

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

C 6/2/51

Industrial and Labour Developments in July 1944.

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

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Assam:

Assam Government Proposes Amendment to the Indian Boilers Regulations re. Certificates of Competency of Boiler Attendants.

The draft of certain amendments, proposed to be introduced in the Indian Boilers Regulations, 1924, has been published in the Gazette by the Government of Assam on 15-7-1944. The amendments relate to the award and withdrawal of competency certificates to boiler attendants, and the suspension and cancellation of these certificates under specific circumstances. The certificates are to be in the custody of the employer during the period of the holder's employment under him and are to be submitted to the Chief Inspector of Boilers whenever called upon to do so. The Chief Inspector shall, on receipt of any report from the employer alleging incompetence, mental or physical inefficiency in respect of any of his employee's work or misconduct or negligence on the part of the employee, hold a proper inquiry into the matter and is empowered even to revoke or suspend the certificate if necessary.

The draft is to be taken up for consideration by 1-9-1944.

(Notification No. GCM/87/43/10 dated 15-7-1944, The Assam Gazette, dated 19-7-1944, Part II, pages 693 to 694).

Bengal:

Commercial Firms Bill
Introduced in Bengal Legislative Council.

A Commercial Firms Bill (non-official) was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council by Mr. K.C. Roy Chowdhury on 15-7-1944. The object of the Bill is to regulate security of service, provision for provident fund, gratuity and pension, and life insurance of employees of commercial firms. It is pointed out that in the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill that employees and non-manual workers numbering about 100,000 employed in commercial firms in the province find it difficult to maintain a decent standard of living and provide for their old age out of their inadequate salaries. Employees of a few commercial houses enjoy some of the benefits proposed in the Bill; but a vast majority of wealthy firms do not grant any monetary concession to their employees on retirement.

(The Statesman, 15-7-1944).

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SOCIAL POLICY.

Fifth Meeting of the Standing Labour
Committee, New Delhi, 27-6-1944.

The fifth meeting of the Standing Labour Committee of the Tripartite Labour Conference was held at New Delhi on 27-6-1944, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, presiding. The meeting discussed inter alia, proposals to secure compulsory recognition of trade unions and the constitution of boards of recognition, as embodied in the Indian Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 1943 (vide pages 1-2 of our report for November 1943). The employers' representatives, while generally favouring the idea of bringing together employers and workers, seemed to be of opinion that this co-operation should be on a voluntary and non-legal basis. It was felt that with the healthy growth of trade unions, there would be no difficulty as regards recognition. The workers' representatives favoured the idea of compulsory recognition but at the same time pleaded that the scope of the ~~existing~~ amending Bill should be widened with a view to conferring more rights and privileges on trade unions.

A proposal to improve the existing statistics of trade disputes in order to have uniformity in the method of compilation on the lines set by the I.L.O. and to improve their utility for purposes of comparison as between provinces in India and with other countries, was also discussed at the meeting. It was suggested that the machinery provided by the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942 (vide page 2 of our report for April 1942), ~~empowering the Provincial Governments to collect statistics should~~ be utilised. The general opinion was in favour of the proposal. The alternatives of serving notices on all employers irrespective of the number of their employees or only on those employing 10 or more workers were also considered.

(Indian Labour Gazette, July, 1944).

Standing Orders for Large Industrial
Undertakings: Views of Millowners'
Association, Bombay.

Reference was made at page 2 of our report for May, 1944, to the views of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce on the draft of the Order which the Government of India proposed to issue under the Defence of India ~~Rules~~ Rule ~~211A~~ 211A to provide for standing orders in large industrial undertakings. The following are some of the more important points raised by the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, in its criticism of the draft.

The Committee was in general agreement with provisions contained in the draft Order as they closely followed the provisions of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act in this respect. It was, however, thought that instead of issuing the Order under the Defence of India Rules as a war-time measure, it would be desirable if steps were taken to introduce legislation on the subject.

In its examination of the draft in detail the committee made the

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following comments: Some necessary terms have not been defined at all and the definition in respect of others require improvements. It was provided that every employer who employed not less than 250 persons should submit to the specified officer the standing orders regulating the relations between him and his employees. The intention appeared to be to include members of the clerical and other staff. The categories of employees to whom standing orders were to be made applicable should, however, be clearly defined. Separate standing orders had been framed for operatives and the clerical staff under the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act. It is also provided that the employer should submit to the specified officer standing orders with regard to any scheduled matter; but the intention of the order obviously was that standing orders should be framed with regard to all the items mentioned in the Schedule.

As regards the procedure to be followed when the employees desired a change in the standing orders, it was thought that change in the standing orders should not be effected unless at least 50 per cent of the employees concerned demanded such a change. This was considered necessary as changes demanded by a small percentage of the employees might not be supported by the majority of the employees.

As regards the Government's query as to the class or classes of industries to which the Order might be applied, the Committee felt that it was not necessary to apply the Order to industries in Bombay Province to which the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act had been made applicable. It was, therefore, suggested that the order should be made applicable to all the factories which were not covered by the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, subject, however, to the limitation as regards the minimum number employed, specified by the Government.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during April and May, 1944).

Resolution for Adoption of Payment of Wages Act passed by the Mysore State Assembly.

The Mysore Legislative Assembly, on 5-7-1944, unanimously passed a resolution recommending the introduction of legislation in the State on the lines of the Payment of Wages Act of British India.

(The Vanguard, dated 8-7-1944). ✓

Conditions of Work.

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General.

Labour Conditions in Indian Mines, 1941*.

