pages 32-34 of our report for January, 1944) and the views of the Provincial Governments on the scheme. The Committee was unanimous ~~in~~ in approving the general recommendation of the Central Advisory Board of Education, stressed that questions of religious education and the selection of schools at various stages for religious education should receive very careful consideration, and was glad to note that special committees were being appointed by the Board to examine these issues. The Committee further noted with satisfaction that provinces in general had expressed agreement with the Board's plan and that five-year schemes so submitted by the Provincial Governments were in accord with the main recommendations made by the Board. It was recommended that a beginning should be made now and preliminary work, such as training of teachers for various stages of education, should be taken in hand immediately. The members also expressed the hope that, as the scheme was launched, ways and means would be found to shorten the estimated period of 40 years for ~~completing~~ completing it.

Higher Technical Training in U.K. ~~and~~ and U.S.A.- The Committee also received a report on arrangements made up to date by the Central Government to secure training facilities for, and promoting the welfare of, Indian students who go abroad as suggested in the memorandum of the Educational Adviser. In this connection, they expressed their appreciation of the steps taken in the current year in regard to the selection and placing of Indian students to go ~~abroad~~ abroad for higher technical training in the United Kingdom and the U.S.A.

Post-war ~~Cultural~~ Cultural Development.- The Committee considered certain proposals submitted by the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal on post-war cultural development in India and expressed sympathy with the various proposals, such as the establishment of a travellers' bureau, a central museum, a national academy of art and letters, a central cultural trust, etc. The Committee gave its general approval to the reorganization of archaeological survey in India with a view to meet adequately the future demands of the country.

(The Hindustan Times, 17-8-1945).

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SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME.

Wages.

Adjustment of Dearness Allowance to Fall in Prices:
Central Government's Suggestions.

It is understood that the Government of India has, after the termination of hostilities in Europe, under consideration the question of downward adjustment of dearness allowance to the anticipated fall in prices. While the Government does not think it desirable to arrange for statutory enforcement of any principle for securing uniformity in the matter, it is understood to ~~be~~ have suggested to provincial governments that a standard minimum for dearness allowance should be fixed on the basis of the rate paid to the lowest category of Government servants in a particular locality.

The Central Government also suggests that no industrial dearness allowance which is now higher than the standard minimum dearness allowance should be allowed to fall below that figure; that no industrial dearness allowance which is lower than the standard minimum allowance should be reduced provided that where there is an increase in basic wages a reduction can be permitted to the extent of such increase and that, subject to these conditions, industrial dearness allowance may be reduced in accordance with the general movement of the working class cost of living indices.

It is further suggested that any adjustment of dearness allowance should not be made more than once a quarter. In areas where certain concessions in kind have been granted as an integral part of the dearness allowance, the concessional supplies of food grains should, provided food rationing is in force in such ~~xxxxx~~ area, be cut down before the cash allowance is cut down.

These views have been circularized for eliciting opinion on them.

(The Hindustan Times, 13-8-1945).

Government Circular to regulate Downward Adjustment of
Dearness Allowance: A.I.T.U.C. Presidents' Criticism.

Mr. Primal Kanti Bose, President, All India Trade Union Congress, in a statement recently issued to the Press criticises the circular issued by the Government of India on 2-7-1945 on the subject of regulating the downward adjustment of dearness allowance". (Reference has ~~been~~ already been made above to this circular). His main criticisms are noticed below.

The Government has laid down certain principles to regulate the downward adjustment of dearness allowance, but does not propose to arrange for their statutory enforcement. It has advised workers' organisations to try by persuasion to make employers adhere to the principles enunciated by Government, but workers' organisations, as a result of ~~past~~ ^{that} experience, have little hope that persuasion in this context will be any use.

The principles laid down by Government are such ^{that} the employers ~~are~~ will

rather be inclined to cut down and even to take away the dearness allowance, taking their hint from what the Government have proposed to do in regard to their own employees. There is as yet no sign of falling prices, but Government anticipate that prices will soon fall.

The Government considers it "reasonable" to take "the cost of living indices as a general guide in the case of falling prices", but virtually cancels this principle by saying that the "downward" movement of dearness allowance should be based "on the general trend of cost of living indices and not on the actual movement of an individual index". Labour has sad experience of what this means. The "general trend of the cost of living indices in India", according to official estimate, is 250 p.c., but in the large majority of towns and cities of India the cost of living indices are between 500 to 600 p.c. The workers' dearness allowance should be based on the index of the place where he has to work, if fixity dearness allowance is to be a relief to him at all.

According to the Government circular, if there is an increase in basic wages, the "standard minimum dearness allowance may have to be defined afresh". The Government has ~~unhesitatingly~~ refused—and private employers have followed suit—to consider the increase of basic wages during the six years of the war. The increase in many cases is overdue, and on the plea that an increase in the basic wages has been allowed, the dearness allowance may be reduced or taken away altogether. This will be a double injustice. The dearness allowance paid even by the Government to their own servants has never fully compensated for the cost of living. To reduce the dearness allowance on the plea that the long deferred increase in basic wages has taken place will be another injustice.

