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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
INDIAN BRANCH

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Report for November 1940.

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

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## NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION

### Government of India.-

#### Exemption of certain Allowances to Public Servants from Attachment for Debt.

The Government of India has notified that the following allowances of Government servants are exempt from attachment by order of a court: (1) travelling allowance, (2) conveyance allowance, (3) uniform and ration allowance, (4) cost of living allowance and (5) house-rent allowance.

(Notification No. 186/37 of Home Department  
Dated 2-10-1940: The Gazette of India,  
Part I, dated 5-10-1940, page 1422.)

### Government of India.-

#### The Berar Laws Bill, 1940.

Though the provisions of many Central Acts are applicable to Berar, this result does not flow from the British Indian Act itself being proprio vigore operative in Berar but is achieved by the application to Berar by order made under the Indian (Foreign Jurisdiction) Order in Council, 1902, of each such Act, often with certain modifications of the form in which the Act is in force in British India. The repeal in British India of an Act made applicable to Berar does not automatically make the Act inoperative in Berar. Since the commencement of Part III of the Government of India Act, 1935, on 1-4-1937, Berar and the Central Provinces have been deemed to be one Governor's Province, and an Act passed after that date and expressed to extend to the whole of British India does extend proprio vigore to Berar.

The primary object of the present Bill is to assimilate the position of Central Acts passed before 1-4-1937, to that of those passed after that date and automatically in force in Berar. Among the Acts extended in full are: (1) The Apprentices Act, 1850; (2) The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898; (3) The Code of Civil Procedure, 1908; (4) The Indian Mines Act, 1923; (5) The Indian Boilers Act, 1923; (6) The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923; (7) The Criminal Tribes Act, 1924; (8) The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926; (9) The Trade Disputes Act, 1929; (10) The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933; (11) The Factories Act, 1934; and (12) The Payment of Wages Act, 1936. Among Acts partially extended are: (1) The Indian Railways Act, ~~1890~~ 1890; and (2) The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925. Acts which have ceased to have effect and are repealed in Berar include: (1) The Employers and Workmen (Disputes) Act, 1860; and (2) The Indian Factories Act, 1911.

(The Gazette of India, Part V,  
dated 16-11-1940, pages 241 to 248.)

Government of India.-Indian Railways (Second Amendment) Bill, 1940.

Mr. Mohamed Azhar Ali has introduced the Indian Railways (Second Amendment) Bill, in the Central Legislative Assembly on 7-11-1940 with a view to safeguard the interests of the lower staff in railways from unfair treatment by officers. The Bill provides, inter alia, that punishments involving dismissal or discharge shall be inflicted only by the General Manager.

(The Gazette of India, Part V,  
dated 9-11-1940, pages 236 to 239).

Government of India.-The Employment of Children (Major Ports) Rules, 1940.

The Government of India has notified under the Employment of Children Act, 1938, Rules relating to inspections and medical certificates in major port areas.

(The Gazette of India, Part I,  
dated 30-11-1940, page 1686.)

Assam.-The ~~Draft~~ Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940.

Reference was made at page 2 of our February 1940 Report to the Draft of the Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940; the Assam Government introduced the Bill in the local Legislature on 21-3-1940 and referred it for circulation the same day. The Government has, during the winter session held in November 1940, referred it to a Select Committee.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 30-11-1940.)

Bengal.-The Bengal Rural Poor and Unemployed Relief (Amendment) Bill, 1940.

The Bengal Government intends introducing a Bill to amend the Bengal Rural Poor and Unemployment Relief Act, 1939, so as to remove certain verbal defects in the Act of 1939. The text of the proposed Bill is published at page 138 of Part IV B of the Calcutta Gazette dated 21-11-1940.

Madras.-Draft Hazardous Occupations (Graphite) Rules, 1940.

The Government of Madras proposes to adopt rules to regulate employment in graphite works. The grinding and ~~staving~~ of graphite and the processes incidental thereto are to be declared hazardous; the employment of women, children and adolescents in these processes are to be prohibited; persons employed in graphite factories are to have medical certificates of fitness and they are to be medically examined once at least in every six months; and certain measures to ensure cleanliness and healthy working conditions are to be adopted.

(Notification No. 25: G.O. No.2293.  
R.W. (Labour) dated 26-10-1940: The  
Fort St. George Gazette, Part I, dated  
12-11-1940, page 1457.)

Sind.-Draft Sind Shops and Establishments Bill, 1940.

The Sind Government intends introducing shortly a Bill in the local Legislature to regulate hours of work in shops, commercial establishments, restaurants, eating houses, theatres, etc.

General features.- The general features of the Bill, which is modelled on the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939, are: (1) The Act will come into force in the first instance only in the City and Cantonment of Karachi and Drigh Road, but the Provincial Government has the power to extend its application to any other area throughout the Province. (2) Children under the age of twelve are prohibited from employment. (3) Persons who have not completed their seventeenth year will not be employed before 6 a.m. and after 7 p.m. (4) Every employee will be given at least one day in a week as a holiday for which no deduction will be made from his wages. (5) Every employee will be entitled to leave at the rate of thirty days for every eleven months of service for which no deduction will be made from his wages. (6) For over-time work, an employee will be entitled to one and a half times his ordinary rate of wages.

Shops.- Special provisions applicable to shops are:- No shops will be opened earlier than such hour as may be fixed by the Provincial Government or closed later than 9 p.m. or such other earlier hour as may be fixed by the Provincial Government. No person will work for more than nine and a half hours in any day. Over-time work is permitted subject to the limit of 120 hours in a year. Further, no person will work for more than six hours in any day without a rest interval for at least one hour. He will not be required to work for more than four hours in any day unless he has had an interval for rest of at least half an hour. The periods of work and intervals for rest will not together spread over more than twelve hours in any day. In certain

cases, however, the spread-over may be extended to 14 hours in a day.

Commercial Establishments.- Special provisions applicable to commercial establishments are:- The Provincial Government will fix the opening and closing hours. No employee shall work for more than 54 hours in any week provided that during stock-taking, making of accounts, settlement or other prescribed occasions he may work for more than 54 hours, the excess being limited to 120 hours in a year. No person will work for more than 6 hours, without a rest interval of at least one hour. He will not be required to work for more than four and a half hours unless he has had an interval for rest of at least half an hour. The periods of work and intervals for rest will not together spread over more than twelve hours in any day. The restriction on spread over may be relaxed by the Provincial Government on six days in a year on account of stock-taking, making of accounts, etc.

Restaurants, theatres, etc.- Special provisions applicable to these are: No person will work for more than ten hours in any day unless he has had an interval for rest of at least one hour. He shall not be required to work for more than 6 hours in any day unless he has had an interval for rest of at least half an hour. The periods of work and intervals for rest shall not together exceed 14 hours in any one day.

(The Sind Government Gazette,  
Part IV, dated 21-11-1940,  
pages 557 to 573.)

*The Bill was introduced in the Assembly during the closing days of November and was passed into law early in December 1940.*

Sind.-

*The Hindustan Times, 7-12-1940*

Amendments to Payment of Wages Rules, 1936.

The Sind Government has notified certain amendments to the Sind Payment of Wages Rules, 1936; the amendments relate mainly to the rules relating to the submission and form of annual returns.

(The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV-A,  
dated 28-11-1940, pages 1851 to 1854.)

Burma.-

The Burma Laws (Adaptation) Act, 1940 (Act XXVII of 1940).

The Burma Laws (Adaptation) Act, 1940, which has received the assent of the Burma Governor, is published at pages 157 to 181 of Part III of the Burma Gazette, dated 2-11-1940. The Act re-states the existing laws with amendments not affecting the substance; several of the laws thus re-stated refer to labour matters.

India and Draft Conventions and Recommendations of the  
25th I. L. Conference:  
Statement laid by Government of India before Central Assembly. ✓

The following statement gives particulars of the course which the Government of India propose to follow in respect of the Draft Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the Twenty-fifth Session of the International Labour Conference held at Geneva in June 1939; the Statement was laid before the Central Assembly on 25-11-1940.