Number of persons employed.- During the year 1941 the daily average number of persons working in and about the mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act was 347,937 as compared with 328,196 in the previous year. The increase was 19,741 persons or 6.02 per cent. Of these persons 165,356 worked underground, 88,411 in open workings and 94,170 on the surface. The number of men who worked underground, in open workings and on the surface and the women who worked in open workings and on the surface were as follows :-

	Men.		Women.	
	1941.	1940.	1941.	1940.
Underground	165,356	156,238
In open workings	55,635	53,344	32,776	30,241
Surface	64,836	61,476	29,334	26,897
Total	285,827	271,058	62,110	57,138

Distribution of Workers: Coal Mines.- The daily average number of persons employed in coal mines was 218,280 which is 9,107 more than the number employed in 1940. Of these persons 56,927 were males employed in cutting coal, 35,370 were males employed as loaders of coal and 28,745 were women. The increase in the daily average number of persons employed in coal mines in 1941, as compared with 1940, is small, whereas the quantity of coal produced is lower. Annual returns received of the number of persons actually at work and also of persons who should ordinarily have been at work but were absent on a selected day in February of each year, show that on the day selected 262,714 persons were either at work or were prevented from attending work. This figure is 44,434 more than the average number of persons employed in coal mines during 1941.

Workers in Other Mines.- The number of persons employed in metalliferous (including mica, stone, clay and salt) mines was 128,657 which is 10,634 more than the number employed in 1940. 56,292 were men and 33,365 were women.

Average Output of Coal per Person.- Figures of average out-put of coal per person in 1941 show that for British India as a whole, it was 175 tons in the underground and in open workings and 120 tons in above and below ground as against 179 tons and 124 tons respectively in 1939-40. There was a general decrease in the average output of coal per person

* India Mines Act, 1923: Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India, for the year ending 31st December 1941; Calcutta: Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, 1943, pages 180.

employed except in Baluchistan and Orissa. In comparing the figures with similar figures in other countries it should be remembered that both men and women are employed in Indian coal mines.

Accidents.- During the year 1941, at mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act, 1923, there were 260 fatal accidents which is one less than in 1940 and 21 more than the average number in the preceding five years. In addition to the fatal accidents there were 1,457 serious accidents involving injuries to 1,489 persons, as compared with 1,410 serious accidents involving injuries to 1,442 persons in the previous year. 303 persons were killed and 1,533 persons were seriously injured. The latter figure includes 44 persons injured in fatal accidents. The number of persons killed was 12 less than in 1940. 290 persons killed were men and 13 were women. In addition, it was reported that 10,969 persons received minor injuries.

Causes of Accidents.- There was a decrease in the death rate of men employed underground and on the surface and an increase in open workings. With respect to women there was a decrease in the death rate in open workings and an increase on the surface. The causes of the fatal accidents have been classified as follows:-

	No. of fatal accidents.	Percentage of total number of fatal accidents.
Misadventure.....	209	80.39
Fault of deceased.....	14	5.38
Fault of fellow workmen.....	6	2.31
Fault of subordinate officials.	21	8.08
Fault of management.....	7	2.69
Faulty material	3	1.15
Total	260	100.00

Inspections and prosecutions.- During the year 1,214 mines were inspected, many of them being inspected several times. 3,428 separate inspections were made. The cause and circumstances of nearly all fatal accidents and serious accidents of importance, and all complaints of breaches of regulations and rules were investigated. Many inspections were made at the invitation of mine-owners, superintendents and managers desirous of obtaining advice on safety matters. In the major coalfields a large portion of the time of the Inspectors was occupied in investigating cases of actual or threatened damage to dwellings and roads by reasons of the underground working of coal mines, in dealing with underground fires and in examining protective works against the risk of inundation. In addition, a large number of inspections of the sanitary conditions at mines were made by medical officers as ex-officio Inspectors of Mines.

During the year 57 prosecutions were launched involving 118 persons; 75 of the persons prosecuted were convicted. The case against 24 was pending at the end of the year, while that against 13 was withdrawn or ~~dropped~~ dropped, in one case due to the death of the person prosecuted; 6 were acquitted.

Protective Equipment.- The Chief Inspector reports the extended use of "bamboo safety hats" particularly in depillaring areas. In Jharia ~~coalfield~~ coalfield alone 32,541 of these hats were worn during the year, and a number of cases are on record where they have been the means of preventing serious accidents. Small pieces of roof stone

or coal falling from heights as much as 20 feet and more have inflicted fatal injuries on workers, whose ~~hats~~ heads have been unprotected, but by the use of these safety hats a number of accidents of this nature have been avoided. Many mines in the major coalfields of Jharia and Raniganj have introduced these hats during the year. The opinion is expressed that there appears no reason why they should not be used wherever practicable, as they are cheap and it does not require much effort by the managements to persuade the workers to wear these hats, particularly when the benefits to be derived from their use have been explained.

Working of Indian Boilers Act
in Madras during 1943-1944 .+

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during

The report of the Chief Inspector of Boilers, Madras, on the working of the Indian Boilers Act in ~~this~~ the Presidency, Coorg and Bangalore Civil and Military Station, for the year 1943-44, shows that the number of boilers on the registers of the Madras Province, Coorg and Bangalore Civil and Military Station was 3,147, 11 and 30 respectively. 3,189 inspections were made and 1,607 certificates were issued. The total number of boilers with defects that rendered them unfit for working at the year was 75. It was noted that greater interest was taken by the owners of boilers to follow the recommendations made by the Boiler Department for the treatment of boiler feed water, and upkeep and maintenance of boilers. The total number of accidents to boilers during the year was eleven. Except for bulges and perforations there was no serious accident or explosions, resulting in any injury or loss of life of the operatives.

(The Hindu, dated 31-7-1944).

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Railway Standing Finance Committee Meeting: Decisions re. Purchase of Rolling Stock, Premature Termination of B.N. Railway Contract and Opening of Grocery Shops for Railway Employees. +

The Standing Finance Committee for Railways, at its meeting held at New Delhi on 21-7-1944 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Zahid Husain, Financial Commissioner for Railways, approved the programme of purchasing requirements of rolling stock of railways for the year 1945-46, costing about Rs. 600 million, and also the machinery programme involving about Rs. 20 million. The Committee emphasised the desirability, in executing the programmes, of exploiting, in the first instance, the indigenous resources in the country to the maximum capacity, and orders being placed thereafter with the United Kingdom in preference to any other country, the United Kingdom market being financially more favourable to India than that of other countries.

