

International Labour Office Bureau International du Travail	Report for January 1944
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Government

Employment of Women Under-ground in
Coal Mines: Notification no. Height
of Galleries.

(6/2/45)

References were made at page 2 of our report for November, 1943, and at page 1 of our report for December, 1943, to the Government of India's notifications lifting the ban on the employment of women underground in coalmines in Bengal, Bihar, Central Provinces and Berar, and Orissa. One of the conditions stipulated therein was that no woman should be employed underground in galleries less than six feet in height. By a later notification (No. Coal 33 dated 16-1-44), the Government of India has reduced the minimum height of galleries in which women may be employed from six feet to five and a half feet.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 16-1-1944, pages 35-36).

Assam:

The Assam Maternity Benefit Act, 1944.
(Act I of 1944).

Reference was made at page 1 of our report for October, 1943, to the passing by the Assam Legislative Council, of the Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940, in the light of the amendments suggested by the Governor. The Bill as amended was adopted by the Assam Legislative Assembly during the last week of November 1943 and received the assent of the Governor on 14-1-44. It has been gazetted as the Assam Maternity Benefit Act, 1944 (Act I of 1944) on 17-1-44 and comes into force with effect from 1-2-1944.

(The Assam Gazette dated 19-1-44, part IV, pages 1-8, and Notification No. G.G.N.339/42/7, dated 21-1-44, the Assam Gazette, dated 26-1-44, part II, page 57).

C.P. and Berar:

Application of Labour Acts to the
Partially Excluded Areas in C.P.
and Berar.

The Government of ~~India~~ the Central Provinces and Berar has notified on 29-12-1943 that the following Acts of the Government of India shall be applicable to all the partially excluded areas of the ^{Central} Provinces and Berar, namely: The Indian Boilers (Amendment) Act, 1943 (XVII of 1943), the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941 (XIX of 1941), the Mines Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 1943 (XVIII of 1943), and the Motor Vehicles (Drivers) Amendment Act, 1943 (XIX of 1943).

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette dated 7-1-44, part I, page 2).

Madras :

Draft Rules Re. Notice of less Serious
Accidents under Factories Act, 1934 .

The Government of Madras has gazetted the draft of certain amendments to the Madras Factories Rules, 1936, re. the ^{submission} ~~submission~~ by employers of notices of accidents of a less serious nature. Under the amending rules, factories employing more than 250 workers ordinarily may be required to submit, at intervals not exceeding two weeks, notices, in a prescribed form, of accidents which do not cause death, but which cause such bodily ~~injury~~ injury as is likely to prevent the person injured from resuming his work in the factory during the 48 hours after the occurrence of the accident.

The draft will be taken up for consideration on or after 1-5-44.

(Rules Supplement to part I,
the Fort St. George Gazette,
dated 4-1-44, page 17).

Orissa :

The Draft Orissa Industrial and Labour
Dispute Statistics Rules, 1943.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 12 of the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942 (vide page 2 of our report for April, 1942), the Government of Orissa has, on 22-1-44, gazetted the draft Orissa Industrial and Labour Dispute Statistics Rules, 1943. Under the rules, the Statistics Authority appointed by the Government may demand of the manager or occupier of a factory information, in prescribed forms, regarding ~~any~~ strike or lock-out.

(The Orissa Gazette, dated
28-1-44, part III, pages 17-18).

Punjab :

The Punjab Trade Employees (Amendment)
Act, 1943.

Reference was made at page 4 of our report for June, 1943, to the fact that the Punjab Trade Employees (Amendment) Bill, 1943, was referred to ~~the~~ Select Committee of the Punjab Legislative Assembly. The Bill, as passed by the Legislature, is published at pages 5 to 9 of the Punjab Gazette Extraordinary dated 17-1-44.

(The Punjab Gazette Extraordinary
dated 17-1-44, pages 5-9).

New Labour Adviser to Government of India:
Mr. B.L. Waters Appointed.

Mr. B.L. Waters has been appointed Labour Adviser to the Government of India in place of Mr. D.T. Jack who has gone back to the British Ministry of Labour. Mr. Waters, it is stated, has considerable experience in the British Ministry of Labour and National Service in matters relating to employment, training and utilisation of man-power.

(The Hindu, dated 8-1-1944).

4th Meeting of the Tripartite Standing Labour
Committee, Lucknow, 25 and 26-1-44.

The fourth meeting of the (Tripartite) Standing Labour Committee was held at Lucknow on 25 and 26-1-1944, with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, in the Chair. Five representatives each of employers, workers and representatives of provincial Governments and three of the States attended the Conference, besides the Member in charge and Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India.

Chairman's Statement on Government's Implementation of Previous Decisions.— In his opening remarks, the Chairman, (the Labour Member, Government of India) referring to the steps which are being taken by the Central Government to implement the decisions taken at an earlier session of the Standing Labour Committee, (vide page 2 of our report for April, 1944) indicated that the Government had decided to introduce the Fair Wages Clause in contracts entered into by the Central Public Works Department. The question of introducing a similar clause in contracts entered into by other departments of the Central Government, he said, was under consideration. He also announced that, in pursuance of the resolution passed at the last plenary session of the Labour Conference, (vide pages 4-10 of our report for August, 1943), the Government of India had appointed a Labour Investigation Committee for the investigation of wages, earnings and other conditions of labour (vide page 67 of our report for November 1943). The question of extending the enquiry in a suitable manner to agricultural wage earners, he said, was also being considered in consultation with the Provincial Governments.

The items on the agenda of the Meeting were : (1) The method of statutory wage control in India, if and when such control was found necessary; (2) The Model Provident Fund Rules circulated by the Central Government for eliciting opinion; (3) Report of the Dearness Allowance Committee for industrial workers; (4) Absenteeism; (5) Maintenance of service records; (6) Employment exchanges; and (7) Canteens.

Decisions: Wages Boards.— The Committee considered that Wages Boards, if a decision was taken to set them up, should be on a provincial basis and that there should be a Board for each industry.

Dearness Allowance: General Principles to be laid down by Government.— The Committee considered the report of the Gregory Committee on dearness allowance, (the Committee was appointed in October 1943—vide pages 38-39

our October 1943 report), and discussed the general principles for having dearness allowance, the desirability of having different rates for different industries or different regions and the relation of dearness allowance to the cost of living. The Committee, it is understood, agreed that general principles should, to the maximum extent possible, be laid down by the Government for dealing with the question of dearness allowance to be paid by industrial concerns. Agreeing that the report of the Sub-Committee would serve as a useful guide to Government in laying down principles for dearness allowance, the Committee decided to forward the report to the Government of India for consideration in the light of the opinions expressed by the delegates at the meeting.

Absenteeism : Draft Scheme for Sample Survey Agreed upon:- A draft scheme for a sample survey into absenteeism in industrial undertakings -- especially undertakings engaged on war production -- was then considered by the Committee. The scheme aims at a factual survey of the problem, including investigation of causes like sickness, accident, leave, social and religious reasons, transport difficulties, lateness, etc, which result in absenteeism. It is learnt that the scheme was generally agreed upon with some amendments.

Canteens:- ~~Earlier during the~~ The Committee reviewed the progress achieved in respect of opening cooked food and refreshment canteens for workers in industrial concerns. It was generally accepted that in spite of difficulties such canteens were functioning in considerable numbers and were proving popular among the workers.

(Extracted from ^{These} Unofficial Notes dated 27-1-1944, issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India). +

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CONDITIONS OF WORK.

Wages.

A National Minimum Wage: Scheme of
Dr. Radhakamal Mukerjee.

Attention is directed to pages 8 to 10 of the ^{7th} January 1944 issue of the Eastern Economist, New Delhi, where is published an article under caption: "A National Minimum Wage" by Dr. Radhakamal Mukerjee, Professor of Economics and Sociology, Lucknow University. The article discusses the principles on which the national minimum has to be fixed.

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Deductions from Employees' Wages Not
Permissible except under Payment of
Wages Act: U.P. Labour Commissioner's
Ruling.

In the course of a judgement in a conciliation case, the Labour Commissioner of the United Provinces held that it should be definitely illegal for an employer to withhold an employee's wages for failure to fulfil the terms of his contract in the matter of giving notice of the termination of his employment. It was also pointed out that no employer can make deductions otherwise than under the provisions of section 7 of the Payment of Wages Act, and that that section does not cover cases of breach of contract. Nor can such a deduction be valid under section 9 of the Act unless the absence be a joint and concerted one along with 10 or more employees, even when there is a contract signed by the employee, inasmuch as no workman can contract himself out of any right conferred upon him by law nor can an employer deprive him of the protection the law affords.

(U.P. "Labour Bulletin", July-September,
1943).

Forced Labour.

Abolition of Forced Labour: Resolution of
All-India Scheduled Castes Conference.

6.

At a meeting held at Cawnpore on 30-1-1944, the All-India Scheduled Castes Conference adopted a resolution protesting against the system of bonded labour and forced labour prevalent in India and asked the Government of India to set up a committee of inquiry with a view to abolishing the system by law.

Industrial Disputes.

Industrial Disputes in British India during 1942.

According to the statistics, published in the January, 1944, issue of Indian Labour Gazette, of industrial disputes involving stoppages of work in British India during the year ending 31-12-1943, the total number of stoppages of work during the year (including 13 in progress at the close of the year) was 694 and the number of workers involved 772,653 as compared with 359 stoppages involving 291,054 workers during 1941. The total number of man-days lost was 5,779,965 as compared with 3,330,503 in 1941. But, it is pointed out, the statistics for 1942 cannot be regarded as normal in view of the number of stoppages due to political causes. There were 35 stoppages involving 5,000 or more workers and 8 involving more than 10,000 workers. There were 10 stoppages each resulting in a loss of man-days exceeding 100,000 of which 6 involved more than 10,000 workers each. Textile (cotton, silk, woollen and jute) mills accounted for 40 per cent of the stoppages, 69 per cent of the workers and involved 66 per cent of the loss in man-days. In 438 disputes (63 per cent) demands related mainly to wages or bonus. The number of stoppages which the workers were wholly or partially successful was 286 or approximately 42 per cent of the total number of stoppages which ended during the year.

Provincial Distribution.- During the year under review, there were 232 disputes in Bengal involving 263,902 workers and entailing a loss of 24,501 working-days. Next comes Bombay with 198 disputes involving 2,036 workers and entailing a loss of 996,470 working days; Delhi with 124 disputes involving 67,392 workers and entailing a loss of 537,678 working days; the Central Provinces and Berar with 72 disputes involving 1,886 workers and entailing a loss of 817,536 working days; the United Provinces with 38 disputes involving 45,502 workers and entailing a loss of 189,121 working days; the Punjab with 33 disputes involving 8,772 workers and entailing a loss of 60,628 working days; Madras with 20 disputes involving 57,260 workers and entailing a loss of 893,529 working days; Bihar with 10 disputes involving 49,904 workers and entailing a loss of 652,821 working days; Sind with 5 disputes involving 755 workers and entailing a loss of 1,805 working days and Assam with 3 disputes involving 1,744 workers and entailing a loss of 5,876 working days. No disputes were reported from Ajmer-Merwara, Bangalore and Coorg, Baluchistan, Northwest Frontier Province and Orissa.

Classification by Industries.- Classified according to industries, there were 232 disputes in cotton, silk and woollen mills, involving 1,424 workers and entailing a loss of 2,851,961 working days; 124 disputes in engineering workshops involving 21,816 workers and entailing a loss of 2,652 working days; 44 disputes in jute mills involving 130,088 workers and entailing a loss of 943,336 working days; 10 disputes in railways (including railway and workshops) involving 33,277 workers and entailing a loss of 160,906 working days and 4 disputes in mines involving 5,683 workers and entailing a loss of 20,920 working days. The number of strikes in all the other industries together was 280 involving 110,365 workers and entailing a loss of 820,190 working days.

Causes and Results of Strikes.- Of the 694 strikes, 359 arose from questions of wages, 79 on those of bonus; in 63 the demands were connected with personnel and in 7 with hours and leave. Of the total, in 117 cases the workers were completely successful, in 169 cases partially successful. *definite verdicts were obtained in 17 cases; 13 cases were pending at the close of the year.*

The Indian Labour Gazette, January

8

General.

Demands of All-India Colliery Mazdoor
Union.

Grant of a fifty percent rise in the basic wages of colliery workers, supply of adequate rations, constitution of a Welfare Board to look after housing, educational and sanitary needs of the workers, application of the Payment of Wages Act to coal mines, grant of facilities for the formation and functioning of Trade Unions without interference by employers, provision of gratuity and provident fund were some of the more important demands put forth by the All-India Colliery Mazdoor Union in a memorandum submitted to the Labour Member, Government of India, at Jharia 12-12-43.

Referring broadly to the grievances of colliery labour, the memorandum stated that coal miners were the most neglected section of the Indian working class. The earnings of the workers were so low that any other work, including seasonal agricultural labour, drew them away from coal-fields. The absence of a stable working population, the industry was experiencing a perennial labour shortage. Nevertheless the union could not overlook the step taken by the Government in lifting the ban on the employment of women to work underground in coal mines. In its opinion it was not at all a remedy to solve the problem of labour shortage. Unless the men workers returned to the coal-fields, the women also would not go and the male workers would return only if the conditions of work were made more attractive and remunerative. And once the men workers returned it would not be necessary to send the women underground.

Demands.— The following were some of the more important demands specifically made by the Union. (1) Fifty per cent increase in the basic wages.— The present wages of the miners are extremely meagre and the standard of living is, therefore, incredibly low. The wages depend upon the number of tubs filled up and the miners are at the mercy of the sirdars in the supply of tubs. In many cases the sirdars are corrupt. The sirdars, therefore, should be guaranteed a fixed minimum wage. The dearness allowance that is granted to the miners is also very inadequate; it should be raised as to compensate them against the heavy rise in the cost of living.

(2) Increase in the rations of food stuffs to the workers to 6 seers (seer = 2 lbs) per week and grant of rations to the workers' dependents on the following scale:— Five seers per week for an adult dependent and 2 1/2 seers per week for a minor dependent. The present arrangement for distribution of rations through sirdars is vitiated by corruption. Sirdars should therefore be eliminated from the machinery of distribution and the representatives of labour should be included in it. Other essential commodities such as dal, gur, sugar, kerosene, and cloth should be made available to the workers at cheap rates.

