

C 6/2/28

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for August 1942

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

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Pages</u>
<u>1. Social Policy.-</u> Joint Labour Conference, New Delhi, 7-8-1942.	1-5
<u>2. Conditions of Work.-</u> <u>Industrial Disputes:</u> Industrial Disputes in British India during the quarter ending 31-12-1941.	6
<u>3. Economic Conditions.-</u> (1) International Sugar Agreement: India's Participation terminates from 1-9-1942. (2) Basic Price for Coffee: Control Committee's Decision. (3) Review of Economic and Financial Conditions in 1941-42: Reserve Bank Governor's address at 8th Annual Meeting of Bank.	7 7-8 9-10
<u>4. Social Insurance.-</u> Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in C.P. and Berar in 1940.	11
<u>5. Migration.-</u> (1) Indians in Natal in 1941: Report of Protector of Indian Immigrants in Natal. (2) Proposal for Expropriation of Indian-owned Lands by Durban Municipality: Indian Opposition to Measure.	12 12-13
<u>6. Agriculture.</u> Rural Reconstruction in Mysore State: A Five-Year Plan Adopted.	14-15
<u>7. Professional Workers, Salaried Employees and Public Servants</u> Pensions Fund Scheme for Secondary School Teachers in Bombay.	16
<u>8. Organisation, Congresses, etc.-</u> <u>Workers' Organisations:</u> 21st Half-yearly Meeting between A.I.R.F. and the Railway Board: Questions of Dearness Allowance and Provident Fund Discussed.	17-18
<u>9. Social Policy in War Time.-</u> <u>Hours of Work:</u> The Railways (Hours of Employment) Ordinance, 1942: Power to Suspend Hours of Employment Regulation.	19

Contents

Pages

9. Social Policy in War Time.- (continued)

Wages :

(1) Increased Dearness Allowance for Lower-Paid Central Government Employees.	20
(2) Increased Dearness Allowance for Railwaymen.	20-21
(3) Increased Dearness Allowance to Low-Paid Government Servants in C.P.	21
(4) Increased Dearness Allowance to Low-Paid Government Servants in Mysore State.	21
(5) Increased Dearness Allowance to Low-Paid Government Servants in Bombay.	22
(6) War Dear Food Allowance for Cawnpore Workers.	22-24
(7) Increased Dearness Allowance to Low-Paid Government Employees in Sind.	24-25
(8) Increased War Emergency Allowances for Calcutta Corporation Employees.	25

Employment :

(1) Wartime Recruitment Policy in Indian Railways: Railway Board's Orders.	26-27
(2) Keeping Labour at Work during War Time: Statement of European Business Community of Bengal.	27-28
(3) Employment of Troops in Essential Services.	28
(4) Hotels and Restaurants declared Essential Services: Madras Government's Order.	28

Industrial Disputes :

Prohibition of Strikes and Lock-outs Without Notice.	29
--	----

Production :

(1) Supply of Yarn to Handloom Weavers: Madras to apply All-India Scheme.	30
(2) Development of Mineral Resources: Appointment of Advisory Committee to Utilisation Branch of Geological Survey of India.	30

Food Supply :

(1) Restrictions on Closure of Shops trading in Essential Articles.	31
(2) 1st Meeting of Food Advisory Council, New Delhi, 24 and 25-8-1942.	32-34

Control Measures :

(1) Extension of Madras House Rent Control Order, 1941.	35
(2) Bombay Kerosene Licensing Order, 1942.	35
(3) Supply of Coal to Public Utility Concerns: Duty of Controller of Coal Supply.	35

Emigration :

(1) Relief of Overseas Evacuees: Government of India setup Special Fund.	36
(2) Evacuee Technicians: Employment secured by Labour Tribunal.	37

Transport Problems :

(1) Possibilities of Increased Traffic by Country Craft on the West Coast of India: Government of India orders Enquiry.	37-38
---	-------

	<u>Pages</u>
<u>Transport Problems (continued)</u>	
(2) Motor Transport Committee appointed by Government of Madras.	38
<u>iii) Compensation for War Injuries</u>	
. <u>Extension of War Injuries Ordinance, 1941: Second Amendment Ordinance.</u>	38
10. <u>List of the more important publications received in this Office during August, 1942.</u>	39

SOCIAL POLICY

Joint
Labour Conference, New Delhi,
7-8-1942.

At page 2 of this Office's monthly report for June 1942, a reference was made to the intention of the Government of India to hold a Joint Labour Conference on the 7th and 8th August 1942. The Conference, which actually lasted only for a day, was held on the 7th August 1942, and was presided over by the Honourable Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the new Labour Member of the Government of India.

Among those who attended were ~~the~~ official representatives from the Government of India, the Provincial Governments, the Chamber of Princes, and the Indian States of Baroda, Gwalier and Hyderabad; employers' representatives from the Employers Federation of India, and the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers; and workers' representatives from the All-India Trade Union Congress, the Indian Federation of Labour, the Textile Labour Association of Ahmedabad, the Bengal National Chamber of Labour, and the Municipal Workers of the Bombay Presidency. Dr. P.P. Pillai attended as an Observer ~~of~~ behalf of the I.L.O.

Chairman's Opening Address.- In his opening address, the Chairman traced the genesis of this Conference and mentioned how on previous occasions the Government of India had held separate consultations with the representatives of the workers, of employers and of provincial governments. ~~These consultations, however useful they were for ascertaining the needs of labour and devising methods for satisfying them, did not contain in them the elements of either permanence or regularity. Meanwhile, the Government of India had been influenced by the success of the methods pursued by the International Labour Office to try to adopt a system of holding periodical conferences of a tripartite character. The objects the Government had in view were the promotion of uniformity in labour legislation, the laying down of a procedure for the settlement of industrial disputes, and the discussion of all matters of all-India importance as between employers and employees.~~

In regard to the first, he said that uniformity in labour legislation could never cease to be a matter of importance to so large a country like India, with its many administrative and provincial jurisdictions.

As to industrial disputes, since the war, both labour and capital have behaved with a sense of responsibility and the number of strikes that have taken place have not been on a very extensive or disturbing scale. There was some tendency at the beginning of this year for an increase in industrial unrest, but the laying down of a procedure for adjudication of disputes under the Defence of India Rules has resulted in some reduction in recent months. That procedure will, he hoped, prove an efficient and reliable machinery, but it is a procedure which can only remain in force for the duration of the war and it is, therefore, necessary to include laying down of a procedure for the settlement of industrial disputes as one of the aims and objects of the conference, ~~which they proposed to set up.~~

In defining the last item included in the aims and objects, he ~~is~~ pointed out that wide language was deliberately used so as ~~not~~ not to exclude from the deliberations of the conference anything that

is of importance to labour and capital. On this point he said: "I would like to tell you what we have in mind in employing this broad expression 'matters of all-India importance'. We want to include in it all matters relating to labour welfare and the maintenance of labour morale. So understood, I need hardly say this object though placed last may be regarded as the highest in importance. We certainly regard it as most urgent. The urgency is due to the necessities of the war. The present war is a war of supplies and supply depends upon peace in industry. How to secure peace in industry is our problem. Peace in industry depends upon two things. In the first place, it depends upon the existence of machinery ready at hand for the quick settlement of industrial disputes. Secondly, it depends upon the prompt removal of all such conditions in industry which may fray tempers and bring about a deterioration in the morale of people engaged in it. But there that remains a large number of questions which are too small to lead to an industrial dispute, but which are big enough to raise temper, and most of these relate to what in ordinary parlance are designated as matters affecting social welfare. For dealing with such problems we have no machinery, and it is mainly the necessity to provide immediately a machinery for advising Government as to how such matters should be peacefully dealt with that has led Government to institute this conference forthwith. Such is the significance of this conference and such are its aims and objects.

"The Conference has to decide upon the following matters:

~~"The desirability of establishing a labour conference as a permanent organisation to meet at least once a year; the desirability of instituting a standing advisory committee of this conference which would meet whenever Government thought it necessary to invite them to meet and to advise Government on matters placed before it, and defining in general terms the procedure for the constitution of these bodies.~~

"We propose to constitute two bodies - a Plenary Conference and a Standing Advisory Committee. The Plenary Conference will be composed of representatives of the Central Government, of provinces, of states, of employers and of employees. In general, each province or large state will be entitled to be represented, and those States not individually represented would be represented by a nominee of the Chamber of Princes. Representation would also be given to the main associations of employers or employees who in their opinion were not otherwise adequately represented. ~~It would not in the case of the plenary conference be possible to ensure that the representation of employers and employees will be equal to that of Government representatives.~~

"The constitution of the Standing Advisory Committee will be more rigid and we propose to distribute the representation as follows: One representative of the Government of India; six representatives of provinces, three representatives of States; five representatives of employers, and five representatives of employees, with the Labour Member of the Central Government as Chairman.

"In suggesting this constitution for the Standing Advisory Committee, we have followed as closely as we can the principles underlying the constitution of the governing body of the International Labour Office which was set up under the auspices of the League of Nations. There are three principles which to my mind underlie that

constitution. First, equality of representation between Government and non-Government representatives. This is illustrated by the provision contained in Art. 7 Clause 1 whereby out of 32 representatives 16 represent Government and 16 represent employers and workers. We have given effect to this principle by giving 10 seats to Government and 10 seats to industry. The second principle is equality of representation as between employers and employees. This is provided by the same article whereby the 16 non-Government seats are divided equally between employers and employees. We recognise this by distributing the 10 seats allotted to industry equally between employers and employees.

"The third principle is an assurance of representation to certain interests by reservation. This will be found in Art. 7 which by Clause (2) reserves six out of 16 Government seats to non-European states and by Clause (4) reserves two seats from the quota of employers' seats and two seats from the quota of employees' seats ~~to be reserved~~ to non-European states. We propose to adopt this principle by allowing one representative from the quota of each, employers and employees, to be nominated by the Labour Member of the Central Government. This will ensure some representation of interests other than those represented by the main employers' and employees' associations. I hope the justice and fairness of these proposals will appeal to you and that you will give it your approval."