The Committee was informed that negotiations for the premature termination of the Bengal Nagpur Railway Company's contract had now reached a definite stage and that the Home Board of the Company had agreed to the terms proffered by the Government of India. The contract would terminate on 30-9-1944, and the Company would be paid, in addition to the value of its stock at par, a premium of £ 20 for every £ 100 of its share capital. The total amount payable to the Company would be Rs. 48 million. With the acquisition of B.N. Railway all the major railway systems in the country would have come under State-management.

The Committee also approved the opening of grocery shops for railway employees.

(The Vanguard, dated 23-7-1944).

Collection of Agricultural Statistics: Bengal Government's decision to set up Machinery. +

The Bengal Government has decided to take immediate steps to set up suitable machinery for the collection of agricultural statistics by plot to plot enumeration of the different crops throughout the year and by random sampling ~~survey~~ survey.

The existing machinery of the Jute Regulation Department will be utilized and a number of village patwaris will also be appointed for the enumeration work. The scheme is likely to cost Rs. 2,200,000. As some time will elapse before the entire machinery is set up, the plot to plot enumeration will be attempted from the aman crop season during the current year. As regards the sampling ~~survey~~ survey, a scheme is already in operation in the Civil Supplies Department under the guidance of Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis. It is now intended to expand the organisation to ensure the collection of more accurate figures for smaller areas. The survey will be conducted for three years to enable Government to decide the relative merits of the two methods. The random sampling survey will cost Rs. 600,000.

(Bulletin issued by the Indian
Central Jute Committee, June, 1944).

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Scientific and Industrial Research
in India: Sir S.S. Bhatnagar's Review.

Outlining the work done by the ^{Indian} Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Sir S.S. Bhatnagar, Director of the Council, told a representative of the Associated Press of India on 5-7-1944 that the Council now financed over 120 research schemes in universities and other institutions throughout India. It received an annual grant of Rs. 1 million from the Central Government. In addition, very large grants had been made to the Council by industrial interests and individuals interested in the work. The Council itself had earned about Rs. 1,68,024 on processes leased for commercial ~~exploitation~~ exploitation.

The work of the Council was carried out through the Director and 20 research committees, each of which had its own personnel, consisting entirely of experts. In the laboratories of the Director, over 100 research problems had already been successfully worked out, and included in those were many of vital importance to the war effort. Over 40 important processes worked out in those laboratories had been transferred to Government, after successful development, for defence purposes. These included plastics, varnishes, cements, special-purpose cloth, lubricants, paints, enamels, glass substitutes and ~~various~~ chemicals. All of these were from indigenous raw materials.

Explaining the ~~subject~~ object of the seven Indian Scientists (himself being one among them) who are due to leave for England by the end of July 1944 (vide page 40 of our report for April, 1944), ~~the~~ he said that it was to gain, by consultation with the British Council, valuable information to be used for the further development of research in India.

Referring to the post-war expansion of the Council, he said that the Central Government attached such importance to its further development that it had promised a capital grant of Rs. 10 million within four years of the cessation of hostilities, and had allotted 80 acres of land in Delhi for the construction of research laboratories. Plans had been drawn up and sites obtained for the construction of a chain of such laboratories. Construction had begun of the Central Glass and Silicate Research Institute at Calcutta and the Central Fuel Research Institute at Dhanbad. Others would be located at Poona (National Chemical Laboratory), Delhi (National Physical Laboratory) and Jamshedpur (National Metallurgical Laboratory). Indian industrial interests had also contributed generously for the opening of these laboratories.

Sir S.S. Bhatnagar hoped to see co-operative research organisations established in India on the lines of those functioning in the United Kingdom. This had been found to be the best way of promoting industrial development in the country without negating individual effort. The Research Planning Committee was now investigating this line of development.

(The Times of India, 8-7-1944).

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Industrial Progress in Bombay
during 1942-1943: Industries
Director's Report. *

According to the annual report on the working of the Industries Department, Bombay, in 1942-1943, the industrial progress of the Province continued to be satisfactory.

Steady Growth of Industries.- Apart from the exodus of labour from certain areas due to war developments and stoppages resulting from political turmoil, practically full employment prevailed in all the major industries. Due to heavy demands to meet war orders and to inflationary tendencies, there was a steep and continuous rise in the prices of industrial goods and the profit-margin was substantial. A dearth of consumer's goods led to the extension of Government control and some goods — among them sugar, paper, iron and steel — were rationed. Working factories increased from 3,621 in 1941 to 3,719 in 1942, and many existing factories carried out extensions resulting in increased production. Many factories worked two or three shifts.

Industrial Expansion from 1938 to 1943.- Economic and industrial conditions favoured the flotation of new joint-stock concerns. In five years, from 1938-1939 to 1942-1943, the number of companies registered each year increased from 138 to 340, and authorised capital increased from Rs. 1,188,000 to Rs. 180,873,000. War developments have brought about great changes in the industrial structure of the Province. The trend of expansion and employment has been almost continually upward, which is shown by the total number of factories and workers employed as compared to 1938. In these five years, the number of factories has increased by 1,224 to 3,719; and the average number of workers employed by 172,221, from 479,105 to 651,324. Part of this increase is due to small concerns employing between 10 and 20 persons having been brought on the register for the first time under the Indian Factories Act. Among new enterprises established during the year under report were the manufacture of sulphuric acid, laboratory chemicals, synthetic dye-stuffs, glass bottles and strawboard.

The Industries Department assisted industry in a number of ways — by providing advice and estimates to persons wishing to establish new industries and to concerns extending their plants, by solving problems of manufacture, by the provision of financial aid and by carrying out research.

