

C6/2/48

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Industrial and Labour Developments in April 1944

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

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of the more important publications received in this office during April, 1944.

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Government of

International Labour Office Bureau International du Travail	
Date Recd	JUN 5 1944
File No.	The Factories (Second Amendment) Bill, 1944: Provision of Holidays with Pay to Industrial Workers.
File With	

Reference was made at page 1 of our May 1942 report to the Draft of a Bill to provide holidays with pay for industrial workers, which the Government of India proposed to introduce in the Assembly. On 3-4-1944, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, introduced in the Central Assembly the Factories (Second Amendment) Bill, 1944, which seeks to make provision for holidays with pay. The present Bill seeks to confer on workers in perennial factories the benefit, after a year's service, of at least seven consecutive days' holidays of which at least six will be paid for. The Bill does not seek to affect the continuance of other local or customary holidays at present given by an employer to his workers. The holidays will be allowed to accumulate, upto one week being added to holidays subsequently earned. Provincial Governments will be empowered to exempt any factory in which the leave rules provide for benefits substantially similar to those included in the Bill. ~~The~~

The Statement of objects and reasons points out that the Royal Commission on Labour made certain modest recommendations for voluntary action in regard to paid leave for factory workers, but that these did not lead to substantial progress. The International Labour Conference, it is pointed out, adopted at its twentieth session in 1936 a Draft Convention on Holidays with Pay. The Government of India has not ratified the convention, but Provincial Governments and interests concerned have been consulted on the subject of Holidays with Pay. The present Bill which follows these consultations covers not an unimportant part of the Draft Convention.

Opportunity is also taken to provide for the grant of compensatory holidays against the loss by a worker of his weekly holidays, as a result of any order or rule made under the Factories Act.

(The Gazette of India, Part V,
dated 3-4-1944, pages 15-77).

Government of India:

The Factories (Amendment) Act, 1944.
(Act No. XIV of 1944).

Reference was made at page 2 of our March 1944 report to the introduction of the Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1944, in the Central Assembly on 3-3-1944. The Bill, as passed by the Assembly, received the assent of the Governor General on 26-4-1944 and the text of the Act is published at page 46 of part IV of the Gazette of India dated 9-4-1944.

Bengal:

Rules Regarding Appointment of Medical Referees.

Reference was made at page 2 of our report for December 1943, to the draft rules gazetted by the Government of Bengal regarding the appointment of medical referees under the workmen's compensation (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1942. The rules as finally adopted by the Government are published at pages 463 to 465 of Part I of the Calcutta Gazette dated 27-4-1944.

(The Calcutta Gazette dated 27-4-1944 Part I, pages 463-465).

Bombay:

The Bombay Non-Urban Labour Housing, Sanitation and Provision Shops Act, 1944.
(Act No. VI of 1944).

Reference was made at page 1 and pages 17-18 of our report for May, 1943 to the Bombay Non-Urban Labour Housing, Sanitation and Provision Shops Bill, 1943, which seeks to provide for the opening of provision shops for and regulating the housing and sanitary conditions of non-agricultural labour in areas outside the municipal and cantonment limits in the province of Bombay. The Bill having been assented to by the Governor General on 18-4-1944, is published as an Act (Act No. VI of 1944) at pages 91-98 of Part IV of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 25-4-1944

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated 25-4-1944, Part IV, pages 91-98).

Madras:

Rules Regarding ^{Returns} ~~Notice~~ of Less Serious Accidents under Factories Act, 1934 .

The draft rules regarding submission of fortnightly ^{returns} ~~notices~~ of less serious accidents in factories, employing more than 250 workers (vide page 2 of our report for January 1944) have been finally adopted by the Government of Madras and are gazetted on 24-3-1944 at pages 4-5 of the Rules supplement to Part I of the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 4-4-1944.

(Fort St. George Gazette dated 4-4-1944, Rules Supplement to Part I, pages 4-5). ✓

Orissa:

The Orissa Industrial and Labour Dispute
Statistics Rules, 1944.

The Draft Orissa Industrial and Labour Dispute Statistics Rules, 1944, (referred to at page 2 of our January, 1944 report), have been finally adopted by the Orissa Government and are gazetted at pages 58-59 of Part III of the Orissa Gazette dated 31-3-1944.

(The Orissa Gazette, dated 31-3-1944,
Part III, pages 58-59).

Sind:

The Sind Shops and Establishments (Amendment)
Act, 1944. (Act No. IX of 1944).

A Bill to amend the Sind Shops and Establishments Act, 1940 (Act No. XVIII of 1940) was adopted by the Provincial legislature recently. In the statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill as introduced in February 1944, it is pointed out: "Experience of the working of the Sind Shops and Establishments Act, 1940 (No. XVIII of 1940), has shown that it requires to be amended to provide for appointment of persons other than the Commissioner of Labour as Chief Inspector. The Act also requires to be amended to meet the conditions brought about by the change in the Indian Standard Time, and for providing for conditional exemptions. Opportunity is also taken to carry out two other minor amendments". The amendments now introduced are: (1) The provincial government may appoint any person as Chief Inspector for any specified area; and (2) The Government may lay down the conditions of exemption of persons declared exempted under the Act.

The Bill as passed by the Legislature was assented to by the Governor on 1-4-1944 and the text of the Act is published at page 57 of Part IV of the Sind Government Gazette, dated 6-4-1944.

(The Sind Government Gazette,
dated 6-4-1944, Part IV, page 57).

SOCIAL POLICY.

Reorganisation of the Labour Department and Factories Inspectorate in U.P. ✓

The U.P. Government has decided to reorganize the Labour Department, and particularly its ~~part~~, the Department of Boilers and Factories. Instead of one officer combining the duties of the Chief Inspectors of Factories and Boilers, there will now be two separate officers. The Government note in the 1944-45 budget estimates says: "On the separation of the Boilers' Department from the Department of Factories, it will be necessary to create a post of Chief Inspector of Boilers as also a few ministerial and inferior posts as a result of the amalgamation of the office establishment of the present combined inspectorates with that of the Labour Commissioner. Opportunity has also been taken to revise the scales of pay of the Chief Inspector of Factories and those of the inspectors. The present cost of the combined inspectorate is Rs. 1,10,000. There is an extra cost in the budget year as a result of the reorganization of Rs. 21,000".

The cost of the Labour Department in the year 1943-44 was Rs. 1,10,000. In the year 1944-45 it is being raised by Rs. 36,000. The increase is due to the appointment of an additional Labour Officer, the revision of the existing staff and the grant of dearness allowances. So far there were two Labour Officers, one dealing mainly with conciliation and the other with labour welfare and miscellaneous activities of the department, including the compilation of statistics. Now one Labour Officer will be exclusively in charge of the labour welfare activities. Explaining this reorganization the Government says: "The Labour Welfare Scheme which, in pursuance of the recommendation of the Cawnpore Labour Enquiry Committee, was launched in 1937, is still continuing on a temporary basis. This fact has undesirable reactions since the workers are likely to get the idea that the increased amenities have been provided merely as a propaganda measure for the duration of the war only. It is difficult to counter this idea unless the scheme is made permanent. In the budget year, therefore, provision has been made for the scheme on a permanent footing. The ultimate recurring cost will be Rs. 1,32,000".

(The Eastern Economist,
New Delhi, dated 7-4-1944)

5th Meeting of Standing Labour Committee to be held at end of May 1944: Items on Agenda. ✓

The fifth meeting of the Standing Labour Committee is to be held in Delhi towards the end of May 1944. Among the subjects in the agenda for the meeting are: (1) Draft rules under the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942, for collection of statistics of trade disputes; (2) Standing Labour Committee for coal mines; and (3) compensation to workers who are refused leave in the interest of production.

(Unofficial Note dated 21-4-44
issued by the Principal In-
spection Officer, Government of U.P.)

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Industrial Court to be Set up in
Bengal. ✓

The Government of Bengal, it is understood, is considering the possibility of setting up of an Industrial Court for the settlement of labour disputes in the province, instead of referring them for adjudication.

(The Vanguard, 22-4-1944). ✓

Trade Disputes Act for United Provinces.

The enactment of a Trade Disputes Act is understood to be under the consideration of the U.P. Government. The Act is expected to be on the lines of the Bombay Trade Disputes Act, 1938.

(The Hindustan Times, 30-4-1944). ✓

CONDITIONS OF WORK.

Industrial Disputes.

Industrial Disputes in British India in the First Quarter of 1945.

According to the statistics published by the Department of Labour, Government of India, the total number of stoppages of work during the first quarter (including 15 in progress at the close of the quarter) was 311 and the number of workers involved, 286,515 as against 184 stoppages involving 233,694 workers for the same quarter of the previous year; the total number of man-days lost was 1,354,263 as compared with 1,941,372.

Provincial Distribution.- During the period under review the largest number of strikes occurred in the province of Bombay, where 110 disputes involving 90,269 workers were responsible for the loss of 407,040 working days. In Bengal there were 71 disputes involving 69,425 workers and entailing a loss of 276,901 working days; C.P. and Berar had 59 disputes involving 89,908 workers and entailing a loss of 328,158 working days; Delhi had 42 disputes involving 17,454 workers and entailing a loss of 244,356 working days; Madras had 11 disputes involving 7,193 workers and entailing a loss of 50,289 working days; U.P. had 7 disputes involving 3,452 workers and entailing a loss of 6,957 working days; the Punjab and Bihar had 5 disputes each involving 2,908 and 5,873 workers and entailing losses of 341,698 and 5,799 working days respectively; and Sind had 1 dispute involving 43 workers and entailing a loss of 1 working day.

Classification by Industries.- Classified according to industries, Cotton, woollen and silk mills had 100 disputes involving 168,095 workers and entailing a loss of 900,049 working days; Engineering workshops had 10 disputes involving 16,484 workers and entailing a loss of 136,621 working days; Jute mills had 11 disputes involving 48,342 workers and entailing a loss of 119,959 working days; railways including railway workshops had 7 disputes involving 10,362 workers and entailing a loss of 5,192 working days; and mines had 5 disputes involving 1,632 workers and entailing a loss of 9,592 working days. Other industries together had 124 disputes involving 41,610 workers and entailing a loss of 154,850 working days.

Causes and Results of Disputes.- Of the 311 disputes, 170 related to wages and bonus questions, 21 to those of personnel, 2 to questions of leave and hours and 118 to other causes. ~~50 out~~ Of the 311 disputes, were completely successful, 62 partially successful, 147 unsuccessful, and 3 indefinite. 15 disputes were in progress at the close of the period under review. ✓

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General.

Working of Trade Employees Act in
Delhi Province. ✓

According to a report in the Hindustan Times dated 29-4-1944, a definite improvement has been marked in the conditions of work of shop assistants in Delhi Province as a result of the application from 16-12-1942 of the Punjab Trade Employees Act to the Province.

More than 1,200 prosecutions have been launched by Government under the provisions of the Act since March, 1943. The total amount of fines imposed in the cases ~~was~~ about Rs. 16,000, the highest amount in any individual case being Rs. 216. The offences for which prosecutions ~~are~~ ^{have} been launched relate mostly to the non-observance of the rule requiring that every establishment, or business house, should maintain an attendance register for its employees.

(The Hindustan Times, 29-4-1944). ✓

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Need for Developing Pharmaceutical Industries in India. ✓

The All-India Pharmaceutical Conference, at its fourth session which was held in Calcutta early in April, 1944, adopted a resolution urging the Government of India to take all necessary steps to make India self-sufficient with regard to all essential drugs and medicaments for both the cure and prevention of diseases. The conference criticised the "double-pronged policy of the Government of restricting facilities for Indian industries and importing finished goods", and suggested that the Indian pharmaceutical organisations should present a fully documented memorandum on the question to the authorities. It also urged the grant of all facilities for accelerated development of Indian pharmaceutical industries and basic chemical industries.

The establishment of a college of pharmacy in Bengal and increase in the grade of salaries of compounders were also urged. The conference suggested that the Drugs Act should immediately be put into operation and that as a complimentary measure a Pharmacy Act should also be passed.