(3) Constitution of a special Welfare Board to look after the general welfare of the workers including: (a) Education of the workers and their dependents; (b) Medical facilities for workers and their dependents; (c) Recreation; (d) Sanitation; and (e) Housing. A number of Special Welfare Officers should be appointed for the purpose. The Board should include in it representatives of labour. The expenses of the Board may be met by an additional coal cess. Pending the constitution of such a Board, the existing Mines Health Board should be reconstituted, and some provisional arrangements should be made for bettering the living conditions of the workers.

(4) Establishment of a comprehensive machinery to look into the day lay grievances of the workers. A Labour Commissioner should be appointed, with adequate staff of inspectors, to look into the disputes and petty grievances of the workers.

(5) An effective check on the evil of bribery and gradual elimination of the system of contract labour.

(6) Immediate application of the Payment of Wages Act to coal mines.

(7) Provision of a regular attendance bonus at a rate of 4 annas per day for those who work 5 days and 8 annas for those who work 6 days in a week. This will act as an incentive to the workers to work more.

(8) Facilities for the functioning of Trade Unions and recognition of Trade Unions by employers. Generally the workers reside in the private houses of the employers and Trade Union workers are some times denied access to the workers' quarters.

(9) Provision of gratuity and provident fund. In the beginning, the period of time fixed for eligibility should be short.

(The decisions reached by the tripartite conference held at Dhanbad on 11-12-43 for improving the conditions of mine-workers and thus to attract more workers so that increased production of coal may be ensured were reported at pages 58-59 of our December, 1943 report).

(Vanguard, dated 18-12-43).

Statistics of Factory Workers in India in 1942.

According to an Unofficial Note dated 20-1-44 issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India, the total number of workers employed in factories in India rose from 2,156,377 in 1941 to 2,281,563 in 1942. The increase was prominent in Government and Local Fund factories which employed ~~with~~ 299,729 workers during the year under review as compared with 220,086 workers in the previous year. The number of workers in factories other than Government and Local Fund factories increased from 36,291 to 1,981,834, the increase being prominent in the cotton textile group i.e. spinning, weaving and other factories. In this group the number of workers employed increased from 593,907 in 1941 to 608,975 in 1942. Of the total 2,281,563 workers, 1,980,996 were employed in perennial factories and 300,567 in seasonal factories.

Increase compared with the previous year in the average number of workers employed was most clearly marked in Bombay (651,324 in 1942 as against 611,943 in 1941), followed by Bengal (672,721 in 1942 as against 617,711 in 1941), Punjab (132,728 in 1942 as against 107,321 in 1941), Madras (249,155 in 1942 as against 234,072 in 1941), the United Provinces (32,524 in 1942 as against 225,316 in 1941), and the Central Provinces and Berar (83,467 in 1942 as against 76,446 in 1941). Other provinces in which increase was recorded were Bihar (115,607 in 1942 as against 113,267 in 1941), Assam (56,124 in 1942 as against 54,869 in 1941), Orissa (7,506 in 1942 as against 6,816 in 1941), and North West Frontier Province (1,690 in 1942 as against 1,476 in 1941). In Sind the number decreased to 26,086 in 1942 from 30,254 in 1941. In 1942 there were 30,218 workers employed in the average in Delhi, 16,820 in Ajmer-Merwara and 2,650 in Bangalore and Coorg.

10

as Unofficial Note points out that the annual report on the administration of the Factories Act, 1934, for the year 1942 has not been printed (reasons of paper economy).

(Unofficial Note dated 20-1-1944 issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India, and Indian Labour Gazette, January, 1944). +

Conditions of Work of Building Workers
Under Government Contractors.

The demands of building workers employed by Government Contractors respect of hours of work, holidays, wages and wage payment periods were presented to the Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department, Government of India, by the Building Workers' Union (President-Mr.S.C. Datta; Secretary Mr. Bhanwar Singh) in the last week of January, 1944. When the Union's deputation met the Chief Engineer, representatives of Government Contractors were also present by invitation. As the result of negotiations, the following terms were agreed upon :

(1) Regular payments should be made by the contractors fortnightly, i.e. the 5th and 20th of every month; (2) The working day should be of 9 hours; ~~(3)~~ and (3) The main contractor shall be responsible for the wages of the labourers. Petty contractors shall have no 'locus standi' as far as the Government is concerned. About cheap grain shops, the Chief Engineer agreed to approach the local authorities for supply of essentials to start the shops as soon as supplies are available. The question of holidays with pay was postponed for consideration at a second meeting.

It is understood that the Government of India is appointing a Labour Welfare Officer to look after the grievances of labour engaged by Government contractors. Though mainly concerned with labour, it is understood, he will be directly under the Chief Engineer, C.P.W.D., and also under the Labour Welfare Section of the Labour Department of the Government of India.

(Vanguard, dated 26-1-1944). +

11

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

26th Session of the Indian Economic Conference,
Madras, 30 and 31-12-1943.

The 26th Session of the Indian Economic Conference was held at Madras on 30 and 31-12-1943 under the presidency of Dr. B. V. Narayana-
ami Aiyar. [Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar (Vice-Chancellor, Madras
University), the Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcomed the
legates and stressed the need for careful post-war economic
planning. One of the urgent problems that would naturally engross
economists' attention, he said, was the problem of post-war reconstruc-
tion in India in the many phases of its national activity. He added:
"In one sense perhaps it is not a disadvantage to think of post-war social
and economic problems without the embarrassment of party politics and
there is some reasonable hope of agreed conclusions which may be of value
to any Government of the future, provided the basis of such recommenda-
tions is the welfare of the common citizen, who is the real backbone of
the Nation". He would like to see in the reports of the ~~post-war~~ postwar
reconstruction committees both the ideal and the practical aspects of
reconstruction emphasised. It was little use presenting a Nation with a
well-drawn up scheme of social security in all its diverse aspects of
health, education, freedom from want and insurance against disease, dirt,
poverty and ignorance, if such schemes were to be given effect to at
some distant future after the War and only when the resources of the
country warranted the implementing of such schemes. There should be a
plan drawn up, but the first steps to implement that plan, the spade work
needed should be considered now, if any real change was to be effected
in the post-war world. The expansion of industries, the opening out of
new industries, heavy or key industries, the future of trade and
commerce, the relationship of capital and labour, the exploitation of the
natural resources of this vast sub-continent, the role of Government in
the starting of such industries - these were already receiving the atten-
tion of Indians. [In this connection, he emphasised the need for careful
research and planned methods of enterprise. At a time of inflation many
industrial concerns might be started by individuals, which, under normal
conditions, might not survive later the onslaught of inter-national
competition. The world all-over was moving towards a merger and it was
the economist's duty to advise capital and industry to pool their resources,
to share the profits and losses that the enterprise itself might survive
the shocks of impact from any quarter. At the same time, the danger of
large combines and possibility of exploitation should be guarded against.
The time had also come, when better understanding and a more intimate
association of interests should be established between industry and labour.
As long as advanced industrial countries in the West been accustomed to
use labour as a means to an end, the building up of an industry or the
enlargement of capital. ~~For~~ Too long had men pleaded financial
insufficiency for the many long-neglected reforms to be put into operation,
but this war had opened the eyes of many and the question of finance
must not be pleaded as an excuse for shelving many of these social security
measures. [If India was to achieve a higher standard of living, she had to
develop and with a quick pace, industrially and agriculturally. The role
of communications, the place of irrigation schemes for reclaiming barren
lands and making them fertile, the implementing of those schemes of power,
hydroelectric or otherwise, over the whole sub-continent to foster the
growth of industries and agricultural enterprise so that the benefits of
technical progress might be shared by all regions - these surely afforded
great scope for constructive thought and planning. The development of
"human capital", was also important. The attention that had to be devoted

education and public health and for which economists would have to suggest ways and means ~~for financing such schemes~~ on a generous and expanding scale would prove the touchstone of any genuine scheme of economic reconstruction. The recent scheme for training technicians as a war measure should be an object lesson to the Government and to industrialists alike. Too long had education been regarded as a non-numerative enterprise and financial purists had confined themselves to the task of limiting educational expansion to the available resources of current revenue. It would be for the economists to make it clear that any large scale expansion and reorganisation of education, primary, secondary, University, technical and technological, was possible only if a new policy of subsidising these national schemes of reconstruction through large loans raised for such purposes was adopted. The same was true of problems of public health. The responsibilities which would devolve on the State, the manner in which finances were to be raised, the apportionment of expenditure on the different projects of economic reconstruction and the sweep of the economic offensive to be directed against poverty, were tasks requiring the advice of experts.

Whatever might be the forms of Government which India might ultimately decide to have, the need to preserve the economic unity of India as a whole could not be ignored. The schemes of post-war reconstruction should be "so shaped that they formed a co-ordinated whole".

Presidential Address: Economic Effects of War.- In the course of his presidential address, Dr. Narayanaswami Aiyar referred to economic changes brought about by war in India. Her foreign trade has experienced a rude shock. Industrial production has been diverted towards the supply of war materials. New industries have been started for the supply of goods formerly imported from other countries. Many commercial crops cannot now be exported and the production of food crops has had to be increased owing to the stoppage of imports. Many of these tendencies will be fruitful of good if they are controlled and directed towards the basic needs of the country; but they must first be protected against the stress and strain of post-war changes in relation to Indian fiscal economy which in particular is quite vulnerable to international price levels. If the desirable trends now seen in Indian economy were to continue, a reconstruction plan should be devised so as to take into account the permanent needs of the Indian people in relation to their progress and development. For the complete industrialisation of India, three kinds of industries should be started: (1) Industries that fill up the gap in our industrial structure by reducing the dependence of existing industries on foreign sources of supply for certain raw materials, (2) key industries without which the large-scale factory-production of consumer's goods cannot be achieved economically and (3) Industries essential for the defence of the country.

Reconstruction Problems
~~Reconstruction Problems~~- Referring to the various problems that could arise in the period of reconstruction, he pointed out that, on the social side, the cessation of hostilities would bring unemployment to many and this should be solved by suitable adjustments in the capital programmes of Governments, Corporations and public bodies and by reorganisation of emergency relief. In the field of industrialisation, the plan should be to promote increased self-sufficiency for India and to increase consumption of industrial raw materials in indigenous industries. With regard to agriculture an attempt should be made to minimise the "unexampled pressure of the population against the means of subsistence" by introducing reforms from all sides, technical, economic, fiscal, and social. India's foreign trade was bound to take

10

new shape altogether in the post-war years and new markets should be covered in America, Australia and China. In this connection, the policy of the Government should be such that Indian shipping will have scope for rapid development. With regard to finance, the inter-related problems of accumulated sterling reserves and inflation called for early attention. Above all, the important question of public health should be given the foremost place in any scheme of reconstruction.

He discussed at great length the old theory of laissez-faire and the modern phenomenon of war-time economic control and said that the time has now come to realise that, as soon as the war is over, this mobilisation must not be dropped, but has to be reoriented for winning the greater victory of peace. The aim should be steadily kept in view to bring about a maximum utilisation of the material and human resources of the vast sub-continent of India in the interests of all its inhabitants. Such a plan will lead to the providing for all Indians the minimum of necessities such as food, clothing, housing, medical help and education. In any scheme of social welfare, provision for cheap, abundant and nourishing food should take the place of honour. Taking as basis a family of three adults and two children, the minimum annual food requirement for this unit would be Rs. 240. If we are to take Dr. Aykroyd's standard, while other essentials like fuel would demand an additional Rs. 120. According to a rough computation, every individual with a family, requires Rs. 30 per annum excluding contributions for social insurance. This would involve a provision for a total income of at least Rs. 30,000 millions a year. At the same time, it has to be borne in mind that this is only the minimum; the average is bound to be higher and therefore in order to ensure a minimum to all, the national income will have to be many times this figure.

Plan for State Socialism. "Any planned scheme of economic development for India", he said, "must not be a slavish imitation of western industry with its urban civilisation and perpetual clash of classes. Industry at the present day has reached a stage when it is dependent for its very existence and survival on the sympathy, encouragement and active support of the State. When a State like India wants to promote new industrial ventures, it can itself undertake the organisation, and see that it is worked in the interests of all the people. Even if new enterprises are entrusted to individual or corporate management, the State should insist that the benefits thereof flow equally to the whole community and are not utilised to promote the profits and interests of a few. In other words, the planned economy of post-war India must be conceived and designed that surely and inevitably it will lead ultimately to a socialistic new order in India. In the middle of the twentieth century, he pointed out, ^{there} in India are living in a mediaeval society, with the rich man in his castle and the poor man at his gate. The staggering disparity between our present poverty and our potential prosperity should continue no longer. If our present economic backwardness is not to leave behind an inheritance of suffering and misery to generations yet unborn, if modern civilisation is not to proceed from a catastrophic total war to another still worse, India should be strong enough to stand on her own feet and be capable of standing as an economically prosperous nation. Modern industry can thrive in any country, however advanced it may be, without a full measure of support from the government of the country. Therefore, in India, far-sighted and sympathetic statesmanship has got an unparalleled scope for inaugurating an era of plenty and prosperity for all sections of the vast population of India. Given a unified plan for the whole of India, the carrying out of the plan may be entrusted to the provinces. There should be centralised management and

centralised fulfilment. What is wanted today is drive, initiative and leadership.

Problems Discussed.- The main problems discussed at this year's session of the Economic Conference were : (1) Economic Controls in India during the war, (2) Regulation of Banking, (3) Control of Inflation, and (4) Recent Structural Changes in Capitalistic Economy. Bringing the proceedings to a close, Dr. Narayanaswami Naidu reviewed the work done during the three days of the Conference. Despite differences in methods of approach to problems, he had no hesitation that all economists assembled there agreed on the fundamentals. The poverty of India was, they were all agreed, the most important factor that confronted economists and statesmen today, and they were equally unanimous that all that could be done must be done to see a better standard of living assured to their countrymen. While he welcomed the suggestions that industrialisation should be rapidly promoted, he thought "laissez faire was gone once for all". He urged that care should be taken to see that industrialisation was effected in a way as would promote the general well-being of the people at large and did not fall into the hands of vested interests.

(The Hindu, 31-12-1943 and 1 and 2-1-1944). +

Inauguration of Statutory Advisory Committee in Hyderabad State : Committees for Industrial and Agricultural Development set up.

As part of the constitutional reforms in the Hyderabad State, seven advisory Committees have been appointed to associate non-official opinion with the administration in respect of important Departments. Advisory committees have been appointed for (1) Finance, (2) Religious Affairs, (3) Education, (4) Public Health, (5) Industrial Development, (6) Agricultural Development, (7) Muslim Endowments and (8) Hindu Endowments.