Recommendations re. Vocational Training and Apprenticeship.- The Government of India are in full sympathy with the Recommendations, but it is not at present possible to give effect to them in India. They propose however to examine the whole system of technical training and apprenticeship, in consultation with Provincial Governments, when some experience has been gained of the working of the scheme for the training of skilled artisans for war purposes which is now being put into effect as a result of the recommendations of the Technical Training Enquiry Committee.

Draft Conventions and Recommendations re. Indigenous Workers.- No resolution will be moved on the Draft Conventions and Recommendations. The provisions of these Regulations are not applicable to India and therefore the Government of India do not propose to ratify the Draft Conventions or accept the Recommendations in question. (The above decision refers to; (a) Draft Convention concerning the regulation of written contracts of employment of indigenous workers, and (b) Recommendation concerning the maximum length of written contracts of employment of indigenous workers, (c) Draft convention concerning penal sanctions for breaches of contracts of employment of indigenous workers, and (d) Recommendation concerning labour inspectorates for indigenous workers.)

Draft Convention and Recommendations re. Placing and Conditions of Labour of Migrants.- No resolution will be moved on the Draft Convention and Recommendations. The Draft Convention and Recommendation, impose on a country ratifying and accepting the same obligations in respect of (1) emigration from that country and (2) immigration into that country. As far as (1) above is concerned, the Indian Emigration Act and the Rules framed thereunder practically cover all the requirements of the Convention and Recommendations, and the ratification of the Convention and the acceptance of the Recommendations will not be of any special advantage to India. As regards (2) though at present there is no organised, or unorganised immigration on a large scale into India, the Government of India do not consider it advisable to undertake the obligations involved in this respect. In the circumstances explained above, it is not proposed to ratify the Draft Convention or accept the Recommendations in question. (The above decision refers to; (a) Draft Convention concerning the recruitment, placing and conditions of labour of migrants for employment, (b) Recommendation concerning the recruitment, placing and conditions of labour of migrants for employment, and (c) Recommendation concerning co-operation between states relating to the recruitment, placing and conditions of labour

of migrants for employment.)

Draft Convention and Recommendations re. Hours of Work and Rest Periods in Road Transport. - No resolution will be moved on the Draft Convention and Recommendations. The Draft Convention is applicable to (a) persons who drive, in a professional capacity, a road transport vehicle; and (b) attendants and other persons who travel with a road transport vehicle in a professional capacity connected with the vehicle, its passengers or its load. It provides for a 48-hour week, an 8-hour day and for not more than 5 hours continuous driving.

In India the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, provides for employee drivers of transport vehicles only, a 54-hour week, a 9-hour day and ~~not~~ not more than 5 hours work without an interval of at least half an hour's rest. In the existing conditions in India, the Government of India do not consider it practicable to make a further reduction in the daily and weekly working hours of drivers or to extend the scope of the Motor Vehicles Act so soon after its coming into force. They, therefore, do not propose to ratify the Draft Convention or to accept the connected Recommendations (b), (d) and (e) (see below). Recommendation (c) is independent of the Draft Convention but it has no application to present Indian conditions and would be difficult to enforce. The Government of India, therefore, do not propose to accept it either. (The above decision refers to: (a) Draft Convention concerning the regulation of Hours of work and Rest Periods in Road Transport, (b) Recommendation concerning Individual Control Books in Road Transport, (c) Recommendation concerning the Regulation of Night Work in Road Transport, (d) Recommendation concerning the Methods of Regulating Hours of Work in Road Transport, and (e) Recommendation concerning Rest Period of Professional Drivers of Private Vehicles) ✓

Industrial Relations in Cochin State:

Government to appoint Labour Officer. ✓ +

According to the Ernakulam Correspondent of the Hindu, it is likely that the Government of Cochin may appoint shortly a full-time Labour Officer for the administration of the Labour Department of the State. A resolution to the effect was tabled in the last session of the Legislative Council, but it was not taken up.

(The Hindu, 8-11-1940.) ✓

The Government Order on the subject was issued towards the end of November 1940; it states that the Cochin Government has passed in recent years several laws affecting labour and capital, but that these laws are administered by different officers in the State. At present, there is <sup>single</sup> no officer responsible for the general administration of labour subjects, with the result that representations relating to disputes regarding conditions of labour are made directly to the Government. With the growth of trade unions, questions affecting

the relationship of employers and workmen are bound to arise more frequently.

It was therefore felt necessary to appoint a Labour Commissioner and the Government has appointed the Director of Industries and Commerce to take up this Office in addition to his existing work. The Labour Commissioner will be in charge of all matters affecting labour conditions in the State. It will be specially his duty to watch the relations between the employers and the workmen and to use his good offices to avert disputes, strikes and lock-outs.

(The Hindu, 28-11-1940.) ✓

Industrial Relations in Bihar:  
Government to set up Labour Department. ✓

It is understood that the Bihar Government will shortly be setting up a Labour Department <sup>under the</sup> ~~with a~~ Labour Commissioner. The Labour Commissioner will have ~~in~~ the services of a Personal Assistant and three Labour Officers.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 28-11-40) ✓

Women and Child Labour in Factories: Resolutions  
adopted at 7th Biennial Conference of N.C.W.I. 27-11-1940 to 1-12-40.

For text of the resolutions on the above subject adopted at the 7th Biennial Conference of the National Council of Women in India held at New Delhi from 27-11-1940 to 1-12-1940, please see Item: "7th Biennial Conference of the National Council of Women in India" in section: "Organisation, Congress, etc." of this report. .

Extra Wages, Provident Fund, Bonus and Labour Retiring Gratuity Scheme of the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Calcutta. ✓

Below are given details of the extra wages, provident fund, bonus, and labour retiring grauity schems in operation in the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Calcutta.

Extra Wages Scheme.- Extra wages to workmen are paid at the following rates: (a) When a dividend on the Ofdinary shares at the rate of 10% per annum is paid, workmen receive the equivalent of one week's pay. (b) When the dividend is more than 10% but less than 15%, workmen receive the equivalent of two weeks' pay. (c) When the dividend is between 16% and 25%, three weeks' pay is paid to labour. (d) When the dividend is between 26% and 40%, the equivalent of four weeks' pay is paid. (e) When a dividend of more than 40% is paid, labour is entitled to the equivalent of six weeks' pay. The total amount disbursed by the Company under this scheme during the year was Rs. 200,066. The Company having paid this year (ended 31-3-1940) dividends aggregating 20% three weeks' wages have been paid to the workmen.

Retiring Gratuity Scheme.- Under the scheme, a workman is entitled to receive as a retiring gratuity a sum equivalent to half a month's wages for every completed year of continuous service. The amount expended under this scheme during the year was Rs.48,098.

Labour Provident Bonus Scheme.- The Company agrees under this scheme to pay a workman a sum equivalent to 5% of the total wages earned by him in the last year of his service multiplied by the number of whole completed years of his service. The Company paid during the year Rs.171,066 under this scheme.

Contribution to Provident Institutions.- This year, provision has been made for the Company's liability under the rules of this institution for the long service bonus payment. This rule provides that employees, who have been in the Company's service prior to April, 1930, are entitled to retirement to a bonus on the following scale:-

- 10 years' service but under 15 years - One month's salary.
- 15 years' service but under 20 years - Two months' salary.
- 20 years' service but under 25 years - Three months' salary.
- 25 years' service but under 30 years - Four months' salary.
- 30 years' service ~~xxxxxxxx~~ and over - Five months' salary.

The Company's liability to date on this account was Rs.48,898, and provision in the year's account amounts to Rs.140,344. (It should be noted that the benefits of the Provident Institution applies to executive and clerical staff, but not to labour.).

(Summarised from the Report and Accounts of the Indian Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., for the year ended 31-3-1940.) ✓

Factory Administration in the Punjab, 1939.\*

**Statistics of Factories.**- The total number of factories in the Punjab coming under the factories Act increased from 887 in 1938 to 917. During 1939, 81 new factories were registered and 51 removed from the Register. The number of factories actually working during the year was 800 as against 780 in 1938. 470 of the 800 factories were perennial and 330 seasonal.