(The Hindustan Times, 12-4-1944). ✓

The Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944, (Act 1 of 1944). ✓

Reference was made at page 17 of our February 1944 report to the introduction of a Bill in the Central Assembly on 7-2-1944 to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted on this behalf for the improvement and development of the cultivation, marketing and utilisation of coconuts in India. The Bill is finally adopted is published at pages 35-38 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 15-4-1944. ✓

Working Class Cost of Living Index for Major Centres in India during September, 1943. ✓

The index number of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during September 1943, as compared with August, 1943.

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base = 100</u>	<u>August 43</u>	<u>September 43</u>
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	238	246
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1927	214	228
Bhopal	Year ending January 1938	194	211
Bangalore	August 1939	354	356
Madras	1931-35	405	402
Bombay	August 1939	339	353
Patna	Average cost of living for five years preceding 1914.	513	393
Jamshedpur	Ditto	496	408
Bombay	Ditto	486	446
Madras	Year ending June 1936	181	180
Madras	Ditto	192	193
Coimbatore	Ditto	200	190

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India for September, 1943). ✓

Weekly Price Index of Food Materials.

A press note dated 22-4-1944 issued by the Government of India points out that the abnormal events of recent months have greatly impaired the representativeness of the existing index numbers of food prices, and in view of the immediate need for a more reliable indicator of food price movements, the Economic Adviser to the Government of India has now initiated a new and broad-based index covering as many as eleven important articles of food, viz., rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, gram, dal, pea, coffee, sugar, gur and salt.

Due to the considerable variation of prices of individual commodities, the need for working out the index on a weighted ~~max~~ basis has become apparent. The base period for the index is the week ended 26th August 1939. The compilation of the new food index started on a weekly basis from the beginning of February, 1944. The monthly average for each month is also being published in addition to the weekly indices. The average for the months of February, and March, 1944, are 243.4 and 236.8 respectively. The index for the week ended 1-4-1944 is 231.8.

(The Hindu, dated 24-4-1944).

Rise in Cost of Living in Calcutta and Delhi: Statistics collected by "Statesman".

Calcutta.- According to statistics collected by the Statesman, Calcutta, regarding the rise in the cost of living in Calcutta as a result of the war, for articles in daily use, citizens of Calcutta now pay on an average over 250 per cent more than the price in 1941. This does not take into account pre-war levels and gradually rising costs after September, 1939. The articles covered include the great majority of the daily necessities of life except textiles. Of about 70 such items, only five have so far been rationed and the prices of ~~few~~ controlled. The availability of rationed articles is generally assured, but this is not so with other commodities, prices of which are controlled. Along with the steep rise in the price of rice in Bengal during the ~~last~~ year 1943, the cost of other essential commodities soared. Though Governmental measures have reduced the price of rice—which mounted to Rs. 40 a maund during famine days—to Rs. 16-4 a maund (still an increase of 225 per cent over the 1941 level), prices of fish, vegetables, meat and other essential commodities remain shockingly high.

An analysis of present levels compared with those of 1941 shows that even prices of rationed articles are up on an average by 126 per cent—rice 225 per cent, flour 140, atta 100, sugar 65 and bread 100. Dal (pulses)—an essential for Indians as rice—is neither rationed nor controlled. Its price has climbed 315 per cent over the 1941 level. Good quality dal is generally difficult to secure. Among other items of foodstuffs (not controlled and rationed) beef and mutton record an average rise of 286 per cent. Poultry has gone up by 250 per cent, in the case of a fowl by 400 per cent. Prices of eggs have shot up by 37 per cent, duck's eggs selling at over four times the 1941 price.

Vegetables now sell at a scale 236 per cent higher than in 1941—potatoes 233, brinjal 150, pumpkin 300, puḷbul 433, tomato 400, beetroot 100, ladies' finger 433, cabbage 100, gūer 233, onions 300 and green chilies 100 per cent. Present prices are somewhat lower, however, than those prevailing a month or so ago. There has also been an appreciable decrease in the price of potatoes compared with that ruling in the preceding year.

Fruit is also a very expensive item today, the general rise being 242 per cent—oranges 166, bananas 250, papayas 200, apples 175, grapes 250, lime (patty) 300 and coconut 350 per cent.

Mustard and coconut oil, used as cooking media, have, on an average, risen by 358 per cent and the latter has become almost a rarity. When available, it is sold at a price some 433 per cent above the pre-war rate. Kerosene which is indispensable to the poor man for lighting purposes cannot easily be got. Only obtainable at control shops, its regular supply is not guaranteed, and when procurable, meagre quantities are usually given. Insufficiency of shops has resulted in long queues. Extreme hardship is also caused by the continued scarcity of salt and coal in Calcutta. The controlled price of domestic coal is Rs. 1-8 a maund, thrice its cost three years ago. A few depots occasionally get small quantities, and for this lengthly queues of men, women and children wait for hours only to receive a few seers. The price of salt is about 85 per cent, higher than in 1941 and this necessary commodity (especially during the hot weather) is not obtainable at all shops.

Delhi.— A similar investigation in Delhi also, conducted by the Statesman, reveals that the percentage of increase here is just under 200. It is evident from a study of the respective tables, that in 1941 prices in Delhi were generally higher than those in Calcutta. Present prices, on the other hand, have been more or less standardized. Consequently, the percentage of increase in Calcutta is higher. The earlier rise in Delhi prices was partly due to lack of transport facilities. Stock of ~~xxxx~~ imported goods tended to accumulate at ports and the arrival of consignments in Delhi was often unduly delayed. Shortages were frequent and prices inevitably shot up. Such conditions bred and nourished a black market in Delhi much earlier than at the ports, and when supplies arrived, they quickly went underground and were released by unscrupulous dealers at steadily rising prices. Razor blades which cost six to seven annas for a packet of 10 before the war could not be had for under five ruppees; pencils which used to cost nine annas a dozen jumped to Rs. 1-8 each; a one-anna packet of needles was selling for Rs. 1-2-0. Not only imported articles but daily necessities reached ~~xx~~ freakish heights. Wheat at one period was eight annas a seer; coal and charcoal, the latter 50 per cent dust, went to Rs. 4-8 and Rs. 8 a maund from pre-war prices of 11 annas and a ruppee; eggs were six times dearer than in 1939.

A second reason for the difference in the Calcutta and Delhi percentages lies in present price levels, which are generally lower in Delhi than in Calcutta. ~~xxx~~ It would seem that just as the black market originated, and flourished, earlier in Delhi, so also was it more quickly uprooted when control measures were put into execution. That would probably explain why present prices of certain controlled articles, like razor blades, are higher in Calcutta than in Delhi, thus pushing up the overall percentage rise as compared with 1941. In one respect, however, the position in Calcutta and Delhi is very similar, and that is the tendency of certain controlled goods to disappear from the market. Adequate substitutes are sometimes available, but in some cases the public is obliged to go without.

In publishing the figures, the Statesman points out that, there have been many difficulties in obtaining exact price levels. Prices varied from shop to shop, and even in the same shop from day to day. Much research and sifting has been done and the figures published are as accurate as is possible in the circumstances.

Despite these variations, however, it is found that the local Delhi cost of living generally now is roughly three times (that is to say 200 per cent as against Calcutta's 250 per cent) higher than it was in 1941.

(The Statesman, 21 and 28-4-1944)✓

MIGRATION.

Ban on Entry of Indians in East Africa: Resolution in Council of State urging Withdrawal. ✓

On 6-4-1944, Mr. P.N. Sapr^a moved in the Council of State a resolution recommending immediate steps to secure the withdrawal of regulations having the effect of restricting the entry of Indian immigrants into Kenya, which came into force recently. Mr. R.N. Banerjee, Commonwealth Relations Secretary, accepted the resolution on behalf of the Government and said that the Government had received categorical assurances from the Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika that the regulations were purely temporary and would be terminated with other war-time regulations and that they would be applied to all non-native immigrants without any distinction whatsoever. With regard to the provision prohibiting re-entry of people who had been away for more than two years (vide pages 15 to 16 of our March 1944 report) the Government of India had had the assurance that this part of the regulations would not be enforced rigidly, but the allowance would be made to the circumstances of each particular case.

Pandit Kanru, Mr. Hossain Inam, Mr. Kalikar and Mr. Sapr^a urged the need, which they said had been shown by the circumstances of this regulation, for the appointment of a diplomatic representative for India in East Africa. Mr. Banerjee pointed out that Indian residents in East Africa apparently felt strong enough to safeguard their interests and were not anxious to have an agent, but in view of the strong feeling expressed in the country, the Government of India would take up the matter.

(The Statesman, 8-4-1944). ✓

Natal Pegging Act to be Withdrawn. ✓

As a result of discussions between the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior, South Africa, on the one hand, and a deputation from Natal which included members of the Natal Indian Congress, as also with administration authorities in Natal, as regards the recent efforts to apply the Pegging Act to Natal, it was agreed that the situation could best be met by the introduction of an Ordinance in the Natal Provincial Council instead of the Pegging Act. The proposed Ordinance would provide for the creation of a board consisting of two Europeans and two Indian members under the chairmanship of a third European who would be a man with legal training. The object of the legislation would be to create a machinery to control occupation of certain areas by Indians by licensing dwellings in those areas. The application of the Pegging Act in Durban is to be withdrawn by proclamation on the passing of this ordinance.

The Indian deputationists, it is believed, had suggested that the Pegging Act should be abolished and that Indian penetration in its relation to the Pegging Act should become legislative matter for the Natal Provincial Council to deal with.

(The Hindustan Times, 20-4-1944).

The decision to drop the Pegging Act in Natal has been received with widespread satisfaction in India. ✓

12

Overseas Indians to form Federation:
Mr. Abdul Aziz's suggestion. ✓

Mr. Abdul Aziz, President of the Ceylon Indian Congress, has suggested the formation of a federation of all Indians' overseas organizations with headquarters in New Delhi. Mr. Aziz is circularizing such organizations on the matter. The central office of the federation is to collect information with regard to difficulties of Indians in different parts of the world and present a case on their behalf to the Government, people and Press in India. The federation is also to arrange for exchange of information between different Indian overseas organizations and give necessary advice to each organization. Mr. Aziz proposes that the scope of the federation need not be restricted to the British Commonwealth, it may be extended to all countries where Indians live. He says that the absence of proper machinery to espouse the cause of Indians overseas is very often the reason for their case going by default. The solving of problems of Indians overseas, he adds, cannot be done without full and detailed information being available and overseas Indians themselves are best suited to supply this information.

Mr. V.K. Krishna Menon, Secretary, Indian League, London, welcoming the proposal said that the federation would be very helpful to Indians in British Colonies and Protectorates.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
17 and 19-4-1944). ✓

AGRICULTURE.

Development of Agriculture: Sir Manilal B. Nanavati's Suggestions. ✓

Sir Manilal B. Nanavati, President of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, in a memorandum published recently, makes certain important proposals regarding the re-construction of agriculture in India. Urging the immediacy of the problem, he says that the Central Government should take the initiative in setting up an organisation to deal with all the aspects of rural economy, and should find adequate funds for its efficient working. As a preliminary measure the memorandum suggests that "half of the profits of the Reserve Bank should be set apart for financing the setting up of an organisation for the development of rural life, ~~para~~ preferably under the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research whose functions should be expanded to make plans, promote research and sanction grants for agricultural reconstruction."

The funds thus made available, the memorandum suggests, should first be used to create an appropriate organization to deal with the whole problem of agriculture — to collect information, to investigate conditions, to frame policies, to give grants when schemes have been introduced or to undertake work directly in necessary cases. The fund should be entrusted to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research which should be expanded to include additional committees for (1) social and cultural life of the people, (2) finance of agriculture, tariff and fiscal problems, debt legislation, (3) problem of land tenures and taxation, (4) rural engineering, (5) rural transport, and (6) rural administration and propaganda.