(Hyderabad Information, January, 1944). +

Industrial Research Institute to be Opened in Bihar.

The question of the development of industries in Bihar has been attracting the attention of the newly-formed Bihar Industries Association. It is, therefore, proposed to establish a National Institute of Scientific Industrial Research in Bihar. It is learnt that Mr. Shanti Prasad Mishra, President of the Association, has agreed to meet the initial cost of the establishment of the proposed institute. A Committee of Experts is to be appointed very shortly to advise in the matter. The Institute is likely to be opened at Dalmianagar.

(Anrita Bazar Patrika, dated 3-1-1944). +

Central Committees for Tobacco,
Cocoanut, Rice and Sugar to be
Set up.

It is understood that tentative decisions have been reached by the Government of India to set up four new Committees on the model of the Central Jute Committee and the Central Cotton Committee. These Committees will deal with tobacco, cocoanut, rice and sugar. Necessary legislation will be shortly undertaken to implement the decision. The Central Committees on rice and cocoanut will be financed by the levy of a small cess, while the other two Committees will be financed by contributions from sugar and tobacco excise duties.

The proposal to set up a Cocoanut Committee has already been approved by the Government of Madras, Mysore and Travancore and negotiations are presently in progress to bring in Cochin before legislation could be undertaken. Similarly, the proposal to set up a Rice Committee is under discussion with the Provincial Governments. It envisages the levy of a small cess. A cess at the rate of a quarter anna per maund on milled rice is expected to yield Rs. 3 million yearly. In view of the urgency of the problem, the Committee might be set up by an Ordinance. The Sugar and Tobacco Committees will be set up by resolutions of the Government of India. As for tobacco Rs. 1 million has been provided from the Tobacco Excise Duty and it is now proposed to establish a Central Tobacco Station in Tutur (Madras Presidency) to study the fundamental problems connected with tobacco.

(The Bulletin Issued by the
Indian Central Jute Committee,
December, 1943).

Cotton Textile Mill Industry in India
during 1942-43.

The Millowners' Association, Bombay, has recently issued its annual statement regarding the progress of the Indian textile industry during the year ended 31-8-1943. The salient features of the statement are summarised below :

Number of Mills.— The total number of equipped mills in India (including Burma) on 31-8-1943 was 401 (excluding 17 mills in course of construction or recently registered) as against 396 on 31-8-1942. The number of mills in Bombay city and Island remained at 66 during the year under review. The number of mills in Ahmedabad decreased by 1 to 73. There was no change in the number of mills in Rajputana, Berar, the Central Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Hyderabad State, Central India, the Punjab, Delhi, Travancore, Mysore and Pondichery. The number of mills increased in Bengal by 1 to 34, in the United Provinces by 3 to 30, and in Madras by 1 to 65. Of the 401 mills in the country, 6 were not working and 17 (in Bombay city and Island) started working only in March 1943. Of the 384 mills, 1 was in the Bombay Province exclusive of Ahmedabad and Bombay city and Island, 2 in Bengal, 1 in Delhi and 2 in Madras.

Number of Spindles and Looms.— The total number of spindles in the equipped mills of the country stood in the year ended 31-8-1943 at 130,568 as against 10,026,425 in the previous year. The total number

looms was 200,890 as against 200,170. In Bombay city and Island the number of spindles and looms increased from 2,819,832 and 66,120 in 1941-42 to 2,831,328 and 66,269 during the year under review. In Ahmedabad the number of spindles increased from 1,791,789 to 1,794,283 but looms decreased from 43,424 to 43,315. In the Bombay Province exclusive of Bombay City and Island and Ahmedabad, the number of spindles and looms increased from 1,010,182 and 26,513 to 1,263,880 and 26,624 respectively. In Madras the numbers increased from 1,449,696 and 6,163 to 1,479,934 and 6,492 respectively.

In Bengal the numbers increased from 472,284 and 10,712 to 476,144 and 10,555 respectively. In United Provinces the numbers increased from 1,155,556 and 12,526 to 774,822 and 12,616 respectively. In Central India the numbers increased from 385,284 and 11,028 to 398,908 and 11,084 respectively. In Punjab the numbers increased from 105,760 and 2,707 to 105,148 and 2,705. In Mysore the number of spindles increased from 162,448 to 162,288 but that of looms decreased from 2,907 to 2,878. In the Central Provinces the numbers were 303,897 and 5,293 as against 302,906 and 5,299 respectively; in Rajputana, 116,174 spindles and 2,715 looms as against 116,748 and 2,715 respectively; in Delhi 112,176 spindles and 3,067 looms as against 113,324 and 3,172 respectively; in Hyderabad, 120,508 spindles and 2,461 looms as against 120,888 and 2,454 respectively; in Bihar 1,114 spindles and 1,454 looms as against 69,048 and 1,454 respectively; in Pondicherry, 83,188 spindles and 1,966 looms as against 84,960 and 1,966 respectively; in Bihar and Orissa, 27,040 spindles and 796 looms as against 27,040 spindles and 744 looms; and in Travancore 1,136 spindles and 300 looms as against 11,680 and 300 respectively.

Number of Operatives.— The average number of operatives employed by on day shift work was, in 1942-43, approximately 502,650 as against 447 in 1941-42. Particulars of the numbers employed in night shift work are not available.

Capital Invested.— The total paid-up capital of the industry on 31-3-1943 amounted to Rs. 485,420,080 as against Rs. 464,893,238 on 31-3-1942.

Activity of Mills.— During the year under review the industry consumed 15,109 bales (of 784 lbs) of cotton against 2,370,361 bales in the previous year. The average number of spindles working daily during the year was 9,402,397 out of a total of 10,130,568 erected. In the previous year the corresponding figures were 9,165,812 and 10,026,425 respectively. Of the 200,890 looms installed, an average of 186,992 were at work daily during the year as against 200,170 and 184,250 respectively in the previous year. The above quoted figures of spindles and looms activity do not include night shift working. The figure of cotton consumed, however, includes night and day consumption.

(Summarised from statement relating to the progress of cotton textile mill industry in India for 1942-43 forwarded to the Office by the Secretary, Millowners' Association, Bombay).

7

Expansion of Industrial Research
on New Lines: Mr. J. J. Ghandy's
plea at Industrial and Research
Section of Science Congress.

Presiding over the meeting of the Industrial and Research Section of ~~the Indian Science Congress~~ Indian Science Congress held at Delhi on 4-1-44, Mr. J. Ghandy, General Manager, the Tata Iron and Steel Works, pointed out that, apart from the inadequately staffed official scientific services and a mere handful of research institutes and committees and engineering colleges, India had few facilities for research in the past. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research was only a creation of this year and suffered from many handicaps. For industrial advancement in the future, research had to be planned on national lines. In every advanced industrial country, industrial research was fostered by State bodies; by universities and technological institutes; by private companies; and by industrial or trade associations.

Mr. Ghandy's Scheme.— Mr. Ghandy suggested that the existing Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, consisting of a Research Council and a Board and a Research Utilization Committee, should be decentralized, and its membership enlarged so as to include representatives of all branches of science. The new Board and the Committee that may be formed, both aided by chains of Committees, should plan national research in close collaboration, under the general direction of the parent Council. The Board should concern itself with the scientific aspect, and the Committee with the industrial aspect, of the planning of a national programme, its direction and execution.

Research facilities to be Extended.— He added that for children, 'Nearer Palaces' on the Russian model, equipped with science laboratories, should be set up; and for adults, facilities for scientific research at universities and for technological training should be extended. Vocational training facilities should be provided for science students in workshops of private companies and railways so as to make them 'shop-minded'. Industries should set up their own research laboratories or combine together and foster cooperative research like the Iron and Steel Industrial Research Council in England; arrange part-time technical instruction for the average factory worker, who was the eventual agent for the application of research to industry; and stimulate the growth of an industrial scholarship plan on the American model.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
5-1-1944).

Jute Research Laboratories to be
Expanded.

A scheme for the expansion and reorientation of the Committee's Jute Agricultural Research Laboratories at Dacca was accepted at a meeting of the Indian Central Jute Committee held at Calcutta on 20-1-44, Sir Pheroze Kharegat presiding. The scheme envisages the development of the existing Jute Agricultural Research Laboratories at Dacca into a 'central station', with six sections, namely, botany, chemistry, agronomy, entomology, pathology and statistics. The scheme also includes the establishment of five smaller agricultural research centres, to be known as "out-stations", each at Kishoreganj, Rangpur, Jessore, Burdwan and Chandpur.

Another scheme involving an advance of about Rs. 1.6 million for the purchase of an adequate jute seed reserve, to meet a sudden increased demand which may arise with the cessation of the war, was recommended for consideration by the Government of Bengal. The buying up of the entire stock of available seed left over with the growers after sowing the 1944 crop was suggested in this connection. The Committee also adopted a proposal to establish a jute museum at the Committee's head quarters.

~~XX~~

(The Hindustan Times, dated 24-1-44)

Family Budget Inquiry to be conducted at Cawnpore.

Under the Government of India's Centrally Controlled Scheme for the pilation of Cost of Living Indices in selected centres, (vide pages 13-15 of our report for August 1943), an inquiry will shortly be conducted into the family budgets of industrial workers in Cawnpore, and the Labour Officer, United Provinces, has been appointed Officer on Special Duty for the purpose.

(Labour Bulletin July-September 1943)..+

Development of Indian Ceramic Industry: Discussion by Experts at Bombay.

Experts and manufacturers connected with the ceramic industry of India met at Bombay in December 1943 to discuss plans for the development of ceramics during and after the war. Addressing the gathering Mr. P. B. Advani, Director of Industries, Bombay, said that there was a great scope for the industry which he described as a key industry of India. Prior to the war, India imported Rs. 5 millions worth of sanitary ware and pottery ware. Today the demand had increased tremendously. There were hardly a dozen factories in the whole country manufacturing finer quality pottery ware and sanitary ware. They could hardly cope with the demand. With plenty of raw material which was available in India, the industry could forge ahead at the present juncture which was opportune for industrial development. There was no dearth of capital in India, neither was there any lack of technical personnel. Mr. Advani emphasized the need for the manufacture of insulators of high voltage type and crockery. He suggested that the cheaper type crockery should be manufactured on a cottage basis, the village potter being given the necessary technical training. He also urged the undertaking of intensive scientific research in optical glass manufacturing.

Mr. C. P. Shah of the Bombay Potteries said that it had not been possible to extend the existing factories or to put up new ones as the necessary machinery was not available. He suggested several steps for the building up of the industry, including the ascertaining of the possibilities for the manufacture of various machineries and equipment ~~for~~ ^{needed by the} ceramic

dustry and enlightening of industrialists on the scope of the industry.

(The Indian Textile Journal,
January 1944).+

The Indian Ceramic Society has issued a questionnaire to all ceramic factories in India with a view to collecting all available data regarding such factories in the country.

(Journal of the India Society
of Engineers, December 1943
issue).+

Working Class Cost of Living Index for
Various Centres in India during May,
1943.

The index number of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during May, 1943, as compared with the preceding month:-

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base=100</u>	<u>April 1943</u>	<u>May 1943.</u>
Amby	Year ending June 1934	225	227
Medabed	Year ending July 1927	187	198
Cholapur	Year ending January 1938	163	171
Agpur	August 1939	291	317
Dhiana	1931-35	348	
Wnpore	August 1939	279	319
tna	Average cost of living for five years preceding 1914.	302	333
Mshedpur	Ditto	300	307
aria	Ditto	290	369
dras	Year ending June 1936	172	173
du ra	Ditto	178	188
imbatore	Ditto	190	197

(Monthly Survey of Business
Conditions in India for May,
1943).+

Textile Industry.

First All-India Textile Conference to be held
from 9 to 11-3-1944 at Bombay.

The Textile Association (India) proposes to hold, in collaboration with the V.J.T. Institute, Bombay, an all-India Conference of technical and administrative personnel employed in the industry at Bombay from 9 to 11-3-1944. The Conference will be open to all interested in the textile industry and the discussions would be confined broadly to technical subjects like machinery and millstones, chemicals and processes, etc., and general subjects like technical education, working conditions in mills, employment situations, salaries, wages and allowances, the organization of labour welfare, etc. In addition to the reading of papers, followed by discussions covering a multitude of subjects affecting the technical workers in the industry, the Conference will provide mill men in the country their first opportunity to establish among themselves social contacts. The programme which the sponsors have in view is being drawn up with these two principal objects, the advancement of general knowledge and the establishment of esprit de corps among the technical personnel of the industry. The conference programme will include also an exhibition. A panel has been drawn up of leading men in the industry or presiding over the various sectional gatherings which will go to constitute the proceedings of the Conference in the aggregate. The Textile Association (India) have appointed a representative Committee with Dr. Nazir Ahmad, O.B.E., as President, to undertake the organization of the Conference.

(The Indian Textile Journal,
January 1944 issue). . .

AGRICULTURE.

Fourth Session of the Indian Society of
Agricultural Economics, Walchand Nagar,
26th to 28-12-1943.

The fourth annual session of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics was held at Walchand Nagar (an agricultural colony eight miles from Poona) ^{from} on 26 to 28-12-1943, Sir Manilal Nanavati, ex-Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank, presiding.

In his welcome address, Mr. Walchand Hirachand said that any plan of national development should give the first preference to rural development and shall be aimed at effecting ^arise in the standard of life in the rural areas. He referred to the experiment carried on by him in Walchand Nagar, where a piece of 45 square miles of fallow waste had been acquired and converted into fertile land and agriculture was being carried on an intensive scale employing tractors using rich manures like groundnut cakes and fertilisers. Mr. Walchand stated that his experiment of combining agriculture with industries had proved a great success. Several other similar lines could be developed in the interests of rural economy.

Presidential Address.- Sir Manilal Nanavati, in the course of his presidential address, made a strong plea for a new orientation of agricultural policy and a new drive to reach the farthest village and the lowest strata of the people. He stressed that the initiative for this must come from the Government of India which alone could afford to employ the best experts and find the large funds necessary for research and reconstruction. Sir Manilal said that there were three main items of reform of which attention must be concentrated. These were (1) land reform, (2) tax reform and (3) administrative reform. As regards land reform, the position was desperate. Pressure of population was reducing the average size of agricultural holdings and with every inheritance, they were getting more and more scattered. Land had been passing from the cultivating to the non-cultivating classes in the process of squaring up of debts. Agriculture was thus falling into the hands of the wrong type of people. "The problem of land reform," he emphasised, "is one of making the cultivator the owner of the land and also of promoting consolidation of holdings so as to bring them upto a fair economic ~~mean~~ size. The Government may have to assist in reconstituting holdings by purchase and reallocation so as to restore peasant proprietor-ship."