**Number of Operatives.**- The total number of operatives employed in factories increased from 72,268 to 78,302 during the year under report. This increase was due partly to the extension of operations in textile and government factories and railway workshops and partly to new registrations. The number of women workers decreased from 8,594 last year to 7,388 during the year under report. This decrease is due to (i) male labour which was plentiful, accepting the same rate of wages as was paid to women workers, (ii) roller gin machinery being replaced by saw gins which must be operated by men. The number of adolescents fell from 1,453 in 1938 to 1289 in 1939. There was, however, a slight increase in the number of juvenile workers; 902 boys and 7 girls were employed as against 792 boys and 43 girls in the year 1938.

**Inspection.**- There were 919 inspections during 1939 as against 725 in the year 1938. Of these, 219 inspections were made by the Chief Inspector of Factories, 355 by the Superintendents of Industries, 336 by the officers of the Public Health Department and 9 by district officers. 292 factories were inspected once, 156 twice, 69 thrice and 37 more than thrice, while 246 factories remained uninspected as against 255 in 1938.

**Prosecutions.**- 501 cases were instituted against the occupiers and managers of 190 factories during the year under report as compared with 148 cases against 68 factory occupiers and managers in the previous year. 409 cases resulted in convictions; in 5 cases the accused could not be traced and the cases were filed. In 21 cases the accused were acquitted. Sixty-six cases were pending trial in the courts at the close of the year. Convictions were gained in respect of the 2 cases which were pending at the close of the previous year.

The large increase in the number of prosecutions over the previous year follows Government's decision for a more rigid application of factory regulations than had previously been attempted. Complaints were made out against factory managers in respect of such offences for which only warnings had been issued previously.

As in previous years the largest number of prosecutions relate to offences for the over-employment of labour in seasonal factories; fines inflicted for such offences continued to be far too small to have a deterrent effect on factory managers. The total amount of Rs.6,440 was realized in respect of fines in cases disposed of during the year, as compared with Rs.3,436 during the previous year. The average amount

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\* Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act in the Punjab for the year 1939. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab. 1940. Price Re.0-6-0. pp. 5+22+xxxvi.

of fine per case was Rs.16 as against Rs.23 in 1938.

The Government review of the Factories Act Report makes the following comment on the results of prosecutions: "Factory owners must realise that strict compliance with the requirements of the Act and the regulations must in the long run operate in their own interest by securing the goodwill of the workers. Government, however, regret that the magistracy of the Province has generally taken a very lenient view of offences. The average amount of fine per case for the year is only Rs.16 against Rs.23 in the previous year. The necessity for inflicting deterrent fines in flagrant cases cannot be too strongly emphasized."

### Factory Administration in Bihar, 1939.\*

**Number of Factories and Workers.-** The number of factories in Bihar on the register at the commencement of the year 1939 under report was 369. 25 factories were added to the register during the year and 8 factories, having ceased to operate, were removed. The total number of factories on the register at the end of the year was 386. Of the 386 factories on the Register 328 factories worked during the year and 58 factories remained closed throughout the year. Of the 328 working factories 260 were perennial and 68 seasonal.

The average daily number of workers in factories was 95,988 as against 93,034 in the year 1938 which is an increase of 3 per cent. over the previous year. The increase was due to new registrations as well as to increased employment in several industries. The average daily number of women workers in factories during the year under report was 6,758 as against 6,384 in the previous year which is an increase of 5.8 per cent. over the previous year. The increase was partly due to new registrations and partly to increased employment of such workers in several industries including seasonal factories. The average daily number of adolescent workers and children in factories during the year under report was 321 and 117 as against 326 and 187 respectively in the previous year.

**Inspections.-** Of the 328 factories which worked during the year, 289 factories were inspected as against 276 in the previous year out of 311 working factories. The number of factories uninspected was 39 as against 35 in the previous year. The total number of inspections of all classes during the year, including visits to unregistered factories, was 526 as against 586 in the previous year. 189 factories were inspected once, 62 twice, 22 thrice and 16 more than three times.

**Prosecutions and Convictions.-** During the year under report prosecutions were instituted against the occupier or the manager of nine factories as against 15 factories in the previous year. There were 25 charges in all against 14 persons and convictions were obtained in all cases except one in which the occupier was acquitted. The total amount of fine imposed was Rs. 435. +

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\* Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the Province of Bihar for the year 1939 by H.M. Rai, Chief Inspector of Factories, Bihar. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1940. Price As. 8. pp. 32. ✓

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Labour Conditions in Assam Tea Gardens, 1938-39:  
Report of the Controller of Emigrant Labour, Assam.\*

Labour Population on Tea Estates.- The total number of adults working and not working on tea gardens in the province of Assam was 606,459 on 30-9-1939 as against 604,585 in the previous year; and 564,147 children as compared with 548,516 in the previous year, making a total of 1,170,606 as against 1,153,101 in the previous year. The total number of new emigrants arriving in Assam during the year was 30,262 as against 33,015 in the previous year.

Recruitment.- The Presidency of Bombay still continued to be an uncontrolled emigration area, but 539 souls were newly recruited by the Tea Districts Labour Association, through their depot at Igatpuri as against 715 souls during the previous year. Recruitment was carried on as in the previous years from the Province of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Central Provinces, Madras and the United Provinces, all of which are controlled emigration areas. 26,380 souls were recruited by the Tea Districts Labour Association through their depots in those Provinces and 1,952 by the three other Local Forwarding Agencies in Ranchi. 19 Local Forwarding Agents' licenses were granted for recruitment of labourers in the controlled emigration areas and some were renewed locally by the District Magistrates. No application for a license was refused and no license is reported to have been cancelled during the year.

Cost of Recruitment-

28,871 souls were recruited for both the valleys of the province of Assam as assisted emigrants and members of their families, during the year, against 31,193 during the previous year. This year also the majority of the labourers were recruited from Bihar and Orissa, viz., 14,817 from Bihar and 8,937 from Orissa.

Cost of Recruitment.- The cost of recruiting through the Tea Districts Labour Association for the year was Rs.58-0-0 per adult, the Sirdars recruiting an average of 6.7 adults. The cost of recruiting for the year, including repatriation expenses, etc., averaged Rs.55-0-4 per soul and Rs.72-6-10 per adult as against Rs.57-15-9 per soul and Rs.74-15-6 per adult recruited during the previous year.

Wages.- In the Assam Valley the average monthly earnings of men, women and children settled on the gardens rose from Rs.7-1-9, Rs.5-13-4 and Rs.4-3-4 to Rs.7-15-3, Rs.6-7-5 and Rs.4-9-2 respectively. In the Surma Valley the monthly earnings of men, women and children, increased to Rs.6-5-6, Rs.4-5-6 and Rs.3-2-2 from ~~Rs.6-2-5~~ Rs.6-2-5, Rs.4-4-1 and Rs.2-15-2 respectively. As regards the average monthly earnings of Faltu and Basti labourers on tea estates in Assam, the earnings of both men and women rose from Rs.4-11-10 and Rs.4-7-2 to Rs.5-2-1 and Rs.5-1-10 respectively. The monthly income of the children, however, fell to Rs.3-5-1 from Rs.3-6-2. In the Surma

\* Annual Report on the working of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act (XXII of 1932) for the year ending the 30th September 1939.

Shillong: Printed at the Assam Government Press. 1940. Price Annas 9 or 10.d. pp.39.

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Valley, the average monthly earnings of Faltu and Basti men fell from Rs.4-14-3 to Rs.4-7-5, but those of the women and children rose from Rs.3-1-5 and Rs.2-3-8 to Rs.3-7-3 and Rs.2-5-3 respectively.

Housing and Welfare Work.- Houses are given to labourers generally free of rent. In many gardens, the labourers' lines are kept in model conditions, and the drains cleansed regularly. Free medical treatment and maternity benefits are given in most of the gardens. A bonus of Rs.3 to Rs.5 is also paid by some gardens at the time of child birth. In almost all the gardens free grazing of cattle is granted throughout the year. In some gardens, blankets are supplied to the labourers free of cost. Besides, the labourers get fuel from the garden lands free of any charge. In some districts, the benefit of sick allowance was also provided to the labourers.