Cottage Industries.- The Department continued to assist cottage industries at practically every stage of production. Instruction in improved methods of production was imparted by peripatetic schools and demonstration parties to industries like cotton and wool-weaving, dyeing and printing, the cane and bamboo industries, lacquer and fibre working, tanning and pottery. Financial assistance was given to cottage workers trained in the Department's institutions and to educated unemployed, to the extent of Rs. 42,896 in the case of the former and Rs. 37,065 in the case of the latter. Satisfactory progress was recorded in the marketing of the products of cottage industries. Eight of the nine District Industrial Co-operative Associations were engaged in the production of cotton textiles, blankets and other goods for the Supply Department, Government of India, whose orders totalled over Rs. 2.2 million. The sales effected by the Associations increased considerably, the total being close on Rs. 2.6 million, including war orders.

Fisheries.- The number of fishing launches has increased, at the end of the fishing season, from eight to ten. The amount of fish brought in by these launches showed a slight increase over the previous year, from 2,724,033 lb. to 2,834,169 lb. The Bombay Government has sanctioned the establishment of two fisheries schools, one at Ratnagiri and the other at Karwar, to provide special instruction suited to fishermen. The schools opened in November, 1942, with 180 students. Development of fresh-water fisheries also continued to make progress.

Technical Education.- The number of technical and industrial schools was 77, of which six were Government institutions, four were Government reformatories and settlement schools and 28 were maintained by public and private bodies aided by the Government. The other 39 were recognised by the Government only for inspection and examination. Of the 2,226 candidates who appeared from these schools at the annual examinations in courses recognised by the Government, 1,758 (78 per cent) were successful. The number of students undergoing training under the Government Apprentice Scheme during the year was 347, of whom 236 were in Bombay Centre and 111 at Ahmedabad.

(Press Note dated 24-7-1944, issued by the Director of Information, Bombay).

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

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

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base:100</u>	<u>November 43</u>	<u>December 43.</u>
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	248	247
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1927	239	232
Sholapur	Year ending January 1938	214	207
Nagpur	August 1939	280	284
Madhiana	1931-35	388	382
Channarayana	August 1939	334	314
Patna	Average cost of living for five years preceding 1914.	365	337
Jamshedpur	Ditto	385	331
Jharia	Ditto	377	366
Madras	Year ending June 1936	185	189
Madurai	Ditto	215	210
Coimbatore	Ditto	208	213

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India for ~~October~~ December, 1943).

Textile Industry.

The Cotton Textiles Fund Ordinance, 1944, (Ordinance No. XXXIV, 1944)

~~An Ordinance.~~ The Cotton Textiles Fund Ordinance, 1944, for establishing a fund for supervising the exports of cotton cloth and yarn, and for the development of technical education, research and other matters in relation to the cotton textiles industry in India ~~was been~~ promulgated by the Government of India on 8-7-1944. The Fund will be raised by levying a duty of customs on all cloth and yarn manufactured in India and exported from British India at the rate of three per cent of the prevailing maximum ex-factory price. The Fund will be administered by a body called the Cotton Textiles Fund Committee.

(Ordinance No. XXXIV dated 8-7-1944 of the Government of India, reproduced in the Bombay Government Gazette dated 18-7-1944, part IV, pages 173-176).

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Extension of Provident Fund Facilities to Fresh Categories of Railway Employees.

According to a Press Note issued by the Government of India on 27-7-1944, Government has recently decided to extend the benefits of the State Railway Provident Fund on an optional basis to all permanent non-Contracted railway employees, irrespective of pay or status, who have three years' service and over. It points out that while the higher-paid railway employees had always been a subscribers to the fund, the extension of the scheme to the lower-paid staff was first begun in 1941 when those with 15 years' service and over were allowed to join the fund. A further extension in 1942 was made in regard to all those with ten years' service and over and the present extension down to those with only three years' service will afford to a large body of railwaymen an opportunity of making more adequate provision for their old age than has been possible in the past.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-7-1944).

AGRICULTURE.

The Bihar Tenancy (Second Amendment) Bill,
1944.+

The Bihar Government has on 22-7-1944 gazetted the Bihar Tenancy (Second Amendment) Bill, 1944, introducing certain amendments in the Bihar Tenancy Act, 1885, to promote the Grow More Food Campaign. The object of the Bill, as stated by Government, is as follows: In the province of Bihar large areas of Pakasht land (waste) lands have come into the possession of landlords in recent years as a result of the last economic depression. But the landlords are unable to arrange for the cultivation of these lands to the best advantage owing to the provisions in the Bihar Tenancy Act conferring upon the raiyat cultivating the land rights of occupancy or non-occupancy according as the tenant is or is not a settled raiyat of the village concerned. The Bihar Tenancy (Second Amendment) Bill, 1944, is designed to encourage the landlords to settle as much surplus land as possible and thereby help in the promotion of the Grow More Food Campaign. The provisions of the Bill safeguard the reasonable rights of both the lessor and the lessee and are purely permissive in character.

Amendments with the same purpose are being introduced in the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, by the Chota Nagpur Tenancy (Second Amendment) Bill, 1944, gazetted by the Government on the same date.

(The Bihar Gazette, dated
26-7-1944, Part II, pages
382 to 387).

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CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

grants to Develop Small-Scale Industries in Mysore
State. +

The Government of Mysore has sanctioned a scheme for the grant of small advances to educated men in the State to encourage them to develop small-scale industries. The grants will be made to educated unemployed persons who are subjects of the State and have acquired some training in any industry. Loans will also be advanced to those already in business, industry or trade and are desirous of developing their business. The grants will not ordinarily exceed Rs. 1,000 and will in no case exceed Rs. 2,000 without the special sanction of Government. Half the amount will be treated as a subsidy to the grantee and the other half will be treated as a loan, free of interest, payable in easy monthly instalments spread over five years, the payment of the first instalment being due 18 months after the grant is made.

(The Times of India, 11-7-1944).