General Discussion

After the Chairman's opening address, the Conference proceeded to discuss the subjects on the agenda, which were as follow:-

- (1) To approve the proposal to form a tripartite Plenary Conference;
- (2) To approve the proposal that the Plenary Conference shall elect a Standing Advisory Committee;
- (3) To adopt a formal resolution regarding the Plenary Conference and the Standing Advisory Committee;
- (4) The election of a Standing Advisory Committee;
- (5) General Discussion on the subject of labour welfare and labour morale in wartime.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:-

"This Conference of the representatives of the Central and Provincial Governments in British India and of the Indian States and the Chamber of Princes, and of representatives of Workers and Employers in British India, being convinced that collaborative machinery composed of the representatives of Governments, Employers and Workers in India should be established forthwith for the consideration of all questions relating to the conditions of labour, resolves

- (1) that a Plenary Conference shall be constituted as follows:-
 - (a) The Hon'ble the Labour Member of the Government of India - Chairman.
 - (b) 2 representatives of the Government of India.
 - (c) 11 representatives of Provinces.
 - (d) 7 representatives of the industrially important States.
 - (e) 2 representatives from Chamber of Princes to represent other States.

- (f) 11 representatives of Employees, of whom 4 will be nominated by Government in agreement with the All-India Trade Union Congress, 4 will be nominated by Government in agreement with the Indian Federation of Labour and 3 will be nominated by Government as representative of other employees' interests.
- (g) 11 representatives of Employers, of whom 4 will be nominated by Government in agreement with the Employers Federation of India, 4 will be nominated by Government in agreement with the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, and 3 will be nominated by Government to represent other classes of Employers.

(2) that the Conference shall meet at least once a year, the first meeting being held in Delhi and subsequent meetings held at such places as may be decided upon from time to time;

(3) that the Plenary Conference shall advise the Government of India on any matters referred to it for advice;

(4) that a Standing Committee shall be constituted composed as follows:-

- (1) The Hon'ble the Labour Member of the Government of India (ex-officio Chairman);
- (2) One representative of the Central Government;
- (3) One representative each of the Governments of Bengal, Bombay and the United Provinces;
- (4) (i) one representative to represent the Provinces of Madras and the Central Provinces and Berar;
- (ii) one representative to represent the Provinces of Assam, Bihar and Orissa;
- (iii) one representative to represent the Provinces of the Punjab, Sind and N.W.F.P.;
- (iv) 3 representatives of Indian States;
- (v) 5 representatives of Employers;
- (vi) 5 representatives of Employees.

(5) that the Standing ~~Advisory~~ Committee shall consider and examine such questions as may be referred to it by the Plenary Conference or by the Central Government;

(6) that the Standing ~~Advisory~~ Committee shall meet as often as it may be convened by the Central Government for the consideration of questions that may be before it. The Committee shall be competent

- (a) to advise Government on any matters referred to it by Government, provided that copies of any such advice shall be forwarded to all members of the Plenary Conference;
- (b) to report to the Plenary Conference on any matters referred to it by that Conference.

The fourth item on the agenda, namely, the election of a Standing ~~Advisory~~ Committee, was not immediately proceeded with, but the Conference approved the principles for the election laid down by the Government. They were:-

- (1) representatives of single provinces will be selected by the Governments of those provinces.
- (2) representatives of two or more Governments will be selected by agreement between those Governments - a system of selection by rotation might be adopted.

- (3) representatives of States to be selected by the Governments of the States.
- (4) representatives of the Chamber of Princes to be selected in the usual manner.
- (5) Representatives of Employers; 4 to be nominated by the Hon'ble the Labour Member in agreement with the leading Associations of Employers, 1 to be nominated by the Hon'ble the Labour Member.
- (6) Representatives of Employees; 4 to be nominated by the Hon'ble the Labour Member in agreement with the main Associations of Employees, 1 to be nominated by the Hon'ble the Labour Member.

The Government also agreed to consider the suggestion that each non-official delegate should be accompanied by an adviser.

As regards the fifth item on the agenda, there was a very general discussion on labour welfare and labour morale in wartime. No resolution was adopted.

(The above is an un-official summary of the Conference. An official summary is soon expected from the Government; when received this will be forwarded to Montreal).

Industrial Disputes

6

Industrial Disputes in British India during the quarter ending 31-12-1941. ✓

According to a Press Note on industrial disputes in British India during the quarter ending 31-12-1941, recently issued by the Department of Labour, Government of India, the total number of disputes during the period was 106 involving 1,02,825 workers and entailing a loss of 734,838 working days, as against 78 disputes involving 1,08,820 workers and entailing a loss of 1,184,919 working days in the third quarter of 1941.

Provincial Distribution.- During the period under review, there were 44 disputes in Bombay, involving 49,054 workers and entailing a loss of 208,836 working days. Next come Bengal with 31 disputes involving 33,983 workers and entailing a loss of 163,327 working days; Madras with 9 disputes involving 7,634 workers and entailing a loss of 104,446 working days; C.P. and Berar and the United Provinces with 7 disputes each involving 4,612 and 2,691 workers and entailing losses of 29,490 and 4,129 working days respectively; the Punjab with 5 disputes involving 720 workers and entailing a loss of 1,997 working days; Bihar with 2 disputes involving 4,086 workers and entailing a loss of 222,568 working days; and Sind with 1 dispute involving 45 workers and entailing a loss of 45 working days.

Classification by Industries.- Classified according to industries, there were 33 strikes in cotton, woollen and silk mills involving 44,594 workers and entailing a loss of 152,043 working days; 10 in jute mills involving 23,745 workers and entailing a loss of 100,989 working days; 9 in Engineering workshops involving 8,833 workers and entailing a loss of 70,894 working days; 5 in railways including railway workshops involving 13,935 workers and entailing a loss of 96,999 working days; and 2 in mines involving 2,845 workers and entailing a loss of 183,525 working days. In all other industries together there were 47 disputes involving 11,873 workers and entailing a loss of 121,388 working days.

Causes and Results of Strikes.- Of the 106 strikes 69 were due to questions of wages, 20 to questions of personnel, 6 to questions of bonus, 2 to disputes about leave and hours and 9 to other causes. In 18 cases the workers were fully successful, in 29 partially successful and in 54 unsuccessful. 5 disputes were in progress on 31-12-1941. ✓

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

International Sugar Agreement: India's Participation Terminates from 1-9-1942. ✓

After consulting the sugar industry, the provincial Governments and other interests concerned and the Central Sugar Advisory Board, a body composed entirely of representatives of Central, Provincial and State Governments, the Government of India has decided not to join in the proposed extension of the International Sugar Agreement. India's obligations under the agreement will thus terminate from September 1, 1942.

India was a party to the International Sugar Agreement, which was concluded in 1937 with a view to establishing and maintaining an orderly relationship between supply and demand of sugar and to regulate the world prices of sugar. Under this agreement India undertook to prohibit exports of Indian sugar by sea elsewhere than to Burma. The present term of the agreement expires on August 31, and the International Sugar Council recommended to the contracting Governments a continuance of the agreement either for the duration of the war and for one quota year after the date of termination of hostilities or for a period of two years from August 31, whichever be less.

The decision to terminate the Agreement has been well received by Indian trade interests. Though it is too early at present to indicate the full effects of the decision on the industry, opinion is unanimous that a serious impediment in the development of India's export trade in sugar has been removed. It may be recalled here that the United Provinces Chamber of Commerce, emphasizing the advisability of terminating the Agreement had pointed out to the Government of India that many countries which were signatories to the Agreement had as a result of the war ceased to exist as independent nations. With the fall of the Dutch East Indies, an important source of sugar supply to the world, India could conveniently supply sugar to countries in the Middle East and elsewhere if the Agreement was terminated.

(The Statesman, 29 and 31-8-1942.) ✓

Basic Price for Coffee: Control Committee's Decision. ✓

The Control Committee of the Indian Coffee Market Expansion Board met at Coenoor and discussed at length on 13 and 14-8-1942 the question of fixing a basic price for coffee and reached certain broad conclusions, the more important of which are summarised below from a communique issued by the Control Committee on 14-8-1942:

The 1942-43 coffee crop was estimated at 16,000 tons on the information available to the Committee. The Committee decided to implement for 1942-43 the Indian Coffee Market Expansion Board's recommendation that the internal sales quota should be 10 per cent. or 50 bushels of unhusked cherry, ~~whichever~~ whichever is greater. The Board will be prepared to purchase this quota from estates and the Committee decided that the price to be paid should be Re. 1-1 per point of valuation in the Price Differential Scale. This is the approximate equivalent of Rs. 85 per cwt. for an average F.A.Q. Mysore-Coorg Plantation Assortment, Rs. 76-8 per cwt. for Whole Crop Cherry Type,

and Rs. 68 per cwt. for Robusta. The Committee desires to make it clear that it is for the grower to decide whether he wishes to accept this offer or not. A first payment will be made to all growers on delivery of their coffee to the Pool or its Agents at the rate of Rs. 36 per cwt. Uncured coffee deliveries will be paid for on the same basis. To meet the convenience of small growers, the Board will make arrangements for the appointment of accredited Agents in the various districts who will be empowered to take delivery of their coffee and to make immediate payment for it.

(The Hindu, 22-8-1942.)

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India for April 1942.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during April, 1942, as compared with the preceding month:-

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base= 100</u>	<u>March 1942</u>	<u>April 1942</u>
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	137	138
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1927	96	99
Sholapur	Year ending January 1928	96	99
Nagpur	January 1927	85	88
Ludhiana	1933-35		
Cawnpore	August 1939	150	149
Patna	Average cost of living for five years preceding 1944)	150	152
Jamshedpur	Ditto	140	146
Jharia	Ditto	150	154
Madras	Year ending June 1936	115	119
Madura	Year ending June 1936	111	112
Coimbatore	Year ending June 1936	120	

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India, April, 1942.) ✓

9

Review of Economic and Financial Conditions in 1941-42:
Reserve Bank Governor's address at 8th Annual Meeting
of Bank. ✓

The 8th Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of the Reserve Bank of India was held at Bombay on 10-8-1942, Sir James Taylor, the Governor of the Bank, presiding. The following is a summary of the speech delivered by Sir James Taylor reviewing economic and financial conditions in India during 1941-42:

Increased War Effort.- Sir James pointed out that since August 1941 the war has entered a new and crucial phase with the entry of the United States and Japan, and the developments following the outbreak of hostilities in the Pacific in December last had brought the enemy to the borders of India.. The all-important problem before the country during the year was, therefore, how to increase the tempo of her war effort to the maximum, while still providing her large civil population with essential goods and services.