The Government circular suggests that, while dearness allowances in private industries have been allowed to fall short of "desirable levels" in some cases, they have been "unduly high" in certain other cases. Mr. Bose was aware of no case where the dearness allowance had fully compensated the rise in the cost of living. The Government's suggestion that in such cases the dearness allowance may be reduced even in the case of the lowest paid workers, is, to say the least, mischievous.

Mr. Bose concludes that if some of the industries find Government assistance inadequate and are driven to discharge their workers or reduce or take away their dearness allowance, the Government should help them with subsidies. A portion of the large fund that has accrued from the Excess Profits Tax may ~~properly~~ properly be utilised to maintain the workers' ~~income~~ employment ~~allowances~~ and to continue their dearness allowance.

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Welfare.

Housing Estates and Pithead Baths for Miners: Recommendations
of the Mines Welfare Advisory Committee.

At a meeting held on 4-8-1945 at Dhanbad, the Mines Welfare Advisory Committee, constituted under the Coalmines Welfare Fund Ordinance (vide pages 44-45 of our report for January 1944), it was decided to proceed with the scheme to build a housing estate for miners in a suitable area in Raniganj Coalfields. According to tentative plans circulated at the meeting, houses in the estate will be two-roomed, with front and back verandah, kitchen, wash and place and court-yard. It was suggested that as an alternative to the housing estate scheme, subsidies be given from the welfare fund to colliery owners to improve existing housing arrangements in their respective collieries. It was, however, felt that the principle of granting subvention from the fund would raise financial and administrative difficulties. The appointment of a town planner to plan ~~separate~~ co-ordinated development of coalfield areas was also sanctioned at the meeting.

Pithead Baths for Miners.- The Committee agreed to a scheme to provide pithead baths in collieries at sufficient pressure to ensure that miners can get rid of coal dust and go home clean after their day's work. The Committee recommended that the Government should impose a statutory obligation on colliery owners to provide baths, and this scheme was suggested on the basis of such obligation. In the interim period—before imposition of statutory obligations—mineowners will be asked to go ahead with the scheme of providing baths, and some assistance may be given from the Fund. Ultimately, however, the obligation to provide baths would be that of mineowners. The scheme provides initially the minimum that is required—baths, lavatories and waiting room. It is however hoped that when conditions permit, other amenities like locker rooms, first aid rooms, canteens, or tea rooms, may be provided, besides baths.

Anti-Tuberculosis Scheme.- The Committee approved an anti-tuberculosis scheme for Bengal coalfields. The scheme is a long-term one and is intended to be implemented in three stages. In the first stage, 1945-46, it recommends the opening of tuberculosis clinics in coalfields; in the second stage it provides for a tuberculosis hospital for advanced cases requiring indoor treatment; and in the last stage, 1947-48, it is proposed to construct a tuberculosis sanatorium for the province within the mining settlement. The Committee decided that steps should be taken to implement those aspects of the scheme which are immediately necessary. The Committee also approved the permanent appointment of an Assistant Director for anti-malaria work in coalfields.

(The earlier meeting of the Committee was reported at page 52 of our report for January 1945).

(The Statesman, 7-8-1945, and
"Dawn" Delhi, 6-8-1945).

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Control Measures.

Relaxation of Controls: Machine Tool Control Order Withdrawn.

issued

According to a Press note/in the last week of August 1945 by the Government of India, it has withdrawn the restrictions imposed under the Machine Tool Control Order, 1941 (vide page 45 of the report of this office for August 1941) on manufacturers, their agents and dealers in various types of machine tools produced in India regarding the maximum prices which could be charged.

Henceforward, the sale of machine tools manufactured indigenously will be subject only to such restrictions ~~now~~ as are imposed under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943, as amended from time to time.

(The Hindustan Times, 26-8-1945).

Consumer Goods Control: May Continue for Two More Years.

Mr. G.C. Dasai, Controller General of Civil Supplies, in an address to the ~~public~~ ~~view~~ ~~that~~ ~~control~~ ~~in~~ ~~respect~~ ~~of~~ ~~these~~ ~~consumer~~ ~~goods~~ ~~may~~ ~~continue~~ ~~for~~ ~~about~~ ~~two~~ ~~years~~ ~~more~~. Control measures could not be completely lifted so long as the normal equilibrium between demand and supply is not restored, and the supply position was still bad except in the case of a few articles of toilet goods, such as tooth paste, tooth brushes and face creams. Two factors are essential for any substantial improvement in the supply position increased production in the exporting countries and available shipping space. Increased production depends upon man-power, which will gain depend upon the pace of demobilization.