The Bihar Co-operative Societies (Amendment)
Bill, 1944. +

An Official Bill to amend the Bihar and Orissa Co-operative Societies Act, 1935, has been Gazetted by the Government of Bihar on ~~15-6-1944~~ 15-6-1944. The "Statement of Object and Reasons", points out that the scheme for the rehabilitation of the co-operative movement, which was adopted by the Government of Bihar in 1941, has been successfully introduced in a number of central co-operative banks. Members of primary societies, however, constitute a very small fraction of the total agricultural population, and owing to the system of joint and unlimited liability involved, any large increase in their number does not seem possible in the near future. Despite the rehabilitation scheme, therefore, the problem of agricultural finance remains unsolved to a great extent. It is proposed to introduce a scheme for extending the activities of the Bihar Provincial Co-operative Bank, Limited, on the lines of the Credit Agricole d' Egypte. Under this scheme, advances of improved seeds, manure and implements, and advances against the pledge of produce, will be made to cultivators on a large scale. These new ~~advances~~ advances will be made available to all cultivators who wish to have them, irrespective of whether or not they are members of co-operative societies. In the ~~case~~ case of member-agriculturists, the Provincial Bank will make the advances to the society and the latter will, in its turn, grant the advances to its members. In the case of non-member agriculturists, the Provincial Bank will make the advances directly to them. The finances of most of the primary societies and central co-operative banks are at present at a low ebb, but

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the Provincial Bank has sufficient funds for investment. The Provincial Bank will, therefore, finance the new business from its own resources, employing reconstructed central co-operative banks as its agents for handling the relative transactions. These banks will work in close co-operation with the Agricultural Department which will continue to maintain the seed and manure depots for the ~~the~~ present and give the necessary technical advice. It is hoped that this new scheme will greatly help the immediate Grow More Food Campaign and also the post-war agricultural development of the Province.

In order to give effect to the scheme, it was found necessary to amend certain sections of the Bihar and Orissa Co-operative Societies Act, 1935.

(The Bihar Gazette Extraordinary,
dated 16-6-1944).

The Chota Nagpur Tenancy (Amendment) Bill,
1944.

The Government of Bihar has on 22-7-1944 gazetted the Chota Nagpur Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1944, to make certain amendments in the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, so as to enable the Provincial Co-operative Bank to extend its activities to the Chota Nagpur Division. The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill points out that the restrictions on alienation of land in the Chota Nagpur Division have been an obstacle to the development and administration of the co-operative movement to the extent that a raiyat has nothing to pledge except his personal credit. To promote the systematic improvement of agriculture, Government propose to introduce a scheme under which the Provincial Co-operative Bank (which is a Society registered under the Co-operative Societies Act) will advance improved seeds, manures and agricultural implements and grant advances against produce on a large scale not only to members of Co-operative Societies but also to cultivators who are not members. This scheme cannot be extended to Chota Nagpur unless lands are made ~~liable~~ liable for sale for the realisation of the dues of the Provincial ~~Bank~~ Bank. Hence the Bill.

(The Bihar Gazette, dated 26-7-1944,
Part II, pages 381 to 382).

Conference of the All-India Cooperative Institutes' Association and the Indian Provincial Cooperative Banks' Association,
Bombay.

A conference of the All-India Cooperative Institutes' Association and the Indian Provincial Cooperative Banks' Association ~~was held~~ was held at Bombay during the last week of July, 1944. The conference, which concluded on 30-7-1944, passed several important resolutions on industrial co-operation, marketing, and other cognate matters.

post-war reconstruction
banking
Resolutions.- Cooperatives in Post-war Reconstruction.- By its resolution the conference urged the Government to utilise cooperative organisations to the fullest possible extent in the following spheres of the country's economic life: (1) Bringing under cultivation of waste and unreclaimed lands and the introduction of co-operative farming; (2) The introduction of better farming, including the supply of improved varieties; (3) Extension of facilities for irrigation through wells and minor irrigation works; (4) Organisation of the supply of milk and milk products and improvement of the breed of cattle; (5) Multiplication of health units in rural areas; (6) Reorganisation of the distributive trade; (7) Development of industrial insurance and insurance of crops and cattle; (8) Organisation of the production of consumer goods through cottage industries; (9) Extension of banking facilities in rural and semi-urban areas; (10) Development of adult education in rural areas; and (11) The organisation of labour.

Cottage Industries.- By another resolution the Conference expressed the belief that the time had come for the establishment of a cottage industries organisation society in various provinces and States, which will be in charge of the work of promoting the formation of industrial co-operatives in rural as well as urban areas, securing for them facilities in the matter of raw materials, credit and marketing, and assisting in the improvement of the technique of the industries. The conference urged that such an organisation society should be liberally assisted both by the Central and the Provincial Governments. The conference also urged that, in order to ensure a fair price for the grower and to promote regulated marketing, efforts should be made to organize agricultural marketing societies in all parts of the country.

Consumers' Cooperatives.- The resolution on consumers' cooperation recorded the growth of the consumers' cooperative movement during recent years, and recommended that in all provinces and States where the number of consumers' and supply societies had been organised on proper lines their agency should be fully utilized by the authorities of the Civil Supplies Department for the procurement and distribution, both in wholesale and in retail, of various controlled articles.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 2-8-1944).

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14th All-India Cooperative Registrars'
Conference, Bombay, 31-7-1944 to
2-8-1944.

The 14th All-India Conference of Cooperative Registrars was held at Bombay from 31-7-1944 to 2-8-1944, Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, presiding. Resolutions bearing on post-war reconstruction, food production, extension of the function of cooperatives, industrialisation, marketing etc. were adopted by the Conference.

Resolutions: Cooperative Development.- A brief resolution was adopted stating that the co-operative movement should be an integral part of the development plan for the country; that the representatives of the co-operative movement should be members of the various committees set up for preparing development plans; that the post-war absorption of ex-soldiers should form part of the general development plan; and that the decision of the societies should be enforced on non-members, or non-members should be required to become members, where found necessary to implement any development plan.