Education of Children.- There were 387,746 children living on tea estates of the Assam Valley Districts at the beginning of the year, against 375,680 in the preceding year. The total number of schools in the Assam Valley during the year was 331 against 50 in the preceding year. The number of pupils attending these schools was 12,423 against 1,836 in the preceding year. The total number of children on tea estates of the Surma Valley were  $\pm$  160,770 in the beginning of the year against 156,295 in the previous year. There were 160 schools in the Surma Valley during the year against 83 in the previous year. The total enrolment of pupils of these schools was 8,435 against 2,317 in the preceding year. In addition to this 1,298 children of tea garden labourers attended ordinary schools situated at the vicinity of the tea gardens, against 1,271 in the preceding year.

Land Holding.- 159,443 acres of land belonging to the tea gardens are held by labourers as tenants, without any right of occupancy. As usual, their tenancy continues so long as they stay in the gardens. Besides, they held 12,607 acres of Government land and 10,413 acres of land belonging to other landholders, in the Assam Valley and 4,508 acres of Government land and 2,965 acres of land belonging to other landlords in the Surma Valley.

Industrial Relations.- There was an unusually large number of strikes, viz., 17 and much unrest, in the year under report as compared with three minor disturbances only in the previous year. The causes of these strikes and disturbances were the demands for more pay or less work or both.

Inspection.- Out of a total number of 756 estates employing 50 or more workers each, only 269 estates were inspected during the year by the various inspecting authorities. The estates employing less than 50 labourers are not inspected by Magistrates or by the Controller unless there is reason to suppose that they employ emigrant labourers.

Repatriation.- 13,999 emigrant labourers and their families were repatriated during the year by their employees; of these 8,252 were emigrants and 5,747 members of their families. 5,107 assisted emigrants with 3,864 members of their families were reported to have executed agreements extending their terms for further periods. ✓

Plans for Industrialisation of Kashmir: Government's  
agreement with House of Tatas. ✓

In his address at the annual meeting of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce held on 29-10-1940, the Prime Minister of Kashmir referred to certain plans for further industrialisation of the State which the State authorities were planning, and said that, in this connection, surveys of a number of cottage industries have already been completed.

Dealing with large-scale industries, he said that the Government had recently entered into an agreement with the Tatas for carrying out surveys of large scale industries in the State at their own expense. The only condition was that the Tatas should be given the first choice to establish such industries. It had been decided that if the firm started any large scale industry, not less than 49 per cent. of the capital should be offered for subscription inside the State and that the staff should be recruited from among State subjects as far as possible. As a result of this agreement Tatas have already begun survey work in Kashmir.

(The Hindu, 6-11-1940). ✓

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various  
Centres in India during August 1940. ✓

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during August 1940 as compared with the preceding month:-

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in August 1940 rose by one point to 114. The average for 1939 was 106 as compared with 105 for 1938.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad in August 1940 fell by one point to 78. The average for 1939 was 73 as against 71 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during August 1940 remained unchanged at 76. The average for 1939 was 74 as compared with 72 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in August 1940 rose by two points to 71. The average for 1939 was 63 as against 61 for 1938.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in August 1940 declined by one point to 68. The average for 1939 was 59 as against 57 for 1938.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during August 1940 rose by 1 point to 108. The average for 1939 was 100.

(Extracted from the August 1940 issue of the  
Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in  
India.) ✓

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Protection of Handloom Industry:  
Question under Consideration of Government of India. ✓

The views of the various Provincial Governments as also of millowners' associations on suggestions received by the Central Government for resolving the difficulty regarding the conflicting claims of the handloom and textile mill industries are now being sought by the Government of India. The suggestions received by the Central Government relate to the imposition of an excise duty on mill-made cloth, imposition of a terminal tax on mill products, restriction of mill output by prohibiting mills from producing certain classes of cloth, imposition of a cess on mill products, reduction of the duty on yarn, and fixation of quota and of particular counts between the handloom industry and the mill industry.

In its circular letter, the Government of India has requested both the Provincial Governments and the employers' associations to indicate whether they have any suggestions to make whereby the conflicting claims of handloom and mill industries may be resolved. It is stated that the Government is anxious to arrive at some definite conclusion on the subject before the next Industries Conference proposed to be held at Lucknow on December 16 and 17.

(The Industrial Bulletin of the  
Employers' Federation of India,  
Bombay, dated 28-10-1940.) ✓

Nationalisation of Electric Undertakings in Bengal:  
Government of Bengal consults English Firm.

It is understood that the Government of Bengal has commissioned a British electric firm to help it in the matter of implementing its decision to "nationalise electric undertakings to develop the province electrically".

The firm, the English Electric Company Ltd., is to consider and make recommendations to the Government with details of financial, technical and administrative proposals of the steps which are necessary for this purpose. The services of a Consulting Engineer, Mr. F. Lydall, have been requisitioned by the firm.

It may be recalled in this connection that some months ago Mr. S.W. Redclift, M.I.E.E., M.I.E. (Int.), Electrical Adviser to the Bengal Government, was appointed Special Officer to investigate into the possibilities of electrical development of Bengal. Mr. Redclift

has submitted his report on the subject, and it now appears the Government of Bengal has decided to nationalise electric undertakings in the province. The subject also came within the ~~xxxx~~ purview of the Bengal Industrial Survey Committee.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 21-11-1940.)+

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SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Working of the Mysore Government Insurance Department, 1939-40.

The following information about the development and working of the State Insurance scheme of the Government of Mysore during the year ending 30-6-1940 is taken from a note on the subject published in the November 1940 issue of the Mysore Information Bulletin.

Working of the Public Branch.- The total business in force at the end of the year was 42,280 policies assuring Rs. 3,831,300, while the closing balance of the Fund at the end of the year 1939-40 was Rs. 10,138,600. As a result of the actuarial valuation of the Fund as at 30-6-1938, a simple reversionary bonus of Rs. 20 per thousand per annum was declared on all with-profit policies in force on the date of valuation. Notwithstanding the generally adverse conditions prevailing, during the year ending 30-6-1940, 6,904 policies of the Public Branch were issued for an assurance of Rs. 5,861,900.

Income Policy Scheme.- Government has also instituted an Income Policy Scheme as an adjunct of the Public Branch insurance scheme. The object of this scheme is to provide in return for a capital consideration or in lieu of the assurance amount payable on a policy of either the Official or the Public Branch, the payment of annuities for a stipulated period to the investor himself or to any beneficiary nominated by him.

Working of the Government Servants' Branch.- Since its inception in 1890 to end of June 1940, 34,838 lives were assured under the scheme for the total sum of Rs. 41,038,343, while the total business in force on 30-6-1940 was 29,989 policies assuring Rs. 25,608,510. The closing balance of the Fund on 1-7-1940 was Rs. 15,536,400. During the same period there have been six actuarial valuations and each valuation has disclosed an increasing surplus. The latest valuation of the Funds as at 30-6-1938 has admitted the grant of a compound reversionary bonus of 1.8 per cent. per annum.

The officials' assurance amount is free from attachments by civil courts. The general rates of monthly premium is ten per cent. of the salary, subject to a maximum of Rs. 70 and it is recovered by deduction from the salary bills of the officers.

Indo-Ceylon Exploratory Conference:Ends inconclusively on 12-11-1940. ✓

The Exploratory Conference of the Delegations of the Government of India and the Government of Ceylon which began at New Delhi on 4-11-1940 (vide pages 22-24 of our October 1940 report) terminated, according to a communiqué issued by the Government of India, inconclusively on 12-11-1940, no agreement being reached on the major issue of the status of Indians resident in Ceylon; the subjects of future emigration and trade relations between the two countries were not discussed (Hindu, 14-11-1940). The delegations of the Government of Ceylon and the Ceylon Indian National Congress left Delhi soon after.

Mr. Peri Sundaram, Leader of the Ceylon Indian Congress Delegation, in a statement dated 12-11-1940, reiterated the point of view of Indians in Ceylon thus:

A proper basis for settlement of outstanding questions would involve unreserved recognition of equal rights and opportunities for Indians already in Ceylon.

DemandS by Ceylon for control of immigration into Ceylon on one side and for relaxation of the Government of India's ban on emigration on the other are inconsistent.

As the position of Indians in Ceylon had lately become very difficult, the relaxation of the ban, so long as fundamental issues remained unsettled, cannot be justified.