The preliminary work done by the proposed organization, it is pointed out, should prove extremely valuable when, after the war, large projects of agricultural development are taken up, in order to raise the nation's standard of living ^{and} to raise the productivity of agriculture all round so as to enable the farmer to ~~realise~~ ^{realise} a surplus, in place of a deficit, economy.

(The Hindu, 12-3-1944). ✓

The Bengal Alienation of Agricultural Land Bill, 1944. ✓

Reference was made at page 21 of our report for December 1943 to the Bengal Alienation of Agricultural Land (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance 1943, providing for the restoration under certain conditions, to cultivators of any agricultural land alienated by them during the economic distress that prevailed in the province during 1943. A non-official Bill to meet the same end was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly on 3-3-1944 by Mr. Mirza Abdul Hafiz.

(The Calcutta Gazette, dated 27-4-1944, Part IV A, pages 77-78). ✓

14

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC
SERVANTS.

Working Journalists to form Trade Unions:
Recommendations of Sub-Committee of Journalists'
Association.

A sub-committee was set up by the Journalists' Association of India in August, 1943, to investigate and report on the means of improving the conditions of working journalists in newspaper offices in the country. The sub-committee was asked ~~to~~ to collect facts and figures of the present scale of pay, provident fund, leave, allowances etc., obtaining in newspaper offices, suggest a minimum scale of pay and methods by which a national union of journalists can be formed under the auspices of the Association, which will enter into agreements with newspaper proprietors regarding conditions of work of working journalists and ~~to~~ to frame a constitution for the proposed national union of journalists, and rules for its actual working as an organisation to safeguard the interests of working journalists throughout India.

The sub-committee submitted its report recently; some of the more important suggestions contained in the sub-committee's report are: the constitution of an All-India organisation of working journalists set up on a federal basis, the building up of trade union funds by regional bodies to strengthen the all-India organisation, the sending of deputations of journalists' organisations to newspaper proprietors with a view to bringing about improvement in the pay, conditions of service, etc., of working journalists, and the fixing of a minimum wage for working journalists.

Organisation of Journalists.— The recommendations of the sub-committee fall into two categories: one dealing with the development of a trade union organisation and the other with the betterment of existing conditions. The report points out that, owing to the vastness of the country and the comparatively limited area to which the circulation of any daily newspaper extends, the task of organising journalists into a trade union will have to be tackled in the first instance on a provincial or territorial basis. The goal aimed at is the evolution of an All-India Trade Union of Journalists; ~~but~~ in the light of existing facts, it will have to be built up from below.

Views of the Executive Committee of the Journalists' Association.—The Executive Committee of the Journalists' Association of which Mr. S.A. Brelvi, president of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference, is the chairman, in a statement commending the recommendations of the sub-committee, points out that working journalists all over the country must be made to realise that there can be no guarantee of decent living and reasonable conditions of service unless they are in a position to apply sanctions. The strengthening of their respective organisations must be regarded as an important task to secure their well-being and because the process is slow, a beginning must be undertaken without any delay. All working journalists must be persuaded to join the territorial or linguistic official organisation and pay subscriptions regularly. More than the subscriptions, there must be a pro-rata contribution towards a fund which can come to the rescue of the unemployed journalists. This fund must be regarded as the nucleus of a possible trade union reserve. It further states that as the journalists' association organised on a trade union basis will insist that employers must engage only members of recognised journalists' associations, these associations on their part must insist on certain conditions before any individual is admitted as full member.

the conditions are: at least 23 months' work in a regular newspaper office, regular payment of subscriptions and regular contributions to the trade union reserve fund.

Turning to the immediate present, the executive committee suggests that deputations of journalists' organisations may be asked to see various newspaper-proprietors with a view to bringing about amelioration in the conditions of service. The points to ~~the~~ be emphasised are: the removal of the element of uncertainty and insecurity of tenure; immediate rise in the wage level and steps to ensure an adequate income on retirement; and minimum wage of Rs. 125 per month to every journalist, with an annual increment of Rs. 10 for the first ten years and Rs. 20 for the second ten years. Other recommendations include ^{grant of} sick leave, introduction of provident fund (the employer and employees ^{contributing} 8 1/3 per cent ^{each}) and the payment of gratuity at retirement to staff correspondents who are also included in the definition of "working journalists".

The sub-committee in its report has postponed consideration of the framing of a constitution for a national union of journalists on the grounds that the question need not be undertaken until after much impediments, and secondly, that Indian journalists cannot do better than copy the constitution of the British Union with minor changes to suit Indian requirements, and that this can be done easily.

(The Hindu, 15-4-1944). ✓

Chain of Journalists' Trade Unions
As Suggested by Mr. S.A. Brelvi's
suggestion. ✓

An assurance that the Executive Committee of the Journalists' Association of India would take the initiative and see that a Trade Union of Journalists was set up and ~~registered~~ registered at the earliest possible date was given by Mr. S.A. Brelvi, presiding over the annual general meeting of the Association at Bombay on 29-4-1944. The ~~committee~~ committee had found that a national union was not immediately feasible, because of the vastness of the country. Mr. Brelvi agreed with the suggestion of the Committee that a chain of unions might first be started on a provincial basis and that these may join a federation later on.

(The Hindustan Times, 29-4-1944). ✓

16

CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Rural Broadcasting Service Started in Bombay. ✓

A Rural Broadcasting scheme for the province of Bombay was inaugurated by the ~~Government~~ Governor of Bombay on 17-4-1944. Announcing the scheme in a broadcast through the All-India Radio, Bombay, the Governor declared that the object of the new scheme was to keep the people in the rural areas of the province informed of the plans and the steps taken by the Government for rural development and the betterment of their conditions of life. The scheme provides for the installation of receiving sets free of cost in villages and small towns. Arrangements have been made for the immediate installation of more than 800 sets. The broadcasts will be in the three major provincial languages — Marathi, Gujarati and Kannada. Special attention is to be paid for arranging talks on subjects of rural interest, the aim being to disseminate information on the latest developments in agriculture and allied occupations. Some of the subjects included in the first week's programme are poultry farming, diseases of poultry, hatching, war-time cooking, house management, Russian ~~peasant~~ peasant life, health hints, transplanting, and ~~rice~~ rice cultivation. Also included as a daily feature are market rates.

(The Times of India, 19-4-1944) ✓

LIVING CONDITIONS.

Nutrition.

Free Milk Supplies to Working Class Children in Bombay City: Progress of Scheme. ✓

A scheme for free supply of milk to underfed working class children has been in operation in Bombay City for the past three months. The distribution is now being carried on at about 13 Labour Welfare Centres.

During the three months 38,764 children have been served under the scheme. The quantity^{of milk} issued to each child is half a pound a day. A register of the names of children served is kept at each centre. In registering the names particular care is taken to see that growing children between the ages of three and five years only are selected, preference being given to children in a weak state of health due to malnutrition.

(The Vanguard, 18-4-1944). ✓

18

Housing.

Scheme to Construct 1000 Rooms in Bombay City: Bombay Corporation's Decision ✓

A scheme put forward by Mr. N.D. Bhat, Municipal Commissioner, Bombay, for the immediate construction of 1000 all-weather temporary rooms at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,000,000 was approved at a meeting of the Bombay Municipal Corporation on 26-4-1944. Mr. Bhat referred to the congestion in the city and stressed the need for constructing temporary buildings through the agency of the municipality. According to him about 10,000 rooms were necessary to relieve the present congestion sufficiently but construction work on such a large scale was considered feasible at the present time. The type of temporary structure that may be adapted would consist of one room 18' 4" X 10' with a verandah and a kitchen. They will be built in blocks of 10 or 20, with sanitary blocks attached. The cost of each room is estimated to be Rs. 1,000 and it is expected to last 10 years.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 28-4-1944).

In view of the congestion in the City, the Government of India, which has several of its offices in Bombay employing a large number of persons, is reported to be considering a plan of construction of offices and quarters for its staff in Bombay.

(The Hindu, dated 23-4-1944). ✓

Organisation, Congress, Etc.

19

Workers' Organisations.

Government Grant to Indian Federation of Labour. ✓

In reply to a question in the Central Legislative Assembly, Mr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, stated on 4-4-1944 that the Government was making a monthly grant of Rs. 13,000 to the Indian Federation of Labour through Mr. M.N. Roy, General Secretary of the Federation, to carry on propoganda among industrial workers and keep up morale.

(The Hindustan Times, 5-4-1944). ✓

Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress General Council's Protest: Government of India encouraging Split in Trade Union Movement. ✓

At a meeting held at Calcutta on 12-4-1944 the General Council of the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the policy of the Government of India, Labour Department, of encouraging a split in the trade union movement of the country by according recognition to the Indian Federation of Labour, a body, it was pointed out, which is subsidised by the Government, for the purpose of workers' representation at the I.L. Conference at Philadelphia, in supersession of the nomination of the All India Trade Union Congress, the only representative body of Indian workers. The resolution also condemned the Government for its having recourse to the 'vicious policy of subsidising the I.F.L. for keeping up the morale of workers in preference to meeting workers' just demands to keep them contented'.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 15-4-44). ✓

All India Railwaymen's Union to be formed: Mr. Frank R. Anthony's View. ✓

At a railwaymen's conference, sponsored by the Anglo-Indian and European Association, held in New Delhi recently, it was decided to establish an All-India Railwaymen's Union which would be a noncommunal organisation. Opening the conference, Mr. Frank R. Anthony, President-in-Chief of the Association, and Member, Central Legislative Assembly, stated that although the Anglo-Indian community still occupied a pre-ponderant position on the railways, it was not intended to make the Union a communal organisation. He was sure that through the cooperation between Anglo-Indian employees of the railways and the other workers, the proposed Union could be made the strongest organisation of its kind in India. Such a body, he felt, would be strong enough to safeguard adequately the interests of workers and securing their legitimate demands. It was vital to the interests of railwaymen, he urged, that they wholeheartedly support the Union.

(The Statesman, 10-4-1944). ✓

20

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Bengal Anti-Dowry Bill, 1944. ✓

The Bengal Anti-Dowry Bill, (a non-official measure) was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council on 17-4-1944 by Mr. Haridas Majumdar. The Bill provides that any person who receives a dowry, whether belonging to the bridegroom's or the bride's party, is punishable with simple imprisonment which may extend to a month or with a fine not exceeding 1,000 or with both. In the statement of Objects and Reasons it is stated that the measure is intended mainly for the relief of the most poorer labouring and agricultural classes who are the worst sufferers under a custom demanding payments of large amounts of cash in dowry marriages.

(The Calcutta Gazette, dated 13-4-1944, Part IV-B, pp.33-34). ✓

21

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Health Survey Committee's Questionnaire
on Industrial Health and Safety. ✓

Reference was made at page 35 of our report for October 1943 to the setting up of the Health Survey and Development Committee by the Government of India. The Committee has recently circulated to various industrial organisations in the country a questionnaire relating to industrial health in India.

The questionnaire deals with the working of the existing system of distribution of legislative and administrative functions between the Centre and the Provinces in the field of industrial health. Other points dealt with are health services (curative and preventive) provided by Government, local bodies, employers and other agencies; environmental hygiene; industrial hygiene; planned regional zoning of industry; and industrial health statistics. Inquiries are also made on pre-employment medical examination; health education programmes; accidents, statistics, compensation, prevention programmes, prevention committees and workers' representation on them; absenteeism through accidents or sickness; housing facilities provided either by employer, Government, local bodies or cooperative organisations — standard of accommodation, sanitation of colonies, rent charged, distance from colony to factory and transport facilities, number of workers not provided with homes; welfare measures; educational facilities.

(The Times of India, 14-4-1944,
and Copy of Questionnaire
received in this Office).

The Committee is understood to have completed the preliminary part of its enquiry. It is expected soon to undertake a tour of all Provinces to study health conditions, particular attention being given to industrial areas. The tours will be completed by about the end of May 1944 and is to be followed by a meeting of the Committee in the middle of July, 1944.