Increased Food Production.- The resolution on increased production of food adopted by the Conference recommended, ~~inter alio, that~~: (1) Co-operative organisations should be fully utilised for the promotion of the "Grow More Food" campaign. (2) Provincial and State Governments should encourage the promotion of societies for growing more food and also utilise rural societies for the purpose, and help their working. (3) Governments should arrange for the necessary financial facilities, including grants, subsidies etc. for co-operative societies. (4) Governments should make available to co-operative societies ~~the~~ guidance and advice on the technical aspects of food production and secure co-ordination between the different departments connected with rural development. (5) Suitable arrangements should be made in each province and state, through central co-operative organisations, for the bulk purchase of the means of production such as seeds, manure, implements, etc. and for their equitable distribution through rural co-operative societies both for members and for non-members. (6) Co-operative societies should distribute these articles to their members as short-term loans in kind wherever feasible and to non-members in cash. (7) Such loans should be given on the conditions that the whole of the produce to be marketed is sold to or through the society or a co-operative marketing society in that area. (8) The principle of joint responsibility need not be insisted on in the case of co-operative societies which undertake marketing. (9) Co-operative societies should aim at advancing loans to their members at a rate not exceeding 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Government should provide the necessary financial assistance to the societies to enable them to do so. (10) Land mortgage banks should more actively undertake the finance of land improvement and reclamation in addition to providing loans for debt redemption. Departments of Agriculture should take the initiative in suggesting schemes to be financed by land mortgage banks. (11) Section 17 of the Reserve Bank of India Act should be used more widely than at present for providing the necessary finance. (12) The system of co-operative joint farming should be introduced wherever circumstances are favourable, but at least one experiment in co-operative farming should be carried out in each Province and State.

Marketing Organisation.- The Conference recommended the establishment of a chain of co-operative marketing organisations, one for each suitable area, as also federations of these marketing organisations either ~~these~~ for particular commodities or for particular areas, and an All-India Co-operative Marketing Organisation. Where such unions ~~were~~ are strong and efficient they should be appointed by Government as sole buyers in the areas in which they operate. Government should assist such unions ~~finan~~

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financially—(a) for providing the requisite godown accommodation for which purpose building material should also be made available; (b) for establishing such processing industries as are necessary for making the crop marketable with greater advantage; and (c) for the provision of the staff required for direction, supervision and guidance. A system of licensed warehouses should be introduced and legislation promoted for the purpose. Licensed warehouses should be managed wherever practicable by co-operative warehousing societies.

Consumers' Stores.— ~~It~~^{Conference} also recommended that efforts should be made to place the consumers' co-operative movement which is expanding rapidly on a sound, permanent basis. Where co-operative stores are considered by the registrar to be efficient and are willing to take up the work, they should be given preference for obtaining and distributing, both in wholesale and in retail, foodstuffs and other controlled articles and should be appointed as procurement agencies by Government. Where such co-operative stores do not exist, similar facility should be given to other co-operative organisations selected by the registrar. The staff required for the direction, supervision and guidance of these societies should be provided by Government, who should also give such subsidy as is necessary for the staff entertained by the stores. Consumers' co-operative stores should be linked up wherever practicable with co-operative marketing unions.

Industrial Development.— Concerning industrial development, the conference urged a programme of development through co-operative societies to be chalked out under the direction of the Central Government for each Province and State on the basis of the material available from existing surveys, supplemented by further enquiries. It was suggested that co-operative federations should be organised in each Province and large States for ensuring supplies of raw materials to co-operative industrial societies and for facilitating the proper marketing of their finished products.

Training of Staff.— The Conference made several suggestions for training the staff required for the expansion of the co-operative movement. One of them was that the subject of co-operative law and theory should be included in the curricula of degree courses in economics and commerce.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 2, 3 and 4-8-1944).

Living Conditions

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Nutrition.

Milk Control in Delhi.

The Chief Commissioner, Delhi Province, has issued an order in the third week of July, 1944, for controlling the quality and price of milk sold in the Province of Delhi by retailers and wholesalers. The order comes into force on 27-7-1944.

(The Statesman, dated 23-7-1944).

Subsidized Milk Supply to Children in Bombay City.

The Bombay Government's Scheme of subsidized milk supply to children in Bombay city ~~will be~~ (vide page 19 of our report for June, 1944) will be put into operation shortly. Under the scheme, children below two years will get half a pound of milk each per day, the Government bearing half the cost. ~~At 200 centres to sell milk in~~ the different wards of the city are being opened by the Bombay Municipal Corporation which has been entrusted with the task by the Government. Arrangements have begun for issue of special ration cards, against production of which milk will be issued at these municipal centres.

(The Hindustan Times, 5-7-1944).

Bombay Government to Produce Shark Liver Oil.

The Government of Bombay, it is learned, has sanctioned a scheme for the manufacture, and marketing of shark liver oil. The scheme which has been drawn up by the Fisheries Officer of the Government will be in operation till the end of February, 1945, in the first instance. Experience ~~that~~ proved that shark liver oil can be manufactured on a commercial scale in the Province. Government hopes to put on the market a product of ~~approved~~ approved quality and of a standard consistent with recognised therapeutic requirements. The oil will be sold at a fixed rate and will be within the reach of the poorer sections of the public.

(The Times of India, 31-7-1944).

Workers' Organisations.

Progress of Trade Unions in Sind, during Year ending 31-3-1943.+

Number of Unions.- In the beginning of the year under review there were 36 registered trade unions in Sind. 3 unions were registered during the year. Of the 39 unions, 25 submitted their returns by the prescribed date, i.e. 31-7-1943. On enquiry, it was found that 6 unions had ceased to exist and their registration was withdrawn. Another union which appeared to be defunct was served with notice of cancellation of registration. The secretaries of four unions were prosecuted and fined for unreasonable delay in submitting the prescribed returns. The objects of one of the unions submitting returns extended beyond the Province.

Membership.- The total membership of all unions whose objects did not extend beyond the province decreased from 9,625 to 8,934 although appreciable increases were reported from "Docks and Port Trusts" (from 962 to 1787), "Engineering" (from 203 to 310) and "Seamen" (from 184 to 285) groups. The decrease was mainly accounted for by the "Municipal" (from 2,336 to 2,109) and "Miscellaneous" (from 4,585 to 3,254) groups. In the case of the union whose objects extended beyond the province, the membership rose from 1,064 to 1,542.