Increased Governmental Control: Soundness of Economic Position.- The expansion of the defence programme on the one hand and the disruption of communications and foreign trade resulting from war developments in the Far East on the other have created new and difficult problems which have profoundly affected the economic life of the country and have necessitated increased Governmental control in the sphere of production, transport, consumption and prices. Shortages have occurred in certain types of consumers' goods while the commodity and the financial markets have been subjected to erratic fluctuations. On the whole, however, the economic system has so far stood up well to the impact of war and responded encouragingly to its manifold and ever-increasing demands. The banking system of the country continued to sustain the impact of war conditions with remarkable resilience and in spite of panicky withdrawals from a few banks in December 1941 the deposits showed a large increase over the year.

Rise in Prices.- As regards commodity prices, Sir James said they fluctuated widely during the year and have on balance shown a ~~sharp~~ sharp rise. India's staple commodities of export such as cotton and jute have not shared in this rise owing to the loss of export markets in the Far East though Government's efforts to increase food production in substitution of cash crops may be expected to lead to an increase in the price of these commodities in the near future. The price of food articles have shown a sharp rise and necessitated extension of price control. He did not consider that the considerable rise in prices in India was the result of an increase in the currency, but rather that the two phenomena together were the unavoidable result of the large purchases of goods and services being made by the British Government in India.

Repatriation of Sterling Debt: Reserves for Post-War Reconstruction.- Dealing with the repatriation of the sterling debt, Sir James Taylor said: India's favourable balance of accounts increased very largely during the year and the consequent accretions of sterling facilitated the Government of India's scheme for the repatriation of their remaining non-terminable debt. With the steady increase in the net refunds by the Secretary of State, these purchases of sterling are resulting in an accumulation of sterling assets the utilisation of which has been engaging our close attention. The possession of

these surpluses should not only be very useful to the country after the war by enabling it to make purchases of outside materials, which would be necessary for post-war reconstruction, but should also, by putting it in a position to make such purchases, help most materially in international post-war reconstruction.

(The Times of India, 15-8-1942.)

Hindu's Comments.- Commenting editorially on Sir James Taylor's speech, the Hindu in its issue dated 14-8-1942 says:

"Sir James Taylor referred to two outstanding phenomena which are occupying the attention of the Bank authorities, namely, the sharp rise in prices and the problem of disposal of the steadily accumulating sterling balances.... It is notable that the Indian authorities have been less successful than others to keep the inflationary tendency in check. Thus while the cost of living index for Bombay City rose by 32 points between August 1939, and January 1942, the British index showed a rise of 27 points, the American index rose by 10, the Canadian by 12 during the same period. Wholesale prices have risen similarly, the rise in India being much more steep than in other countries. Sir James Taylor is of the view that the sharp rise in prices in India is not due to currency expansion, but that both rise in prices and currency expansion are the "unavoidable" result of the large purchases of goods and services being made by the British Government in India..... A much more important factor accounting for the rise in prices is the failure of the mechanism of distribution to meet the situation created by war conditions..... The problem of price control is thus related to the wider problem of expansion of production and improvement of transport facilities and the system of distribution as a whole. Above all, it is not the case that currency expansion has had no effect on prices."

"In his speech Sir James hinted at reserving the sterling balances for use after the war to make purchases of materials which would be necessary for post-war reconstruction. We have had occasion to point out the dangers in keeping our reserves in a currency like the sterling which is liable to depreciate during and after the war. The best course would be to convert our foreign balances into useful assets either by using them for the purchase of such assets in India belonging to non-Indians or by using them for purchasing machinery, etc., from abroad for starting new industries in India. It would be an inexcusable waste of valuable national resources if the Government did neither of these, but utilised our foreign balances for purposes, which might afford temporary relief to the budget or the exchange but would not add to the national capital of the country."

(The Hindu, 14-8-1942.) ✓

//

SOCIAL INSURANCE

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in C.P. and
Berar in 1940.* ✓

Accidents and Compensation.- There were 26 deaths, 68 cases of permanent disablement and 946 cases of temporary disablement in respect of which compensation was paid. The amount paid in respect of the above accidents were Rs. 12,830-0-0; Rs. 9,840-13-8; and Rs. 6,429-13-0. No cases of payment of compensation to occupational diseases arose during the year under review. ✓

* Government of the Central Provinces and Berar. Report on the Administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1923) in the Central Provinces and ~~Bihar~~ Berar during the calendar year 1940. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1941. Price Annas six. pp.9. ✓

Indians in Natal in 1941:
Report of Protector of Indian Immigrants in Natal. ✓

High Incidence of Unemployment.- Attention is drawn to the high incidence of unemployment among the Indians in Natal and to the problem of finding jobs for the better educated young men among them in the Annual Report of the Protector of Indian Immigrants, Natal, for the year 1941. Of 40,928 adult male Indians in the province, about 26,000 are listed as employed (6,500 in the sugar industry) and a number of others are stated to be farming on their own or carrying on their own trades. There are stated to be many destitutes among the unemployed. Clerical work and work as teachers in Government schools is what most of the young men from the schools and the Sastri College want, but there are not jobs enough to go round.

Education of Indian Children.- The schools provided for Indian children are much below the number required. Of the 123,645 children in the colony, 28,839 are listed as attending Government and Government-aided schools.

Vital Statistics.- The health of the Indians in Natal was good during the year. The birth rate was 48.32 per thousand and the death rate 13.11 — both figures comparing favourably with those for the previous ten years.

Conditions of Work of Indian Labourers.- No complaints were received regarding treatment of Indian labour on the estates, but the Report observes that their housing accommodation was still very poor.

(Unofficial Note issued by the Principal
Information Officer, Government of India.) ✓

Proposal for Expropriation of Indian-owned Lands by Durban Municipality: Indian Opposition to Measure.

A Joint Council of Action, representing ten Indian and European organisations, with the Rev. Satchell, head of Indian Missions, Church of England, as Chairman, has been specially formed ^{in Durban} to oppose the Durban City Council's proposals, involving expropriation of 1,095 acres of Indian-owned land, to co-operate with the authorities to provide adequate housing to Indians and to remove the bad slum conditions under which Indians live at riverside and other areas.

The Council of Action, in a memorandum to the Minister of Public Health, "opposes on moral and practical grounds the expropriation proposals. It refers to the instance of purposeful neglect to use £50,000 set aside for Indian housing for the City Council by the Union Government in 1928 in terms of the Capetown Agreement. The proposals awaiting the Minister's consent involves ~~xxxx~~ expropriation of mosques, temples, orphanages, schools and cemeteries. ^{The} ~~It~~ emphasises that expropriation of places of worship and sacred properties constitute a sacrilegious act. "No Indian-owned land shall be acquired and allocated for European or coloured housing schemes nor for resale to Europeans or coloured people, unless specially required for roads and essential services." It urges the City Council to proceed with the improvement and cleaning up of ^{the} areas in question ~~to~~ providing its 'bona fides' and to

making a beginning for provision of Indian housing on its considerable unoccupied holdings in areas in question.

A mass rally was convened by the Joint Council on 16-7-1942 in Durban City Hall to obtain public confirmation of the action taken. If the Ministers' consent is given, the Joint Council proposes instituting a 'hartal'. Resort to non-cooperation, if necessary, is also being considered.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 7-8-1942.) ✓

Government of India Relaxes Ban on Indian Emigration to Ceylon.

During the last week of August, 1942, the Associated Press of India reported that provisional arrangements were reached between the Government of India and the Ceylon Government as a result of which the Government of India's ban on the emigration of Indian labour to Ceylon will be lifted from 1-9-1942 and that a fresh Indo-Ceylon agreement will be negotiated after the war. The same message stated that Ceylon will withdraw the existing anti-Indian laws and agree not to undertake any new legislation of this character.

Ceylon official circles, while confirming the arrangements for lifting the ban on Indian emigration to Ceylon, pointed out that lifting of the ban has not the consent of the Ceylon Government, that it is limited to unskilled labour now in Ceylon and that there is going to be no general cancellation of the ban on emigration. They also expressed surprise at the statement that Ceylon "will withdraw the existing anti-Indian legislation and agree not to undertake any new legislation of this character". They emphasised that there is in fact no "anti-Indian legislation" in existence in Ceylon. Therefore, it is pointed out that the question of the withdrawal of such legislation did not arise at all.

Towards the close of the month, the Government of India announced through a Press Note its decision to relax with effect from 1-9-1942 the prohibition of the emigration of unskilled labourers to Ceylon, so far as it affects labourers now in Ceylon. The effect of the ban on such labourers has been that, since its imposition three years ago, they have been prevented from paying their normal visits to India, for social and domestic purposes, for fear of not being allowed to return to their employment in Ceylon. The uncertainty about employment in Ceylon, which was the reason for the ban being imposed, cannot be considered to subsist, in wartime, when practically all Indian labour in Ceylon is employed on work essential to the war effort. The Government of India is therefore of opinion that there is no justification for continuing to place any obstacle in the way of labourers wishing to pay their normal visits to India. The prohibition will continue to operate as heretofore in regard to labour not already in Ceylon.

(The Statesman of 25 and 29-8-1942
and the Hindu of 25-8-1942.) ✓

AGRICULTURE

14

Rural Reconstruction in Mysore State: A Five-Year Plan Adopted.