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(The Hindustan Times, 11-4-1944).

EDUCATION.Post-War Mass Education Scheme for
the Punjab. ✓

A comprehensive scheme of mass education, devised by the Punjab Education Department in connection with its post-war reconstruction plans, was explained by Mian Abdul Haye, Minister of Education, Punjab, ~~Government~~, in the course of an address at the Agricultural College, Lyallpur, on 9-4-1944. The scheme provides for free primary compulsory education for all from the age of 6 to 11 in the first instance, the upper age limit to be raised to 14 years gradually. The high schools would be of two types: (1) academic and (2) technical, the object of both being to provide a good allround education combined with some preparation for the careers which the pupils would enter on leaving ~~the~~ the schools. The department had also planned free health service for the schools, free midday ~~meals~~ meals for poor boys and stipends and scholarships for deserving students. The scheme also provided for technical training, both at the school and the higher stages, to meet the growing industrial needs of the province and for more facilities for university education which would have to be improved ~~as well as the curricula and methods~~, so as to bring it into line with the new conditions which would prevail ~~in~~ in the post-war world.

(The Hindustan Times, 12-4-1944) ✓

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME.

Wages.

Prices and Wages in Bombay City during Two World Wars. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 245 to 251 of the April 1944 issue of "Indian Labour Gazette" (official organ of the Department of Labour, Government of India), where is published a note on "Prices and Wages in Bombay City during Two World Wars". ✓

Scheme for Payment of Family Allowments for Workers in Central Government Undertakings Stationed in Threatened Areas. ✓

A scheme was sanctioned early in 1942 enabling ^{salaries} Government servants in "threatened" areas to arrange for a regular monthly remittance of a portion of their salaries (not exceeding 50 per cent) to their families living away from them. The scheme has now been extended to all daily-rated labourers in Central Government undertakings whose employment is expected to last for at least 12 months from the date of first appointment.

("Indian Labour Gazette", April, 1944). ✓

Increased Dearness Allowance for Low-Paid Government Employees in Bombay. ✓

According to a press note issued by the Director of Information, Bombay, early in April 1944, at present Government servants in Bombay City, Ahmedabad City and Bombay Suburban District, and drawing up to Rs. 150 a month are eligible for dearness allowance. Those drawing below Rs. 40 a month receive Rs. 11 a month and those drawing Rs. 40 or more receive Rs. 14 a month. The pay-limit has now been raised to Rs. 250, and those drawing less than Rs. 40 a month will now receive the allowance at the rate of Rs. 14 and those drawing Rs. 40 or more will receive Rs. 18 a month.

The pay-limit for Government servants in the rest of the Province has similarly been raised, from Rs. 120 to Rs. 200 a month. Employees drawing less than Rs. 40 a month will be entitled to the allowance at a rate of Rs. 11 a month while ~~those~~ those drawing higher pay will receive Rs. 14 a month, instead of the present rates of Rs. 8 and Rs. 10 a month.

Marginal allowances will be given to those drawing more than Rs. 250 in Bombay City, Ahmedabad City and Bombay Suburban District and Rs. 200 in the mofussil to ensure that they do not receive less than Rs. 268 and Rs. 214 a month respectively.

These orders are to take effect from 1-1-44 and will continue in force until further notice. All whole-time Government servants are eligible for the allowance.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 4-4-1944). ✓

Increased Dearness Allowance for
Low-Paid Government Employees in
Madras. ✓

The Government of Madras has issued a press note pointing out that in view of the further rise in the cost of living, the Government of Madras has decided to grant with effect from 1-3-1944, increased rates of dearness allowance to Government servants serving under it, including those whose headquarters are situated in Indian States adjoining the Madras Presidency. As the cost of living in the areas of this Presidency classified as 'C' for purposes of dearness allowance is found to be not less than the cost of living in the other areas classified as 'A' and 'B' the Government has decided to abolish the distinction between these areas and to sanction uniform rates of allowances throughout the Presidency. The revised rate of monthly allowance for persons drawing emoluments below Rs. 40 a month will be Rs. 10 and for those drawing Rs. 40 or more but not more than Rs. 200 a month it will be Rs. 13. Persons drawing emoluments of more than Rs. 200 but not more than Rs. 213 will receive such allowance as will bring their total emoluments up to Rs. 213 a month.

(Hindu, dated 4-4-1944). ✓

Dearness Allowance for Local Government
Employees in U.P. Government to make
Financial help to Scheme. ✓

It is understood that the question of making available money to the local bodies so that they might give dearness allowance to their employees is being seriously considered by the Government of U.P. It is believed that while the Government might not finance the entire scheme which would cost about Rs. 2.7 million for school teachers only, should dearness allowance be given on the scale of other Government employees, the Provincial Government is likely to give about Rs. 1.2 million and ask the local bodies to find the balance.

(Hindustan Times, 9-4-1944). ✓

Relief to Non-Government School Teachers
in Bengal. ✓

A scheme at an estimated cost of about Rs. 5,700,000 has, it is learnt, been adopted by the Government of Bengal for the relief of teachers of non-government primary and secondary schools, as also of some other recognised institutions. About 135,000 teachers (100,000 primary and 35,000 secondary school teachers) will be benefited by this grant. Under the scheme, primary school teachers will receive, in addition to any dearness allowance they are getting at present, a further subvention of three rupees per month, while secondary school teachers, including teachers of some other recognised institutions, will get five rupees monthly.

Government intends to put the scheme into operation immediately. Teachers of Government institutions will not come under the scheme.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 8-4-1944).

Bengal Ministerial Staff demand
allowance increase. ✓

The twenty-fourth session of the All-Bengal Ministerial officer's conference was held at Calcutta on 8-4-1944, Mr. Abdul Hashem, M.L.A., presiding.

Dr. H.G. Waight, I.C.S., Legal Remembrancer to the Government of Bengal, who opened the Conference, said that prices had gone up so high that the financial resources available to ministerial Government servants are quite inadequate to meet their needs. Their rates of pay, he said, are not commensurate with their educational qualifications, social standing or the importance of the duties they performed.

The Chairman of the Reception Committee, Mr. K.C. Sengupta, also emphasised the inadequacy of the allowances paid to Government employees to compensate for the rise in prices and suggested that the quantum of such allowance should be uniformly 50 per cent of the pay up to a salary of Rs. 300 and that the minimum pay of ministerial staff should not be less than Rs. 100.

The Conference adopted a number of resolutions urging ^{Government and employers to grant} increment in salary and dearness allowance and removal of the employees' legitimate grievances. ~~of Government of employees.~~

(The Vanguard, 14-4-1944). ✓

Special Allowances for Lower Paid
Officers in Bengal Government
Service. ✓

As a measure of relief to certain lower paid officers, the Government of Bengal has ordered that with effect from 1st April, 1944, and till 31st February, 1945, all incumbents of posts specified in a given schedule, whose emoluments are less than Rs. 175 per month, shall be entitled to draw a personal pay of such amount as will bring the total emolument up to Rs. 175 in each case. "Emoluments" will include special pay, personal pay, house allowance and dearness allowance. The services scheduled number 27, and include ^{agricultural} agricultural, veterinary, engineering, educational, excise, forest, civil, police, medical and cooperative societies ~~Departments.~~

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 23-4-1944). ✓

Bombay Textile Workers Demand Three
Months' Pay as Bonus. ✓

A public meeting of the textile workers in Bombay City was held on 4-4-1944. The meeting condemned the refusal of the Bombay millowners to pay three months pay as ~~bonus~~ bonus to the workers and also demanded unanimously the immediate reference of the bonus dispute to arbitration by the Industrial Court.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 6-4-1944). ✓

Welfare.

Welfare of Coalmine Labour: Advisory Committee's Discussions.

The first meeting of the advisory committee recently set up by the Government of India under the Coal-mines Labour Welfare Fund Ordinance, 4, (vide pp. 44-45 of our ~~report~~ report for January 1944) was held at Dhanbad on 27-4-1944, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, presiding. The Committee discussed draft rules relating to its composition, and to expenditure and welfare schemes to be financed from the Fund.

The rules provide that the Advisory Committee should have a secretariat with headquarters at Dhanbad, under the executive authority of its chairman. There will be a number of sub-committees attached to and elected by the advisory committee for carrying on its functions. Under the draft rules the Central Government may impose certain conditions on a Provincial Government, the local authority, or the owner, agent or manager of a coal mine to whom grant is made from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund in respect of any schemes approved by the Central Government.

The committee considered the extent to which the Jharia and Asansol Health Boards should be utilized as the executive authority for expenditure of grants from the Fund. It was pointed out that use might be made of existing bodies in coalfields for carrying out welfare and other schemes which the Fund had been created. The committee approved the suggestion put forth by the chairman that the question whether grants should be made to local bodies or not should be decided by the advisory committee in each case individually. It also discussed the rate of cess to be levied under the Ordinance.

(The Hindustan Times, 29-4-1944).

Lady Assistant ~~Lady~~ Labour Welfare Officer
Appointed.

A Lady Assistant (Lady) Labour Welfare Officer has been appointed by the Government of India in addition to the seven gentlemen officers already appointed (vide page 28 of our report for October 1942). Her appointment has been made in view of the problems connected with women labour in the coal mines.

(The Hindustan Times, 3-4-1944).

War Finance.

Partial Relaxation of Control on Capital Issues. ✓

27

According to a Press Note issued by the Government of India on 4-1-1944, post-war industrial development in India is likely to be greatly helped if corporations are already in existence with adequate capital ~~to~~ their disposal to further such development at short notice. The Government of India has therefore decided to allow issues of capital for industrial schemes even if they are at present indefinite. One of the most important purposes of controlling capital issues, the countering of inflation, will at the same time be furthered if capital is raised now in the great bulk of it invested, until required, in defence loans. So far, the raising of capital for long-range schemes to be put into execution after the war, had been allowed only if their promoters had a definite scheme and had carried negotiations with suppliers of machinery to a certain degree of definiteness. A relaxation of this condition will enable industrialists to draw up final plans under present conditions when expert ~~and~~ advice is obtainable with difficulty, and suppliers of machinery too preoccupied with war work to give proper attention to inquiries.

The condition about investment of the capital raised for such long-range schemes in defence loans until required after the war is of fundamental importance. It is necessary to impose some other conditions to protect the investing public and to safeguard the essential requirements post-war planning and development. Firstly, the public must be protected from plausible but irresponsible "financiers", who want to make quick profit on the readiness of the public to invest and who will ~~be~~ ~~unscathed~~ ~~the~~ ~~venture~~ ~~fails~~. The Government has decided to introduce a general rule that no prospectus or other invitation to the public to subscribe shall be issued until a prescribed proportion of the securities for issue has been privately subscribed by and allotted to promoters and their friends, or, in the case of old companies, has been allotted to existing shareholders in the company. Secondly, it is impossible to foresee what regulations affecting industries may be called for in the future and it will have to be made clear to the public that the collection of capital will not entitle the company to claim exemption from any such regulation or any special priority under such regulations when the time comes to look for the release of the invested amount in order to make actual disbursements. No part of the capital raised and invested in Government securities will, therefore, be released until the Government is satisfied that the time has come to make corresponding payments, for purposes which are consistent with any restriction that may be in operation at the time when such release is applied for. Applications for release of funds to use good sums already advanced by promoters out of other resources (e.g. secured loans) without the previous approval of the Central Government are liable to be rejected.

Working of the Control.- The Control of Capital Issues Scheme came into operation in the middle of May, 1943; from that period till the end of 1943, the number of applications classified as "Industrial" on which orders were passed was 687 and the total capital asked for was Rs. 249.9 million. Consent to the issue of capital was given in 588 cases involving the aggregate a capital sum of Rs. 166.9 million. There were 99 refusals, the capital asked for amounting to Rs. 69.8 million. Refusals amounted to about 14 per cent of the total number of applications and 28 per cent of the total amount of capital asked for.