Assets.- Eleven unions spent more than their income during the year. Two unions had debit balances at the commencement as well as at the close of the year. The total assets of all unions (including the one extending beyond the province) amounted to Rs. 33,401 including Rs. 3,882 on account of unpaid subscriptions due. No union held any securities during the year. No union maintained a Political Fund under section 16 of the Act.

(Indian Labour Gazette, July, 1944).

Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act ^{Bombay} during 1940-1942.+

The statistics relating to trade unions given below relate only to trade unions which (a) are registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, and (b) have ~~submitted~~ submitted returns. No figures relating to the unregistered unions are available except for the province of Bombay, where the Labour Office collects them both in case of registered and unregistered trade unions. According to the Bombay Labour Gazette, there were on 31-3-1941, 172 unions with a membership of 192,266 of which 79 with 168,834 members were registered. On 31-3-1942 the figures stood at 179 unions with a membership of 185,541 of which 84 with 152,124 members were registered.

Statistics are available only for 483 of the 727 registered trade unions in existence on 31-3-1941 while these figures for 1942 are 455 and 747 respectively. In Sind, with a view to secure the returns from

defaulting unions, prosecutions were filed against 4 unions under section 31 (1) of the Act for failure to submit their annual returns for 1941-42 inspite of several reminders and notices.

Growth of Trade Unionism: 1927-28 to 1941-42.- The following table gives particulars of the number and membership of trade unions for the period 1927-28 to 1941-42 :-

Year	Number of registered trade unions.	Number of unions from whom returns under the Act were received.	Total membership of the unions shown in column (3)	Average membership per registered union.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1927-28	29	28	1,00,619	3,409
1928-29	75	65	1,81,077	2,414
1929-30	104	90	2,42,355	2,693
1930-31	119	106	2,19,115	2,067
1931-32	131	121	2,35,693	1,948
1932-33	170	147	2,37,369	1,615
1933-34	191	160	2,08,071	1,300
1934-35	213	183	2,84,918	1,557
1935-36	241	205	2,68,326	1,309
1936-37	271	228	2,61,047	1,145
1937-38	420	343	3,90,112	1,137
1938-39	562	394	3,99,159	1,013
1939-40	667	450	5,11,138	1,136
1940-41	727	483	5,13,832	1,064
1941-42	747	455	5,73,520	1,260

The above figures relate only to those unions which submitted returns. The number of trade unions increased from 667 to 727 in 1940-41 and to 747 in 1941-42. The increase during 1940-41 was recorded in all the provinces except the following, which recorded a fall in the number of trade unions (indicated in brackets):- Assam (5), Bombay (2), N.W.F.P.(1), Sind (1), and U.P. (3). The number of unions remained the same in Orissa. During 1941-42 all provinces except Ajmer-Merwara (3), Assam (1) and Punjab (4) showed an increase although there was a fall of 21 in the number of trade unions whose objects are not confined to one province and the number of unions remained stationary in Delhi and N.W.F.P.

As compared with 1939-40 the membership of unions which submitted returns increased from 511,138 to 513,832 during 1940-1941 and to 573,520 during 1941-42, the highest figure recorded since 1927-28.

Number of Women Workers and Trade Unions.- The following table shows the number of women who were members of registered trade unions for the years 1927-28 to 1941-42 :-

Year	Membership
1927-28	1,168
1928-29	3,842
1929-30	3,299
1930-31	3,151
1931-32	3,454
1932-33	5,090
1933-34	2,999
1934-35	4,837
1935-36	7,309
1936-37	9,025
1937-38	14,703
1938-39	10,945
1939-40	18,612
1940-41	19,417
1941-42	17,094

Income and Closing Balance of Unions.- The income and closing balance of reporting unions for the years 1927-28 to 1941-42 :-

Year	Income during the year Rs.	Balance at the end of the year Rs.
1927-28	163,581	160,578
1928-29	316,893	294,301
1929-30	432,638	311,767
1930-31	407,379	377,189
1931-32	478,265	546,690
1932-33	556,953	561,024
1933-34	503,257	550,180
1934-35	528,697	569,981
1935-36	528,712	587,092
1936-37	488,431	622,610
1937-38	693,444	506,970
1938-39	889,822	611,464
1939-40	1,121,797	739,937
1940-41	1,212,927	786,120
1941-42	1,767,446	1,226,900

The total income of the registered trade unions increased from Rs. 1,121,797 in 1939-40 to Rs. 1,212,927 in 1940-41 and to Rs. 1,767,446 in 1941-42; figures of the balance in hand increased during the period from Rs. 739,937 in 1939-40 to Rs. 786,120 in 1940-41 and Rs. 1,226,900 during 1941-42. The average income was Rs. 2,511-3-9 per union and Rs. 2-5-9 per member during 1940-41 and Rs. 3,884-7-11 per union and Rs. 3-1-4 per member during 1941-42 as against Rs. 2,491-8-0 and Rs. 2-3-1 respectively during 1939-40. The assets of many unions consisted of unpaid subscriptions due, or deficits only.

Withdrawals and cancellations.- During 1940-41, the registration certificates of 88 unions were cancelled (Ajmer-Merwara 1, Assam 6, Bengal 31, Bombay 13, C.P. and Berar 2, Madras 3, N.W.F.P. 2, Punjab 11, Sind 6 and U.P. 13). Four unions were dissolved, 2 in Bombay and 2 in Madras.

Upto 1-4-1941 the control of trade unions whose objects were not confined to one province was vested in the Registrar, Central Trade Unions, Delhi. These powers were delegated to the Provincial Governments since that date.

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Certain additional Statistics relating to the "registered" trade unions in British India during the period 1940-41 and 1941-42 were published at pages 70-73 and 293-296 of the September 1943 and May 1944 issues respectively of the Indian Labour Gazette.

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(The Indian Labour Gazette, July, 1944, pages 1 to 4).

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PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Public Health and Vaidyas Act, 1944:
[SINDH ACT NO. XV OF 1944].