The session was also addressed by Mr. C.D. Deshmukh, Managing -Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

Problems Discussed.- The Conference discussed at length problems relating to land tenancy, long-term credit to agriculturists, marketing of agricultural produce, and the food problem in India.

(The Hindu 27-12-43 and the Leader,
31-12-1943) . +

Requirements of Agriculture: Dr.D.V. Bal's Analysis.

In his presidential address at the meeting of the Agricultural Science Section of the Indian Science Congress held at Delhi on 4-1-44, Dr.D.V. Bal said that the present production in the country would have to be raised by 8.6 to 26.8 per cent in order to meet the minimum food requirements of the existing population. Comprehensive schemes should be drawn up for the purpose of construction of wells in areas ^{of inadequate water supply and} ~~possessing shallow water table~~ ~~as well as~~ construction of bunds and drains. It is also necessary that the State should make sufficient funds available at low rates of interest, together with ~~a~~ provision for adequate subsidies and easy instalments for the repayment of loans.

Extensive cultivation of leguminous crops is also of urgent and vital importance both from the point of recuperation ~~of~~ soil fertility and improvement of the existing ill-balanced diet of the people. Since the existing supplies of fodder and the area under pastures are inadequate, the practice of breaking up fallow land should be adopted with great caution as it would further curtail the supply of fodder.

He suggested that, in view of the fact that it was obligatory on the part of the State to ensure minimum requirements in respect of food and clothing to every individual citizen, ~~there~~ a portion of the increasing industrial and commercial income should be utilized in giving relief in the form of subsidies to cultivators, should the business of crop production ^{no a v/s} industrial manufacture of finished articles become uneconomic or unremunerative. Some of the other suggestions he put forward were : (1) Necessity to conduct properly planned experiments to determine maximum crop production capacity of soils. (2) Need for training a large number of young persons. (3) Colonization of new areas and employments of demobilized soldiers in agriculture. (4) Necessity to stabilize incomes of agricultural labourers and cultivators. (5) Prevention of fragmentation of holdings.

(The Hindustan Times, dated 5-1-1944) . +

Better Seeds and Manure for Cultivators: Madras Government's Subsidy.

With a view to assist agriculturists in the increased production of food crops, the Government of Madras has placed a permanent advance of Rs. 9 million at the disposal of the Director of Agriculture for the purchase and sale of improved paddy and other seeds and manures to agriculturists ~~tourists~~. With this advance, seeds worth about Rs. 4.6 million and manures worth about Rs. 7.5 million will be distributed in a year by the Agricultural Department. The sale of manures and seeds will be subsidized by the Government by not including the establishment and overhead charges in the sale price. The ~~subsidy~~ subsidy during 1944-45 will amount to Rs. 1,325,000, ~~Half~~ Half the subsidy will be met by the Government of India.

(The Hindu, dated 30-1-1944) . +

NAVIGATION.Increased Rations for Indian Sailors.

A new and more generous scale of rations for men of the Royal Indian Navy came into effect on ~~JANUARY~~ 1-1-1944, ~~xx~~ The former system of suing rations to men of the R.I.N. in European, Indian and vegetarian tegories has been abolished. Instead, a liberal ~~xx~~ choice of meat and getarian dishes, according to individual tastes, is available to all. feature of the new scale is the increased daily quota per head of sential items like meat, vegetables, bread, rice, condiments, chee and lk. The press-note issued by the Government of India announcing the cision, also points out that cooks for shore establishments and for ~~rice~~^{on} board ships of the Royal Navy are being trained at a special okery school.

(The Times of India, dated
7-1-1944). . .

24

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES
AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Working Conditions of Journalists: Mr. Brelvi's
Plea for Improvement and strong Organisation.

At the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, held at Madras on 11-1-1944, Mr. S.A. Brelvi (Editor, Bombay Chronicle, Bombay), in his presidential address, stressed the need to improve conditions of work for Indian journalists and for a strong organisation of journalists to safeguard their interests. He pointed out that the Indian press should, in order to preserve its high traditions and standards, attract capable men to adopt the profession of journalism, and for this journalists should ensure reasonably fair conditions of work. He said: "At present, with few exceptions newspapers in India cannot be said to offer such attraction either in salaries or conditions of work. The average working journalist is paid a very meagre salary and this, added to the absence of any scheme of pension or provident fund, makes his life one of perpetual anxiety.....In the interests of journalism, the need for the enforcement of minimum standards of payment and conditions of work for journalists, is, becomes paramount. The question arises: Who is to enforce these standards. Primarily, the journalists themselves must help themselves and, by organising a powerful trade union of their own as in Britain, effectively protect their rights and interests. Final decisions, naturally, rest with proprietors who hold the purse-strings. The Indian and Eastern Newspapers' Society and the Indian Languages Newspapers' Association can and could give a helpful lead to proprietors in this connection".

The Conference adopted a resolution directing the Standing Committee of the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference to appoint 3 members to confer with proprietorial organisations and formulate proposals for the improvement of the economic condition of working journalists.

Mr. Brelvi's Plea for Journalists to Organise.- Mr. Brelvi addressed the Andhra Provincial Journalists' Association at Madras on 9-1-1944. He urged journalists to organise themselves on trade union principles. He suggested the formation of Provincial Associations of Journalists in the various provinces and the establishment of an all-India organisation to which the provincial bodies are to be affiliated.

The Executive Committee of the Andhra Provincial Journalists' Association adopted resolutions (1) urging the need for the formation of an all-India Federation of Journalists to safeguard and promote the interests of the profession, and (2) suggesting the formation of a South Indian Journalists' Association as a first step to the formation of the all-India body and requested the Tamil Nadu Journalists' Federation to support the move.

The Third Session of the Conference of the ~~Andhra~~ Tamil Nadu Journalists' Federation, held at Madras on 9-1-1944 adopted resolutions, (1) appointing a Committee to draft a report on the remuneration and service conditions of the working journalists and to make recommendations calculated to secure for them a minimum scale of salaries, provident-fund, unemployment and sickness insurance and old age pension; (2) Constituting a protection fund for working journalists who are members of the Federation and appointing a committee to work out the details; (3) Welcoming the increasing interest taken by the employers in the welfare of their staff and in

25

cular thanking all those who have recently increased the emoluments
their men by way of grant of dearness allowance and bonus and appeal-
to the managements of the newspapers who have not fixed minimum rates
remuneration for their employees (at once to do so), keeping in view the
economic conditions of life now prevailing; and (4) Welcoming the
of the Andhra Journalists' Association for the formation of a South
an Journalists' Federation.

(The Hindu, dated 9 to 12-1-1944).

26

CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

The Co-operative Societies (United Provinces Amendment)
Bill, 1943.

The Government of the United Provinces has gazetted on 8-1-44 the draft Cooperative Societies (United Provinces Amendment) Bill, 1943, intended for introducing certain amendments in the Cooperative Societies Act, 1912. The object of the Bill is described as follows: " It has, for many years, been the practice for members taking loans from salary-earners' co-operative societies to sign an agreement authorising the officer disbursing the salary to deduct from it the amount of instalment due on the loan and to remit the amount deducted to the society. It is also usual, by the same agreement, to undertake not to revoke the authority thus given so long as any part of the loan and interest thereon remain unpaid. ~~The This~~ practice ~~workable~~ has no legal sanction behind it, and is workable only where the employer consents. Cases have occurred where societies have been prevented from availing themselves of the concession of making monthly deductions from members' salary on account of their dues, because of the refusal of the employer to consent to such arrangement. To avoid this difficulty it is proposed to impose an obligation on the employer to make such deductions and dispense with the consent of the employer. The amending Act seeks to carry out this object!"

(The U.P. Gazette dated 8-1-44 part VII
pages 1-2).

Recommendation of Mysore Cottage Industries
Committee: Industries to be developed through
Co-operation.

The Mysore Cottage Industries Committee recently appointed by the Government of Mysore has recommended to the Government that successful cottage industry centres might be handed over to private enterprise or to the artisans engaged in these centres by forming them into a co-operative society, thereby creating a number of producers' societies. It has also decided to start a joint stock company at Hassan for the manufacture of crockery. The raw materials for this industry, kaolin and felspar, are available in large quantities, in the district.

(The Times of India, 25-1-1944).

Promotion of Cottage Industries in Madras:
District Industries Officers to be Appoint-
ed.

To help in the survey of the industrial possibilities of the province, as an essential pre-requisite for post-war industrial planning and to cope with the increase of work generally in the Department of Industries and Commerce, the Madras Government has decided to appoint nine District Industries Officers. Their main duties will include helping in the administration of the various control orders in regard to prices, production and distribution and bringing into being an organisation equipped and prepared to assist demobilised soldiers to set up cottage industries. They will also guide the various cottage industries in the districts and collect and disseminate commercial and industrial intelligence.

(The Times of India, 26-1-1944).

Sir M. Visvesvaraya's Scheme for
Development of Cottage Industries.

A three-point programme of rural industrialization which is expected to double the production of commodities in the country and also to increase the income in less than seven years has been chalked out by Sir. M. Visvesvaraya. The scheme aims at the establishment of new industries, particularly of minor or cottage type, and the extension of the existing ones also, the increasing productivity of both agriculture and industry resulting in the restoration of balance between them.

Industries enumerated in the scheme include the manufacture of agricultural implements, fruit-growing, poultry, dairy farming, manufacturing biscuits and canned foods, weaving, leather goods, various occupations connected with house-building, carpentry, cultivation of vegetables and animal husbandry.

Under the scheme, contiguous villages and hamlets are grouped into small units which will ultimately go to form a ^{district} ~~unit~~ ~~which will ultimately~~ ~~form~~ ~~an~~ ~~area~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~known~~ ~~as~~ ~~district~~ ~~Group~~ ~~villagers~~ ~~are~~ ~~to~~ ~~have~~ ~~their~~ own controlling agencies and staff whose duties will be: Co-ordination; Collection of money; Helping the villagers to start new industries; and Propaganda in rural areas on industrialisation. Area Councils or Controlling Agencies of the district, will automatically become, it is claimed, a self-sufficient working unit.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
23-1-1944).

Workers' Organisations.24th Annual General Meeting of the B.B. & C.I. Railway
Employees' Union, Bombay, 30-12-1943.

The 24th Annual General Meeting of the B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Union was held at Bombay on 30-12-1943, Mr. Jammadas Mehta presiding. Those who addressed the meeting were Mr. G.C. Laughton, General Manager of the Railway, and Capt. E.J. Austin, Staff Officer. Mr. Laughton in his inaugural address, called upon the employees to enrol as members of the Union in large numbers and build it as a strong, healthy and disciplined body. Mr. Jammadas Mehta demanded a guarantee for the improvement of living and working conditions of railwaymen in the post-war period, grant of facilities for them to contribute to provident fund and establishment of a machinery to properly inquire into cases of discharge and dismissal of employees with long years of service.

The meeting passed resolutions demanding ^{an} increase in ^{the} basic wage, a minimum living wage, security of service, adequate leisure, housing, social and educational facilities, etc., ~~for railway workers under post-war reconstruction~~, increase in dearness allowance to Rs. 30/- per mensem, ~~in cash and kind~~, provident fund for all employees and redress of grievances of the loco, traffic, engineering and other departments, and regarding weekly rest, leave, grades, promotions, etc.

(Vanguard, dated 7-1-1944).

18th Session of the All-India Postmen's
(Lower Grade) and R.M.S. Staff Union
Conference, Amritsar, 1-1-44.

The 18th Session of the All-India Postmen's (Lower Grade) and R.M.S. Staff Union Conference was held at Amritsar on 1-1-44. Mr. Abdul Kayum Khan, M.L.A. (Central) in his presidential address exhorted postal workers to form themselves into a strong organisation under able leadership so as to safeguard their interests. Dwelling on the grievances of the men he said that their scales of pay were grossly inadequate and fell short of an adequate living-wage. He deplored the fact that there was such a considerable increase in the ~~popu~~ population of the country, no corresponding increase had been made in the staff of postoffices. ~~men~~, therefore, were mostly overworked and their health was deteriorating. He also condemned the 'cold and indifferent attitude' of the Government of India in the matter of granting them an adequate dearness allowance.

Resolutions.— The Conference adopted a resolution urging the Government of India to appoint, within a period of one month, a conciliation commission, a court of enquiry or an adjudicator under the Trade Disputes Act or the Defence of India Rules, to go into the demand of postmen for increased dearness allowance. The Conference also appointed a Committee consisting of its president, Mr. Jammadas M. Mehta, and nine other members to make a ballot for general strike if the Government of India refused to accede to its demand for higher dearness allowance. Negotiations with the Government ~~of India~~ will be carried on by a committee of four members, including Mr. Jammadas Mehta.

(The Leader, dated 4 and 10-1-44).

29

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Family Planning Clinics to be Opened in
Bombay City; Resolution moved in Municipi-
pal Corporation; Women Leaders Welcome
Move. ✓

A resolution was recently moved in the Bombay Municipal Corporation by Mr. S. Mirajkar demanding the establishment of family planning clinics in the city to work in conjunction with free municipal maternity homes. The resolution has been strongly supported and commended for acceptance ~~and the establishment of family planning clinics in conjunction with municipal maternity homes~~ a statement issued over the signatures of more than 100 leading women of the city. It is pointed out that the clinics are intended to provide help and guidance to the poor and ignorant mother in the rearing of a strong and healthy family with due regard to her health and that of her children. The object is to ~~prevent~~ ^{reduce} maternal child mortality.

(The Times of India, dated
15-1-1944). ✓

India's Medical Needs: Dr. K.V. Krishnan's
Address at Indian Science Congress.

In his presidential address to the Medical and Veterinary Sciences Section of the Indian Science Congress on 6-1-44, Dr. K.V. Krishnan dealt with other matters, ^{certain} with medical education and made suggestions for its improvement.

Medical Facilities to be Extended to Rural Areas. - In India, Dr. Krishnan pointed out, there existed a dual standard of medical education, medical schools turning out licentiates who are men of a lower standard and medical colleges producing university graduates who are men of a higher standard. With the exception of India and Russia, there was no other country in the World which retained this dual standard. Russia is fast trying to abolish the lower standard and ~~that~~ he hoped in the near future India, too, would be having only medical colleges and no licentiates.