Review of Past Work.- With a view to enlarge the scope of the work of the village panchayat administration which was till then confined, in most cases, to measures of village sanitation, and with a view to concentrate and co-ordinate the efforts of the several development departments in villages, the Government of Mysore had issued certain instructions on 9-5-1936 for organizing concentrated propaganda in selected villages. In pursuance of these instructions, two or three villages at a time are being selected in each taluk for concentrated propaganda and the progress made in such villages is being reviewed every half year. The work was commenced in June 1936 in 182 villages and the number has now reached ~~205~~ 264. It was no doubt intended that the improvement works done in these selected villages should serve as a model to other villages ~~should~~ which could adopt those methods easily. But experience has shown that the villages are too slow to adopt the methods of improvement employed in the selected villages and to benefit by this scheme, and the general condition of the villages is still very backward and the attempts made in selected villages have not brought the desired result. Among the many other factors, the existence of party strifes and illiteracy have been ~~the~~ potent factors against the progress of the village improvement work.

Details of New Scheme.- During October 1941, the Representative Assembly unanimously passed a Resolution to the effect "that every year at least 150 villages in each district be converted into model villages in accordance with a ten-year plan of rural reconstruction". During the discussions, it was replied on behalf of Government, that ~~as~~ conversion of ^{all these} every villages into a model village, involved a large expenditure; The House was, however, assured that the question of accelerating progress under rural reconstruction would receive the special attention of Government in future. It has now been decided to accelerate ~~the~~ rural reconstruction activities on a wide scale than at present, to put into action the scheme outlined in the Government Order dated the 9th May 1936 into one hobli of each taluk to start with, so that the scheme could be put into operation in 78 hoblis (each hobli consists of 40 to 60 villages) in all the taluks put together, and to extend the scheme to one more hobli every next year. There are altogether 364 hoblis in the State, and within a period of five years, the scheme will have been put into operation in ~~the~~ all the hoblis.

There is a distinct advantage in selecting one entire hobli for concentrated propaganda as against the selection of two or three villages scattered in the taluk, as all the available resources, such as the rural water supply funds, inter-village communication funds and rural reconstruction funds can be pooled together and consolidated efforts put forth for fulfilling the primary needs of the entire hobli in the matter of sanitation, drinking water facilities, rural communications, etc. One drawback of the scheme in vogue is that the initiative and direction of the improvement works depend upon official agency and that the scope for ~~the~~ non-official initiative is very limited. It is proposed to remedy this defect in the present scheme by the appointment for each hobli of an honorary and trained worker who would reside in the hobli and would assist in creating a live

15

interest in the villagers and in co-ordinating the work of the several departments in that hobli.

Programme of Work.- The programme of work indicated in the annexure to the Government Order dated the 9th May 1936 would be amplified to include formation of hobli unions, conferences, drawing up of programme of needs of each village, etc., and the appointment of the hobli workers should in no way be considered to lessen the existing responsibility of the Revenue Officers in regard to the village improvement works. On the other hand, such officers should pay greater attention to the selected villages and direct the workers. The Deputy Commissioners and the Revenue Sub-Division Officers should supervise the work of these hoblis intensively and arrange to show tangible progress in the execution of the scheme.

Expenditure on the Scheme.- The cost on account of the pay, etc., of the honorary workers, is estimated at Rs. 50,000 per annum and this is proposed to be met from the State funds. In the current year's budget, the allotment made under "Rural Reconstruction" is Rs. 200,000, out of which about Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 60,000 go towards establishment charges and the remaining amount, about Rs. 150,000, is left for distribution among the various Panchayets which number about 12,000. Though in recent years, separate provision has been made for sinking drinking water wells and formation of inter-village communication roads, the amount which is being allotted under rural reconstruction is hardly sufficient to meet the needs of all the villages in the State. In addition to Rs. 200,000, Rs. 100,000 has been set apart for the rural drive during next year (1942-43) and the sum of Rs. 50,000 required for the hobli workers will be met out of this grant, the remaining amount being utilised for intensive action to be launched in each hobli. The combined efforts of the official and non-official agency would create the necessary incentive and interest in the rural folk for regeneration of village life.

There is money available already to the extent of Rs. 2.5 millions at the credit of the village panchayets and the accumulated arrears pending collection were Rs. 4.5 millions at the end of 1940-41. The object of the scheme is, by a vigorous drive on the lines outlined above, to convert the cash available and the arrears to be collected into substantial improvement works. If the scheme is successfully carried out, it would mean that, at the end of five years, village improvement works worth nearly Rs. 15 millions (~~Rs. 250,000 cash plus Rs. 450,000 arrears and Rs. 150,000 of Government grant and five years' collection from village panchayets~~) would have been carried out in the villages.

(The Mysore ~~Says~~ Information
Bulletin, July 1942.)

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS

Pensions Fund Scheme for Secondary School Teachers in Bombay. ✓

The Government of Bombay has directed that pension and gratuity schemes introduced in certain secondary schools before 1-6-1939 should be recognised in lieu of the Provident Fund Scheme which came into effect on that date. A grant-in-aid will be paid with effect from the current year on the school management's contributions towards such schemes, subject to the following conditions:

The rules of the Pension Fund scheme must be approved by the Educational Department. The management's contribution to the scheme must be paid every year before March 31. The Pension Fund accumulations should be invested in a bank approved by Government. A teacher in a school to whom the Pension Fund scheme of the school applies will not be allowed to join the Government Provident Fund scheme unless he leaves the school and joins another school in which Government's Provident Fund Scheme has been introduced. Likewise, a teacher who is a subscriber to the Government's Provident Fund Scheme in a school will not be allowed, ~~to~~ leave that school and join ~~ing~~ a school in which a Pension Fund Scheme is in operation, to continue to subscribe to the Government Provident Fund Scheme. Lastly, the Society or the Association which maintains the school should be well constituted.

The Government's contribution to a Pension or Gratuity Scheme will not be more than one-half anna in the rupee of the salary of a teacher to whom the Pension Scheme applies. The grant will be payable in respect of teachers whose age is not less than 20 and whose pay is not less than Rs. 30 a month. It will not be more than one-half of the contribution made by the school during the preceding year and will be limited to one-half anna in a rupee of the monthly pay actually paid to the teacher in the previous year.

(The Times of India, 22-8-1942.) ✓

17

Workers' Organisations

21st Half-yearly Meeting between A.I.R.F. and the Railway Board:
Questions of Dearness Allowance and Provident Fund Discussed.

Questions relating to dearness allowance and the extension of provident fund benefits were discussed at the 21st half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation held in Delhi on 10-8-1942, according to a communique on the meeting issued with the concurrence of the Railway Board and the Federation.

Keeping Railwaymen at Work in Wartime.- Opening the meeting, Sir Leonard Wilson, the Chief Commissioner of Railways, expressed his appreciation of the arduous work railwaymen of all grades had been performing under difficult conditions throughout the country. He also expressed appreciation of the undertaking the Federation had given to use its influence with the men in keeping them at their posts during times of emergency. The staff in Assam particularly, he said, were working under very difficult conditions and no one was more conscious than the Railway Board of the strain imposed on them. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, on behalf of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, said that the Federation adhered to the resolution it had passed in April 1942 undertaking to use its influence with the staff in keeping them at their posts.

Dearness Allowance.- Mr. Mehta then referred to the agreement reached between the Railway Board and himself regarding the grant of increased dearness allowance to the staff which was published on 8-8-1942. He stated that the Council of the Federation had given him plenary powers to negotiate with the Government in this matter and it was in exercise of such powers that he had been a party to the agreement. He said, however, on behalf of the Council that there should be an early review of the scheme to afford to railwaymen automatic relief for the rise in the cost of living to avoid unnecessary delay and hardships to the men.

Provident Fund.- Mr. Mehta asked whether information was available concerning the number of men who had taken advantage of the recent extension of provident fund benefits on an optional basis to employees with 16 years' service and what expenditure this extension had involved. The Chief Commissioner of Railways stated in reply that in the first nine months after the introduction of the revised rule, about 35 per cent. of those who were then made eligible to join had taken advantage of the option. Mr. Mehta suggested that subscription to the provident fund should be made compulsory, but agreed that he would not press for it when he was told that a large percentage of those eligible would, in all probability, eventually exercise the option and join the fund. He pleaded for a liberal extension as he considered the pace of advance too slow. After discussion the Chief Commissioner stated that he was prepared to recommend to the Government that the benefit should be extended to those having 10 years' service and over.

The Federation then referred to anomalies arising from certain railwaymen being classed as inferior. It was explained that what was proposed was that staff with 10 years' service and over, irrespective of their classification or pay, should have the option to subscribe, and that it was preferable to continue the extension of

benefits on the present lines than to introduce new criteria.

Abrogation of Hours of Employment Regulations.- The Chief Commissioner stated that the Government proposed to issue an ordinance for abrogating the hours of employment regulations on certain railways should it be found necessary to do so in an emergency. He said that during the time the regulations remained in abeyance staff would be paid for overtime at one and a half times their ordinary rate of pay. The Federation in agreeing emphasized that action under the proposed ordinance should be resorted to only when it was absolutely unavoidable.

(The Statesman and Hindustan Times,
14-8-1942.) /+

19

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME

Hours of Work

The Railways (Hours of Employment) Ordinance, 1942: Power to Suspend Hours of Employment Regulation. ✓

The Government of India has gazetted the Railways (Hours of Employment) Ordinance, 1942, according to which the Central Government may, by notification, direct that the provisions of Chapter VIA of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, and of the rules made under that Chapter shall, for such period as may be specified in the notification, cease to apply to railway servants of any railway or section of a railway specified in the notification, or shall cease to apply to such railway servants or classes of railway servants of any specified railway or section of a railway as may be specified in the notification."

While ^{such} any notification is in force, any railway servant, to whom but for such notification Chapter VI A of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, would have applied, is employed for more hours in any week than the number of hours permitted under that Chapter, he shall be paid ~~at~~ for overtime at not less than one and a half times his ordinary rate of pay.

(Ordinance No. XLV of 1942, dated 21-8-1942; The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 21-8-1942, page 944.) ✓

Increased Dearness Allowance for Lower-Paid Central Government Employees. ✓

According to a Press Communiqué issued by the Government of India on 15-8-1942, in view of the recent sharp and widespread rise in the cost of living, the Government of India has reviewed the adequacy of the relief now admissible to servants of the Central Government other than railway employees.