Of the proposals for which permission has been granted, 226 with a capital of Rs. 74.4 million were initial issues by new companies, while 2 with a capital of Rs. 92.5 million were further issues by old ~~companies~~ companies. Of the refusals, 50 related to initial issues, the capital asked for being Rs. 46.5 million and 40 to further issues, with

Rs. 23.4 million as capital asked for.

Grouped in terms of major industries, permission was granted to 81 proposals with a capital of Rs. 44.8 million to the cotton textile industry, 66 proposals with a capital of Rs. 17.7 million to the iron, steel and engineering industries, and to 77 proposals with a capital of Rs. 17.4 million to industries connected with the manufacture of chemicals, drugs and medicines. Permission was also granted in the case of 364 concerns involving a capital of Rs. 87 million coming under the category of "miscellaneous industries". These mainly consisted of industries relating to printing and stationery, soaps and vegetable oils, leather goods, public utilities, timber, tobacco and cigarettes, non-ferrous metals, paper and raw-board, mining and quarrying, sugar and gur, food preservation, transport, pottery and glass, film production and distribution and others.

In the majority of cases in which consent was refused during the period, the decision was, as before, based upon the desirability of discouraging enterprises which threatened to aggravate pressure on materials and services in short supply (including coal and transport). Particular mention may be made of the ~~important~~ amount of capital represented by refusal orders under the heads "Cotton textile industry" and "Chemicals". As before, a number of textile proposals had to be discouraged because they involved the transport of machinery over long distances and the setting up of second-hand machinery which would involve disproportionate demand for mill stores and spare parts already in short supply. In the case of the "Chemical" refusals, non-availability of supplies of sulphuric acid and coal formed the main consideration.

(The Statesman, 30-4-1944). ✓

Control Measures .

The Bengal Meat Control Order, 1944.

The Government of Bengal has on 11-4-1944 issued the Bengal Meat Control Order, 1944, under which no production or sale of meat, raw or cooked, may be carried on ~~except~~ in the province on Mondays and Thursdays. It is also provided that the number of animals slaughtered at any slaughter house on any one day should not exceed the daily average of the number of animals slaughtered in the same ~~slaughter~~ slaughter house during two months immediately preceding that day.

(The Calcutta Gazette Extra ^{ordinary, dated} 12-4-1944). ✓

The Jute (Price Control) Order, 1944. ✓

The Government of India has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued 5-4-1944, the Jute (Price Control) Order, 1944, specifying the maximum and minimum prices of various types of jute and jute goods.

(Government of India (Commerce Department) Notification No. M.50-C(Del)/44 dated 5-4-1944, reproduced in the Calcutta Gazette ~~Part I~~ Part I, dated 15-4-1944, pages 115-118).

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The Mysore Factories (Control of Dismantling)
Emergency Act, 1944. ✓

The Mysore Government has promulgated the Mysore Factories (Control of Dismantling) Emergency Act of 1944 under which immediate action is proposed to be taken to control the dismantling of factories. Under the Act no person without the permission of Government shall dismantle any factory, or remove from a factory any spare parts kept for maintaining the machinery of the factory in order.

(The Times of India, 13-4-1944). ✓

Government's New Cloth Distribution Control
Scheme. ✓

A comprehensive scheme to ensure to each province and Indian State its fair share of mill production of cloth and yarn at not more than the maximum price prescribed by the Cloth and Yarn Control Order is under consideration of the Government of India. It is also intended to regulate exports from the manufacturing centres and to canalise imports in deficit areas.

Under the scheme each deficit province or State will prepare a statement showing, on the basis of normal years, its imports of cloth from each manufacturing centre. The Textile Commissioner will then draw up tentative figures of quotas for each area according to surplus production available and having regard to local production of handlooms. On the basis of these figures, final quotas which each consuming area may draw from each manufacturing centre will be fixed by the Central Government in consultation with the Textile Control Board. Cloth dealers in both surplus and deficit areas will be formed into associations and only holders of special licenses issued for the purpose may export or import cloth and yarn. These will be done on a quota basis.

It is hoped that if the scheme is properly carried out, it would ensure a more effective and smoother distribution of the available supplies of cloth and yarn and would also eliminate at the very source the possibility of black marketing and other malpractices.

(The Times of India, dated
13-4-1944). ✓

Used Motor Vehicles Control Order, 1944.

The sale and the sale price of second-hand motor cars, of which some 1,00,000 are estimated at present to be in private hands will henceforth be controlled under an Order published in the Gazette of India on 13-4-1944. The measure is explained to be part of the Government's general policy of controlling prices and counteracting inflation and has been taken in view of the high prices demanded for second-hand motor cars, which are now in very short supply. A glaring instance of excessive price was Rs. 15,000 advertised for a 1933 model Oldsmobile whose original price was not more than Rs. 6,000.

The order provides that except with special permission from the controller in each province, no person may sell a motor car except to an approved dealer and at a price governed by a schedule of maximum prices, and no person may buy a motor car without a permit from the provincial controller.

The figures of prices given in the schedule, which will remain in force to the end of the current year and thereafter be revised at six-monthly intervals to allow for depreciation, represent the maximum price

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which may be paid for a specified car in first class order, and the maximum price which a dealer may charge a purchaser for such a car plus a commission of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In determining the prices scheduled, a generous allowance has been made for a genuine appreciation in values of cars as implements of transport owing to shortage of new supplies. ~~Against~~ ~~this~~ Against this, also, a very gradual rate of depreciation has been taken, which allows for the fact that, in the absence of new supplies, obsolescence does not come into play to any great extent but merely depreciation due to wear and tear dependent upon the length of life of the vehicle. The prices arrived at, while below the fantastic prices occasionally advertised in the press, represent in the Government's opinion a reasonable and fair compromise, ~~and the following example will illustrate the effect.~~

(The Gazette of India, Part I, sec.1, dated 22-4-1944, pages 528 to 538). ✓

The Hides Movement (by Rail) Control Order, 1944. ✓

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The Government of India issued an Order on 27-3-1944 prohibiting the movement by rail of raw hides of cattle or buffalo ("Hides" as defined do not include hides or skin of horses, denkeys, pigs, sheep and goats) except (1) on a military credit note; or (2) from a place in any of the zones specified in the schedule to this Order to the town after which that zone is named therein, except as otherwise provided; or ~~from any~~ (3) from any place in the Madras zone to any other place.

(Notification No. 356 dated 27-3-1944: The Gazette of India, Part I, sec.1, dated 1-4-1944, pages 361-362). ✓

The Colliery Control Order, 1944. ✓

The Government of India issued an Order on 1-4-1944 to constitute a Coal Control Board and to control the production of coal (vide page 63 of our March 1944 report for details of the Coal Control Schemes). ~~Similar~~ Provision is also made in the Order for fixing by the Government of the selling price of coal by the colliery owner and of the commission to be paid to middlemen; sales at prices different from the prices fixed by the Government are prohibited. Colliery owners have to submit monthly returns of production to the Coal Commissioner. The Government will issue directions from time to time regarding the disposal of stocks and the persons to whom coal may be disposed of.

(Notification No. Coal 23/134 dated 1-4-1944: The Gazette of India, Part I, sec.1, dated 1-4-1944, pages 364-368). ✓

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Production.

Problems of Coal Industry; Employers' Views.

The 52nd annual general meeting of the Indian Mining Association was held at Calcutta on 24-3-1944, Mr. E.A. Paterson, chairman, presiding.

Presidential Address.— The main problems facing the coal industry during the last year were reviewed by Mr. Paterson in his presidential address. He pointed out that some aspects of the industry had been brought prominently to public attention during the year owing to a critical shortage of coal supply. There was much to be done both for obtaining maximum production and in regard to amenities to labour. Referring to the crisis he said: "if blame is to be apportioned, I consider the Government should bear a large share since, in the past, they have been apathetic towards the coal industry and it cannot be denied that during the years of depression they have, as the biggest buyers, been responsible for forcing down prices to an uneconomic level; this left its inevitable repercussions on owner and miner alike".

The benefits for labour provided by member mines of the Association, he said, included supply of a ~~number~~ number of essential articles of food and clothing at concession rates besides free dispensaries, clinics, and hospitals that had been opened long ago in every ~~mine~~ large mine.

Regarding the re-employment of women underground, he emphasized that the Association viewed the measure with some misgiving and considered it retrogressive. The Association had stopped employment of women underground long before the statutory order to effect the same was brought into force by the Government.

The most serious problem regarding coal during the year had been a widening gap between production and demand. The increasing importance of India as a base for military operations had put a heavy strain on the available supply of coal and whilst the demand had increased out of all proportion to that of previous years, the supply had been severely handicapped by a variety of reasons, amongst the most important of which were shortage of labour and the overloaded transport system. About labour shortage he said it had been brought about largely by the counter-attractions of surface work available on Government war projects. Coal mine labour in India is mainly agricultural, looking to mining only as a means to augment income, and when the miner had money in excess of his elementary needs, he ceased work. Added to this, during sowing and reaping seasons a large percentage of the mining force available was anxious to return to the fields.

The Government of India, he pointed out, had not yet taken steps to fulfil the terms of the agreement (one of which was to supply consumer goods to labourer) entered into at a tripartite conference at Ranchi in December 1943 (vide pages 58-59 of our report for December 1943), where employers were already paying wages at the sanctioned rates agreed upon at the conference. The situation was further aggravated by the purchase of food grains for military use from the sufficient stocks in coal mine areas. He therefore suggested that, rather than interfere in matters of wages and food rations to miners, the Government should make larger quantities of consumer goods available and thus effect a substantial reduction in the cost of living. Referring to the futility of increasing wages and granting bonus to miners, he stated that the experience of Britain in this matter was not favourable—being found that production rarely went up above the qualifying limit for the payment of bonus. He therefore deprecated any undue increase in wages, whether paid as bonus or otherwise, as a means of keeping up output.

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Mr. Paterson also dealt with the problems of grain supply to coal
line labour, transport, coal price control and the question of profit to
the ~~miners~~ owners.

(The Statesman, 31-3-1944).

Mr. Amritlal Ojha's Views. - The view that the Government should formu-
late for the coal industry as a whole, was expressed by Mr. Amritlal Ojha,
residing over the 11th annual general meeting of the Indian Colliery
owners' Association held at Jharia on 22-3-1944. He added that the
Government should give the industry all the facilities required for
increasing production and leave the rest to the latter to organize. He
also wanted an assurance from the Government about the future position
of the industry in general and a guarantee that the industry would not
have to face the same hardships as it did ~~was~~ at the end of the last war
when hardly any profit could be made because of the low prices.

Referring to the past year (1943) as one of the most critical
periods for the coal industry, Mr. Ojha enumerated the difficulties of
the industry, particularly the supply of food grains for distribution to
coal workers, the supply of stores, machinery and iron and steel materials,
and coal transport. He expressed the opinion that the Government should
take early steps to make available to collieries the requisite quantities
of plant, machinery and modern equipment to enable them to increase their
output. He also congratulated the Government on its decision to set
up a fuel research station at Dhanbad.

(The Statesman, 28-3-1944). ✓

Safety Measures.

Assam Government Order re. Provision of A.R.P. Shelters and First Aid Facilities in Tea Estates. ✓

The Assam Government has issued on 29-3-1944 an order under the
provisions of India Rules under which every owner or manager of a tea estate,
situated within 3 miles of any part of the runway of any airfield, or of
the centre of any town in which active air raid A.R.P. measures are in force,
shall, within fifteen days of the publication of this order, provide air
raid shelters in accordance with the requirements specified in the order
for the purpose of affording protection to persons living in or employed
at such tea estates. Shelters are to be provided: (1) in the vicinity of
the factory; (2) near the garden hospital; (3) at the coolie lines; and
(4) in each of the cultivated areas. It is provided that the shelters
should be of a size to ~~accommodate~~ accommodate all the workers and other
employees of the estates, their relations and dependents that may be
expected to be in the neighbourhood, and so situated as to be reached
within three minutes of the sounding of an alarm.