Referring to the insufficiency of medical colleges in the country, he said that the standard aimed at in western countries was to have enough medical colleges so that there would at least be one qualified doctor every 1,000 of the population. According to this standard, India should have at least 400,000 doctors or ten times the present number. At present there are only ten medical colleges and 27 medical schools in existence in India jointly producing ~~annually~~ every year about 1,700 new doctors. Unless a practicable plan was put forward to increase the number (without lowering the standard and without considerable extra cost) there seemed to be no hope of solving the question of inadequacy of doctors in the future.

Dr. Krishnan said that India was predominantly a rural country; 95 per cent of her vast population lived in rural areas. The majority of these people received little or no medical aid. The majority of the doctors were averse to settling down in rural areas for one reason or another.

few that do are unable to cater to the special requirements of the all people and to adapt themselves to the conditions of the villages long. This is due to a number of factors one of which is that Indian colleges do not produce the right type of rural medical practitioners. If and when they produce this special type they would be considered having catered to the country's needs. What is needed is a band of workers with true missionary zeal, with genuine rural bias, with proper understanding of the diverse rural problems, medical and non-medical, and with high humanitarian ideals, who will be content to devote their lives and knowledge at least for a set period to the service of the people for a small reward. It is the duty of the medical colleges to select the right type of men, train them suitably and make them available to the all people who badly need them. It can be done even under the present economic conditions and available resources.

Reforms in Educational System.- Making suggestions for the improvement of medical education in the country, Dr. Krishnan stressed the need for organising proper postgraduate courses, particularly for the general practitioner. Advancement of science could only be achieved through research with a scientific bent of mind. It was the responsibility of the medical colleges to produce such men through inclusion of research programmes in education. He stressed the need for having text-books containing Indian data and reference to Indian problems. He also laid emphasis on the importance of providing adequate clinical facilities for teaching purposes. Referring to the teaching staff in medical colleges, he suggested that two reforms had to be introduced. The first was to debar the teaching staff from engaging in private practice in order that they might be able to give their undivided attention to teaching, research and hospital patients. A serious damage that had been done through allowing private practice to paid doctors in Government employ in general, and the paid teaching staff of medical colleges in particular, was that it kept down the standard of the independent medical profession through unfair competition. The second reform that was needed was to constitute a separate cadre for the teaching staff of medical colleges. At present the college staff formed part of the provincial medical cadre, and as such, were liable to be transferred to non-teaching posts. These changes, apart from depriving the colleges of competent teachers, might bring in men who had no aptitude for teaching and who could not appreciably co-operate in the educational programme of the college. The constitution of a separate cadre would overcome this difficulty and help the colleges to achieve their objectives more rapidly.

'University' Type of Medical Colleges to be Set up.- According to educational institutions teaching medicine could be classified into two types. The first or the 'ordinary' type was organised chiefly to produce the ordinary general practitioner through provision of facilities for undergraduate training of a vocational type; and the second or the 'University' type was organised not only to produce the general practitioner with a scientific bias but also the specialist in various branches through provision of facilities for postgraduate training and research. It was institutions of the 'University' type that India was more in need of. The administration and control of such colleges, when established, should be carried on by a special board appointed for the purpose.

Reorganisation of Medical Service.- Turning to the problem of a thorough reorganisation of medical services throughout the country, he said: "The type of medical service that is best suited to the country has to be decided. We must study beforehand the situation in the country roughly with the help of an expert committee and find out the type of

ical service that will really and truly take the benefits of modern scientific medicine within the reach of every individual in the country, ~~in and rural.~~ Even with the existing resources in men and money, we reorganise our medical services in a way such that they will be of later help to a larger group of people than at present. Through the utilisation of the services of honorary men in place of paid men in all urban areas and through the employment of paid staff in all rural areas where they are badly needed we can greatly improve matters. The type of organisation I have in view consists of five classes of officers: (1) administrative officers in each district for direction, supervision and control, (2) medical college staff for teaching, research and technical advice, (3) rural health officers for doing mainly public health work and a little of medical work, (4) honorary doctors in all urban hospitals for medical work, and (5) health officers of municipalities and towns. Once it is agreed that a particular scheme is suitable, then medical education can be immediately modified to supply the type or types of doctors required for the scheme".

(The Hindu dated 7-1-1944).

Medical and Health Planning Committee
to be Appointed: Recommendation of the
All-India Medical Conference.

The appointment of a Central Medical and Health Planning Committee, and provincial committees, to consider questions of prevention of disease, promotion of health, medical education and relief, was urged by the 20th All-India Medical Conference held at Ahmedabad early in January, 1944.

The Conference also urged the immediate introduction throughout the country of rationing of all foodstuffs including vegetables and milk, and recommended to the Government to make the country self-sufficient in the matter of food.

(Vanguard, dated 5-1-1944).

EDUCATION.

19th Annual Session of the All-India
Educational Conference, Jaipur, January
1944.

The 19th Annual Session of the All-India Education Conference was held at Jaipur in the first week of January 1944. Prominent educationists from the various provinces and states, besides Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, and Mr. John Sargent, Educational Adviser to the Government of India, attended the conference.

Speaking about his scheme of educational reconstruction, Mr. John Sargent said that the scheme was, so far, only a tentative and confidential one, and would be published after the opinion of the Inter-University Board and other important bodies had been considered by the Central Advisory Board of Education, some time towards the end of January or the beginning of February, 1944. The Conference felt that such a comprehensive scheme was absolutely necessary if education was to be satisfactorily spread in the post-war India.

Referring to the Central Government's attitude towards the scheme, Principal K.S. Vakil pointed out that the Government did not appear to be serious about it. He quoted statements made in the Council of State by Government spokesmen to show that Government was hardly serious about providing money to meet the high cost of the scheme.

One of the resolutions adopted by the Conference recommended to the Government of India the ~~discontinuance~~ discontinuance of industrial educational institutions run on communal lines. The Conference viewed with concern the harmful influence of the cinema and the wireless on the youth of the country and was of opinion that educationists should be represented on the Board of Control for Cinemas and the Radio Advisory Board. Release of more paper for public use, restoration for educational purposes of school and college buildings requisitioned for military purposes, and adoption of Indian languages and as media of instruction in college classes were some of the other subjects on which resolutions were adopted.

(The Leader, dated 7-1-1944).

Central Advisory Board's Plan of
Educational Reconstruction.

At the session of the Central Advisory Board of Education held at Varanasi in the third week of January 1944, a comprehensive plan of post-war educational development in India, based mainly on Mr. Sargent's scheme, was drawn up for submission to the Reconstruction Committee of the Viceroy's Executive Council.

Eight five-year periods of Development.- The total annual cost of the present scheme (embracing all aspects of education) when in full working order will be Rs. 2,770 million. The board thinks that, even if all the funds required were available in full, it would be impossible to give complete effect to the proposals in a period of less than 40 years. It is suggested, therefore, that the first five years should be devoted to planning and propaganda, and that there-after the carrying out

the scheme should be divided into seven five-year periods of development.

Primary Education.- Free and compulsory basic (primary and middle) education for all boys and girls between 6 and 14 as envisaged, embodies ~~many~~ many of the educational ideas contained in the original Wardha scheme issued under the auspices of Mahatma Gandhi (vide pages 33-34 of report for January 1938). Its main principle of "learning through activity" is accepted, but the Board does not endorse the view that education at any stage and particularly in the lowest stages can or should be expected to pay for itself through the sale of articles produced by the pupils. It has also been recommended that the transfer of children from 'basic' school to other forms of post-primary education should be deferred for after the fifth class, i.e., at the conclusion of the junior basic (primary) stage or at the age of 11.

The Board is of the opinion that in no circumstances should English find a place in the curriculum of the junior basic (primary) school. The final decision as to the introduction of English in senior basic (middle) schools is left to the provincial education departments. On the lines recommended by the Board, the scheme of basic (primary and middle) education will cost roughly Rs. 2,000 million annually.

The Board also recommends that there should be a provision of voluntary pre-primary instruction in the form of nursery schools or classes as an essential adjunct to any national system of education.

High School and University Education.- Dealing with high school education, the Board says that entry to high schools should be on a selective basis; only those pupils should be admitted who show promise of deriving full advantage of the education provided. High schools should be of two main types, academic and technical. The curriculum in all cases should be as varied as the circumstances permit. The estimated minimum annual cost of the high school system will be Rs. 500 million according to this scheme.

The Board expresses the opinion that Indian universities as they exist today, despite many admirable features, do not fully satisfy the requirements of a national system of education. It recommends the constitution of an Indian University Commission to settle the assessment and distribution of all grants from public funds and to enable universities to plan accordingly. The total cost of university education under the new scheme will be Rs. 67.2 million per annum.

Technical Education.- A Rs. 100 million scheme of technical education at all stages is also outlined.

Co-ordination on All-India Basis.- Other recommendations of the Board include the setting up of a youth movement on an all-India basis to develop the social and recreative activities of children and employment bureaus as part of educational administration. In the matter of administration, the Board recommends that the provinces should remain the units for educational administration, except in regard to university and higher technical education, the activities of which should be co-ordinated on an all-India basis.

Financial Aspect: Per Capita Cost.- The Board points out that in 1914 before the war was spending from public funds the equivalent of Rs. 33½ per annum per head of the population on education, while the

34

corresponding per capita expenditure in India in 1938-39 was Rs. 0-8-9. Under the present ~~work~~ scheme, the per capita expenditure on education in India will work out to Rs. 31-4.

Better Conditions of Employment for Teachers.- As all education depends on the quality of the teacher, the Board feels that the present status and remuneration of teachers, and especially of those in primary schools, are deplorable, and it recommends that the standards in regard to training, recruitment and conditions of service of teachers approved by the Board in 1943 (vide page 27 of our report for January 1943) should be adopted. Further, it is also pointed out, that a vast ~~increase~~ increase in the number of trained women teachers will be required.

(The Times of India, and The Hindu,
dated 31-1-1944). +

~~34~~
34a

GENERAL.

31st Session of Indian Science Congress,
Delhi, 3 to 6-1-1944.

The 31st session of the Indian Science Congress was held at Delhi from 3 to 6-1-1944. The Congress was divided into a number of Sections according to subjects ; among these mention may be made of the Industrial Research Section, the Agricultural Science Section, the Psychology and Educational Science Section, and the Medical and Veterinary Sciences Section. A number of distinguished scientists attended the meetings which were addressed, among others, by Lord Wavell, the Viceroy, Professor A.V. Hill, Secretary of the Royal Society, Mr. J.J. Ghandy, General Manager, the Tata Iron and Steel Works, and Mr. John Sargent, Educational Adviser to the Government of India. Of the subjects ~~dealt~~ dealt with by the Congress, those which are of special interest to the Office are dealt with separately in appropriate Sections of this report. +

Wages.

Limit imposed on Bonus and Dearness Allowance
Payments: Criticism of Bombay Millowners'
Association.

Reference was made at page 43 of our December 1943 report to the Government's proposals for putting an upper limit to dearness allowance, bonus and commission granted by employers to their employees. The Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, in criticising the proposals, states that inflation is a serious and complicated problem of national and international importance, and that piecemeal measures to combat it should not be attempted. By these new rules, it is pointed out, Government is directly bringing pressure on employers to terminate, or vary, contracts entered into before or renewed during the war, for payment of certain remuneration which, on account of war conditions, is higher than the standards laid down in the draft rules.

"If, in the opinion of the Central Government, the amounts paid today are, in certain cases, higher than what they feel should have been paid, they have largely to thank the local governments for the results, in the sense that those local governments adopted the easy method of making the employer pay, and heavily at that, for peace in the industry. ~~Consequently, the lowering of the allowance for assessment purposes will either result in loss to the employers or driving them to reduce the scale, thereby causing considerable discontent among employees.~~ If, ~~on the other hand, the scale proposed by Government will be directly encouraging the employees to ask for more.~~"

Discussing the draft rules, the memorandum states that Government's intentions about dearness allowance are not quite clear. It points out that the increased cost of living bears more heavily on the class receiving Rs. 300 and more per month because they have a position and status to maintain. In the opinion of the Committee, the basis of payment forced upon their employees by Government should not be an excuse for insisting on similar basis to employees of commercial concerns because the latter do not enjoy the same security of service as Government servants, nor are they in receipt of the high rate of emoluments, pension rights, etc., which are ordinarily available to Government servants. In the circumstances, the Committee suggests that in the case of manual labour, a flat rate of allowance, linked up with the cost of living index number and the average wage in the industry of each centre, be introduced. For non-manual workers, the following scale of dearness allowance is suggested :- Monthly basic salary not exceeding Rs. 150, 33 1/3% of basic wage; salary ranging from Rs. 151 to Rs. 500 inclusive, 25% of basic wage; salary above Rs. 501, 20% of basic wage. The dearness allowance should be subject to a maximum amount of Rs. 300 per month. The proviso relating to supply of essential articles at rates below retail prices current in the locality as part of the dearness allowance should be applied only to those industries where, as a matter of policy, the employer has introduced a dearness allowance scheme which provides for cash payment and/or the right to purchase definite quantities of food-stuffs at pre-war prices or at prices below current market rates.

The Committee objects to clause 5 of the Government's rules because it fails to make satisfactory provision for the payment of bonus or

56

mission or both which are the subject of a pre-R.P.T. contract. It suggests that a proviso be inserted in the clause providing for at least three months' bonus in the case of non-manual employees also. The standard of building up stocks laid down by Government only seeks to maintain the relationship between sales and stocks in the standard period and are, therefore, unfair. The Committee also urges Government to insert a provision for an appeal from the decision of the Assessment Officers on any matter arising from the rules.

(The Times of India, 14-1-1944).

Ceylon Government War Allowance Scheme,
1943.