Mr. Dasai thought that the progress of gradual restoration of the normal equilibrium between demand and supply may well take nearly two years during which, at any rate, some sort of control would be necessary. Besides, it was also necessary to ensure equitable distribution of all available goods over different ~~parts~~ parts of the country and also among different classes of consumers. In the absence of any control, there was always the danger of the available supply being appropriated by the port areas or by the more wealthy section of consumers. Mr. Dasai stressed that the necessity for control will be judged from the point of view of the average consumer and not of the dealer or producer or importer or of any other link in the chain of distribution. Control will go as soon as the necessity for control disappears.

(The Hindu, 23-8-1945, and
The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 24-8-1945).++

Feed.

Development of Fisheries in India: Government of India's Fisheries Adviser to go Abroad on Study Tour.

Reference was made at page 47 of our report for April 1945, to the recommendations of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Government of India to suggest measures to increase fish production in India. The Government has now deputed its Fisheries Adviser, Dr. Bainsi Prasad, to study in the U.S.A., Canada, and the United Kingdom the latest developments in fishery exploitation and preservation and their adaptability to Indian conditions. Dr. Prasad will study the various types of machinery and equipment used in the preservation and storage of fresh fish arriving in assembly centres, the latest equipment used to transport live fry to the interior of the country for stocking operations, and to explore the possibility of early procurement for suitable machinery for the proposed Central Fisheries Research Institute and the recruitment of specialists on a contract basis.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 4-8-1945).**

War Risks Insurance.

War Risks Insurance to Terminate.

In view of the cessation of hostilities with Japan, the Government of India have decided to terminate the War Risks (Factories) Insurance Scheme with effect from September 1, 1945, and the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Scheme from 1-10-1945. *** An Ordinance repealing the relevant provisions of the War Risks (Factories) Insurance Ordinance was gazetted on 31-8-1945. The effect of this Ordinance will be that properties which were hitherto insurable under the War Risks (Factories) Insurance Ordinance will no more be insurable with effect from 1-9-1945.

A similar Ordinance repealing the relevant provisions of the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance is to be issued shortly, according to a Press communiqué issued by the Government of India.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 31-8-1945, pages 699-700; The Dawn, 1-9-1945).+.

59

Rehabilitation and Resettlement.

X Bovin Boys' Concern at Prospective Unemployment.

With retrenchment looming near in a large number of industrial establishments engaged in war production, the 'Bovin Boys' also are facing the prospect of unemployment.

At a meeting held in Bombay on 19-8-1945, the Bovin Engineers' Club—membership of which is open only to Bovin Boys returned to India—passed a resolution expressing "grave concern at the unemployment of Bovin Engineers due to the closing of factories" and strongly urging the Government to take immediate steps to secure employment for them. The meeting further urged the Government that it should provide skilled jobs in their postwar schemes of industrialisation to trained Bovin Engineers.

At another meeting held at Calcutta in the last week of August, the Bovin Engineers Club (Calcutta), decided to send a representation to the Government of India pressing their claim, as an integral part of skilled personnel of India, for employment in post-war expansion. It was also decided to urge upon the Government the necessity of Indianization of the industrial departments under their control and to invite the attention of Indian industrialists to the fact that skilled technicians would be available in abundance in India and that it would be only necessary to import only experts from abroad.

(The Vanguard, 22-8-1945;
The Hindustan Times, 3-9-1945).+

✓ Demands of Railway Workers: Protest against Government's Proposal to discharge "Temporary Workers".

The demands of railway workers in India are summarised in a statement to the Press issued in the latter half of August 1945 by Mr. V.V. Giri, President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation.

The statement points out that it is likely that very soon railwaymen will have to face heavy retrenchment and consequent unemployment of 150,000 to 200,000 workers who have done great service in war transport of men and materials, on the sole ground that they were 'temporary workers'. The Government of India should think in terms of absorption rather than take the easy method of discharge and thereby create a sense of insecurity, discontent and disharmony among the million railway workers in India. Post-war reconstruction schemes on railways may be speeded up and Government will have to explore all other alternative methods of avoiding discharges. If there is determination on the part of the Government to treat railwaymen fairly and justly the workers need be sent out.

Secondly, the scales of dearness allowance granted to railwaymen must be based on the recommendations of the Court of Enquiry appointed by the Government of India presided over by Sir B.N. Rau. (Vide pages 42-43 of our report for January 1941). The Railwaymen's Federation contends that the principles laid down in that report were given the 'go-by' to the disadvantage of railwaymen and if adopted they would have secured for them 'better standards' of dearness allowance.

Chiefly, the Railwaymen's Federation feels that the distinction between the scales of wages prevailing prior to 1931 and thereafter, work to the disadvantage of the workers engaged after 1931 and therefore demands that the same should be done away with.

The Railwaymen's Federation has presented their full case on all these matters before the Railway Administration. According to Mr. Giri, if the Railway Board and the Government consider the demands reasonable, they should immediately concede them and satisfy the workers. If, however, they feel they cannot concede them the only reasonable and logical course left open to the parties is to place these issues before an adjudicator, Court of Enquiry or Board of Conciliation for an impartial examination of the problems involved.