(The Hindustan Times,  
13-11-1940).

The Statement was further amplified by the following statement issued to the press by Mr. Aziz, Secretary, Ceylon Indian Congress Delegation:

"There is a population of 882,000 Indians in Ceylon. Of this 682,000 are estate labourers. Thus the main problem of Indians in Ceylon is that of this section of the Indian community as far as the rights of citizenship are concerned. Few people in India perhaps realize the gravity of the situation with regard to these 682,000 of their brethren in Ceylon to whom and to whose children, according to the present circumstances, the only prospect available is to continue as labourers because every opportunity of lifting themselves up from this condition is closed. Besides this, outside the estates, the labourers have absolutely no other place to go except the roads of Ceylon. They are denied all rights of colonization and settlement. If the labourers choose to raise their voice against the employers for better conditions of living and wages, they are invariably terrorized by the threat of eviction.

"To my mind no settlement of the Indo-Ceylon problem is possible except on the basis of the Sinhalese politicians agreeing to accept Indians in Ceylon as a part of the country's population in any scheme of economic regeneration. The position of being continuously treated as aliens and being discriminated against cannot be accepted by a self-respecting people. There is, of course, no denying the fact that an economic problem in Ceylon does exist, but discrimination on racial grounds is no solution of it. Indians in Ceylon are quite prepared to co-operate in solving the economic difficulties of the island, but this is not possible except on the enduring foundation of just treatment and equality of rights.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-11-1940).✓

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LIVING CONDITIONS  
Housing.

Assisted Housing of Slum Dwellers:

Work of Delhi Improvement Trust in 1939. ✓

The following information about the work of slum-clearance carried out by the Delhi Improvement Trust is taken from the Annual Public Health Report on Delhi Province for 1939 submitted by the Chief Health Officer, Delhi Province:

Acceptance of Responsibility for Housing dispossessed Slum-Dwellers.- The report points out that an advance of the most outstanding importance has been the acceptance by the Government of India of the principle that assistance should be given to a population dispossessed by slum clearance to enable them to obtain not only alternative accommodation, but accommodation of a better standard than that from which they have been ejected. The main difficulty hitherto experienced in India in effective slum clearance has been due largely to the fact that the legislation devised for this purpose has not been as stringent as it is for instance in Britain and elsewhere. Comparing English and Indian practice in this respect, the report says: "In England if the Medical Officer of Health of a Municipality declares a house or block of houses to be slum property and this view is supported by the Inspector sent down by the Ministry of Health, the landlord is given six weeks in which to knock down the house and clear the site. The local authority may then, if they wish, acquire the land from him at the market value of the land cleared of buildings. The onus of clearing the slum property is, therefore, primarily on the landlord; in Delhi, on the other hand, the authorities have to pay for the slum houses, and to compensate the owner for depriving him of his means of exploiting human misfortune."

Responsibility of State.- The report further says: "Having got as far as to eject a person from a locality or building declared to be unfit for human habitation, no machinery has existed in India for his being rehoused. If he could afford to build himself another house, facilities were provided for him to do so. Otherwise he just went elsewhere to live in the same squalor in which he had always lived and to create a slum similar to the one which had been cleared. Both in Cawnpore and in Calcutta where Improvement Trusts exist it was found impossible to deal with this problem for the simple reason that very substantial free grants were involved and these were not forthcoming. In England, the cost of rehousing the poor has been accepted as a duty by the public and the State, and grants towards rehousing are made both by the Central Government and the Local Municipality concerned. Acceptance by the Government of India of this principle is, therefore, an advance of incalculable importance and one which may have the most far reaching influence on the progress of house improvements and slum clearance in this country."

Assisted Housing Scheme.- Giving details of the work actually carried out by the Delhi Improvement Trust, the report says: Under Indian conditions the minimum rent for a house fit for human habitation was assessed at Rs.5 per month, and the lowest income which could bear to pay such rent at Rs. 30 per month. A family with an

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income less than this has been accepted by the Trust as one which cannot afford to pay for a house fit for human habitation and therefore needs assistance in rehousing. This standard has been applied to an area in Delhi City selected for slum clearance where it has been found that 137 families come within the "below Rs.30 per month" category.

Standard Houses for Minimum Rents.- The next important decision taken has been that of fixing a minimum standard of floor space for each person. Having regard to local circumstances generally this has been determined at 36 square feet per person, no distinction being made for separation of sexes, and a room capacity of not more than three adults (counting two children as one adult) for a single-roomed house, not more than five adults for a two-roomed house, and three rooms for a family consisting of more than 5 adults. Standard plans for one-roomed, two-roomed and three-roomed houses have been prepared on the basis of a plot of 100 square yards. The houses have been so designed as to make it easily possible for a one-roomed house to be converted by addition of rooms, into a two-roomed or a three-roomed houses. The cost will cost roughly Rs.450 for a one-roomed house, Rs.600 for a two-roomed house and Rs.750 for a three-roomed house. Now the average rent capacity of the families to be dispossessed is estimated at Rs.2-13-0 per month while a return of Rs.3-9-0 per mensem represents the minimum rent on a no profit basis. This figure includes maintenance at 1 per cent. ground rent and repayment of capital plus  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. margin for cost of collection. This, plus the equated instalments of the cost on a 20 year basis works out to Rs.5-3-6 per month.

Hire-Purchase System.- The experiment proposed in Delhi is to make it possible for the poor class families concerned to own their houses on the hire purchase system. This, besides being a desirable feature in itself as it gives each individual a stake in the land, is calculated to overcome the reluctance experienced in other cities in India for dispossessed families to move into houses built for them. Any family which can pay a rent of Rs.3-8-0 per month will be admitted to the benefits of ownership through hire purchase and the difference between what can be afforded and the minimum rent (plus equated instalments) is made up by grants from the proceeds of a special tax imposed by Government, ~~namely~~ namely an entertainment tax.

Improved Standards Set Up.- Finally, the report points out that the houses themselves are a very great improvement on anything which this class of persons has ever been able to live in, let alone possess. They are well lit, well ventilated and have suitably built cooking verandas, each cooking place having a proper smoke flue. Each house has an open courtyard and a bathing platform. The experiment has everything to commend it, but is of an outstanding importance in that it lays down certain definite standards of accommodation and hygienic house requirements. ✓

Miscellaneous.

7th Biennial Conference of the National Council of Women in India - New Delhi, 27-11-1940 to 1-12-1940.

The 7th Biennial Conference of the National Council of Women in India was held at New Delhi from 27-11-1940 to 1-12-1940, H.H. the Maharani of Travancore presiding.

Presidential Address.- H.H. the Maharani of Travancore, in her presidential address, stressed that the need of the moment was intensive work in the villages and among the masses. The removal of insanitary conditions and the provision of medical facilities had to be preceded by a nation-wide drive for instilling into the people right ideas concerning the care of the child, the home and the street, and pointed out that this need could be adequately met only through a net-work of well-organised rural reconstruction centres, development of first aid and home nursing, baby creches in factories and industrial areas, and legislation for the amelioration of the lot of children and for the eradication of professional beggary by dealing sympathetically and in constructive fashion with the beggar problem.

Resolutions Adopted.- Below are given the text of the more important resolutions on subjects of interest to the Office adopted by the Conference:-

I. Labour Questions.-

(a) Improvement of Literacy Standards.- The N.C.W.I., after careful consideration, is of the opinion that the disabilities of Indian women workers, which stand in the way of Indian labour keeping abreast of the times, are mainly due to evils resulting from illiteracy, and that the existing primary schools are not adequate to remedy these conditions. The N.C.W.I. therefore urges the Central Government to enact such legislation as will make it incumbent upon the managements of all mills, factories, mines and other works, employing labour on a large scale, to:-

- (1) Establish schools in their centres for imparting ~~for~~ elementary education to the children of their labourers; and
- (2) Provide facilities for adult education, such as night classes, illustrated lectures, special talks on the prevention of diseases, sanitation, personal and social hygiene, etc.

(b) Compulsory Sickness Insurance.- That the National Council of Women in India urges the Central Government to introduce a system

of compulsory contributions for Sickness Insurance for Industrial workers at an early date.