Results of Murphy Enquiry.- Mr. W.L. Murphy of the Ceylon Civil Service was detailed by the Ceylon Government to conduct an inquiry regarding payment of war allowance to Government servants, the results of which were published as Sessional Paper XIII of 1941. The main features of Mr. Murphy's recommendations were that : - (1) It was necessary to work on the only authoritative figures for the cost of living for the working classes in Colombo, which was the index prepared by the Department of Commerce and Industries on the basis of the family budget published in the Ceylon Trade Journal of September, 1940 ; (2) Though the index number on this basis had not yet reached the probable index number on the same basis for 1922, there was still ground for relief in the case of Government Servants drawing Rs. 100 or less a month when the cost of living index had stood at or above 115 for three successive months; (3) When the cost of living index number for 3 successive months had stood at or above 115 but below 120, an allowance calculated at 5 per cent on the first Rs. 30, and 2 1/2 per cent on the second Rs. 30 on an employee's emoluments should be paid; (4) That for each subsequent rise of 5 points in the cost of living above 115, provided it was maintained for a period of three successive months, the allowance on the first Rs. 30 should be increased by 1 per cent and on the second Rs. 30 by 1/2 per cent.; (5) That the allowance paid to any employee in terms of the above should in no case be less than Rs. 1.50 per mensem provided he worked for not less than 5 days in a month; and (6) The whole scheme to be revised when the index rose above 150.

Allowances till April 1942.- The Board of Ministers considered Mr. Murphy's proposals and recommended their adoption subject to the modification that adjustments should be made whenever the average cost of living for the previous three months varied by a complete set of 5 points, even though the modification were not maintained for a period of three successive months. War Allowance on this basis was paid to Government Servants in receipt of Rs. 100 or less per mensem with marginal relief immediately above Rs. 100 from March 1, 1941, to February 28, 1942. In March, 1942, the cost of living index had risen to 132, and it was considered necessary to extend the scheme to Government Servants drawing Rs. 200 a month or less with marginal relief immediately above Rs. 200 in so long as the average cost of living figure for 3 successive months was above 130. No change was made in the rate of allowance, employees on Rs. 100 a month and Rs. 200 a month both receiving the same amount in War Allowance as the employees on Rs. 60 a month. This extension was made with effect from March 1, 1942.

51

Allowances From May 1942.— In May, 1942, the cost of living index rose above 150 and a new scheme was introduced from June 1, to be in force as long as the cost of living index exceeds 150 and does not exceed 200 on the following basis :- (1) the allowance is calculated on the cost of living index for Colombo for the preceding month; (2) the calculation exceeds on the following basis :- (a) reduce the excess of the index figure over 100 to the multiple of 4 immediately below; (b) basic percentage figure arrived at in (a) less 16; (c) allowance of 3/4 of basic percentage salary up to Rs.30 per month; (d) allowance of 1/2 of basic percentage salary from Rs.31 to Rs.60; (e) allowance of 1/4 of basic percentage salary from Rs.61 to Rs.100; and (f) no allowance when a salary exceeds Rs.200 per month except that a marginal allowance is given on a salary slightly above Rs.200, so that an officer with a salary exceeding that figure may not receive less than an officer whose salary is Rs.200.

Revised Family Budget.— During the latter half of the year 1942 it came evident that, with the radical changes in basic foodstuffs, the reduction in the rice element in feed and the inability to obtain certain articles included in the budget on which the index is based, a revision of the family budget, which forms the basis of the index should be undertaken. A committee examined this question and made certain recommendations. As a result of these recommendations the following revised budget at prices ruling in November, 1942, is now adopted as the basis of the index from November, 1942.

Revised Family Budget—Working Class—Colombo Town.

Number in family 5.64 equal to 4.64 Adult Males.

Monthly expenditure.

				At prices November, 1942.	
				Rs.	c.
I.	Food	..	..	64	91
II.	Fuel and Light	..	..	7	40
III.	House Rent	..	..	7	20
IV.	Mix Clothing	..	..	8	95
V.	Miscellaneous	..	..	13	50
Total				101	96

The Committee did not recommend any change in the method of compilation of the index and no change has been made. The new index measures the change in the cost of living since November, 1942, which forms the new basic period. In order to ascertain the change in the cost of living since the original basic period (November, 1938, to April, 1939) the new index number is multiplied by 183, the old index for November, 1942, being 183. Government War Allowance is at present being paid under the scheme explained above with this index number as basis.

(Summarised from copy of Sessional Paper XVI-1943, containing the scheme issued in June, 1943, sent to this Office by the Controller of Labour, Ceylon).

A copy each of a statement explaining the method of computation of the cost of living index number for Estate Labourers and the Calculation of Earnings Allowance thereon, issued in June 1943 (Sessional Paper XV-1943) and the Government War Allowance Scheme (Sessional Paper XVI-1943, issued in June 1943) were sent to Montreal with our Minute D1/7/43 dated 19-1-44).

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME.WagesAhmedabad Textile Workers to get 20 per cent
pay as Bonus for 1943; Millowners Reverse
earlier Decision.

Reference was made at pages 43 to 44 of our December 1943 report to a decision taken by the Ahmedabad Millowners Association to suspend payment of bonus to textile workers in member mills. It is now reported that agreement has been reached between the Association and the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association regarding payment of bonus for the year 1943 whereby the workers earning less than Rs. 200 per mensem will be given a bonus equal to one-fifth of their earnings in 1943, irrespective of whether they are at present employed or not. The earnings will not include the bounties received by employees by way of dearness allowance, bonus or other allowances and will only mean the wages or salaries as the case may be. Workers who have worked for less than 75 working days and more than 32 working days will be granted a bonus to the extent of 10 per cent of their wages and employees who have worked for less than 33 working days will not be paid any bonus.

(The Times of India, dated
10-1-1944).

Compiling
Organising Cost of Living Index Numbers in
India : War Time Difficulties.

The problems relating to cost of living index numbers arising out of the conditions created by the war was one of the subjects discussed at the Conference of Provincial Representatives held at New Delhi in September 1943. At this Conference it was decided that the Government of India should draw up a memorandum on the subject and circulate it to the Provinces. This has now been done. In the meanwhile, however, some of the Provincial Governments, who publish cost of living index numbers, were requested to furnish detailed notes on the difficulties experienced by them in the preparation of their cost of living index numbers. On the basis of the information received, the Government of India has published an article on the subject at pages 157 to 162 of the January 1944 issue of "Indian Labour Gazette" (Vol.I, No.7).

39

Bombay Secondary Teachers' Demand
for Dearness Allowance.

A resolution urging the Government of Bombay and the managements of aided schools to grant immediately a dearness allowance of Rs. 15 per mensem to all secondary school teachers was adopted at a meeting of the secondary school teachers of Bombay City and Suburbs held at Bombay on 21-1-44, under the joint auspices of the Bombay Secondary Teachers' Association and the Bombay North and Suburban Secondary Teachers' Association. ~~and xxxxxxxx~~ The meeting also urged the Government to allot to schools a special dearness allowance grant, at the rate of Rs.5 per head, per month.

By another resolution, the meeting requested the managements of schools to begin forthwith the payment of Rs. 10 per mensem as their share of the dearness allowance, the balance to be paid after receipt of Government's grant.

Mr. S.A. Brelvi, Editor, Bombay Chronicle, who presided, advised the teachers to organise themselves into strong Unions so that they would be able to apply sanctions as organised workers if their demands went unheeded.

(The Bombay Chronicle, dated
24-1-44).

Holidays.

Staggering of Weekly "Stop Days" in
Bombay: Experiment to continue till
31-3-1944.

Except for short breaks in the first half of September and in October 1943, the scheme for the staggering of mill 'Stop days' in Bombay introduced by the Bombay Government in the latter half of July 1943 (vide page 21 of our July 1943 report) worked uninterruptedly. The scheme has resulted in a drop of the maximum demand on the Bombay power system by about 11,000 K.W. In view of its advantages, the Bombay Government has for the present decided to continue the scheme till 31-3-1944.

(Indian Labour Gazette, January
1944 issue, page 100).

40

Women's Work.

Employment of Women Underground in Coal
Mines : Government's Explanation for
Lifting Ban.

Mr. L.S. Amery.- Questioned in the House of Common on 20-1-44 about the Government of India's lifting the ban on the employment of women underground in coal mines in certain provinces in India, Mr. L.S. Amery, Secretary of State for India, said : " Owing to a serious shortage of coal production, to meet the urgent needs of the war effort, the Government of India have reluctantly, and as a purely temporary measure, suspended the prohibition in force since 1937 of work by women in coal mines of the free provinces of Bengal, Bihar and the Central Provinces. This suspension, which will be reviewed in six months, is subject to the condition that no woman may work in collieries less than six feet in height and that the rates for women are the same as those for men in similar work. Those conditions have the force of law. I have no information how many women are now employed in coal mines or whether infants accompany them. The Government of India's decision has been accompanied by welfare measures to ensure that ^{rationed} food ^{made} rationing at special prices, ^{and} cloth and other consumer goods are available to miners and families. A cess on coal dispatches has been imposed to finance the improved arrangements for ~~the~~ public health, education and other amenities. Additional welfare officers, including a woman, have been appointed and motor transport is being provided between coal mines and outlying villages. No discussions on the subject have taken place with the British Trade Union Congress. I do not know whether the Government of India had any discussions with the Indian Trade Unions... ~~xxxx~~ The difficulty has been that miners tended to go away because in other employments their wives are ready to accompany them and work with them, and it is because wives have not been allowed to work in mines that miners themselves have drifted away".

(The Hindustan Times, 22-1-44).

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.- In a statement to the Press issued on 22-1-44, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, pointed out : " There is no question of regimentation or compulsion. ~~xxx~~ The ordinance recently issued merely lifts the ban on the employment of women underground. It is entirely permissive. Women are free to work underground if they choose. They are equally free to refuse such employment. Nor are employers compelled to employ women; but if they do employ women, they have the obligation to see that the women are not allowed to work in seams less than 5 1/2 feet in height. What we have permitted is a temporary, war-time departure from our accepted policy of excluding women from dangerous and unhealthy occupations in mines. It is no matter of pleasure. It is an unfortunate necessity. And we shall not keep women in the mines a moment longer after that necessity passes".

Explaining the Government Scheme further, he said, that Government was recruiting more male labour. It had a scheme to bring in 10,000 of them into Government labour camps, which were being put up. The first 2,000 would be in employment fairly soon. Other measures included prevention of employment of coal mine labour in neighbouring works. Existing labour was being helped by adequate grain concessions, an increase in cash wages, which were 50% above pre-war rates, special efforts to get ~~xxxx~~ cloth and other consumer goods for them and a coal cess, the proceeds of which would be used on improving housing, health and sanitation of the workers.

* Vide Item 1, page 1 of this report.

41

Proceeding Dr. Ambedkar stated : " It is a mistake to suppose that we could draw indefinitely on the 400 millions of India for work in coal mines. Workers in India have a definite traditional bias both for and against certain occupations. The number of people who have a bias against work in coal mines is very large.....The Indian worker is too poor not to depend upon the earnings of his wife to supplement his income. At the same time, he is a jealous husband. If his wife is to work, he must see that she works with him and under his eyes. And this has an important effect on the recruitment of labour, for which the field is rigorously limited. In short, if you want to get the miner to work, it is also necessary to provide work for his wife".

(The Statesman, 23-1-44).

Mr. N.M. Joshi.- In a statement criticising Government's policy of lifting the ban, Mr. N.M. Joshi, General Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress, points out that the right remedy to meet labour shortage in coal mines would have been to improve the conditions of work of miners and women's work should have been considered only as a last resort. ~~There~~ The real and effective remedy to secure enough labour is that the miner should be given a full and fair wage. At present, the average wage in coal mines is less than Rs. 10 per month, and with the cost of living index at nearly 240, the concession which the Government proposes to secure in price of grains and the welfare measures which they propose to take, good though they may be, will not compensate for half the cost of living. I feel that the right thing to do is that the basic wages of miners being substandard, they must be adequately raised in addition to the full compensation for the ~~market~~ dearthness. But the Government of India, instead of doing that, have in haste taken the retrograde step of admitting women to work underground, a thing which is against civilised practice and is in breach of an international agreement. It may be true that an Indian miner like all other people would prefer his wife to work long with him if she has to work at all, but like all other people, he would first prefer to get full and sufficient wage for himself so that his wife need not be compelled to work to supplement his meagre wage for the maintenance of the family".

(The Trade Union Record, January, 1944).

Safety Measures.

B.P.T.U.C's Demand re. Prohibition of Employment of Women on Night - Shifts.

The executive committee of the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress, at a meeting held at Calcutta on 27-12-1943, passed a resolution protesting against the employment of women workers in night shifts in certain jute mills and urged their immediate removal from night work. The resolution also asked the Government, as well as the employers concerned, to find avenues of employment in day time for these women workers and to pay a maintenance allowance of Rs. 4/4/- ~~per~~ plus ration per week till such time alternative employment is found. In case no alternative employment could be provided, the committee demanded payment of compensation of the value of one month's ~~the~~ wages for every year of service already completed, in addition, a minimum of three months' wages.

(Anrita Bazar Patrika, dated 2-1-1944).

Employment .

Progress of Technical Training Scheme .

According to an Unofficial Note dated 20-1-44 issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India, 57,676 trained technicians had been turned out from the various centres established under the Government of India's Technical Training Scheme up to 30-11-43 and 32,667 technicians were under training on that date. ^{Of the} 57,676 qualified technicians, 1,148 joined various branches of Defence Services, 2,511 were absorbed in civil industry and 2,851 were employed in ordnance factories.

The Note further points out that ^{attainment of} higher standards of efficiency ~~be attained~~ by the trainees and improvement in their physical standards are the main objects of the Scheme during 1943. In accordance with the measures for consolidation and improvement adopted for this purpose, a number of uneconomical training centres were closed, and as against 383 centres at the end of February, 1943, there were only 292 centres at the end of November 1943.

~~Amongst~~ ~~Amongst~~

Among the steps which are being taken to improve the physical standards of the trainees is a scheme to open reception depots in various localities where attention will be paid to the health of the trainees who are about to join training centres. One such depot has recently been opened in Delhi.

(Unofficial Note dated 20-1-44,
Issued by the Principal Information
Officer, Government of India).

Unemployment Relief for Temporary Government Employees in Post-war Period: U.P. Government gathering information.

The department of Economics and Statistics of the U.P. Government, it is understood, is collecting information about temporary Government servants employed in offices outside the Secretariat to assess the likely extent of unemployment ⁱⁿ among the present Government employees in the post-war period and ways of affording relief to the un-employed.

(The Leader, dated 12-1-1944).

Scheme for Training Industrial Officers .

The formulation of a scheme on the lines of the Fevin training scheme for training suitable Indians in the United Kingdom for technical posts on officers' status is now under the consideration of the Government of India. In this connection, Government has asked various industrial concerns for their views, particularly on the classes and number of officers to be trained, the nature of training required and its duration.

(The Hindu, dated 21-1-1944).