The case of the railwaymen was placed before the Railway Board by Mr. V.V. Giri at a meeting held in Delhi during the last week of August 1945.

(The Hindu, 29-8-1945).

Government Scheme for Retrenchment of War Workers
Mr. Bose's Criticism.

In a statement issued to the Press, Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose, President of the All-India Trade Union Congress, criticises a Government of India circular regarding retrenchment issued on 29-7-1945.

principles laid down by government of India.- In its circular, the Government of India has laid down certain principles which it proposes to follow and which it wishes private employers to follow in the reduction of establishments. After examining various methods and principles, government has come to the conclusion that "short service" is the only suitable method for bulk retrenchment, not insufficiency, irregular attendance and similar other considerations. It is further of the opinion that some or other of the following means may be adopted, wherever possible, for minimising the reduction of personnel: (1) Avoidance of overtime work, (2) reduction of working hours, i.e. short time working, (3) compulsory leave by rotation, (4) extension of legislation relating to hours of employment, and (5) special facilities to enable men to enjoy leave due to them.

Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose's Criticism.- According to Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose, these principles are not to be enforced compulsorily by the Government. They should be enforced by legislation, preferably by Ordinance in view of the emergency.

The measures suggested in the Government's circular for the re-employment of the discharged hands, such as, maintenance of lists of discharged men and placement through the agency of employment exchanges, are quite inadequate and will go very little way in tackling the problem having regard to its magnitude. In the Railways, for instance, about 150,000 people are going to be discharged. Mr. Bose felt that, taking all industries, small big and small, the number of discharged hands could be less than two million. Employment Exchanges could do little for this huge number of unemployed war workers. Mr. Bose, therefore, asked the Government to hammer out a more comprehensive plan than the one envisaged in the circular. The discharged war-workers had a legitimate claim on society and on the Government of India. In the matter of assisting discharged war workers in India, Mr. Bose felt that the British Government also had a responsibility as the war was the responsibility of the British Government.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 29-8-1945).

Memorandum on Retrenchment and Demobilisation
of Bengal Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. FOR
FOR UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF TO DISCHARGED WAR WORKERS.

A meeting of representatives of Trade Unions held in Calcutta on 26-8-1945, with Mr. Krinal Das, as President, adopted a memorandum on retrenchment and demobilisation prepared by the Bengal Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. and authorised it to be forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour. The President was authorised to make such corrections in the memorandum as he thought proper.

The memorandum suggested inter alia that existing plants and factories which were so long engaged in W.P. production should be re-converted and re-arranged in such a manner that production of various consumers' goods can immediately be started. While approving the expedients suggested in the Government of India circular for minimising the hardship caused by the discharge of millions of men, the memorandum expressed the opinion that such devices and the employment exchanges could not be a most inadequate solution of the problem. The memorandum, therefore, suggested that unemployment dues should be paid to the workers till they got employment, from the funds accumulated in the hands of the Government of India through the Excess Profits Tax.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 28-8-1945).+

Demobilisation of Indian Army: Over Two Million Men
may be Affected.

According to an Associated Press of India report, over two million Indian officers and men of the Indian Army are likely to be affected by demobilisation.

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The demobilisation plans of the Indian War Department/being speeded up and are expected to be ready by the end of September 1945. Demobilisation may commence from October. The process will probably be spread over a long period. Release will be in groups. Officers and men seeking voluntary release will be the first to go out. Then will probably follow groups in the order of age or length of service. Needs of garrisoning occupied territories will be fully borne in mind.

Of the two million men likely to be released not more than half a million will be able to fall back on their peace-time vocations. These will include agriculturists, village artisans, factory workers, sweepers, washermen, barbers and cooks.

(The Hindu, 27-8-1945).+

Government of India's Plans for the Demobilised Soldiers:
Part V. Based on Government Policy.

The resettlement and employment schemes proposed by the Government of India for demobilised soldiers were explained by Sir Feroze Khan Noon, Defence Member, Government of India, in an interview at New Delhi on 30-8-1945.

Post-War Military Reconstruction Fund.- The post-war military reconstruction fund has amounted to about Rs. 100 million and the Government of India were considering the creation in each province of trusts under the Charitable Endowments Act. The money would be distributed to various parts of India in proportion to the number of men supplied by them to the Indian Army, and would be spent not on grants to individual soldiers but on schemes which will benefit ex-servicemen of the Indian Army, the Royal Indian Navy and the Royal Indian Air Force as a class.

Employment Exchanges.- The Government of India have also sanctioned a scheme involving about Rs. 5 million a year for five years under which the Labour Department will open up employment exchanges which will help as far as possible to replace ex-servicemen in civil employment.

Vocational Training.- The Government of India have, also, sanctioned another scheme by which disabled ex-servicemen will receive post-hospital treatment and vocational training. They will be assisted to find civil employment according to their qualifications and physical condition.