Dearness Allowance schemes hitherto adopted by the Government of India vary according to provinces, but, generally, afford relief ranging from Re. 1 to Rs. 4 to Government servants drawing pay up to certain limits, usually Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 monthly. Government considers that it is now necessary to afford relief on a more generous scale, and that it is desirable to adopt a scheme for application to all Central Government servants irrespective of the province in which they may be serving. It has, therefore, decided to grant allowances on the scale given below. These will be admissible as from 1-8-1942.

For the purpose of these allowances India has been divided into three areas: Area A includes Calcutta, Bombay and their vicinities. Area B comprises the following towns: Abbottabad, Agra, Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Amritsar, Bangalore, Benares, Cawnpore, Dacca, Darjeeling, Dehra Dun, Delhi, Dhanushkodi, Hyderabad (Deccan), Karachi, Lahore, Lucknow, Madras, Meerut, Mussoorie, Nagpur, Naini Tal, Ootacamund, Patna, Peshawar, Poona, Quetta, Ranchi, Rawalpindi, Shillong and Simla. Area C includes all the areas not specified in A and B above.

For those drawing Rs. 39 and below the rates of allowance in areas A, B and C respectively will be Rs. 6, Rs. 5 and Rs. 4. For those drawing pay above Rs. 39 but not above Rs. 100 in area A, the allowance will be Rs. 9. Similarly, for persons on pay ranging from Rs. 39 to Rs. 80 in area B the allowance will be Rs. 7, and for persons drawing pay between Rs. 39 and Rs. 60 in area C the allowance will be Rs. 6. Allowances will also be given to persons who draw pays up to Rs. 108, Rs. 86 and Rs. 65 in areas A, B and C respectively to the extent necessary to secure that they are not worse off in total emoluments than those drawing Rs. 100, Rs. 80 and Rs. 60 respectively.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-8-1942.) ✓

Increased Dearness Allowance for Railwaymen. ✓

According to a Press Communiqué issued by the Government of India early in August 1942, the Central Government has had under review the dearness allowance at present given to railway servants, in view of the recent substantial rise in the cost of living.

Dearness allowance was originally given to railway employees with effect from September, 1940, and this was increased in November, 1941. On both occasions the rates of the allowance were fixed after consultation with organized labour represented by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation. On this occasion prolonged consultation has taken place and, while the Railway Board has been unable to accept in full the demands put forward by the Federation, yet agreement has been reached by both parties as to the extent of

the modifications which should be made in the present rules with effect from 15-6-1942. These modifications have since received the sanction of Government. At present those working in Bombay and Calcutta received ~~Rs.~~ Rs. 4-8 a month if their pay is Rs. 70 or below, those in towns of 100,000 inhabitants, together with certain selected areas, Rs. 3-12-0 if their pay is Rs. 60 or below, and those in other areas Rs. 3 if their pay is Rs. 35 or below. Under the modified scheme, those in towns of more than 250,000 inhabitants are to receive Rs. 10-8-0 if their pay is Rs. 120 or below. Those in other towns of 50,000 inhabitants and over, with the same selected areas as before, are to receive Rs. 8-12-0 if their pay is Rs. 90 or under, while those in other areas will receive Rs. 7 if their pay is Rs. 60 or below.

(The Statesman, 9-8-1942.) ✓

Increased Dearness Allowance to Low-paid Government Servants in C.P. ✓

The Government of the Central Provinces and Berar has increased the quantum of dearness allowance payable to all the provincial government servants. The enhanced allowances will be paid on the following scale commencing with pay for August 1942. In Nagpur and Jubbulpore, allowances are to be paid at the rate of Rs. 5 per month for monthly salaries of Rs. 39 and below and Rs. 7 per month for monthly salaries between Rs. 40 and Rs. 80. In other places in the province, the rates of allowance are Rs. 4 per month for monthly salaries of Rs. 39 and below and Rs. 6 per month for monthly salaries between Rs. 40 and Rs. 60. Marginal adjustments will be made in respect of those whose pay is between Rs. 80 and Rs. 87 in Nagpur and Jubbulpore, and between Rs. 60 and Rs. 66 in other places.

(Industrial Bulletin of the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, dated 24-8-1942.) ✓

Increased Dearness Allowance to Low-Paid Government Servants in Mysore State ✓

It is reported that the Government of the Mysore State has ordered the increase of dearness allowance to government servants to Re. 1-8 a month all over the State. The dearness allowance will be payable to those getting up to Rs. 50 per month in Bangalore and Mysore Cities, Kolar Gold Fields and Davangere. In other places the allowance will be limited to those getting up to Rs. 40 per month. Until now, the dearness allowance paid to Government servants was fixed at Re. 1 per month to those getting a pay of Rs. 30 and less per month.

(Industrial Bulletin issued by the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, dated 24-8-1942.) ✓

22

Increased Dearness Allowance to Low-Paid Government
Servants in Bombay ✓

The Government of Bombay has revised the rates of dearness allowance granted to low-paid Government servants. If the average of the figures of the Bombay City cost of living index for any three consecutive months is 143 or above, then in regard to the month following and that month only, the rates of pay limits mentioned below will apply instead of those specified in the earlier orders:-

Bombay City: Rs. 5 a month to those in receipt of emoluments not exceeding Rs. 69 a month.

Moffusil: Rs. 4 a month to those in receipt of emoluments not exceeding Rs. 49 a month.

Government servants in Bombay City whose emoluments exceed Rs. 69 but not Rs. 74 a month, and Government servants in the moffusil whose emoluments exceed Rs. 49 but not Rs. 53 a month, will be granted such allowance as is necessary to make their total emoluments equal to Rs. 74 and Rs. 53 a month respectively.

As the average of the cost of living index figures for the three months ending with June 1942 was 144, the above orders will be given effect to in regard to pay for July, drawn in August, 1942.

(Industrial Bulletin issued by the
Employers' Federation of India,
Bombay, dated 17-8-1942.) ✓

War Dear Food Allowance for Cawnpore Workers ✓

Reference was made at page 26 of our July 1942 report to the grant of increased dear food allowance to Cawnpore industrial workers in the member mills of the Employers' Association of Northern India, Cawnpore. It is now announced that the allowance granted on the 10th July, 1942, will be held to cover cost of living index figures between 161 and 180.

I. Tuli, Secy.
In order to cover cost of living index figures from 181 to 200, the Association has now decided that, with effect on wages earned on and after 1st August, 1942, the minimum allowance which will be granted when the cost of living index figure is within that range, will be on the basis of 5 annas per worker per working day which amount equals, in respect of a 26-day month, a minimum of Rs. 8-2 per worker (provided the full number of days are worked) or, in the event of there being 27 working days in the month, Rs. 8-7. This minimum grant will benefit the lower categories of workers; the amount payable to the higher categories already exceeds the minimum sum above stated. Further, should the monthly cost of living index figure exceed 200, the Association will increase the allowance payable to each worker by a further grant of one pie per index point above 200 per working day, up to 220 points of the cost of living index figure. If the cost of living index figure rises beyond 220 then the question will receive further consideration. This further allowance will also be calculated to the nearest anna, less than 6 pies being ignored but 6 pies or more being regarded as the next higher anna and will be

payable in respect of wages earned during a month when the monthly cost of living index figure announced by the Labour Commissioner in respect of the previous month exceeds 200. This sliding allowance will be granted additionally to the five allowances either previously or now intimated.

In order to clarify the position, the following table, showing the war dear food allowances which will operate at various ranges of the cost of living index figures (based on the monthly figure issued by the Labour Commissioner) is published:-

<u>Age Category</u>	Above 100 but not exceeding <u>120</u>	From 121 to <u>140</u>	From 141 to <u>150</u>	From 161 to <u>180</u>	From 181 to <u>200</u>	From 201 to 220
		Annas in the Rupee				
Under Rs.14	2	4	5	7	Minimum 5 as.	Column 6 plus
Rs.14 but under Rs.18.	1½	3	4	6	per worker per day (Equivalent of a minimum of Rs. 8/2 p.m. of 26 working days.)	one pie anna per point of increase beyond 200 per worker per day (Calculated to the nearest anna.)
Rs.18 but under Rs.24.	1	2½	3½	5		
Rs.24 but under Rs.30.	¾	2¼	3¼	4¾		
Rs.30 but under Rs.75.	½	2	3	4		
Rs.75 and up to Rs.150.	Nil	1½	2½	3		

II. Cotton, Woollen and Leather Concerns.- In order to cover cost of living index figures from 181 to 200, the Association will has now decided that, with effect on wages earned on and after 1st August, 1942, the minimum allowance which will be granted when the cost of living index figure is within that range, shall be on the basis of 6½ annas per worker per working day which amount equals, in respect of a 26-day month, a minimum of Rs. 10-9 per worker (provided the full number of days are worked) or, in the event of there being 27 working days in the month, Rs. 10-15-6, (or, calculated to the nearest anna, Rs. 11). This minimum grant will benefit the lower categories of workers; the amount payable to the higher categories already exceeds the minimum sum above stated. Further, should the monthly cost of living index figure exceed 200, the Association will increase the allowance payable to each worker by a further grant of 1.4 pies per index point above 200 per working day, up to 220 points of the cost of living index figure. If the cost of living index figure rises beyond 220 then the question will receive further consideration. This further allowance will also be calculated to the nearest anna, less than 6 pies being ignored but 6 pies or more being regarded as the next higher anna and will be payable in respect of wages earned during a month when the monthly cost of living index figure announced by the Labour Commissioner in respect of the previous month exceeds 200. This sliding allowance will be granted additionally to the five allowances either previously or now intimated.