By another order issued on the same date the Government requires of
every manager or owner of a tea factory in the areas specified above to
make provision for stretcher parties and first aid posts in the vicinity
of their factories.

(The Assam Gazette, dated
5-4-1944, Part II, page 221). ✓

Food.Government of India's Food Plans:
Food Member's Statement in Council
of State.

The success achieved by the Government of India in the execution of its food policy was reviewed by Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India, in the Council of State on 17-3-1944.

All-India policy being enforced.- The Food Member claimed that, but for the measures adopted by the Food Department to meet the situation, losses in Bengal would have been far greater and the province would have been faced with a much bigger disaster. The Government, he said, was giving effect to an all-India policy in regard to food. Explaining the steps taken, he stated that exports of food grains had been stopped, rationing had been extended to over 133 towns with a total population of 25 millions, the procurement machinery had been improved and price control was being rigidly enforced. He added that all the Provincial Governments had agreed to the policy laid down by the Central Government. The Government of India had imported more food-grains than was normally required for non-Indian troops stationed in the country.

Price Control.- The principle of statutory price control he said, had been adopted throughout India. Government had not come to a stage in which it was possible to fix an all-India price for all grains at the levels which Government desired, although that was the object always kept in view.

Food Advisory Council to be set up.- To associate the public with the administration of the food problem, Sir J.P. Srivastava pointed out, that invitations had been issued to 35 prominent leaders in the country, including two ladies, for the constitution of a Food Advisory Council. The Council, he said, would advise both the Food Department and the Department for Education, Health and Lands. He hoped that he would succeed in securing the co-operation of many public leaders through this Council.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-3-1944).

Delhi Rationing Order 1944. ✓

The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, promulgated on 15-4-1944 the Delhi Rationing Order, 1944, which applies to the whole of the Delhi Province. The Order deals with the administrative details regarding rationing which is to be introduced in Delhi City and New Delhi from 15-5-1944.

(Notification No. 2868 dated 15-4-1944: The Gazette of India Part II-A, dated 15-4-1944). ✓

Non-Official Food Committees to be
Set up in Bengal. ✓

In pursuance of its desire to secure the co-operation of all sections of the people at every stage of allocation and distribution of supplies, as well as in the task of general relief and rehabilitation, the Government of Bengal has issued specific directions for the formation of food committees throughout the province with non-official representatives. The duties and functions of these committees will cover a wide field, such as, responsible cooperation in food administration,

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anti-hoarding and anti-black marketing work, rationing or controlled distribution of essential commodities, relief and rehabilitation of the poor and destitute, preparation of census and food plans, the grow-more-food campaign and rural reconstruction, generally. Every village or a group of small villages and every block in a municipal ward, composed roughly of a hundred houses, will be treated as a unit to have a food committee of its own. The work of setting up these committees is now progressing and is expected to be completed by the end of this month. After these committees have been formed, no controlled commodities, namely kerosene, sugar, standard cloth, food grains, etc., when supplied by Government, will be sold except against ration cards or in the manner specified by Government.

(The Times of India, 6-4-1944). ✓

The U.P. Industrial Rationing Scheme. ✓

A comprehensive industrial rationing scheme for U.P. is reported to have been formulated by the U.P. Government. The scheme will apply to factories in regulated towns employing more than 500 persons and to all other factories in regulated towns which the district magistrate considers it to be essential. It may be extended to factories situated outside regulated towns in special cases.

The objects of the scheme are to exclude the large purchases of foodgrains from the open market and to make effective the Government's special responsibility for the maintenance of essential supplies to essential labour. In return for the food supply, which is thus provided for industrial labour, employers are expected to share the financial burden which falls on Government in making such supplies available at favourable prices. Factories included in the scheme will be expected to establish shops within their premises, which will be licensed as authorised retail distributors of Government foodgrains. These shops will be supplied with a bulk ration of foodgrains at the Government issue godown at the wholesale cost price to Government plus any charges incurred on clearing. Bulk ration may be supplied for up to five week's stock at a time depending on circumstances. A scheme of bulk supply to certain labour organisations is already in force.

(The Leader, 19-4-1944). ✓

Wheat Price Control in India. ✓

According to a press communique issued by the Government of India early in April 1944, in order to give practical shape to its intention to safeguard the interests of producers while enforcing a strict policy of statutory price control in the interests of consumers, the Government of India has decided to ~~announce its willingness~~ to accept all wheat of fair average quality offered for sale in the main assembling markets of the Punjab, U.P. and Sind, at a price of Rs. 7/8/- per maund, should prices fall. This decision anticipates the publication by the Government of the main producing areas, after consultation with the Government of India, of notifications under the Defence of India Rules, announcing the statutory maximum prices above which it will be an offence to buy or sell wheat in wholesale markets for the next 12 months. The statutory maximum prices so fixed follow the recommendations of the Price Advisory Committee. The Government of India's offer holds good until further notice and, in any case, for a period of not less than 12 months from the date of this announcement. Details of the terms of purchase and the centres at which this offer will be implemented as well as of agents who will receive grain

ordered for sale, are to be published shortly.

(The Hindustan Times, 3-4-1944). ✓

Growing of Food Crops to be made Compulsory:
Bombay Government Contemplating Legislation. ✓

Legislation which would make it compulsory for each cultivator to grow food crops on a proportion of his holding is under the consideration of the Government of Bombay. Such legislation is deemed necessary to ensure that sufficient food is available for Districts which do not grow enough for their own needs, and that the poorer classes are able to get food at reasonable prices. The proposed measure would secure that the acreage sown under food crops last year would be maintained in specified years, would prescribe the crops which must be grown, and would lay on the Government the legal obligation to offer to buy all cereal food crops grown in the areas to which it might be applied.

Explaining the reasons for taking this step, the Government points out that the amount of food produced in Bombay Province is normally far below what is required to provide food for the population, even excluding the population of the big cities such as Ahmedabad and South Bombay, and, with such supplies as may be made available from outside, it may at any time be impossible to provide food for a district that does not grow enough for itself. Unless, therefore, considerably more food is grown in the Province it will be very difficult for the poorer section of the population to get food at reasonable prices. The compulsory growing of the food crops, particularly the food crops specified in the Act, would benefit the Province as a whole, and especially the deficit districts.

Need for Legislation.— The Government hopes that the "Grow More Food" propaganda in the Province will without any compulsion induce cultivators in most districts to grow more food crops, but the need for more food is so urgent that it may not be safe to risk the possibility of some of the cultivators reducing instead of increasing their production of food crops. It would seem, therefore, desirable to provide that, generally speaking, a cultivator should not have a lesser proportion of his holding under certain specified food crops than the proportion of his holding under those food crops in the year 1943-44 and thus to secure that last year's acreage under food crops will be maintained in years to which this provision of the proposed legislation may be applied.

("Bombay Information" issued by the Director of Information, Government of Bombay, dated 8-4-1944). ✓

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Post-War Reconstruction.

Progress of the Rege Committee on Social Security.

Reference was made at page 46 of our February 1944 report to the appointment and terms of reference of the Labour Investigation Committee. In 13-4-1944, the Committee completed its preliminary tour of industrial centres in British ~~India~~ India and Indian States for collecting factual and statistical material about labour conditions. During its all-India tour, the Committee's programme included visits to major centres of factory industries, mining, ports, railways and South Indian plantations. At Coimbatore, Dhanbad, Calcutta, Tatanagar, Nagpur, Madras, Madurai, Trivandrum, Coonoor, Bangalore, Bombay, Baroda, Ahmedabad, Lahore and other centres they had discussions with officials of the Provincial Governments and States concerned and with representatives of employers' associations and ~~trade~~ unions on the existing conditions of labour and the feasibility of various measures for improving those conditions.

With a view to collect data on the social security of labour, the Committee secured the views of labour and industry on the working of Labour Acts like the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Payment of Wages Act and the Maternity Benefits Acts. They have also collected a mass of opinion on the relations between employees and employers and on security of employment as provided by the Factories Act and other laws which have been in operation for several years. The tour has also provided the Committee with a bird's-eye view of housing and factory conditions in various industries. Considerable information has also been collected about the conditions of plantation labour in South India.

~~With the end of this preliminary~~ all-India tour, the Committee has completed the first stage of its work. It is understood that it proposes to issue a general questionnaire on labour problems to employers and workers' associations and various public and semi-public bodies as well as persons interested in the enquiry. In addition, there is to be small supplementary questionnaires in respect of special groups of industry. The questionnaires are, however, only a part of the comprehensive enquiry which includes sample and ad hoc surveys and a Wage Census covering most groups of major industries.

(Unofficial Note dated 14-4-1944
issued by the Principal Information
Officer, Government of India).

India's Trade Policy: Government of
India appoints Planning Officer.

The Government of India ^{has} recently appointed Mr. R.K. Nehru, I.C.S. as the Officer in charge of Post-war Reconstruction in the Commerce Department, Government of India. Mr. Nehru's work, is expected to be to deal with all post-war problems relating to the Commerce Department.

Recommendations of Trade and Industry Policy Committee.— The Trade and Industry Policy Committee and the Consultative Committee of Economists have already discussed certain aspects of India's foreign trade policy in the post-war period. The basis of discussion was a memorandum on the subject prepared by the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, which, after analysing the character of India's trade movements in the past, suggested how it might be modified by the structure of post-war world economy and in the light of the spirit of the Atlantic Charter and the Mutual Trade Agreement. It was generally agreed in the Policy Committee that it was not to India's interests to pursue an isolationist policy

and that a system of multilateral trading on a world basis was desirable. India should therefore accept the principles embodied in the above two documents, subject to the reservation that (1) she should retain her fiscal autonomy; (2) she should be free to pursue a protectionist policy, if considered necessary, to foster her industrial development; and (3) the main object of her post-war commercial policy should be the industrial expansion of the country, which should not be hampered by India becoming a party to any international agreements.

Recommendations of Consultative Committee of Economists.- The problem as ~~discussed~~ further examined by the Consultative Committee of Economists. Attention was devoted to the following fundamental considerations: (1) Should India agree to an international ceiling so far as only revenue tariffs were concerned, or should such a ceiling be accepted for protective tariffs also? (2) Should each country be free to levy protective tariffs, provided that such tariffs had been found to be justifiable after an accurate and scientific examination? (3) What should be the attitude to any international suggestion that, instead of unduly high tariffs, each Government should be free to help its industries through subsidies and other direct methods of Governmental aid? (4) The existing import and export controls would have to continue in some form or other during the transitional period from war to peace. If so, the questions to be considered are: (a) whether a policy of quantitative restriction is desirable for India; (b) what would be the effect on the different classes of the community if such a policy is adopted; and (c) how would such a policy fit in with the world trend towards multilateralism and the principle of free access to raw materials enumerated in the Atlantic Charter?

In the light of the above conclusions and considerations, the Economic Adviser is preparing another memorandum on the detailed issues of policy.

(Unofficial Note dated 18-4-1944
issued by the Principal Information
Officer, Government of India). ✓

National Chemical Laboratory to be Set up:
Special Committee's Report. ✓

Reference was made at page 8 of our report for September 1943, to the appointment by the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research of a committee to draw up a plan for the establishment of a national chemical laboratory in India. According to the report recently submitted by the committee, the proposed laboratory is expected to follow more or less the lines which have been accepted for the chemical research laboratories in Teddington, although the technical nature of India's problems may be somewhat different owing to her special needs. The laboratory will place greater emphasis on industrial research and the development of new processes up to the pilot plant stage, so that the technical industry and other industries requiring the aid of chemical research in general will benefit from the investigations carried out. It will maintain the closest co-operation with existing institutions, particularly as it will be able to initiate a number of investigations which are not carried out in university laboratories either for want of funds or for the reason that the problems have a predominantly industrial bias.