Reservation of Civil Jobs.- Lastly, 70 per cent of the posts in the Government of India which fell vacant during the war have been reserved for ex-servicemen. Similarly, some provincial Governments have also reserved a certain percentage of vacancies for such men. The Defence Member, further added that various provincial Governments were actively preparing schemes which would help ex-servicemen. Such schemes would be generously financed by the Government of India.

(The Dawn, 31-8-1945).

Employment Exchanges: "Key to the whole Resettlement Organisation".

According to a report published in the Statesman, the employment exchange network set up by the Government of India is the key to the whole resettlement organisation. Ten Exchanges are functioning already and this number will be increased to 71 by the early part of next year (vide pages 55-56 of the report of this Office for May 1945). Until that time, recruiting and employment offices will perform some of the functions of employment exchanges so far as ex-servicemen are concerned, and the service of the exchange organisation is available now for every discharged serviceman.

It will advise and assist workers in finding suitable employment and will similarly advise and assist employers in finding suitable workers. With this end in view, the organisation has been collecting, and will continue to collect, the needed statistical data about those to be demobilised from the Defence Services and about the employment opportunities likely to be available. Sorting out applicants and vacancies is a highly

technical job and the staff have been specially trained for their exacting duties.

Appointments and Women's Branches to be set up.- For officers and those with qualifications of a professional, administrative, scientific or highly technical nature, an Appointments Branch is being set up within the exchange organisation and will function on identical lines. There is need, however, for greater centralisation of the records of vacancies demanding, and workers possessing, higher qualifications if a satisfactory matching between the two is to be effected quickly. This kind of placing work calls for special technique. There will also be a women's branch within the exchange system to cater for the needs of the demobilised members of the women's services.

Facilities for Vocational Training.- Facilities will exist for technical and vocational training. The aim behind all such training will be to equip the trainees for employment in normal competition with other workers. The training programme will be so designed as to meet the man-power requirements of industry and the various post-war development schemes.

In a recent press interview Mr. H.B. Temple, Manager, Bombay Employment Exchange and Technical Advisor to the National Service Labour Tribunal, emphasised the need for continued co-operation between the employment exchanges and the employers and of industrial and commercial establishments and pointed out that the firm of Tatas had been supplied with trained technicians by the Bombay Employment Exchange when they opened a new factory in Wardha. He recalled that at the Bombay Employment Exchange, nearly 2000 men are interviewed and trained technicians among were pouring in for employment every month, out of whom about 250, on an average, were found employed.

(The Statesman, 18-8-1945;
The Times of India, 20-8-1945).

C.P. Government's Plans to aid Demobilised Servicemen.

According to a message published in the Times of India dated 27-8-1945, with the sudden end of the war, the C.P. Government is now faced with the problem of resettlement of sailors, soldiers, and airmen in civil life. Besides 170 emergency commissioned officers, this province has provided about 60,000 recruits. Of these 10,000 are technical men, 25,000 combatants and 25,000 non-combatants. It is stated that though the Government cannot be expected to accept responsibility for the future of these men, they would help them to plan their future.

Reservation of Vacancies in Civil Posts.- A number of vacancies have been reserved for servicemen. The police will be able to absorb about 1,000. Forest guards will also be appointed in large numbers. The total number of reserved posts in the province is about 2,300.

Employment Exchanges to facilitate Placement.- The recruiting offices in the province have already become "recruiting and employment" offices. Employment exchanges are also being formed. The scheme will come into force in about six months. It consists of a regional exchange at Nagpur, which will be supervisory, and sub-regional exchanges at Nagpur, Jabhalpore, Amraoti and Raipur. Contact with the districts will be maintained through

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the District Sailors', Soldiers', and Airmen's Boards which will be strengthened considerably during demobilisation. The work of these exchanges will be the collection and dissemination of information to employers and men seeking employment.

Settlement on Government Land.- The Government also hopes to be able to settle a certain number of men on land of its own. Government lands are mainly in Government forests where there is little culturable land left. Several hundred thousand acres have been suggested for examination, but it is not likely that more than 50,000 acres will be found suitable. Land definitely approved amounts to about 15,000 acres, mostly in the Chanda district. The Government have decided that only men having an agricultural background should be settled in such areas. It is intended to put the land into such a state that the men will be able to begin cultivation at once. Multi-purpose co-operative SP societies are planned, and for the first year or two officers of the Agriculture and other Departments will be available to advise the men. They will get financial help through the co-operative societies and by State loans and even grants. It is also proposed to lay out roads and dig wells and tanks, and it is much expected that free grants of timber will be given during the first few years. The land now selected is in the Chanda, Simar, Balaghat, Bilaspur and Mandla districts.