In order to clarify the position, the following table, showing the war dear feed allowances which will operate at various ranges of the cost of living index figures (based on the monthly figure issued by the Labour Commissioner) is published:-

<u>Wage Category</u>	Above 100 but not exceeding <u>120</u>	From 121 to <u>140</u>	From 141 to <u>160</u>	From 161 to <u>180</u>	From 181 to <u>200</u>	From 201 to <u>220</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<u>Annas in the Rupee</u>						
Under Rs. 19	2	4	5	7		
Rs. 19 but under Rs. 25.	1 1/2	3	4	5 1/2	Minimum 6 1/2 as. Column 6 plus 1.4 per worker per pies per point of day (Equivalent increase beyond of a minimum of 200 per worker Rs. 10/9 p.m. per day. (Calculated to the nearest annas.)	
Rs. 25 but under Rs. 32/8	1	2 1/2	3 1/2	5		
Rs. 32/8 but under Rs. 40	3/4	2 1/4	3 1/4	4 1/4		
Rs. 40 but under Rs. 59	1/2	2	3	4		
Rs. 59 but under Rs. 75	1/2	2	3	4		
Rs. 75 and up to Rs. 150	Nil	1 1/2	2 1/2	3		

(Notices Nos. 49 and 50 dated 11-8-1942 issued by the Employers' Federation of Northern India, Cawnpore.) ✓

Increase of Dearness Allowance to Low-Paid Government Employees in Sind -

In view of the recent sharp rise in the cost of living on account of the War, the Government of Sind has considered it necessary to afford greater relief to its low paid employees on a scale more generous than the scheme now in force. From 1-8-1942, the dearness allowance will be admissible at the following rates:-

In Karachi Urban Area - To those drawing emoluments less than Rs. 86, Rs. 6 per mensem or such lower amount as will bring their total emoluments including this allowance up to Rs. 86, whichever is less.

Elsewhere in the Province - To those drawing emoluments less than Rs. 65, Rs. 5 per mensem or such lower amount as will bring their total emoluments including this allowance up to Rs. 65 whichever is less.

Note.- Karachi Urban area comprises Karachi City, Karachi Drigh Road and Malir Cantonments.

Emoluments include overtime payments, fees, pensions, special pay and duty, compensatory and house rent allowances, but exclude travelling

allowance, permanent travelling allowance and conveyance allowance. The Dearness Allowance will not be admissible during leave without pay or leave preparatory to retirement.

(The Sind Government Gazette Extraordinary dated 26-8-1942, pages 497 to 498.) ✓

Increased War Emergency Allowances for Calcutta Corporation Employees.

At a special meeting held on 12-8-1942, the Calcutta Municipal Corporation sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 1.7 million towards payment to certain categories of its employees war emergency allowance and advance salaries, and opening in the city shops and depots for supplying them food stuffs at controlled prices. The following are the details of the scheme:-

Advance of One Month's Salary.- An advance, equivalent to one month's pay, free from all deductions, in addition to an advance of one month's pay already made, would be given to all employees of the Corporation drawing a salary up to Rs. 200 per month, other than the temporary hands, to enable them to procure the necessities of life in the abnormal situation created by the war. The amount is to be recouped by twelve equal monthly instalments, the first deduction being made after the total recoupment of the previous advance. In the case of the labour staff, only those employees who had been serving the Corporation continuously at least for six months would be entitled to the benefit of the advance.

Special Allowance for Menial and Labour Staff.- The menial and labour staff, drawing a pay of Rs. 30 per month will be given a special war emergency allowance of Rs. 3 per month including the allowance of Re. 1 per month already granted, in addition to the present pay and grain compensation allowance with effect from the 1st July last.

Supply of Food Staffs at Controlled Prices.- Food stuffs would be supplied from the shops and depots proposed to be set up to all employees of the Corporation drawing up to Rs. 150 per month at controlled prices limited to Rs. 10 per person in the case of the labour and menial staff and limited to 50 per cent. of the monthly salary, not exceeding Rs. 50 per person per month in the case of other employees.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 13 14-8-1942.) ✓

Employment

26

Wartime Recruitment Policy in Indian Railways: Railway Board's Orders.

The Railway Board had under consideration methods of ensuring that those who render war service in the present war, especially those in Railway military units, will, at the end of hostilities, be able to take advantage of any preference which it is decided to accord them in obtaining railway employment. The Board has decided that all future and existing substantive vacancies in non-gazetted ranks which are filled by direct recruitment, or by the appointment of temporary employees thereto, should until further orders, be filled in a temporary capacity only, so that when these ~~same~~ vacancies come to be filled permanently, preference can be given to persons with war service.

Provident Fund and Other Facilities for Staff taken in Permanent Vacancies.- Although, therefore, men will be appointed henceforth only in a temporary capacity, yet they will, when appointed to fill permanent or provisionally permanent vacancies, be treated in the same way as permanent staff in respect of eligibility to subscribe to the Railway Provident Fund, educational assistance and notice of termination of service, and certificate of this eligibility should be attached to the first pay bill after such status is acquired. In other matters, such persons will be treated in the same way as temporary staff.

Future of Persons taken in Provisional Substantive Vacancies.- If, at any time, the provisional substantive vacancy so filled disappears, as, for example, when a railway servant having a lien on his post returns from the war or another department; or if, after the war the incumbent is replaced by a person with war service, such an employee may be retained in service against a purely temporary vacancy. The above privileges will then be discontinued, although the service thus rendered in a temporary capacity against a permanent or provisionally permanent vacancy will be added to any subsequent service for all purposes for which temporary service counts.

Persons Recruited to Purely Temporary Vacancies.- Persons appointed against temporary vacancies will continue to be employed in a temporary capacity as heretofore and will be treated as temporary staff in all matters.

Communal Representation.- The rules regarding reservation of posts for minority communities now in force on Railways will continue to apply.

Shed and Workshop Staff.- Staff in workshops and sheds are now treated as permanent after they have rendered three years' continuous service, and, if they then execute a service agreement, they are eligible for all the concessions admissible to permanent staff. This procedure will continue with this difference that the agreement which workshop and shed staff sign hereafter, should contain a clause to the effect that after the war they are liable to be replaced by men with war service, when their services will be terminated on the usual notice and that they will have no claim to compensation of any kind.

Apprentices.- These orders do not apply to posts of apprentices which may be filled according to present procedure.

Preference for Persons with War Service.- The actual term in which preference is to be accorded to persons with war service when vacancies are eventually filled permanently is under consideration.

These orders have effect from 1st June 1942 and apply to all substantive or provisionally substantive vacancies not filled on that date as well as to future vacancies. If the operation of these rules causes difficulty in finding recruits for any particular category of posts, a reference should be made to the Railway Board. ~~It is obviously desirable that~~ As few exemptions as possible should be made and the Board would require very full justification before accepting any proposals for such exemptions.

(The Railway Herald, Karach, 17-8-1942.)

Criticism by Railway Workers.- The Railway Herald, Karachi, in its issue of 17-8-1942 makes the following editorial comments on the new recruitment rules issued by the Railway Board: "This is a wrong method of making provision for persons with war services. So far as the railwaymen are concerned, they hold a lien on their substantive appointments in railway service and therefore there would be no difficulty in their getting back to work. As regards others, they can have preference for appointment after the close of the war, but to leave vacancies for them and make the present staff to work under a sort of suspense is a policy which is likely to discourage present staff engaged in war transport in this emergency from putting their ~~best in the service.~~ After all, a person who feels that he would not get proper treatment, namely, that he would not be confirmed after the necessary probationary period, can have no lasting interest in his service, and he tries to find out jobs where he has security of service. If the Railway Board is very keen on keeping a large number of railway posts unfilled permanently to provide opportunities of service to people with war services, it should go a bit further and amend railwaymen's service conditions in a manner as to admit employees who were once provided against permanent posts and are subsequently reverted to make room for persons with war services to enjoy all concessions and privileges due to confirmed men on the ground that they have once enjoyed them. It would amount to grave injustice to stop confirmations which ordinarily become due after a 12-months probationary period, and also refuse to liberalise rules so as to lessen the rigour of the sufferings of railwaymen who are doing their best in this great war.

(The Railway Herald, Karach, 17-8-1942.)*

Keeping Labour at Work during War Time:
Statement of European Business Community
of Bengal. ✓

The steps contemplated by Commerce and Trade Organisations representing European business and industries in Calcutta are set forth in a joint statement issued on behalf of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Calcutta Trades' Association, the Indian Jute Mills Association, the Indian Tea Association, the Indian Mining Association, and the Indian Engineering Association. The statement says: "Being sensible of the present imperative need for a united front on the part of the people of India and of North-East India in particular against the aggressor Nations and against any interference with India's war effort

as a whole, and being impressed with the necessity, at the present time, of avoiding any possible interference with commerce and industrial employees, or with the war output of such employees, we on behalf of the interests we represent, hereby declare our intention of jointly and severally taking all steps within our power, by combined action or otherwise, and irrespective of political, racial and other considerations, in the following directions:

(a) of meeting, to the best of our ability, any disturbance of the present peaceful state of labour; (b) jointly or severally supporting and protecting those engaged in commercial and industrial employments by encouraging the maintenance of law and order throughout the country; and (c) of affording to commercial and industrial employees such protection as, with official assistance and co-operation, it may be possible to give them against economic and financial distress, in particular by promoting measures to ensure the adequate supply and distribution of essential foodstuffs at reasonable controlled prices.*

(The Hindu, 9-8-1942.) ✓

Employment of Troops in Essential Services: ✓

New amendments to the Defence of India Rules published by the Government of India empower the Government to direct that troops shall be employed in any undertaking which, in the opinion of the Government, is engaged in any trade or business essential to the life of the community. Essential services must be carried on in all circumstances, and where normal working stops for any reason the Government must take every possible step to secure their continuance. These amendments provide the necessary legal cover for the employment of suitably trained troops for such purposes.

(The Statesman, 22-8-1942.) ✓

Hotels and Restaurants declared Essential Services:
Madras Government's Order. ✓

of Madras.

H.E. the Governor has issued an order declaring all services connected with hotels, coffee clubs, restaurants and other eating houses in the Madras fortress area and 24 other A.R.P. towns in the Presidency as essential services under the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance.

(The Bombay Chronicle 28-8-1942.) ✓

Prohibition of Strikes and Lock-outs Without Notice. ✓

In exercise of the powers conferred by Rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules and in supersession of the order of the Government of India in the Department of Labour dated the 6th March 1942 (vide pages 49 of our March 1942 report) the Central Government has made the following order, it being necessary to do so for securing the efficient prosecution of the war:

(i) No person employed in any undertaking shall go on strike in connection with any trade dispute without having given to his employer within one month before striking not less than 14 days' previous notice in writing of his intention so to do.