It is proposed that the laboratory should, at present, provide accommodation and facilities for the following main branches of Chemistry: Inorganic Chemistry including analytical investigations, Organic Chemistry including drugs and chemotherapy, Physical Chemistry including high pressure technique and Electro-Chemistry, Bio-Chemistry including ~~biological~~

ological products, and chemical engineering. With a proper co-ordination of the activities of these sections, it will be possible, the report states, to deal with new raw materials and problems relating to a number of industries, such as; heavy chemicals (acids, alkali, salts, etc.); minerals, particularly from the analytical standpoint; and such industries as the non-metal industries; fertilisers; organic and inorganic chemicals including solvents; pharmaceuticals and food; fermentation and biological products; resins and plastics; paints; pigments; lacquers and varnishes; oils, fats, soaps and lubricants; essential oils; leather and adhesives; rubber; petroleum; high pressure research and electro-chemical industries.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 25-4-1944) ✓

* New Directorate of Resettlement set up. *

Resettlement in civil life in India of demobilized personnel from the three fighting Services, including the WACI, says a Press note issued by the Government of India, is the primary concern of the Directorate of Resettlement, a new organization set up under the reconstituted Director-General of Welfare, Education and Resettlement, GNR, India. The Directorate of Resettlement is to represent the interests of the Defence Services on civil employment exchanges. It is to be referred to in matters relating to all vocational training for British and Indian personnel who require further training to suit them for civilian occupation. Part of its functions is to bring about a co-ordination of action arising out of the Central and provincial Governments' policies regarding post-war vocational training and resettlement and to ensure that ex-service personnel obtain their full share of employment in any reconstruction plans and development projects, by acting as a liaison between the various branches of GNR (I), departments of the Government of India, provincial governments and of Indian States.

(The Statesman, 29-4-1944) ✓

Non-Official Industrial Mission to England. ✓

It is understood that the proposal announced by the Government of India some time back to send a batch of Indian industrialists to London, and if possible to U.S.A., has finally matured and that letters have been issued by the ~~Government of India~~ Commerce and Industries Member Government of India, to a number of distinguished Indian industrialists to enquire as to whether they would be prepared to go to the United Kingdom to study and be in contact with industrial conditions with special reference to post-war reconstruction in India. The following gentlemen, it is understood, have been invited: Mr. J.R.D. Tata, Mr. Kasturbhai Bhabhai, Mr. G.D. Birla, Sir Padampat Singhania, Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar, Mr. K. Krishna Rao, Mr. Ramesh Chandra Thakursey, Sir Sultan Chindhy, Mr. M.A. Ispahani and Mr. Mir Aslam Khan (Hyderabad).

It will be no official delegation and as such the industrialists will bear their own expenses but the Government of India will ensure their passage and provide such other facilities and assistance as may be needed by the proposed non-official delegation.

The industrialists will be free to see such places as they wish to and see conditions themselves without any fixed programme prepared for them by the Government. The delegation would be quite free to make their own studies and have their own impressions. After their tour is finished the Government of India will no doubt seek their assistance to know the industrial conditions abroad with special reference to India's post-war needs for machinery and capital goods.

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It is understood the delegation will leave India by June next unless the industrialists themselves decide on a later date.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 17-4-1944).

Professor A.V. Hill's Impressions of
Industrial Research in India.

Reference was made at page 59 of our November 1943 report to the arrival in India of Prof. A.V. Hill, M.P., at the invitation of the Government of India to make suggestions regarding post-war scientific research problems in India. The belief that India could go far in scientific development was expressed by Prof. A.V. Hill at a Press Conference on 4-4-1944 on the eve of his departure to England. The people of India, he said, were very eager for progress, and there was nothing to prevent this country reaching the top in scientific sphere, provided her Government, industrialists, universities and scientists acted in concert. India was particularly backward, he added, in the domain of national health.

Need to Centralise Research.- Prof. Hill summed up his impressions of India's deficiency in various spheres. Dealing first with the Government, he stated that there was no sufficiently strong single organization at the Centre. Scientific research bodies were, for instance, scattered under a number of departments. The Education, Health and Lands Department had some, while others were under the Labour Department, the Industries and Civil Supplies Department and the General Headquarters. They should all be put in a single organization. As regards industry the obvious criticism was that inside the big industries in India there were no research laboratories. Industrialists had nothing more than test laboratories and no real research which could feed production.

Research work in Universities.- The work in Indian universities was very patchy in Mr. Hill's opinion; some were good, some very weak. In a majority of cases the biological side was very weak; this was unfortunate because the future of science and its application to public welfare was going to be very large in the biological field with the aid of physical science. The department of physiology which was the real basis of scientific medicine, was poorly staffed. Physics in Calcutta and chemistry in Lahore were well treated, but there was not a single chair in genetics, and yet breeding of animals and plants was a matter of the utmost importance. As for scientists, the great contribution India had made was in theoretical physics and mathematics; there had been no close contact between scientists and practical affairs in India. Though the foundation had been very well laid, scientists must be encouraged and associated with practical work. Adequate results could not be obtained until partnership was established between science and administration or business at the level of policy and direction. Prof. Hill added that the pursuit of science for its own sake must also be encouraged to give scope for original thinking and discovery and not merely for the financial or practical value of such results.

Expenditure on Research.- England was hoping to spend at least ten times as much annually on research and development as before the war. If India spent 5 per cent of the total value of her industrial production on research, the annual return would be many times the cost, but India must have a single authority at the Centre directing national scientific research. The problem would be more difficult if different regions had independent or semi-independent governments. The cost of research would not be very heavy as not more than one person in 100,000 made a scientist and India would have only about 4,000 men to spend money on. Education, research, development or experimental trial and production or large-scale

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application were the four processes required in respect of every form of national development, be it agriculture, health, food, industry, communications or transport. This could not be done unless the whole business of planning was put under a single national authority with a proper planning staff. India would need, too, highly equipped all-India centres which would help raise the standard all round. She needed, in particular, an all-India medical centre since she was most backward in health and was losing 450 out of 1,000 of her population before they became adult. He was sorry the Government had not sanctioned funds for tabulating the results of the last census.

The man natural resources of India were very great, said Prof. Hill, but nobody knew what they were. The Geological Survey must be strengthened and also zoological research. In fisheries, for instance, India had great resources, but none could tell what they were. India had started industrial development late, but she could do a lot, and he was hoping that his recommendations would be accepted.

(The Hindustan Times, 5-4-1944).

Seven Indian Scientists to Visit Britain
to discuss Scientific and Industrial
Research.

According to a press note issued by the Government of India early in April 1944, invitations on behalf of His Majesty's Government have been sent to seven Indian scientists to visit England for 6 weeks to meet and have discussions with various scientific bodies. The scientists invited are: Dr. Sir S. Bhatnagar, F.R.S., Director of Scientific and Industrial Research, and President-elect of the Indian Science Congress; Mr. S. K. Mitra, Chairman, Radio Research Committee of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, Secretary, Indian Science Congress Association; Col. S. L. Bhatia, Deputy Director General, Indian Medical Service, a member of the British Physiological Society, a former Dean of the Grant Medical College and Superintendent of the J.J. group of Hospitals Bombay; Sir Pheroze Kharegat, Vice-Chairman, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research; Sir J.C. Ghosh, head of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Chemical Technologist and President of the National Institute of Sciences of India; Prof. M.N. Saha, F.R.S., Professor of Physics in the University of Calcutta, Astrophysicist and Editor of "Science and Culture", and Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor, Madras University and a member of the Health Survey and Development Committee.

The party will leave India early in May 1944 and the programme in England includes meetings and discussions with bodies like the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Medical Research Council, the Agricultural Research Council, the Radio Board and the Royal Society.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,
dated 6-4-1944).

Review of the Mineral Resources and
Industries of India and their Post-war
Development.

The Mining, Geological and Metallurgical Institute of India, Calcutta, has issued a brochure reviewing the mineral resources and industries of India and their post-war development. The review is the result of studies instituted consequent on suggestions made by the Empire Council of Mining and Metallurgical Institutions. The object of the review is twofold: (a) to place before the Empire Council the views of the Indian Institute on India's mineral position, so that the Empire Council can include them

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whatever plans it may adopt for the Empire in its endeavour to take part in the discussions on the future of the mineral and metallurgical industries on the cessation of hostilities, (b) to place before the Government of India the views of the Institute on certain aspects of the mineral resources and industries of India. The actual review of resources follows as far as possible, the lines proposed in Resolution 2 of the meeting of the Empire Council in 1930. Views are also expressed on the direction of expansion which should be possible for each mineral and its utilisation within India. A brief summary of the review is given below:

Relation of Indian Minerals to the Empire and World Mineral Trade:
Exports.— After an enumeration of the mineral resources of India, the study proceeds to deal with the relation of Indian minerals to the Empire and world mineral trade. It is pointed out that the most vital mineral exported from India for the world's industry is mica. Within the Empire there is no country capable of producing anything approaching the quantity and quality of this country. The quality, cost and the large amount of skilled labour available are certain to keep India predominant in this mineral. In the past mica has been marketed at a price high, in view of its importance to industry, has been low, mainly because of the entire absence of marketing co-operation between producers.

India's exports of ilmenite for the manufacture of titanium white provide the world's main supply. Although not as vital industrially as mica, it is, at the present day, of great importance, although substitutes are available. It is unfortunate that right from the inception of export of this mineral, manufacture of titanium white was not undertaken in the country. Even if not now advisable, because of depletion of reserves, this should be investigated—there is no reason why treatment should not be kept within the Empire.

For many years India and Russia have been the two principal exporters of manganese ore—from the standpoint of grade Indian production has perhaps been the more important. Other producers have in recent years become serious rivals, such as the Gold Coast, South Africa and Brazil. It is not at all improbable that much of the ore shipped for ferromanganese smelting could be converted into ferromanganese in this country with economic advantage both to India and overseas consumers; to date the high phosphorus content has been the difficulty. The mineral has been shipped equally freely to all countries.

The review also deals with India's trade in Monazite, Zirconite, Sphene, Chromite, Garnet Beryl, etc.

Imports.— The most important imports into India are oil, copper, lead, zinc, tin and sulphur. It is doubtful whether India ever could be self-supporting in oil and copper; although production of the latter mineral could perhaps be increased to some extent, consumption is certain to increase with further industrialisation. Whether lead and zinc can be produced in adequate amounts depends on the success of the Zawar deposits. Production of sulphur will depend mainly on utilisation of gypsum. Small but important amounts of asbestos, borates, china clays, fluorite, nickel and mercury are imported as essential for certain established industries. All other imported mineral materials enter this country as alloys or in the manufactured state. Most of India's imports of mineral raw materials come from within the Empire, mainly because India is fortunately situated with respect to other countries of the Commonwealth. It is doubtful whether there could now be any greatly increased trade reciprocity in this respect between India and other Empire countries except, perhaps, a future interchange of iron ore and coal between Australia and India.

Future Possibilities.- India is a large country, and the high cost of transport of minerals and fuel constitute a serious obstacle to the economic development of mineral resources. This applies particularly to coal; low concessional rates would permit the more ready availability of cheap power throughout the country and encourage the development of industries in Provinces far from the coalfields. Several new industries have been started in India during the war, but they have grown during a period when new up-to-date machinery and plant was difficult or impossible to obtain. Many of these industries will require overhauling by the installation of modern plant as soon as possible after the war if they are to compete with imports from the highly industrialised nations.

Atlantic Charter from Indian View-Point.- In examining India's position relative to other countries vis-a-vis clause 4 of the Atlantic Charter, it must be remembered that this country's population is nearly 300 million people, or almost one-fifth of the population of the world—added, relative to the countries of Europe and America, India is a world in itself. Relative to its area and present industry its resources are by no means small, but relative to its population India's mineral resources are by no means vast. Whereas other countries are highly developed industrially, India is only now opening out and beginning to consume increasing quantities of indigenous raw materials, some of which had been largely imported. It cannot by any stretch of the imagination be contended that India has placed any restrictions on the free availability of its mineral raw materials to the world. On the contrary, there is much to appreciate in the contention that the world's industry has mined more from the use of Indian minerals than Indian trade itself has mined; indeed the argument has been advanced by some that most of those minerals have been exported in the raw state to the detriment of Indian industrial possibilities. Indian industry itself cannot, however, be entirely exonerated from blame in not making greater use of the opportunities available to it.