Co-operative Workshops for Displaced Motor Drivers.- The technicians will be absorbed in the province develops industrially, but the great question is about motor drivers of whom a large number will return to the province—larger than the total number of motor vehicles in the province. The motor transport companies will absorb some, but the number they can employ will be insignificant. It is suggested that these men should form co-operative workshops. Investigation of this suggestion is going on in the province. The post-war development scheme will, it is expected, offer splendid opportunities for employment to servicemen of all descriptions, from the labouring classes to the experts.

Test Works to provide Relief during Transition Period.- Ordnance factories and other organisations which were working for the Army and Supply Departments have begun discharging labour and thousands of men in Jabalpur are now "on the streets". Most of them come from the villages where there are complaints of shortage of agricultural labour and these men can find re-employment in their villages. The Government, however, is considering the proposal to open up works, on the lines of famine relief works, to act as a buffer whilst this labour is readjusting itself to peace-time conditions.

(The Times of India, 27-8-1945).

Bombay Scheme to train Demobilised Soldiers in Work
Relating to the Co-operative Movement.

The Government of Bombay has ordered the preparation of a scheme for the training of demobilised soldiers, with a view to absorbing as many as possible in the Co-operative Department.

The possibility of utilising the class established in Poona to train staff for the Co-operative Department for the training of demobilised soldiers in co-operative work is to be fully exploited. Training will be given in the regional languages, but in Marathi only for the present as the majority of soldiers recruited in Bombay Province are from the Marathi-speaking districts. Orders have already been issued for the preparation of manuals for the use of the soldiers under training. (The Bombay Chronicle, 31-8-45).

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Post-War Reconstruction.

Five Year Plan for Scientific and Industrial Research:
Industrial Research Planning Committee recommends
setting up of National Research Council.

The Industrial Research Planning Committee appointed in 1944 by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has, among other recommendations, proposed the setting up of a central research organization, to be called the National Research Council, authorised to initiate immediately a five-year programme of development of scientific and industrial research. The plan envisages the building and equipping of a national chemical and a national physical laboratory, certain specialized research institutes, and all-round strengthening of the existing research organizations and the training of a sufficient research personnel by the award of scholarships tenable in India and abroad. A network of research laboratories, particularly to deal with local problems, is recommended to be set up in all the provinces and major Indian States. In its report published on 11-8-1945, the Committee emphasises the need for research not only for facilitating an adjustment to post-war conditions but also for promoting the general cause of industrialisation at a time which will be rendered much more difficult by the forces of international competition. Reviewing the present state of research in India, the committee says that industrial research in India is still in its infancy. Besides the lack of an effective link between principal research institutions and the industrial interests concerned, a further obstacle to the creation of a suitable research atmosphere has been created by the fact that, while industry is a provincial subject, it is beyond the resources of most of the provinces to build up adequate research organizations for catering to the needs of local industries. The institutes set up by the Government of India have remained much too centralized for meeting the various regional needs. Moreover, industry, with some rare exceptions, has not become research-minded. Nor there is there effective liaison between industries and research organizations. There is also lack of inter-departmental coordination. Programmes of research of various institutes concerned with industrial research are not framed by mutual consultation or according to any coordinated plan. The recommendations of the Committee are summarised below:-

National Research Council.- If scientific and industrial research is to make any headway in India in the immediate future, the Committee feels that the Government must take the initiative in setting up a suitable machinery for the development of research along sound lines, strengthening the science departments of universities and existing research institutions and bringing about an effective coordination amongst all the institutions. For stimulating and directing scientific and industrial research on a planned and comprehensive basis, the Committee recommends that the Government of India should forthwith set up a central research organization to be called the National Research Council. This organization should consist of representatives of scientists, universities, industry, labour and administration. The Member in charge of Planning and Development should be its ex officio President. The Council which should be an autonomous body. It should have a total membership of 60, made up of 20 scientists elected by the universities and recognized scientific associations, 15 members elected by recognized ~~manufacturers~~ chambers of commerce and associations of manufacturers, 5 members elected by recognized trade unions and other labour organizations, and 20 members nominated by the Government of India

of whom not more than 8 may be officials. Of these, 2 should represent the Railway Administration. The functions of the Council will be as follows: (i) To organize and maintain national laboratories. (ii) To establish and maintain specialized research institutes. (iii) To stimulate pure and applied research in universities by grants-in-aid and by the institution of scholarships and fellowships. (iv) To provide for the immediate problem of the dearth of technical and research personnel by the inauguration of scholarships available in India and abroad. (v) To stimulate and encourage research activities by industries. (vi) To co-ordinate research activities of all the existing research institutes and departments of the Government and undertake planning of research programmes on a comprehensive basis. (vii) To function as a National Trust for Patents. (viii) To set up a Board of Standards and Specifications. (ix) To function as a clearing house, encourage deserving scientific and technical societies and foster the growth of new ones on appropriate lines.