(ii) No employer of any undertaking shall lock-out his employees in connection with any trade dispute without having given to his employees within one month before locking out not less than 14 days' previous notice exhibited prominently in his undertaking, of his intention so to do, provided that no such notice shall be necessary while a strike exists in the undertaking, but a notice of the lock-out shall be sent within 3 days to such authority as may be specified by the Provincial Government either generally or for particular areas or particular classes of undertakings.

(iii) When any trade dispute has been referred to a Court of Inquiry or a Board of Conciliation under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929 (VII of 1929) or for conciliation or adjudication under an order made under rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules, no person employed in any undertaking concerned in the dispute shall lock-out or continue to lock-out his employees, during the period from the making of the reference until the expiry of two months after the conclusion of the proceedings upon such reference.

(iv) Sub-rule (5) of rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules shall apply to the interpretation of this order.

(The Gazette of India, Part I,
dated 22-8-1942, pages 1409 to 1410.)

30

Production

Supply of Yarn to Handloom Weavers:
Madras to apply All-India Scheme.

The Scheme for the supply of yarn to handloom weavers drawn up by the Government of India will be brought into force in Madras Province from 15-8-1942. Under the scheme the entire process of distribution from the mill to the consumer will be controlled through the machinery of licensed dealers and the sale of yarn by anybody other than a mill or a licensed dealer will be strictly prohibited. With effect from 15-8-1942 no person other than a person acting on behalf of a cotton spinning mill, shall sell, store for sale, or conduct any business in cotton yarn unless he has a license in the prescribed form issued by the Provincial Yarn Commissioner. No such licence is necessary for a person selling, storing for sale, or carrying on business in cotton yarn spun by him or the members of his family.

(Press Note No. 157 of the Development
Department, Government of Madras, dated
3-8-1942.) ✓+

Development of Mineral Resources:
Appointment of Advisory Committee to Utilisation Branch of
Geological Survey of India. ✓+

Reference was made at page 33 of our May 1942 report to the appointment of a Utilisation Branch of the Geological Survey of India. In order to help in the successful development of the Utilisation Branch and to ensure that its work is fully explained to non-officials in India, the Government of India has now decided to form an Advisory Committee to advise on problems connected with the work of the Branch. The duties of the Advisory Committee will be - (a) to consider any reports submitted by the Utilisation Branch which Government decide to lay before the Committee and to advise Government on the further measures to be adopted; (b) to suggest to Government matters to which they consider the Utilisation Branch should devote its attention; and (c) to give Government advice on any other problems connected with the Utilisation Branch which Government may lay before them.

The Committee is to consist of 16 official and non-official members with the Labour Member, Government of India, as Chairman.

(The ~~XXXX~~ Gazette of India, Part I, dated
8-8-1942, pages 1357 to 1358.) ✓+

Restrictions on Closure of Shops trading in
Essential Articles.

The Government of India has ~~am~~ amended the Defence of India Rules so as to add a new Rule 81D dealing with shops trading in essential articles. According to this Rule, a District Magistrate, if he considers it necessary for the purpose of maintaining supplies essential to the life of the community may, by general or special order and subject to the provisions of any law for the time being in force relating to shop-hours, require the proprietor of a shop or restaurant to keep open the shop or restaurant for the conduct of the essential business thereof during such period or periods as may be specified in the order. No proprietor of a shop or restaurant shall close the shop or restaurant on the occasion of a hartal or in contravention of any order issued by the District Magistrate. If a shop or restaurant is closed in contravention of these provisions, the District Magistrate or any person authorised by him by general or special order in this behalf may cause the shop or restaurant to be opened and the essential business thereof to be carried on through such agency as he may think fit and at such prices as may be specified in the order, and may use or cause to be used all such force as may be necessary for the enforcement of this ~~Rule~~. In case sale takes place under orders of the District Magistrate and through his agency, all stock-in-trade relevant to the essential business thereof may be sold or disposed of by the agency through which the essential business is carried on, and there shall be paid to the proprietor of the shop or restaurant a sum as representing the proceeds of the sale or disposal of such stock-in-trade less the amount of the cost of carrying on the essential business of the shop or restaurant.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary,
dated 7-8-1942: pages 917 to 918.) ✓

The first meeting of the Food Advisory Council set up by the Government of India (vide page 41 of July 1941 report) was held on 24 and 25-8-1942 under the Chairmanship of Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India. The ~~same~~ following are some of the more important points emphasised by Sir Jogendra Singh in his opening speech at the meeting:

General Food Position: No ground for Immediate Anxiety.- Reviewing the food position in the country, Sir Jogendra Singh said that the problem for the meeting to consider was how to meet the requirements of Indian population and of the fighting forces, particularly in view of the shortage of rice ranging round 2,200,000 tons, as the result of the closing down of the supply from Burma and bad harvests in some areas. It was anticipated that an additional 850,000 tons of rice would be produced as the result of Government's campaign and other measures, and that the deficit in 1943-44 would be reduced to 1,100,000 tons, provided they continued to be favoured to the end of the season by the monsoon, as hitherto. ~~When~~ Wheat production would be increased by about 450,000 tons, as the result of the production drive, and there would be no deficit in 1943-44. The wheat position has been aggravated at present by transport difficulties and the natural tendency of the producer to hoard the surplus. "There can be no scarcity in the towns, if we can coax the hoarding into the market. There is no immediate possibility of a shortage. The early rice crop will be coming into the market, and should give 9,000,000 tons. This will be followed by jowar (6,500,000 tons), bajra (2,500,000 tons) and maize (2,000,000 tons). We should get 11,000,000 tons of these three crops. Thus, whatever the prospect may be from January to March, 1943, for wheat, and March to August, 1943, for rice, the present position ought not to be one of much anxiety."

Efforts to Stimulate Food Production.- Reviewing the efforts made to stimulate food production, Sir Jogendra Singh said that from the fund created by the levy of an additional duty on imports of raw cotton, the Government of India had made grants to four Provinces and three States in respect of lands diverted from cotton to food or fodder crops. He added that all applications for grants would receive favourable consideration up to the extent of the funds available. Giving figures, Sir Jogendra Singh said it was anticipated that 5,000,000 acres of land under short staple cotton and raw jute would now be used for raising food crops. There were about 105,000,000 acres of land described as culturable waste.

Protecting the Cultivator: Measures to prevent Serious Fall in Prices.- Dealing with the need to protect the cultivator from the ill effects of serious and sudden fall in prices, he said that the Government of India accepted in principle the recommendation of the Food Production Conference "That they (the Government of India) should buy sufficient quantities of foodstuffs both in the Provinces and States to prevent a serious fall in prices." This however, he said, was only the more immediate of the questions. The Council had also to face the question: what would be the position of the cultivator after the cessation of hostilities and what steps should be taken now to save him from the disaster which swept over the countryside after the last war. The problem of prices cannot be separated from the

problem of production, nor can prices be divorced from the volume of money in circulation at any time. Any change in the reward of labour in terms of money cannot fail to affect prices. When a larger volume of money is in circulation, the purchasing power of money goes down, and the consequence is a rise in prices. Other factors inescapable in war have accentuated the position. This vital factor should always be taken into account while controlling the prices of agricultural ~~taxes~~ commodities; otherwise control of prices will have adverse reactions on the agriculturists' willingness to grow more food.

Need for Planning.- Concluding, Sir Jogendra Singh said that while the food situation did not furnish any immediate ground for anxiety, he did not want to create the impression that all was well. He said: "We may at any moment be faced with scarcity in particular areas, on account of trade ceasing to function, further curtailment of transport facilities, and an increased demand for the defence services. I would, therefore, earnestly request this Council to approach the problems in the full realisation of these grim possibilities. We have no alternative but to plan ahead to meet our changing and increasing requirements."

(The Times of India, 26-8-1942.)

The more important of the decisions reached by the Council are briefly noticed below:

Price Control.- After examining various suggestions for inducing cultivators to give up hoarding, the Council felt that price control should be continued in the present circumstances but with the following modifications, with a view to ensuring free sales of all the available produce by the cultivators and dealers:-

(1) Price control should cover all the staple food grains which are competitive, regard being had to their normal price parities, the rising costs of production and other factors that govern price with the object of giving the grower a fair deal.

(2) A single agency should purchase the requirements for the Army and the deficit areas and such agency should have the monopoly of available wagon supplies for the inter-provincial movement of foodstuffs.

(3) Control should be extended to retail prices by way of laying down permissible margins in different areas.

The Council also recommended that data regarding the approximate quota of foodstuffs to be moved from one region to another may be worked out in the light of the food position in the country as a whole for the information of the War Transport Department ~~which~~ should be requested to arrange their wagon allocation programme on the basis of such data.

Distribution of Food Purchases for Defence Services.- In view of the large scale purchase of foodstuffs for the Defence services, the Council recommended to the Defence authorities to examine the feasibility of distributing their purchases over a number of surplus regions with a view to relieving pressure on transport and also to purchase a portion of their requirements in those areas where, due to the suspension of normal transport and trade facilities as a result of the Defence strategy or because of their vulnerability to enemy

action, surpluses are likely to accumulate.

Stimulating Food Production.- In order ~~to~~ further to increase the total area available for food production, the Council decided to request the Provincial and State Governments to examine the extent of old fallow lands lying idle, to investigate the causes of their being abandoned by cultivators and to take necessary remedial measures and steps for bringing them under cultivation. The Council decided to appoint a sub-committee to examine all the available sources of manure with a view to their fullest possible utilisation and, pending such examination, decided to recommend to the Provincial and State Governments to encourage compost making, to ask major municipalities to convert town refuse into fertilisers and to purchase and distribute oil-cakes amongst cultivators at concessional rates. The Council considered the growing scarcity of vegetable and eggs in the country and decided to request the Provincial and State Governments to organise a planned drive to encourage the production of vegetables on ~~an~~ all available spare strips of land in the vicinity of urban areas by provision of such concessions as free distribution of seed, reduced water-supply rates, etc., and to make suitable arrangement for their disposal. It was also suggested that Provincial and State authorities should take steps to ensure regular supply of milk to urban areas and to remove all restrictions such as octroi duty and other local imposts which impede the free movement of milk into cities.