(c) Protection of Women and Child Workers in Unregulated Factories.- That, considering the unsupervised and deplorable conditions of women and children working in unregulated factories, the Government be urged to take steps to make compulsory the registration and strictest supervision of all such concerns, and that the existing legislation regarding the employment of women and children be enforced and applied to every concern which has women and children in its employ.

II. Child Welfare.-

(a) Uniform Children Act.- That in order to ensure the protection of exploited and neglected children, and the effective treatment of delinquent children, ~~in India,~~ the N.C.W.I., realising the necessity of a uniform Children Act throughout India, urges the authorities concerned in Provinces and States to keep this ideal in view when framing local protective legislation, and to this end presses for an early enactment and enforcement of such legislation.

(b) Child Labour, Juvenile Courts, etc.- That the N.C.W.I. urges the Central Government to draw the attention of the Local Governments to the need for:-

- (1) Consolidating <sup>and</sup> ~~the~~ strengthening <sup>the</sup> existing legislation against the custom of devadasis, child labour, child beggary, and the use or employment of children for prostitution purposes;
- (2) Providing for the establishment of Juvenile Courts in large towns where such Courts do not exist.
- (3) Introducing legislation, where no such legislation exists, to protect all children from the harmful influences of street begging.

III. Health Questions.-

(a) Improved Standards of Civic Hygiene.- That in the interests of the health of the community, the National Council of Women in India considers:-

- (1) That a widespread knowledge of civic hygiene is essential;
- (2) That simple instruction in keeping homes and surroundings clean would go far towards preventing the spread of disease;
- (3) That teachers should be trained to present this subject to various age groups.

This Conference therefore recommends that a definite course of training in health education be given to teachers and that this subject should form a part of the regular curricula of all schools.

IV. Village Welfare.-

That, realising that the present day expansion of rural uplift, maternity and child welfare work, schools for girls, etc., means the increasing employment of educated women, the N.C.W.I. urges the Provincial Councils to get in touch with women of standing in rural areas who will lend their sympathy and support to the workers and stimulate their work.

That the attention of the Local Governments be drawn to the vast number of villagers who are forced to do without medical aid of any kind, and that they should set aside grants to be given to all local bodies, municipalities, or local government boards, who should be

compelled to set up a sufficient number of central dispensaries, either stationary or touring, so that every village in the area served could avail itself of medical aid. One or more visiting nurses should be in attendance at each dispensary, and make regular visits to every village under their charge.

#### V. Social Questions and Protective Agencies.-

Social Questions Section.- That this Conference feels that a Social Questions Section within each Provincial Government would co-ordinate effort and deal adequately with social problems, helping to provide both officials and non-officials with accurate information, legislative help, and possibly financial assistance. It would also direct an intensive enquiry into, and campaign against, the traffic and exploitation of women and children, and would help to educate the public conscience in these matters. This Conference therefore recommends the N.C.W.I. Branches and Councils to approach their respective Provincial Governments urging them to form such Sections within their Governments with Liaison Officers, preferably women, in charge.

Rescue Homes.- That the Presidency, Provincial and State Councils of the N.C.W.I. are urged to assist in making plans for, and supporting:

- (1) Trained Provincial Women Welfare Workers;
- (2) Central Training Houses and Rescue Homes with responsible women's House Management Committees;
- (3) ~~Small shelters in each district, staffed by women, where women and girls in need could be housed temporarily until more permanent plans are made for them.~~

The Councils are further urged to request their Governments and Municipal authorities to contribute towards these protective agencies.

Prevention of Street Begging.- That this Conference urges the Provincial Governments to take steps to eradicate the wasteful, harmful, traditional customs of street begging, by educating public opinion regarding better methods of charitable relief, by enabling religious and charitable trusts to combine in any effort to provide adequate help for those who are really destitute and disabled, and by fostering employment schemes which would absorb and provide a means of livelihood for able-bodied beggars.

Registration and Inspection of Women's Institutions.- That this Conference is deeply concerned at reports ~~regar~~ received regarding conditions in private nursing and maternity homes, nurses' institutes and bureaux, clinics, hostels, 'widows', orphans' and rescue homes, and requests Provincial Councils to urge their local governments to introduce legislation to provide for the registration and regular inspection of all such institutions..

Public Health.

Improving Health Conditions of Indian Women:  
Resolutions adopted at 7th Biennial Conference of N.C.W.I.,  
27-11-1940 to 1-12-1940.

For text of the resolutions on the above subject adopted at the 7th Biennial Conference of the National Council of Women in India held at New Delhi from 27-11-1940 to 1-12-1940, please see Item: "7th Biennial Conference of the National Council of Women in India" in section: "Organisation, Congresses, etc." of this report. .

Work of Bombay Board of Education during January-July, 1940. ✓

The Provincial Board of Primary Education was constituted in *Bombay* in January, 1940, in accordance with the provisions of the amended Bombay Primary Education Act. The function of the Board, of which Mrs. Hansa Mehta is the President and Mr. Syed Nurullah (Assistant Director of Public Instruction), the Secretary, is primarily to advise Government on all matters connected with primary education in the Province. A brief resumé of the work done by the Board till the end of July 1940 is given below:

Consideration of Questions Referred by Government to the Board.- The following questions were referred by Government to the Board for opinion: (1) Certain suggestions for payment of building grants to approved primary schools; (2) Cheap designs for primary school buildings; and (3) Recommendations made by the Joshi Committee in their report on vocational training in primary schools.

The Board has already offered its views on the first two questions and its report on the third question is expected to be submitted to Government shortly.

Other Problems Considered.- In addition, the Board ~~has~~ discussed many questions relating to primary education and has forwarded its recommendations for the consideration of Government. The more important of these are:

(1) The need for an educational survey of all ~~populated~~ villages in each taluka of the Province with a view to having a complete and correct record of villages which are served by schools and of villages which are not yet so served. (2) The desirability of taking steps to provide play-grounds for as many schools as possible. (3) The desirability of direct grants being made by Government to 'B' class approved schools which are aided at present by the local authorities under the Primary Education Rules. (4) The desirability of making certain alterations in the census tables with a view to making them more helpful to those engaged in the expansion of primary education. (5) Opening of schools by local authorities for a group of thinly populated villages having a total population of 700 and over and the desirability of admitting for Government grant expenditure on such schools. (6) Opening of schools by local authorities in school-less villages with a population of less than 700. (7) Introduction of compulsory primary education in non-Local Authority Municipal Areas. (8) Co-education in schools and the opening of higher standards for girls. Government orders have already been issued on some of these recommendations.

(Press communiqué No. 597 dated 26-11-1940 issued by the Director of Information, Bombay.) ✓.

Hours of Work ✓

Bengal.-

Exemptions under Factories Act Withdrawn.

Reference was made at page 5 of this Office's report for November 1939 to Notifications Nos. 3297, 3346 and 3354 issued by the Government of Bengal during the month of November 1939 exempting all jute mills in the province of Bengal from the operation of sections 34 (weekly hours) and 36 and 45 (restrictions on women's employment) of the Factories Act, and directing the mills to so arrange the period of work of adult workers, that, including intervals for rest, work does not spread over more than 13½ hours on any one day. The Government of Bengal has now issued another notification, No. 3543 Com. dated 4-11-1940, cancelling the three notifications referred to above.

(Notification No. 3543 Com.- dated 4-11-1940: The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated 14-11-1940, page 3066).

Wages

Grant of Grain Allowance to Low-Paid Government Employees in N.-W.F.P.

The North-West Frontier Government, it is reported, has decided to grant a grain compensation allowance to its low paid staff. Whenever the price of common staple food grain gets dearer than nine seers per rupee, all whole-time Government servants whose pay exceeds Rs.16 but is less than Rs.30 per month shall be paid an allowance of Rs.2 per month. If the pay does not exceed Rs.16, this allowance will be Re.1/-. When the price is dearer than eight seers per rupee an additional allowance of a rupee will be granted. It is further stated that, if the prices of staple food grains rise substantially above these rates, a further increase in the rates of allowance will be considered by Government.

(Industrial Bulletin of the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, dated 4-11-1940)

Grant of Grain Allowance to Low-Paid Central Government Employees in Bihar, ~~and~~ N.-W.F.P. and Sind.