Administration of the Council.- A small executive body to be called the Research Board will be responsible for the administration of the work of the Council. The Board will be in charge of all the research laboratories and institutions set up by the National Council and directors of these institutions will be under the control of the Board. It will also maintain close contact with directors of laboratories engaged in industrial research under the administration of the other departments of the Central Government. The Board will prepare comprehensive plans of research programmes and will take an active part in the establishment of research institutions by industries and distribute grants-in-aid to universities and other approved institutions with the help of the grants committee from funds specially allotted for the purpose.

Financing of Research Activities Grants to Universities etc.- The Committee recommends that the Council, given a bulk grant of Rs. 60 million spread over five years, should make and carry out (i) the building and equipment of National Chemical and Physical laboratories; (ii) the building and equipment of certain specialized research institutes; (iii) giving grants-in-aid to universities for strengthening their research organization; and (iv) training a sufficient research personnel by the award of scholarships tenable in India and abroad. The establishment of a National Chemical and a National Physical Laboratory is recommended at an estimated cost of Rs. 4 million each. The Committee considers that universities constitute the foundation of all research and suggests the strengthening of scientific teaching and research work in Indian universities. As an essential part of the five-year plan, the Committee recommends that the National Research Council should make substantial grants for strengthening the scientific departments of the universities. For this purpose the Grants Committee should make a survey of science and research departments of all the Indian universities and recommend to the National Council a scheme of financial assistance to the latter. Out of the bulk grant of Rs. 60 million the Committee says, a sum of about Rs. 20 million should be set aside for giving grants-in-aid to the 19 universities. Further, adequate engineering research sections should be built up and maintained in all the engineering colleges. Teachers in such colleges should be in contact with the engineering industries. To man the various laboratories proposed to be set up and to keep alive the research work in the country, the committee recommends that 700 research workers should be trained in five years, involving an estimated total expenditure of about Rs. 5 million—Rs. 2.7 million for foreign scholarships and Rs. 2.3 million for Indian scholarships. Industries should be encouraged to set up their own research associations on corporate basis by exemption of research expenditure of firms from income-tax assessment. A network of corresponding research organizations should be set up in provinces and major States. It is recommended that research councils on the model of the National Research Council composed of the

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representatives of scientists, industry and administration should be set up in all the provinces and major States.

Specialized Research.- It is recommended that, in the absence of industrial research associations in India (except for jute and tea), it is necessary for the State to take the initiative for the establishment of a number of specialized laboratories for fulfilling the object. 9 new specialized institutes are recommended, with an indication of the order of priority as follows: ~~and~~ Institute of Food Technology; Metallurgical Institute; Fuel Research Institute; Glass and Silicate Research Institute; Oils and Paints Institute; Buildings and Road Institute; Leather and Tanning Institute; Industrial Fermentation Institute; and Electro-Chemical Institute. These specialized research institutes will deal with problems of basic and specific research relating to their respective spheres. Provincial and State Research Councils may send problems for investigation to these institutes, and it will be open to individual manufacturers to refer specific problems of immediate interest to industry to such laboratories on payment of scheduled fees or by the establishment of fellowships.

National Trust of Patents and Board of Standards.- The Committee recommends the ~~setting up of a~~ National Trust of Patents for the purpose of holding and exploiting all patents resulting from research financed by the Government and those dedicated by individual scientists and by institutions, supported either by public funds or private endowments.

The setting up of a Board of Standards for drawing up Indian standard specifications and the establishment of a technological institute are ~~recommended.~~

Other Recommendations.- The Committee emphasizes that research can ~~yield the best results only~~ when it is backed by a comprehensive industrial plan. This will not only inspire enthusiasm among research workers but will serve the practical purpose of indicating an order of priority in the various lines of investigation. The Committee, accordingly, recommends that the National Research Council must work in close co-operation with the Department of Industrial Planning so that industry and research will each stimulate the other. The Committee further emphasizes the organic relationship between the different categories of research, viz. ~~agricultural~~ agricultural, medical and industrial, and welcomes the constitution of the Scientific Consultative Committee in the Department of Planning and Development as a body expected to secure the necessary co-ordination at a ~~high~~ high level. The Committee, however, considers it necessary to examine the possibility of bringing all the research activities of the various Government departments under the administrative control of the Member for Planning and Development.

(The Hindustan Times, dated 12-8-1945).

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Training of Craftsmen, Technicians and Development of Fisheries in Bombay: Government's Five-Year Schemes.

To train artisans in cottage industries and hereditary arts and crafts, to turn out technicians and ~~crafts~~ skilled workmen for Bombay's growing industries, and to develop fisheries, the Department of Industries, Government of ~~India~~ Bombay, proposes to initiate schemes costing approximately Rs. 4,449,000 — Rs. 2,063,000 capital and Rs. 2,436,000 recurring, during the first five-year phase of the Bombay Government's post-war plan. The Department of Industries already maintains a large number of peripatetic parties which impart instruction, and help in improving technique in such industries as cotton-weaving, wool-weaving, tanning, cane and bamboo work, carpentry and wood-turning, leather-working, smithy, fibre-making, boot-lace manufacture, pottery, sericulture, dyeing and calico-printing. The Department gives loans and subsidies to artisans after they have been trained.