As regards imports, in no case, in pre-war times, has India experienced difficulties in obtaining supplies, so long as importers have been willing to pay the ruling market prices. Indeed, any import difficulties have been of India's own making, such as the import duty on copper, but this duty has served to keep alive an industry which could not hope otherwise to compete with low cost producers in Northern Rhodesia and America.

Hence, so far as India is concerned in its relation to other countries, there is no significance in any stipulation of war aims which provide for the ready availability of mineral raw materials between nations. Freedom of movement into and out of India has been a feature of India's mineral trade. But what happens to mineral exports after they leave India is, or has been, outside this country's control. A comparison of export prices, freight and other charges with sale prices in European and American markets, in some cases may lead to the conclusion that heavy profits are made abroad on Indian minerals and that there is some restriction in foreign re-distribution of them. In this country—where whose vast population is only just realising the greater development of its resources—one is concerned, therefore, not particularly with the more ready future availability of mineral raw materials as compared with the past, but rather with the desire that much of those profits now earned on India's minerals abroad should preferably be secured for this country.

One method of securing this desire that India should obtain a greater value from exports is that mineral raw materials should be processed as far as possible in the country of origin. This right should be recognised for all countries. Some minerals which are not exported may require protection. Assistance must be either in the form of a

protective tariff or a subsidy. From the international point of view it can be contended that such local industries are uneconomic and should not be supported, but yet to the country concerned they may be of vital importance from the point of view of internal development, employment and defence.

Post-war Machinery of Trade Control.- If by ready availability of minerals to all countries is meant that the minerals shall be available at the same import price to all, then this would imply the control of marketing of all minerals moving between countries by some international organisation representative of all countries. Control of marketing must go with its control of production for export. This is tantamount to an acceptance of the past idea of combines and cartels, but on a greater scale and under close international political control. Under such a system imports would be available to all countries at level prices, but it would be incumbent on any country to decide whether it is worth while developing relatively uneconomic domestic deposits for internal consumption with the aid of subsidies.

Whatever form any mineral control may take, it is essential that the term 'raw material' be clearly defined; that is, it is desirable to know to what stage in its processing does a mineral remain raw material.

(Summarised from a copy of the Review received from the Mining, Geological and Metallurgical Institute of India, Calcutta).

(The copy of the brochure summarised above was sent to Montreal on 15th minute D.1/491/44 dated 4th May, 1944). ✓

Five-Year Plan to develop Fisheries in India. ✓

A five-year plan for the development and exploitation of fisheries in India has been prepared by Dr. Bains Prashad, Director, Zoological Survey of India, for submission to the Reconstruction Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries. The scheme suggests the appointment of an ad hoc expert committee to draw up a detailed plan of inquiry, the results of which would form the basis of all future scientific and experimental work. A fishery research institute would then be set up to act as the administrative and research headquarters for fisheries in India.

(The Statesman, 30-4-1944). ✓

Mysore Government's Post-war Economic Development Plans. ✓

The Mysore Government has, it is understood, drawn up post-war economic development plans for the State involving an expenditure of Rs. 200 million in the first year after the war, and another Rs. 200 million in the succeeding four years.

Development Targets.- The target aimed at is a hundred per cent increase in five years in the per capita income of the people of the State. This will be done by intensive cultivation, helped by improved irrigation and better manure. The educational programme contemplates a totally literate population in 30 years. A prominent place is to be given to adult education since an adult can be educated in six months and the per capita investment on him is Rs. 5 as against Rs. 20 for child.

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Industrial Development. - Industrial development is to pursue two lines. Mysore must produce all the consumer goods it can. The development of basic industries will embrace mechanical engineering (both light & heavy), and chemical industries. The manufacture of locomotives and planes is not ruled out. Mysore's special sphere is sericulture. During the war this industry has grown 250 per cent; after the war, efforts to maintain this progress will be made, and, if possible even to increase production.

Development of Hydro-Electric Power. - The State is to make a great advance in the sphere of hydro-electric power. The present production of 70,000 kilowatts is to be increased threefold in three years. The necessary plant and equipment for the proposed grid will be installed shortly.

(The Hindustan Times, 19-4-1944). ✓

Exclusion of India from Allied Textile Board. ✓

Indian industrial circles interested in the growth of Indian textile industry, appear to be seriously concerned about the recent announcement made in the United Kingdom regarding the formation of a combined Production and Resources Board to survey wartime and relief requirements vis-a-vis productive capacity, and the exclusion of India from representation on the Board, which is represented by the textile interests of the United Kingdom, United States and Canada.

(The Hindustan Times, 7-4-1944). ✓

India's Part in Post-war Plans:
Committee to discuss Monetary Schemes. ✓

A special meeting of the General Policy Committee of the Reconstruction Committee has been called to meet at Bombay on 4 and 5-5-1944 to discuss the principles of an international monetary fund. The Finance member, Sir Jeremy Raisman, is to attend the meeting. The principles of the scheme are explained in a pamphlet issued by the Government of India. His meeting is in preparation for the forthcoming Conference on monetary policy to be held in the U.S.A.

The pamphlet is in the form of a joint statement by experts and sets forth the principles under 10 heads. Explanatory notes by UK experts deal with some of the more important respects in which the present joint statement differs from or resembles the proposals for an international clearing union. The joint statement provides that a member need not assume the full obligations of membership until satisfactory arrangements are at his disposal to facilitate a settlement of the balance of payments arising out of the war. Furthermore, the joint statement contemplates a gradual evolution towards the attainment of the objects of the fund by progressive stages and no country is committed to the immediate removal of war-time restrictions and regulations. While the fund may, within three years of its coming into force, make representations for further withdrawal of restrictions, no member is committed as to any fixed date for this final removal. The drafting of this clause, as the experts on both sides understand it, allows during the transition period for the maintenance and adaptation by members of the sterling area of the arrangements now in force between them. Nor is the scheme intended, when the obligation of free convertibility has been accepted, to interfere with the traditional ties and other arrangements between members of the sterling area and London.

It is pointed out that the Government of India has already announced that it does not propose to undertake any commitments in the international scheme without consulting the Central Legislature.

(The Statesman, 28-4-1944). ✓

India's Participation in the U.N.R.R.A.:
Motion adopted by Central Legislature. ✓

Urging approval of the UNRRA agreement signed in Washington on 11-11-1943, Sir Azizul Haque, Industries and Civil Supplies Member, explained in the Central Assembly on 4-4-1944 the conditions of the agreement and the extent of the obligations it entailed. The decision to participate in the agreement, he made it clear, rested entirely with the legislative bodies of the different countries. Therefore if the Assembly wished India to participate in the agreement, the House at a later stage would have to determine India's contribution, but if the Assembly did not approve this motion, India would withdraw from the organization.

Mr. T.T. Krishnamachari, said the House had been placed in a dilemma by being asked to consider a decision which had already been made. He asked the Commerce Member what would ultimately be the appropriate authority to vote funds on behalf of India. If it was the legislature, he would urge the Government to see that Indian representatives were nominated by the legislature. India's status in these international bodies was unequal, but he did not wish to say that India should be unympathetic to the sufferings of people outside her own borders. On the matter of contribution to UNRRA, he thought it would be better if India aid in foreign credits so that the goods produced in the country would be available for consumers.

Mr. Chakram Nair moved an amendment to include India as a beneficiary under the scheme.

Mr. N.M. Joshi said that India should take an important part in the work of UNRRA. If there was to be a Far Eastern Regional Council of UNRRA, it should be located in India.

Mr. Neogy expressed the hope that the scope of UNRRA in regard to its working would not be so extended as to affect future international relationships with other parts of the world in regard to commerce. The resolutions of UNRRA which would form the basis of its activities were so cryptic on certain points that it was difficult for him to judge its full applications. He cited as examples the resolutions governing transportation, utilization of foreign exchange assets for relief, and trade control, and expressed apprehension that the system of complicated control in regard to foreign trade might be indefinitely prolonged in this country or the purpose of implementing the resolutions. He wanted an assurance that India's contribution in goods would be confined to those articles which India could spare. The Government's first concern should be to meet the internal demand and in working out details of the scheme, the Government should take the House into their confidence so that there might be no room for apprehension.

Mr. Hanrattan Gupta supported the resolution but said that India should be represented not only on the Far Eastern Council but on other councils such as the Supply Council. He also thought that Indians should be enabled to work on the permanent administrative machinery of UNRRA. He did not think India could accept the principle of contributing 1 per cent of her national income, but suggested that the Government of India might pay 2 per cent of their own budgetary income. Urging the Commerce Member to accept Mr Nairang's amendment he expressed surprise that it

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After the USA had ~~also~~ adopted a resolution on the lines of the
adment, HMG had not taken any action.

Winding up the debate, the Commerce Member, Sir Azizul Haque,
referred the criticism that Government ~~had~~ had not taken the House into
confidence before signing the agreement. He pointed out that there
was no time to do this after the revised draft was received by Government,
~~and~~ he emphasized that the signing of the agreement was subject to
ratification by the Legislature. Had India not signed the agreement, she
would have been signed out from among the 44 nations and it would have
been said that she had not accepted the principle of international relief.
On the question of contribution, he said that India had from the very
beginning taken up the attitude that her contribution must be on the
basis of her capacity to pay, having regard to the economic distress
prevailing in many parts of the country. It was mainly with reference to
this, he pointed out, that the criterion of 1 per cent of a country's
annual income had been amended. To decide whether India should pay in
kind credits or supplies, the Commerce Member said that he would consult
trade and commercial interests. India's representative had pressed
his administration that there should be no discrimination against
the nationals of participating countries settled in various areas and, without
making it a condition of participation, had conveyed the desire of the
Indian public that they would like India's contribution to be devoted,
wholly, for relief in countries where her own nationals were
suffering. The Government of India, he added, had made representations
for the appointment of Indians in the highest ranks of the administration
as well as in the technical staff. Government had ~~also~~ also taken up the
protection of interests of Indians in occupied territories and were collect-
ing data which would be necessary for purposes of relief.

The House adopted on 5-4-1944 the resolution as modified by
Sir Azizul Haque's amendment.

(The Statesman, 5 and 6-4-1944).

The resolution was adopted by the Council of State on 6-4-1944.

(The Hindustan Times, 7-4-1944). ✓

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General.

Meeting of the National Defence
Council. ✓

The 14th session of the National Defence Council was held at Delhi from 17 to 19-4-1944, Lord Wavell the Viceroy, presiding. The subjects discussed included civil defence measures, the food problem, rice control, coal distribution, etc.

As regards the food problem, the Council reviewed the progress made in procurement operations and control of prices in the light of a memorandum presented by the Hon'ble Sir J.P. Srivastava. Reference was made to the position in Bombay City as a result of the recent fire and the steps already taken to dispatch additional stocks to Bombay. The Council also considered a review of the action taken under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance generally and also the working of controls in respect of cotton piecegoods, woollen goods and drugs.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
18 and 19 and 20-4-1944) ✓

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of the more important publications received in this Office during
April, 1944. ✓

to Conditions. -

Government of Bombay. Budget Memorandum for 1944-45. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press, 1944. Price Rs.2-9-0 or 4s.9d.

Government of Bombay. Civil Budget Estimates for the year 1944-45. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press, 1944. Price Rs.4-2-0 or 7s.

Statistical Leaflet No. 3, February 1944. Receipts at Mills in India of Raw Cotton Classified by Varieties. 1942-43 season. Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay.

Statistical Leaflet No. 4, February, 1944. Exports by Sea of Indian Cotton Classified by Varieties, 1942-43 season. Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay.

Review of the Mineral Resources and Industries of India and their Post-War Development (Mining Geological and Metallurgical Institute of India). December 1943.

Policy in War Time. -

Optimum Proportions of Grains Capable of Admixture with Wheat, by Ram Dhan Singh, S. Rattan Singh and Mohammed Rafiq. ✓