Labour Exchanges Set up in Madras.

To facilitate the contact of employers of skilled labour with trained workers, an Employment Exchange has been opened in Madras ~~is~~ under the auspices of the Labour Department, Government of India. Mr. V. Ramakrishna, J.S., Chairman of the National Services Labour Tribunal, Madras, explaining the object of the Exchange, said that the large number of technical personnel trained under the technical training scheme for meeting the needs of war industries and the technical branches of the Defence Services would have to be found employment on the termination of hostilities. The Government of India has therefore decided to establish employment exchanges for the placing of technical personnel at Madras, Calcutta, Bombay and other important centres. The ~~same~~ Central Exchange at Delhi would ~~be~~ act as a national clearing house for skilled technical personnel. For contacting employers of skilled labour with trained workers, the Exchange would encourage the employers to apply for information regarding availability of suitable candidates. It would also maintain a record of the requirements of the employers and of the technical personnel seeking employment. He added that, although it was not obligatory on the part of employers to accept the recommendations of the Exchange, they would have to furnish reasons for rejecting them. Wages and conditions of service would be fixed between the employers and the workers themselves.

It is understood that in the United Provinces Employment Exchanges would soon be opened at Cawnpore and later Lucknow, Agra, Meerut and Allahabad to help military technical personnel on their demobilization. The Exchange at Cawnpore will be under the direction of the Chairman of the National Service Labour Tribunal and provincial committee consisting of representatives of Government, employers and labour.

(The National Call, dated 6-1-44) and
 (the Statesman, dated 18-1-1944) .

Safety Measures.

44

Welfare.

Labour Welfare Measures in Cawnpore
Textile Mills.

Indications of an appreciable growth in ~~the~~ welfare activity in textile factories in Cawnpore are furnished by the statistics recently compiled by a leading industrial concern in the city. The two principal forms of ~~this~~ ^{such} activity are the working of grain shops and retail shops attached to each textile factory at which factory workers obtain a part of their daily needs at prices cheaper than market rates. The articles sold include cloth, soap and hosiery. Sales figures for the last three months show steady improvement in the number of workers who avail themselves of the facilities offered to them. It is understood that suggestions for extending the activity of these shops by effecting ~~from a further~~ reduction in prices to attract a larger number of customers are being examined by the employers.

(The Bombay Chronicle, dated
30-12-1943)..

The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund
Ordinance (Ordinance No. VII of 1944)..

An Ordinance entitled "The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Ordinance, 1944", Ordinance No. VII of 1944) was promulgated by the Government of India on 1-1-44, constituting a fund for financing activities to promote the welfare of labour employed in the coal mining industry. The Ordinance extends to the whole of British India and came into force at once.

Cess to be levied on Coal.- To create the fund, the Central Government will levy a cess on all coal and soft coke despatched by rail from collieries in British India, at a rate to be fixed from time to time by notification in the Gazette of India after consultation with an Advisory Committee. This duty will not be less than one anna and not more than four annas per ton. The duty will be collected, on behalf of the Central Government, by the Railway Administration by which coal ~~and~~ or soft coals are carried.

Colliery Labour Welfare Programme.- While the Ordinance generally provides that the proceeds thus realised will be credited to a Labour Welfare Fund to meet expenditure on measures "necessary or expedient to promote the welfare of labour employed in the coal-mining industry", it specifies a number of items for which the fund may in particular be utilised. The labour welfare programme to be financed from the Fund aims at providing housing, ~~water~~ water supplies, facilities for washing, improvement of educational facilities and standards of living among the workers, including nutrition, amelioration of social conditions and the provision of recreation and transport facilities. The improvement of public health and sanitation, the prevention of disease, the provision of medical facilities and the improvement of existing facilities are also included. Provision has also been made for giving grants out of the Fund to a provincial Government, a local authority, or the owner, agent or manager of a coal mine in aid of any scheme for the welfare of labour which is approved by the Central Government. This provision is to ensure that the fullest use is made of existing organisations with such strengthening as may be necessary, and of existing approved welfare schemes to which support can be given from the fund.

Advisory Committee to be Set up.- The Ordinance further empowers the Central Government to set up an Advisory Committee whose members will include, among others, an equal number of members representing colliery owners and workmen employed in the coal mining industry. One member of the Advisory Committee must be a woman. The Committee will advise the Central Government on matters on which the Central Government is required by the Ordinance to consult it and on any other matters arising out of the administration of the Ordinance.

It is understood that the Central Government intends to take immediate steps to implement the provisions of the Ordinance. The Indian States may also be asked to introduce a similar measure.

(Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 31-1-44, pages 48-50, and Unofficial Notes Dated 31-1-44 and 1-2-44 issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government Of India).

Supply of Consumer Goods to Coal Mines:
Central Government's Scheme Circulated
to Provinces.

In pursuance of the agreement reached at the tripartite meeting at Dhanbad (vide pages 58-59 of our report for December 1943) to provide consumer goods to colliery labour, the Government of India, has, it is learnt, circulated a scheme to the Provincial Governments concerned, asking them to make early arrangements for supplying articles like dal, mustard oil, kerosene oil, soap, standard cloth, tobacco, blankets, etc., to the workers. The scheme is subject to any variations which Provincial Governments may consider necessary.

The scheme is intended to help the workers in utilising increased cash earnings to buy essential supplies other than foodgrains, for which arrangements are being made separately. Under the scheme, consumer goods will be supplied not only to the worker, but also to his family.

Other necessities of life, such as cheap mats, bamboos and roofing material for huts, nails, ropes for wells, etc., that are in common use amongst labourers, are also included for the purposes of the scheme. Dependent women employed as labourers in the collieries will be treated as members of the family.

(The Hindu, dated 19-1-1944).

46

Production.

Supply of Agricultural Implements to
Cultivators in Mysore State. ✓

In view of the steep rise in prices of iron and steel goods as a result of the war and the need for increased food production, the Agricultural Department of the Mysore Government has recently taken steps to supply cultivators with agricultural implements at low prices. The Department set several state-workshops and some private firms to manufacture these implements; apart from improved ploughs, cultivators and carttyres, the Department arranged for the supply of implements, such as, country iron points, sickles, etc., at rates which were about one-third of the prevailing market rates. Cut pieces of iron were ~~also~~ also made available to the raiyats so that they may get implements suited to their own needs manufactured by the village blacksmiths.

Rs. 700,000 Scheme Adopted.— Recently a scheme involving an expenditure of Rs. 700,000, proposed jointly by the Director of Industries and Commerce and the Director of Agriculture, for the manufacture of agricultural implements and carts for supply to raiyats within the next eight months, has been sanctioned. The scheme aims at manufacturing 4,000 ploughs of different varieties at a cost of Rs. 100,000, besides 150,000 plough parts, 20,000 pieces of cart-tyres and accessories, 75 tons of raiyats sold accessories like knives, sickles and crow-bars, 6,000 blades and 500 bullock shoes. The supply of 46,000 c.ft., of wood for making 10 carts has also been provided for in the programme.

(Mysore Information Bulletin,
November 1943). ✓

War Time Expansion of Industries in India.

Some idea of the stimulus imparted to Indian industries because of wartime industrial opportunities may be had from the fact that nearly 100 applications for starting or expanding industries involving an aggregate capital of Rs. 150 million have been approved during the first six months (May-November, 43) of the operation of the control of capital issues ~~me. May to November 1943~~ (vide pages 10-11 of our report for May 1943).

The total number of applications classified as industrial on which orders were passed was 564 and the total capital asked for about Rs. 200 million. Refusals, which numbered 66, amounted to 12% of the total number of applications and 22% of the total amount of capital asked for.

Of the proposals for which permission has been granted, 210 with a total of Rs. 68.9 million, were initial issues by new companies, ~~which~~ the 288 with a capital of Rs. 79 million were further issues by old ~~companies~~ companies. Of the refusals 48 related to initial issues, the capital asked being Rs 32.3 million, and 18 to further issues, with Rs. 11.1 million capital asked for.

Grouped in terms of major industries, permission was granted to 68 proposals with a capital of Rs. 40.6 million in the case of cotton textile industry, to 57 proposals with a capital of Rs. 17 million in the case of iron, steel and engineering industries, to 63 proposals with a capital of Rs. 5 million in the case of industries concerned with the manufacture of

chemicals, drugs and medicines, and to 15 proposals with a capital of Rs.1.2 million in respect of concerns dealing with film production and distribution. Permission was also granted in the case of 295 concerns involving a capital of Rs. 72.1 million coming under the category of "miscellaneous industries". These were industries relating to printing and stationery, soaps and vegetable oils, leather goods, public utilities, timber, tobacco and cigarettes, non-ferrous metals, paper and straw board, mining and quarrying, sugar and gur, food preservation, transport and others.

The above particulars refer to applications classified as "industrial". Other cases disposed of related to banking, insurance, financial, ~~commercial~~ commercial, plantations and other concerns. In this category 507 applications were received, of which consent was given in 446 cases, and ~~150~~ were rejected.

(The Statesman, dated 23-1-1944). +

Compensation for War Injuries.

Contractors' Liability to ^{Insure} ~~Insure~~ under War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1943: Labour Department Press Note.

According to a Press note dated 28-1-44 issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, contractors, like ordinary employers, have to pay compensation to the workmen employed by them and are, therefore, required to take out a policy of insurance from the Central Government to cover all liabilities imposed on them by the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1943.

The contract may be by lending or letting on hire, the services of workmen or executing some work for a principal employer. The War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act makes it clear that in all such cases the liabilities of the contractor cannot be transferred to the principal employer. The principal employer is only required to obtain from the contractor the name of the agent of the Central Government with whom he intends to insure and to report to that agent the existence of his arrangement or contract with the contractor. +

Textile Industry.The Cotton Textiles (Dyes and Chemicals) Control Order, 1944.

Under the Defence of India Rules, the Government of India has issued 5-1-1944 the Cotton Textiles (Dyes and Chemicals) Control Order, 1944, prohibiting the sale and disposal of certain chemicals and dyes used in textile industry, except under and in accordance with the terms of license issued by the Textile Commissioner.

(Notification No. 51-Tex(B)/44 (1) dated 15-1-1944, The Gazette of India, part I, section 1, dated 15-1-1944, page 55)..

The Foreign Cotton Control Order, 1944.

The Government of India has, on 17-1-44, issued under the Defence of India Rules the Foreign Cotton Control Order, 1944, under which the sale, disposal and purchase of Egyptian cotton of all types may be carried on only on a permit issued by the Textile Commissioner, Government of India.

(Notification No. 2-Tax. A/44 dated 17-1-44, the Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 17-1-44, page 37).
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49

Feed.

The Bengal Essential Feedstuffs Anti-Hoarding
Order, 1944.

The Government of Bengal has on 13-1-44 issued under the Defence of India Rules the Essential Feedstuffs Anti-Hoarding Order, 1944, under which no person shall, after the expiry of fifteen days from the date on which the Order comes into force have in his possession or under his control, except under and in accordance with the conditions of a licence granted in this behalf by the Provincial Government, more than the 'normal quantity' required by him of any 'essential foodstuff'. It is further ~~stipulated~~ provided that no person shall sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any 'essential foodstuff' to any other person if he knows that as a result of such a transaction, the quantity of such foodstuff in the possession or under the control of such person will exceed the 'normal quantity' permissible under the Order.

'Essential Feedstuffs' means Rice, wheat and its flour, and sugar, and the 'normal quantity' in respect of an adult is 1 maund and 16 seers (1 maund = 82 lbs, 1 seer = about 2 lbs) of Rice and wheat ~~as in any combination~~ and 28 seers in respect of a child under 12 and over 2 years, and 14 seers of sugar ~~per child under 12 years~~ *for every person irrespective of age.*

(Notification No.269 D.C.S. dated 13-1-1944, The Calcutta Gazette Extra-Ordinary, Part I, dated 14-1-44, pages 5-6). ✓

The Bengal Essential Feed Grains Possession
and Storage Order, 1943.

The Government of Bengal has issued on 13-1-44 under the Defence of India Rules the Bengal Essential Feedgrains Possession and Storage Order, 1943, under which no person other than a person licensed under the Feedgrains Control Order, 1942, (vide page 92 of our May 1942 report), shall, after the date on which the Order comes into force, have in his possession or under his control any quantity of essential feedgrains in excess of maunds (1 maund = 82 lbs) except under and in accordance with the conditions of a permit granted in this behalf by the Provincial Government. The Order does not apply to the possession or storage by any person of essential feedgrains produced by himself or members of his family with or without the help of paid labourers. The only article scheduled as "essential feedgrains" under the Order is Rice in husk or husked.

(Notification No.274 D.C.S. dated 13-1-44, The Calcutta Gazette Extra-Ordinary, dated 14-1-44, part I, pages 7-8). ✓+

Free Kitchens in Mysore State: Government Measures. ✓

Recently, as the food situation in the Mysore State began to deteriorate, free kitchens were opened in several centres for feeding the poor. The Government has recently decided to increase the number of such kitchens and spread them evenly over the State. The free kitchens are administered on the following principles:-

The selection of persons entitled to be fed will be made by the Deputy Commissioner or other local authority empowered by him and, wherever possible, the assistance of the local food council will be enlisted in his behalf. Special identity cards will be issued to such persons and rations, if any, allotted to them at the Government depot will be cancelled. Only cooked ragi or jola with vegetable soup will be provided. Potatoes and groundnuts may be used in the soup to supplement vegetables. Ragi and jola for this purpose may be issued from the Government depot, but supplies of cooked food cannot be arranged for by local philanthropists. A definite number of persons will be allotted to each kitchen, and there will be no wastage of foodstuffs. No able-bodied person and no person who has the means of eking out his or her livelihood will be fed at such kitchens.

(Mysore Information Bulletin, November 1943, issue). ✓

The Madras Estates Land (Temporary Amendment) Act, 1944. (Act I of 1944).

Reference was made at page 35 of our report for September 1943 to the Madras Estates Land (Temporary Amendment) Bill, 1943, gazetted by the Government of Madras. The Bill received the assent of the Governor on 3-1-44, and has been gazetted as the Madras Estates Land (Temporary Amendment) Act, 1944 (Act I of 1944) on 18-1-44.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, dated 18-1-44, part IV-B, pages 19-22). ✓

Delhi Order Restricting Number of Guests at Parties.

The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has issued, on 12-1-44, an order under the Defence of India Rules according to which no host in the province of Delhi is to serve food to more than 50 guests in one day, except under a special permit. The order comes into force on 20-1-44.