The Governor-General in Council has had under consideration the question of affording relief to low paid Government servants in the event of a substantial rise in the cost of living in the circumstances created by the war and has decided to apply to Central

Government servants employed in Bihar, N.W.F.P., and Sind, excepting Railway employees whose special case is under separate enquiry, the provisions of the scheme of grain compensation allowance granted by the respective local Governments.

(The Gazette of India, Part I,  
dated 9-11-1940, pages 1551 to 1552).

Payment of Dearness Allowance to Low-Paid Government Employees:

Decision of the Government of Madras.

The Madras Government has issued a communiqué on 18-11-1940 on the need for the payment of dearness allowance to low-paid Government employees. After reviewing the present conditions, it is stated that such rise in the cost of living as has occurred so far does not call for the grant of relief. The Government considers it desirable, however, that a scheme should be in readiness, and it is decided that all whole-time Government servants (other than those belonging to village establishments) whose emoluments do not exceed Rs.40 per mensem if employed in Madras City and Rs.30 per mensem if employed in the mufassil, should be granted an allowance at a flat rate of Re.1 per mensem when the Madras City cost of living index stands at an average of 112 over a period of three consecutive months. The allowance will be continued so long as the average, over the preceding three months, remains at or above 112. The question of increasing the allowance and raising the limit of pay up to which the allowance may be granted will be considered if the Madras City cost of living index rises substantially above 112.

(Communiqué No. 96 dated 18-11-1940  
issued by the Finance Department,  
Government of Madras.)

Dearness Allowance for Low-Paid Government Servants:

C.P. Government's Decision.

According to a Resolution dated 20-11-1940 of the Government of the Central Provinces, the Government has considered what relief it should give to the low-paid Government servants under its rule-making control if there should be a substantial rise in the price of staple food grains, and has decided that compensatory cost of living allowance at the rate of Re.1-8-0 per month will be paid to all such Government servants receiving a pay of Rs.30 per month or less, if and when the aggregate price of the staple food-grains at the headquarters of the district in which the Government servants are stationed has been maintained for a period of two months at eight seers to the rupee or less. When once the allowance has become payable, it will continue in any month only when the average price of the preceding two months is eight seers or less to the rupee.

The allowance will be payable to all Government servants whether ~~their~~ their posts are permanent or temporary, and whether their tenure is permanent or officiating, with the following exceptions:-

(a) all menials paid under standing orders from contingencies at current market rates; and (b) all holders of temporary posts the pay of which has been fixed with regard to current market rates.

The term "pay" used above includes all pay or remuneration except compensatory allowances. The allowance is payable during privilege leave or leave on average pay not exceeding four months, provided that the head of the office certifies in writing that the whole of the extra expenditure continues during the leave.

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Part I, dated 22-11-1940, page 1052.)

Grant of Grain Compensation Allowance to Low-Paid Government Servants: Decision of Orissa Government.

The Government of Orissa has issued orders regarding the grant of a grain compensation allowance to its low-paid servants. It has been decided that grain compensation allowance at the rate of Re.1 per month will be payable to Government servants in receipt of emoluments of Rs.30 or less per month, when the average retail price of rice in the province for all headquarters and subdivisional stations, taken over three preceding calendar months, is dearer than 9 standard seers to the rupee. When the grain compensation allowance has once become payable, the position will be reviewed each month, and the rate of allowance payable will be adjusted when necessary on the basis of the prices prevailing over a three months' period. Should the average price rise even more substantially the position will be again reviewed.

Grant of grain compensation allowance will be subject to the following conditions: (a) The allowance will ordinarily be granted only to whole-time Government servants borne on the regular establishment. Village establishments and part-time Government servants will not be eligible to it. (b) Whole-time Government servants paid at piece-work rates, menials paid from contingencies, labourers in Government workshops and members of work-charged establishments in the Public Works, Electricity and other departments, other than casual employees, will be eligible for the allowance. (c) Government servants on leave other than extraordinary leave (i.e., without pay) will be eligible for the same allowance as would have been admissible to them had they not been on leave, whether the leave is on average (or full) pay, or half or quarter average pay.

The term emoluments include pay proper and special and personal pay, house-rent allowances and the calculated value of free quarters, over-time allowances and pensions. For the purposes of this calculation the value of free quarters shall be considered to be Rs.3 per month in the case of a person drawing Rs.25 or more as pay and special pay and Rs.2 per month for a person drawing less than that amount.

(Notification No. 11279-F dated 21-11-1940: Supplement to the Orissa Gazette, dated 29-11-1940, page 988.) ✓

Bevin Scheme for Training Indian Skilled Workers in Britain;  
First Batch to Leave in January 1941. ✓

According to an announcement made in the third week of November 1940, <sup>by</sup> Mr. Ernest Bevin, British Minister for Labour, <sup>the Government of</sup> ~~the Government of~~ <sup>Great Britain</sup> ~~Great Britain~~, has adopted a scheme under which ~~XXXXX~~ several hundred men from Indian workshops would proceed to England for advanced training, live in the homes of working class families, and be given an opportunity to study <sup>the</sup> trade union movement and other labour organisations in England. Below are given details of the scheme:

Intensive Training in India and Great Britain.- The scheme announced by Mr. Bevin dovetails into the Indian scheme announced a few months ago for the technical training of some 15,000 men (vide pages 50-51 of our August 1940 report), since the British Government have also agreed to send out instructors to India and to launch simultaneously this complementary scheme of industrial training in British workshops.

Several Batches to be sent to England.- The original proposal is ~~understood to have been to send 100 trainees from India.~~ But the British Government, appreciating the potentialities of the scheme as a contribution to India's industrial progress, has decided to take a first batch of 50 trainees, to be followed after a month to six weeks by another 50, and thereafter by additional groups of 50 at intervals to be decided in the light of experience gained in the original experiment. The first batch will leave India about the middle of January 1941.

Selection of Trainees.- The selection of workmen will be made by the National Service Labour Tribunals in consultation with employers and the Regional Inspectors appointed under the National Service Labour Scheme (vide pages 33-34 of our June 1940 report and item below in this report: "Appointment of Regional Inspectors"). The majority of these trainees will be taken direct from their workshops, but in every batch there will likely be a number of students who have applied for technical training under India's national service scheme.

Scheme to be financed by Government.- The men selected will start their training immediately they leave India. A tutor will be chosen to accompany each group, and his task will be to give them elementary training in English and to enable them to adapt themselves more easily to the conditions of family life in the great industrial centres of England. The Government of India will provide all necessary clothing and pay their fares to England, and the British Government will arrange for their accommodation in hostels before they go to lodge with families.

Study of Trade Unionism.- The British Minister for Labour has also made reference to the opportunities India's artisans will have under the scheme to study trade unionism in Britain, though it is not the intention to send men to make a special study of the trade union organisation. The idea is rather that the artisans should themselves

see something of the working of the British labour organisations and return to this country as pioneers of a better trade union movement. Before the war, proposals were tentatively discussed by trade union leaders in India and officials of the British Trade Union Congress for the better organisation of India's trade union movement. Had not war broken out, a small delegation of trade union organisers would probably have visited India or, alternatively, a small party of representative Indian labour leaders would have gone to study the movement in Britain.

(The Statesman, 26-11-1940).

Regional Inspectors of Technical Training:  
Seven Appointed by Government of India.

Seven regional inspectors, charged with the inspection of technical institutions and other potential training centres with a view to their utilisation for war purposes, have recently been appointed by the Labour Department of the Government of India.

The appointments are in pursuance of the Government of India's scheme for technical training following the promulgation in June of the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, 1940; it will be remembered that this scheme seeks to provide trained men for the technical branches of the defence services and war industry.

The inspectors will supervise the training classes and conduct the trade tests of the trainees at the end of their course.

(Notification No. TR 39 dated 22-11-1940 of the Department of Labour, Government of India - Gazette of India, Part I, page 1686)..

War Production.

Empire Eastern Group Conference ends on 25-11-1940: Setting up of Representative Standing Body to co-ordinate War Production Recommended.