New Training Institutions.— At present the Department recognises 72 technical and industrial schools in which training in different trades is given and skilled workmen are turned out. The number of students under training in these schools is between 3,000 and 4,000. As the Province will require a large number of skilled workmen and technicians in the post-war period, the Department proposes to open additional technical and industrial schools at Hijapur, Hubli and Satara. The Department is also reorganising the Ranekhedal Chotalal Technical Institute at Ahmedabad, to meet the ~~increased demand for supervisory staff in the post-war period.~~

Apprenticeship Scheme.— The Department of Industries started in 1937 an ~~apprenticeship scheme~~ which students are given theoretical training in evening classes and practical training in manufacturing concerns. In the post-war period this scheme is to be extended and admission will be given to as many as 750 students every year in the existing centres and eight new ones. It is expected that men so trained will be readily absorbed by manufacturing concerns and prove suitable after gaining experience for posts of foreman. The ~~Victoria~~ Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute at Bombay, is the only technological institute ~~in~~ in the Province of Bombay. A large number of engineers will be required in the post-war period, with the development of the electric grid scheme. To meet this and other requirements special classes have been opened at this Institute. The standard of the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute will be raised by including a degree course in textiles. There are no facilities at present for higher training in textile engineering in Bombay.

Development of Fisheries.— The Government of Bombay has already created a new Department under a Director of Fisheries, and taking advantage of a scheme of the Government of India is deputing candidates to Calcutta and Madras, where they will undergo a special technical course conducted by the Fisheries Departments of those Provinces. The Department has initiated several new schemes designed to place the fisheries of the Province on a more organised ~~expensive~~ and up-to-date basis. An increased number of launches for the transport of fish is now in use and the Government has placed an order for 12 marine diesel engines for the trade. Fish-curing yards have been improved at several places along the coast; facilities for smoking fish have been provided; two fisheries schools have been opened — one at Patnagiri and the other at Karwar — for the education of fisherman's children; and the manufacture of shark liver oil is in progress on an extended scale. The fisheries of Bombay Province are divided into two main branches: marine and inland. The annual output for marine fisheries was

estimated in 1932 at 50,000 tons, valued at Rs. 7.3 million. This figure has now increased by about 5,000 tons on account of the increased catches of mackerel and other fish in the Kanara District as a result of the introduction of power-propelled vessels. Before the war the Government decided to bring out a master fisherman from abroad to experiment with different types of modern fishing nets and gear, but could not implement its intention owing to the outbreak of the war. This scheme has now been included in the post-war programme. It is also proposed to develop inland fisheries. A study of marine biology and the establishment of an aquarium will form part of another post-war scheme sponsored by the Fisheries Department. The proposed aquarium will serve as an experimental station and provide facilities for research into fisheries problems.

(Bombay Information, 11-8-1945).

U.P. Plans to Develop Water Resources for generation of Electric Power.

The Government of the United Provinces is planning a large-scale development of the water resources of the province in order to provide electricity power at moderate rates for industries and rural development.

The U.P. government had in 1928-29 launched upon the then novel experiment of providing electrical power to small towns and rural areas in some of the western districts of the province by installing hydro-electric generating plants on some of the falls on the Upper Ganges Canal. The success of the experiment led to the gradual harnessing of more falls, and the construction of the network of transmission lines known as the Ganges Canal Grid, which inter-links these hydro-electric power stations, including one thermal station, and supplies power for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes in the towns and rural areas of 14 districts. The new schemes, when carried out, will give a fillip to the industries of the province.

(The Hindustran Times, Evening News, 27-7-1945).

Speedy Acquisition of Lands for Post-War Projects: Bombay Government's Proposed Bill.

A draft Bill to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, in its application to the Province of Bombay, has been published in the Bombay government gazette dated 14-8-1945. The measure which is entitled Land Acquisition (Bombay Amendment) Bill, 1945, is designed to give the the Bombay Government powers to authorise the preliminary survey of lands likely to be needed for any public purpose, in order to avert delays in land acquisition proceedings.

The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill says that

under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, a survey of lands can only be undertaken after the publication of a notification under section 4 and it has been found that in many cases the lands originally notified are, after the survey authorised under sub-section(2) of section 4, found to be unsuitable for the purpose for which they were proposed to be acquired, thus necessitating a fresh notification in respect of other lands. This results in delay in land acquisition proceedings. It is essential, particularly in connection with post-war projects, to secure that land acquisition proceedings be completed as expeditiously as possible, and for this purpose it is necessary to authorise the preliminary survey of lands likely to be needed for any public purpose and to empower officers to carry out such survey. This Bill is intended to secure this object.

The draft will be taken into consideration on or after 15-8-1945.

(The Bombay Government Gazette,
Part V, dated 14-8-1945, pp.56-57).