(The Statesman, dated 12-1-44).

By another order, issued on 27-1-44, the Chief Commissioner has prohibited hotels and restaurants in the province from serving ~~food~~ meals consisting of more than three courses.

(The Statesman, dated 28-1-44). ✓

Rationing to be introduced in Calcutta
From 31-1-44 : Supplementary Rations
for heavy Manual Workers.

The Government of Bengal has decided to introduce rationing in Calcutta from 31-1-44. Mr. H.S. Suhrawardy, Civil Supplies Minister, Government of Bengal, stated at a Press Conference on 25-1-44 that under the present scheme the combined weekly quota of rice and wheat per adult would be 4 seers (1 seer = about 2 lbs), of which the maximum quantity of rice allowed is 2 1/2 seers. Special provision has been made for supply of supplementary food to heavy manual workers, and a large number of employers have agreed to supply supplementary food for heavy manual workers through special canteens.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,
dated 27-1-1944).

Control of Agriculture: Amendment to
the Defence of India Rules.

The Government of India has introduced on 15-1-44, an amendment to the Defence of India Rules under which the Central and Provincial Governments may by order provide :-

(a) for prohibiting, restricting, or otherwise controlling the cultivation of specified crops; (b) for bringing under cultivation any waste or arable land whether appurtenant to a building or not, and for the growing therein of specified crops.

(Notification No.1568-OR/42,
dated 15-1-44, the Gazette of
India, dated 15-1-44, part I,
section 1, page 61).

520

Control Measures.

The Tyre Rationing Order, 1944.

The Government of India has issued under the Defence of India Rules 28-12-1943 an order under which new or used tyres and tubes of motor cycles may be acquired only under a permit issued by the rationing authority.

(Notification No. SS/63(2) dated 28-12-1943, The Gazette of India Part I, section 1, dated 1-1-1944, Page 7)

The Vegetable Oils and Oilcakes
(Forward Contracts Prohibition)
Order, 1944.

The Government of India has issued under the Defence of India Rules 8-1-1944 the Vegetable Oils and Oilcakes (Forward Contracts Prohibition) Order, 1944, under which no forward contracts for future delivery may be entered into in respect of certain specified types of Vegetable Oils and Oilcakes after 12-1-1944. The oils and oilcakes specified are those groundnut, linseed, mustard, rapeseed, castor, cottonseed, sesamum and coconut.

(Notification No. P. & S.C./44 dated 8-1-1944; The Gazette of India, Part I, section 1, dated 8-1-1944 page 32).

Book Prices to be Controlled.

In exercise of powers conferred by the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943, (vide page 44 of our October 1943 report) the Government of India has issued on 31-12-1943 a notification under which booksellers are required to mark the selling prices on all imported books, magazines and periodicals offered for sale. The prices so marked may not be erased or altered without the permission of the Controller General. Retail prices will be calculated on the basis of Rs. 1 per Shilling and Rs. 5 per Dollar for books and Rs. 1-4-0 per Shilling and Rs. 6-12-0 per Dollar on news papers and magazines.

(Notification No. 1/2(2)/44-CG(CS) dated 31-12-1943, Gazette of India part I, section 1, page 34, 8-1-44).

The Civil Motor Transport Vehicles Control
Order, 1944.

Under the Defence of India Rules the Government of India has issued on 12-1-1944 the Civil Motor Transport Vehicles Control Order, 1944, under which dealers, distributors and owners of motor vehicles may not sell or dispose of certain specified types of vehicles except in accordance with instructions issued by the Central Government. This Order cancels the Base-Lend Vehicles Control Order, 1943 (vide page 26 of our July, 1943, report).

(Notification No. LV7(4)/43 dated 12-1-1944, The Gazette of India dated 15-1-44, part I, section 1, page 62).

53

The Bombay Hay Trade Licensing Order,
1944.

The Government of Bombay has issued an order under the Defence of Rules on 10-1-44 to control by license the import, sale and distribution of hay in the city of Bombay and the neighbouring areas.

(Notification No.34-III dated
10-1-44, The Bombay Gazette Extra
Ordinary dated 10-1-44 Part I,
Pages 37-39).

The Spices (Forward Contracts Prohibition)
Order, 1944.

The Government of India on 29-1-44 has issued under the Defence of Rules the Spices (Forward Contracts Prohibition) Order, 1944, under which no person shall after 2-2-44 enter into a forward contract in respect of nuts, cardamoms, chillies, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, pepper, turmeric and

(Notification No.P & S.C. 10/44 dated
29-1-44, The Gazette of India dated
29-1-44 part I-section 1, page 110).

Articles Controlled under Hoarding and
Profiteering Prevention Ordinance,
1943.

~~Among~~

Among the articles brought under the purview of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943, during January, 1943, are photo-materials, certain makes of cycles and cycle parts, watches, clocks, liquors, cigarettes, fountain pens, safety razor blades, and cards.

(The Gazette of India, part I
section 1, dated 22 and 29-1-44,
pages 89-90 and 116-117).

Meeting of the General Policy Committee on
Post-War Reconstruction, New Delhi: 17 and
18-1-1944.

The first meeting of the General Policy Committee on Post-war Recon-
struction was held at New Delhi on 17 and 18-1-1944 under the chairmanship
of Sir J.P. Srivastava, Deputy President, Reconstruction Committee of
the Council, Government of India. The Conference was attended by about 50
members, half of whom were non-officials who included Mr. N.R. Sarkar,
Parushotamdas Thakurdas, Sir R.K. Shanmukham Chetty, Sir Cowasjee
Wanjir, and Messrs. G.D. Birla, G.L. Mehta, Jammadas Mehta, Sir Rahimtoola
Syed and Kumararaja Sir Muthia Chettiar.

J.P. Srivastava's Address: (1) Appointment of Development Officers.-In
his opening address, Sir J.P. Srivastava explained the measures already
taken to realize the objective of post-war development plans, which was to
raise the standard of living of the masses. Valuable work, he said, had
been done on the preparation of data on various subjects, and comprehensive
reports were now available on land for ex-soldiers, roads and road transport,
agriculture, forestry, fisheries and education. There was also a large
quantity of carefully prepared data, memoranda, etc., on the resettlement
of ex-soldiers, labour questions, civil aviation, electrical development,
industry and trade policy. These reports and memoranda had been prepared
by experts and would be further examined in conjunction with the provinces
and States.

In order to accelerate planning, it had been decided to appoint
development officers to work full time on ~~various~~ the different
reconstruction subjects. They would be given access to all the data that
had already been prepared and would be given a definite policy directive
as a basis for their work. The intention was that, accompanied by such
other experts as they might need, they should tour provinces and States
to work with officers specially nominated by the latter. The result, it
was hoped, would be to build up a co-ordinated all-India plan on broad
lines and to assist in the development of provincial plans in greater
detail. The results of their work would be reviewed by the policy commit-
tee in due course. Development officers for electrical development,
industrial development, roads and road transport, agriculture and kindred
subjects would be appointed forthwith, as on these subjects the way was
now fairly clear for detailed planning. Other development officers
would be appointed later. This did not imply any neglect of education
and health, but the report of the former had still to go before the Inter-
University Board and the work of Sir Joseph Bhore's Committee on Health
and Development had not yet been completed.

(2) Improvement of Agriculture.- He emphasised the urgency of improv-
ing agriculture and rural life ~~with this must be combined~~ the extension
of irrigation schemes of all kinds which will bring in their train the
development of power. Food and employment for all should be the first
priority. To what extent the Central Government should participate in industry
on a large scale and what assistance and advice they should give to private
industrialists are points which need most careful consideration. The
order of priority between consumption goods and capital goods industries
has to be settled. Another question is the help to be given to
the continued existence and development of the number of small and
medium industrial units which have come into existence out of the necessi-
ties of war requirements.

55-

Sir J.P. Srivastava also invited the Committee to consider India's trade problems. He pointed out that India's external trade has mostly been in the export of agricultural produce and in the import of finished goods, but that now India has made some advance industrially and thus there is every reason for India to look forward to the development of an export market in finished goods in the neighbouring countries such as China, Burma, Indo-China, Malaya, Afghanistan, Turkey and Persia.

Post-War Monetary Policy: Finance Member's Statement.- Sir Jeremy Bosen, Finance Member, Government of India, initiating discussion on India's post-war monetary policy, made it clear that the Government had not yet undertaken the formulation of its official views on the merits of either the American or the British plan, still less committed itself in any way. But the time was approaching when finality in drafting would have been reached and then time for decision would have arrived. It was in anticipation of that time that he invited discussion today. He further made it clear that discussion would proceed on the assumption that India would in the last resort have to take decisions on her own behalf in the sphere of monetary policy in the same manner and to the same extent as other members of the United Nations.

He referred to the general intention behind the formulation of currency plans now before the United Nations, and said that, while all encouragement would be given to the idea of international monetary union, "no country would be justified in committing its future irrevocably to such a union". Moreover, the monetary plans now under consideration are long-term plans and because of the confused and difficult conditions in the immediate post-war years, there should be sufficient freedom for Government to make adjustments.

As regards the disposal of sterling balances which have been built up to the credit of India, he urged the need for an orderly and carefully planned scheme of liquidation of the balances. It may be thought desirable that common principles should be adopted in dealing with this type of problem. Whether or not the schemes now before the world formally incorporate principles of procedure for dealing with these matters, it is clear that the existence or non-existence of an international monetary organization will affect the situation.

Discussion of Monetary Problem.- On the first day discussion related to post-war monetary policy. The British, American and Canadian proposals for an international monetary organization in the post-war period, copies of which had been circulated to the members, came in for examination from the point of view of India's participation in such an organization. A memorandum prepared in this connection by Sir Theodore Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India, in his individual capacity, was also presented and formed the basis of discussion. Conditions on which India should participate in such an international organization, future internal and external value of the rupee, the question of the orderly disposal of "normal wartime balances" (with special reference to the utilization of the sterling balances of India), position of "debtor" and "creditor" countries in the contemplated international organization and post-war industrial development of India, were some of the topics on which the members offered their views and suggestions during discussion of post-war monetary policy.

It is understood the general opinion of the Committee was that, as soon as the picture of an international monetary organization for the world became finalized by experts on an agreed basis, the implications of such a scheme in relation to India should be worked out in all its details by an expert committee and placed before the General Policy Com-

Scope and Functions of General Purposes Committee.- As for the scope and functions of the General Policy Committee, the general opinion was that postwar planning should be on an all-India and co-ordinated basis, the Central Government taking the initiative in the evolving of such a plan with the co-operation of provinces and States.

It was pointed out on behalf of Government of India that much material had already been collected in regard to some of the major aspects of post-war reconstruction, such as re-employment of demobilized soldiers, reclamation, irrigation, road construction, hydro-electric projects, etc., and that Provincial Governments were doing likewise and preparing their plans according to suggestions put forward by the Central Government. With a view to further co-ordinating Central and Provincial activities, it was proposed to appoint Development Officers who, with a knowledge of the tentative policies of the Government of India, would contact Provincial and State Governments and thus help in evolving post-war plans on an all-India basis.

It was stated that in the several Policy Committees that have been constituted by the Government of India would discuss policies and plans relating to their respective subjects. The General Policy Committee would give its advice on broad lines of policies of fundamental importance and of universal application and on policies impinging on the work of more than one Committee.

In the course of the discussions, the members dealt with a number of general topics, other than the currency topic, which had been discussed on the previous day, relating to post-war planning and reconstruction. They were agricultural and industrial development, raising the standard of life of the masses, education and medical relief, employment and public works programmes, ways and means of financing post-war schemes, the State's relation to economic development, and women's uplift in the post-war period.

The meeting ended with a concluding speech from the Chairman, in which he accepted many of the suggestions made respecting the future work of the Committee.

The Committee's next Session is expected to take place in April 1944.

(The Hindustan Times and Statesman, 18 and 19-1-1944).

Standardisation of Industrial Labour Conditions
in Post-war Period: Professor Radha Kamal Mukherjee's Plea.

on 28-1-44 /
Speaking at the Lucknow University on the national minimum welfare standard for Indian industrial workers, on 28-1-44, Prof. Radha Kamal Mukherjee observed that freedom of association without let or hindrance, guarantee of a living wage, provision of decent housing accommodation, free recreation, wholesome recreation and insurance against sickness and unemployment were the indispensable steps in the development of the charter of the Indian workers' freedom and welfare that should be accepted as a practical aim of post-war planning in India. An Indian Minimum Wage Act, fixing a general minimum of Rs. 30 per month in the first year rising to Rs. 40 at the end of the ten-year plan, when hours of employment would be gradually reduced to 44 per week; a fair Labour Standards Act making it a penal offence for employers to victimize and discriminate union workers or to

517

start or subsidize rival unions; a national industrial housing scheme by which the Central Government would subsidize public corporations, municipalities and employers for construction of working men's quarters, free education up to the primary stage and statutory obligation of employers to organize technical training courses; and a system of social insurance on a compulsory and a contributory basis, in which the worker, the employer and the State would share their responsibilities, should be the first items of labour legislation for which blue-prints should be prepared by Indian economists and trade unions.

Planned industrialization in India, he said, would spell social peril unless it is accompanied by the guarantee of certain economic rights of workers and planned services of social welfare and security that would equitably distribute the rewards and hazards of the industrial system between the industry, community and the working class.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
30-1-1944).

General.

13th Session of the National Defence Council,
New Delhi, 12 and 13-1-1944.

The 13th Session of the National Defence Council was held at New Delhi on 12 and 13-1-1944, Lord Wavell, the Viceroy, presiding.

A memorandum on the food situation presented by Sir J.P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India, was considered by the Council. While noting the improvement in the food situation in the country generally and the fall in prices which, despite local setbacks, was still continuing, stress was laid on the need for perfecting the organization for procurement of stocks. Recent changes in civil defence policy and an account of the air raids on India since the last session were dealt with in a memorandum presented by Sir Firoz Khan Noon and considered by the Council.

The Council also discussed the welfare of soldiers and their families, as well as the present position as regards plans for the resettlement of soldiers after the war. The coal situation was then considered. Dr. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, explained the steps that are being taken to increase the output of coal. In the discussion which followed, the arrangements in view to ensure adequate rations at reasonable prices for labour employed in coal mines and the creation of a fund to make systematic provision for their welfare were explained.

(The Statesman, dated 13-1-1944,
and The Amrita Bazar Patrika,
dated 13-1-1944).