The Empire Eastern Group Conference which met at New Delhi on 25-10-1940 (for previous references see page 53 - September and pages 40-41 - October 1940 reports of this Office) concluded on 25-11-1940. The principal recommendation made in the Report of the Conference is the appointment in India of a representative standing body to continue the work of the Conference and within a defined field to co-ordinate supply, plan production and assist in arranging new sources of production. Such a body, it is emphasized, cannot be

established by the Conference itself.

This recommendation, like the other recommendations in the report, has to be submitted to all the participating Governments, but the leaders of delegations express the hope that the proposals will meet with their support and acceptance. In the interests of continuity and pending a decision on this recommendation, the Government of India has agreed to the Conference's request that a portion of the secretariat of the Eastern Group Conference should be retained.

Leaders' Statement.- The following are important extracts from a statement on the work of the Conference issued on 25-11-1940 by the leaders of the delegations from the participating countries:

"The report of the Conference, we trust, will prove to be the starting point of an intensive industrial war effort of very great importance.

"Between them, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Southern Rhodesia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Zanzibar, Burma, Ceylon, Malaya, Hong Kong and Palestine, have a population of 416 millions, and their combined imports and exports amount to over £1,300,000,000. Australia is already all out on an immense programme. India and South Africa are both on the same way and the various other participants are ready and willing to take orders for munitions of all kinds and use such machine tools and facilities as they have in their country. Already the interchange of information between the several delegations has brought to light important facts and promising opportunities of which most of us at the opening of our proceedings were entirely unaware, while during the weeks that we have been together it has already been possible, by correlating surpluses in equipment with existing requirements to supply important deficiencies without waste of time, or undue call on shipping space."

(The Statesman, 26-11-1940.)

Viceroy's Address to Combined Session of Central Legislature,  
26-11-1940. ✓

In the course of his address to the combined session of the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State on 20-11-1940, the Viceroy dealt at some length with the more important problems facing India, and announced that, in view of the war situation, he had made a recommendation to the Assembly to reconsider its refusal to pass the Finance Bill designed to facilitate the financing of India's war effort. After referring briefly to the newly-created Supply Department and the work of the Eastern Group Conference, he dealt, among other matters, with India's trade and economic outlook, the problems of Indians overseas, and the labour situation. Below are given relevant extracts:

Dislocation of Trade and Industry.- "The need for harnessing India's economic resources to the task of making her a great centre for supplying the requirements of the military forces engaged in the war must take first place in our attention. But the Government of India are in no way blind to the pressing problems that war conditions have brought to Indian trade and industry. The dislocation of our export trade by the cutting off of nearly all European markets has been receiving the closest attention, not only of the Government but of the Export Advisory Council, in the hope of dealing with the problem of surplus production and of reducing the size of any surplus by finding new outlets for our products and manufactures. This last attempt is being pursued in various ways, of which mention may be made in particular of the exploratory mission of Dr. Gregory and Sir David Meek to America, and of the decision to increase the number of our Trade Commissioners in continents other than Europe, beginning with Australia. On the other side of the picture, the cutting off of many supplies which normally came from abroad has created many gaps, not only in India itself, but also in neighbouring countries, which Indian industry can hope to fill. Business and industrial interests in the country have not been slow to undertake enterprises designed to fill these gaps, while the Government have done their best to mobilise technical skill for their assistance by setting up the Board of Industrial and Scientific Research, which through its numerous sub-committees and in collaboration with the Director of Research, has already produced valuable results."

Indians Overseas.- "In spite of their immediate pre-occupation with questions arising out of the war, the Government of India continue to keep a vigilant watch on the interests of Indians overseas. In the Union of South Africa, the Broome Commission, which was appointed in May last to enquire into alleged penetration of Indians into predominantly European areas in Natal and Transvaal, commenced its labours last month. The ban on the assisted emigration of unskilled labour to Malaya continues, while questions of the wages of Indian labourers and of the status of the Indian community are still under discussion with the Malayan Government. In regard to Burma, the

Government are awaiting the results of Mr. Baxter's enquiry into the facts concerning Indian immigration into that country, and they are also watching with close attention the course of certain recent legislation which may directly affect the Indian community. An experienced officer was sent to Mauritius to ascertain recent developments in that colony so far as they affect Indians. I regret that the recent conversations between the Government of India and the representatives of the Government of Ceylon should not have had more satisfactory results."

Labour.- "Labour in India has not been without its problems, but owing to the good sense of all concerned, there has been no major dislocation of work since the war began, and I believe that Indian labour will continue its substantial contribution to the war effort. When disputes have arisen, the influence of Government has always been thrown in favour of adjustment and conciliation rather than dictation. Complaints of inadequate wages, in the circumstances of the war situation, have always received careful and anxious consideration; an examination has already been made of the cost of living in the coalfields and an enquiry has also been instituted into the claim of railway labour for a dearness allowance. The Government has taken steps to obtain skilled labour for those industries which are engaged on war production, ensuring at the same time that the interests of the artisan are safeguarded. Under the technical training scheme, we have planned not only to meet the immediate needs of the war effort, but by providing well-equipped and completely staffed institutions for training thousands of young men to be skilled technicians, we have kept in view the needs, when peace is at last restored, of India's expanding industries."

(The Statesman, 21-11-1940.) ✓ +

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List of more important Publications received in this Office during  
November 1940. †

Conditions of Work.-

- (1) Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the Province of Bihar for the year 1939, by Mr. H.M. Rai, Chief Inspector of Factories, Bihar. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1940. Price Annas 8.
- (2) Annual Report on the working of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in the United Provinces, for the year 1939. Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, U.P., Allahabad. 1940. Price Re.0-4-0.
- (3) Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act in the Punjab for the year 1939. Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab, Lahore. 1940. Price Annas 6.
- (4) Annual Report on the working of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act (XXII of 1932) for the year ending the 30th September 1939. Shillong; Printed at the Assam Government Press. 1940. Price *as 9 or 10s*

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) "Automobile Industry in Bombay - Latest Phase of the Project" by Sir M. Visvesvaraya (pamphlet).
- (2) "Lack of National Responsibility towards a National Asset - A Review of the Handicaps to the Growth of Indian Shipping" by Walchand Hirschand (pamphlet).
- (3) Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India with the British Empire and Foreign Countries for the fiscal year ending 31st March 1939. Vol. I - Imports, Exports and Re-Exports of private merchandise and Government stores, and Imports and Exports of Treasure. Published by order of the Governor-General in Council. Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1940. ~~Rs.~~ Price Rs.16-4-0 or 25s.
- (4) Recent Trends in Commercial Policies, with Special Reference to India's Foreign Trade. III. - Indo-British Trade Trends, by N.G. Abhyankar, M.Sc.(Lond.) (Reprinted from "the Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber", November 1940).

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

- (1) Bengal Nagpur Railway Indian Labour Union, Open-Line Branch, Kharagpur - Annual Report for 1939-40. S.V.L. Press, Kharagpur.
- (2) B.N.R. Indian Labour Union, Open-Line Branch - Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting for 1939-1940, held on 29th September, 1940. S. V. L. Press, Kharagpur.
- (3) Report of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the year 1939. Appendices. Calcutta; Printed at the Criterion Printing Works, 8, Jackson Lane, 1940.
- (4) Report of the Eighteenth Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress, Bombay 1940. A.I.T.U.C. Office, B.I.T. Chawl, No.11, Foras Road, Bombay 8.

Public Health.-

- (1) Annual Public Health Report on Delhi Province for the year 1939. Compiled by the Chief Health Officer, Delhi Province, New Delhi. Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, 1940.

Public Health (continued).-

- (2) Government of the North-West Frontier Province. Public Health and Vaccination Reports of the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1939. Manager, Government Stationery and Printing, N.-W.F.P., Peshawar. 1940. Price Rs.4-8-0 or £.0-6-9.

Education.-

- (1) Report of the Progress of Education in Bihar for the year 1938-39. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1940. Price Re.1-5.
- (2) Annual Report of the David Sassoon Industrial School, Matunga, 1939-40. Bombay; Printed at the Government Central Press. Price Annas 2 or 3d. 1940.

General.-

Report on the Administration of H.E.H. the Nizam's Dominions for the year 1347 Fasli (6-10-1937 to 5-10-1938). Government Central Press, Hyderabad-Deccan. 1940..