Improvement of Transport Facilities.- The Council considered the ~~transport situation in the country which was becoming increasingly more difficult~~ and to relieve the situation decided to recommend that the Provincial and State Governments should be moved to take steps systematically to organise indigenous means of transport such as bullock carts and country boats for facilitating the internal and long-distance haulage of goods - the long distance haulage being arranged by a continuous and point-to-point bullock cart transport service.

Raising Crops in Plantations.- The Council decided to enquire of the plantation estates owners whether they have taken steps to utilise the available land in their estates for increasing food production. In their opinion it was not necessary at this stage to promulgate an order on the lines of the Ceylon Food Production Order (Estates) requiring the plantation estates to devote a prescribed proportion of the cultivated land to the production of food crops.

Statistics.- To facilitate the collection of information regarding the progress of "Food Production Drive", the Council decided to request the Provincial and State Governments to prepare and maintain graphs showing the increase in the area under food and fodder crops from year to year, taking the acreage under such crops in the three pre-war years as the basis.

(The Hindu, 29-8-1942.) ←

35

Control Measures

Extension of Madras House Rent Control Order, 1941. ✓

In March 1942, the Madras House Rent Control Order, 1941, was extended to the whole Province except the city of Madras. In view of the reports from certain areas in the Madras City of profiteering in house rents by owners of residential houses, the Government of Madras has now decided to extend the Control Order to the City also. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that profiteering in rents is not confined to residential buildings only, but is prevalent also in the case of buildings used for storage accommodation. The Government has, therefore, decided that rents for such buildings should also be controlled, and has accordingly issued the Madras Godown Rent Control Order, 1942. The Order is on the same lines as the House Rent Control Order and will apply to all areas in the Province.

(Press Note No. 171 dated 18-8-1942
issued by the Development Department,
Government of Madras.) ✓

Bombay Kerosene Licensing Order, 1942

The Bombay Government has, in view of the acute shortage of kerosene in the province and the consequent development of profiteering and other practices, promulgated the Kerosene Licensing Order, 1942, which extends to the City of Bombay and the Bombay Suburban District. The Order prohibits the sale or ~~shortage~~ ~~of~~ for sale of kerosene except under licence.

(The Bombay Government Gazette
Extraordinary dated 31-7-1942,
pages 291 to 292.) ✓

Supply of Coal to Public Utility Concerns:
Duty of Controller of Coal Supply.

In view of the difficulties experienced in obtaining transport for the supply of coal, the Government of India appointed a Controller of Coal Distribution some four months ago with headquarters in Calcutta with the object of regulating the distribution of coal in the best interests of the country. Defining the duties of the Controller, a press communiqué issued by the Government of India on 14-8-1942 says:

The Controller is responsible for deciding the order of priority in which the coal has to be despatched, and his functions include the granting of priority for all shipments of coal, naval coal, loco coal for railways, all Government requirements, requirements of public utility concerns, and of the iron and steel industries. The Controller is also responsible for the allotment and control of wagons normally classified under "public".

(The Times of India, 12-8-1942.) ✓

Relief of Overseas Evacuees:
Government of India set up Special Fund. ✓

Provincial Governments, local Administrations and public charities have contributed generously to the relief of refugees and evacuees who have arrived in India, and have done much to meet their immediate needs. But the circumstances in which they have left their houses outside India are such ~~x~~ that assistance will continue to be needed for some time to come, though, it is to be hoped, on a diminishing scale. A special fund known as the Indian Overseas Evacuation Relief Fund has therefore been set up by the Indian Overseas Department of the Government of India, with the aid of a grant of Rs. 500,000 from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund, for the purpose of affording assistance to non-official organisations engaged in relief work to evacuees. Applications for grants from this fund have to be submitted through the Provincial Government or local Administration concerned and have to be accompanied by a statement ~~xx~~ of the work done and an estimate, with information in support of probable requirements.

The grants so far made from or through the Indian Overseas Evacuation Relief Fund include Rs. 10,000 to the Marwari Relief Society and a like amount to the Governor of Orissa, and a sum of ~~x~~ Rs. 150,000 for the supply of immediate needs of evacuees arriving on foot on the Assam border. Smaller grants have also been made direct from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for the provision of amenities and necessities for evacuees who are accommodated in camps in Mount Abu and in Bharatpur State.

(The Statesman, 27-8-1942.) ✓

Evacuee Technicians: Employment secured by Labour Tribunal. ✓

The National Service Labour Tribunals in the Provinces are maintaining registers of technical personnel evacuated from Burma, Malaya and other Eastern countries with a view to securing employment for them. So far 370 such evacuees (mostly from Burma) have registered themselves in Bengal, 92 in Madras, 54 in the Punjab and N.W.F.P., 31 in the U.P., 25 in Bombay, 7 in the C.P. and 4 in Bihar and Orissa. The Bengal Tribunal has so far secured employment for 91 evacuees, nearly 25 per cent. of the number registered in that Province. Madras comes next having secured employment for 20, nearly 22 per cent. of the evacuees registered there. The Punjab and N.W.F.P. Tribunal has secured employment for seven evacuees, the Bombay Tribunal for two and the C.P. and Berar Tribunal for one.

(Unofficial Note issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India, on 19-8-1942.) ✓

Transport Problems

Possibilities of Increased Traffic by Country Craft on the West Coast of India Government of India orders

Inquiry. ✓

The Government of India has deputed Dr. H.F. Sorley, I.C.S., and Rao Bahadur Maneklal Lalubhai to investigate the possibilities of increased traffic by country craft on the west coast of India between Karachi and Cochin in order to relieve the pressure on railways and to supply the necessary commodities to the coastal tract and the areas within easy reach of the coast by roads.

(Press Note No. 781 dated 13-8-1942 issued by the Director of Information, Bombay.) ✓

Other areas in which water transport has possibilities are in Bengal and Assam and the Regional Transport authority, which is already acquainted with this problem is being asked to investigate the possibilities of a larger use of rivercraft for transport in these two provinces. As regards the rest of the country, water transport is largely ruled out as of inconsequential importance in the scheme of war transport.

Road Transport.- As for road transport, the present position is that the majority of vehicles are already being used by the various authorities for war work and that the first problem is to rationalise the use of these vehicles. The existing conditions have created confusion as one authority cuts into the sphere of another in using motor vehicles. It is proposed, therefore, to appoint provincial controllers of motor vehicles so that they may have full knowledge of the vehicles operating in their area and help their distribution between various activities in the most effective and economical way. This plan of rationalisation will also enable the

Central Government to know the number of vehicles available in each area which are in surplus to the requirements of war work and which could be used when and where required.

Rail Transport.- It has not been found possible, however, in view of the shortage of petrol and tyres and exigencies of the military situation, to develop road transport, in any area to the extent that it may relieve railways entirely of their burden. The main problem of war transport is a better turn-round of railway wagons and the War Transport Department is busy daily contacting port authorities, military authorities and Supply officials to see that no delay occurs in unloading wagons. The War Transport Department is busy in consultation with the Railway ~~Board~~ Board with devising plans for further improving the rate of turn-round of wagons.

(The Times of India, 8-8-1942.)+

Motor Transport Committee appointed by Government of Madras.

The Government of Madras have decided to constitute a committee to advise them on the following points: (1) In what manner the ~~xxxx~~ transport motor vehicle resources of the Province may be best conserved and devoted to essential uses and whether it is advisable to compel the conversion of lorries to producer-gas in view of the difficulty in getting tyres, and (2) the rules which should be made applicable to the use of producer-gas plant on private motor cars in the light of the following criteria:- (a) to ensure the safety and convenience of the general public and of other road users, and (b) to ensure, in the general interests of the defence of India in the present war situation, that there is no undue or avoidable waste of the country's motor vehicle resources.

The Chairman of the Central Traffic Board will be the Chairman of the Committee and Mr. T.A. Varghese, I.C.S., Secretary to the Central ~~Board~~ Road Traffic Board, will be the Secretary of the Committee.

(The Hindu, 24-8-1942.)+

Compensation for War Injuries.

Extension of War Injuries Ordinance, 1941:
Second Amendment Ordinance.

The Government of India has gazetted the War Injuries (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1942, to extend the application of the Original Ordinance to "British Subjects and Servants of the Crown in any part of India".

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 8-8-1942, page 919.)+

List of the more important publications received in this Office during August, 1942.

Conditions of Work.-

Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the Province of Orissa, for the year 1941. Superintendent, Government Press, Cuttack. 1942. Price Annas 15.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Reserve Bank of India. Report of the Central Board of Directors for the year ended the 30th June 1942. (To be presented to the Shareholders at the Eighth Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday, the 10th August, 1942, at Madras in the Museum Theatre, Pantheon Road, at 3 p.m.) 1942. The Times of India Press, Bombay.
- (2) Annual Market Review, 1941. Premchand Roychand & Sons, Ltd., Bombay. 1942.
- (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 1940. Vol. II. Abstract and detailed tables of the trade and shipping with each country and at each port and tables relating to the trade of the French Possessions in India. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi, 1942. Price Rs. 20-4-0 or 31s.
- (4) Index Number of Weekly Wholesale Prices of Certain Articles in India from week ending 19th August 1939 to week ending 31st December 1941. Issued by the Office of the Economic Adviser, Government of India. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1942. Price Rs. 4 or 6s.6d.
- (5) Proceedings of the Meeting of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways; 3rd and 4th July 1942. Vol. XIX, No. 1. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1942.

Social Insurance.-

Report on the Administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1923) in the Central Provinces and Berar during the calendar year 1940. Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. and Berar. 1941. Price Annas .6.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

- (1) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry: Proceedings of the Fifteenth Annual Meeting held at Delhi on 7th and 8th March 1942. Vol. III. 1942. 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi.
- (2) Report of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce for the year 1941. Bombay: G. Claridge & Co., Ltd., 1942.

Social Policy.-

Fourth Labour Conference (First Tripartite Conference) (Held at New Delhi on the 7th August 1942) August 1942. New Delhi: Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press. 1942.