~~Reference was made on page 17 of our report for July, 1943, to the Sind Public Health and Vaidyas Bill, 1943, introduced in the Provincial Legislature. The Bill as passed by the Legislature having received the assent of the Governor-General on 8-7-1944, is published as Act XV of 1944 at pages 124 to 125 of the Sind Government Gazette, Part IV, dated 13-7-1944.~~

Wages.

New Scales of Pay for Lower Grade Temporary
Central Government Servants in Selected Centres. +

According to a press note issued by the Government of India on 18-7-1944, the question of improving the method of recruitment so as to meet difficulties created by the war-time expansion of Government of India offices has recently been considered and the Government has decided to introduce, as soon as possible, at certain selected centres a unified pay scale for temporary clerical personnel of the departments and offices of the Central Government, other than Railways and the Posts and Telegraphs. The question of centralising recruitment for all or some of these centres is now under consideration. The new scheme will be applied only to such centres as are notified by the Government from time to time.

A common scale of pay will be applicable for the duration of the war to the staff recruited under the scheme, namely, Rs. 40-5-60-E.B.-5-100-E.B.-10-200. There would be three points of entry into the three grades, which are named A, B and C, corresponding respectively to the existing grades of Assistants, upper division clerks and lower division clerks in the Central Secretariat. The points of entry will not be the same for all centres, but will be fixed by Government for each centre having regard to local conditions.

For the present, Government has decided to fix the entry point for Delhi and Simla at an initial pay of Rs. 100, Rs. 60 and Rs. 45, respectively, ~~and for Bombay and Calcutta at Rs. 115, Rs. 75 and Rs. 55, respectively.~~ For Bombay and Calcutta, Government has fixed the points of entry at Rs. 115, Rs. 75 and Rs. 55, respectively. In addition, a deferred pay of Rs. 5 per month will be credited to the account of each such temporary Government servant payable at the end of the war. This deferred pay will be granted with retrospective effect subject to a maximum of six months. Permanent and temporary personnel already in service in these centres will, subject to certain conditions, be permitted to elect to come on to the common pay scale. The introduction of this revised scale of pay will not affect the rates and conditions of existing dearness allowances.

(The Hindustan Times, 20-7-1944).

House Rent and Conveyance Allowances for
Lower Paid Central Government Staff in
Delhi. +

According to a press communique dated 16-7-1944, the Government of India has, in view of the existing acute difficulties regarding housing and transport in Delhi, decided to sanction, until further orders, a house rent allowance for its clerical staff employed in Delhi and to liberalize the present rates of conveyance allowance. Government will now grant a house rent allowance to all its ministerial servants

drawing pay up to Rs. 500 per month who have applied for and have not been allotted Government accommodation. It will be equal to the excess of the rent actually paid by an employee over 10 per cent of his pay, but will be subject to a maximum limit of 10 per cent of the pay. A conveyance allowance of Rs. 15 per month is at present paid to all persons living more than five miles from their office. Government has now decided to grant to the ministerial staff, who have failed to obtain accommodation within three miles of their office, a conveyance allowance of Rs. 5 per month and to those who reside more than four but not more than five miles away from their office an allowance of Rs. 10 per month.

(The Hindustan Times, 17-7-1944).

Revised Scale of Dearness Allowance and
Advance Increments for Lower Paid Assam
Government Servants. +

The Government of Assam has on 17-7-1944 gazetted a notification sanctioning a revised scale of dearness allowance in place of the existing scale of allowance (vide page 25 of our report for May 1944) for its lower paid employees. The new scale will be a percentage of the pay on a sliding scale at varying rates as indicated below:-

For those taking rice concession and not free rations.

Pay per month.	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	Rest of Assam
Rs. 30 or below.....	50 per cent.	40 per cent.
More than Rs. 30 but not more than Rs. 60.....	25 per cent.	20 per cent.
More than Rs. 60 but not more than Rs. 100.....	20 per cent.	15 per cent.
More than Rs. 100 but not more than Rs. 150.....	15 per cent.	12½ per cent.
More than Rs. 150 but not more than Rs. 200.....	12½ per cent.	10 per cent.
More than Rs. 200 but not more than Rs. 250.....	10 per cent.	10 per cent.

Allowances will be granted for marginal cases at each stage so that the emoluments of a Government servant on a higher rate of pay do not fall short of those of on a lower rate of pay. The above scale of dearness allowance will be combined with the existing rice concession which will continue to be given to all those drawing up to Rs. 300 per mensem. The notification comes into force with effect from 1-7-1944 and allowance according to the new scales will be payable beginning with the pay for July, 1944.

For those Government servants who prefer to continue to receive free rations and not rice concession together with the new scale of dearness allowance, a cash allowance of Rs. 4 per mensem instead of Rs. 2 per mensem hitherto admissible will be granted with effect from 1-7-1944.

Government has also decided, with a view ^{to} further ~~to~~ improving the starting pay of Government servants, permanent, temporary or officiating, recruited at the bottom of a scale commencing ~~at~~ at Rs. 60 or less, to sanction the following advance increments with effect from 1-7-1944:-

- (1) For Government Servants with less than one year's service..... Three increments.
- (2) For Government servants with not less than one year but less than two years' ~~xx~~ service..... Two increments.
- (3) For Government servants with not less than two years but less than three years' service..... One increment.

~~Detailed instructions xxxxxxxxx~~
These increments will have to be worked off. (97)

(Notification No. F.G.25/43/118 dated 17-7-1944, The Assam Gazette dated 19-7-1944, Part II, pages 694-695).

Dearness Allowance during Strikes; Suggestion of Bombay Mill Owners' Association to Member Mills.

Reference was made at page 34 of our report for November 1943, to the recommendation of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, to member mills regarding the rate of payment of dearness allowance to workers who put in less than a full days' work. It was then recommended that half a day's dearness allowance may be granted for attendance in the morning up to midday irrespective of the number of hours worked and that full payment may be made in cases where they had worked for more than half a day.

Towards the end of May 1944, this question was reconsidered by the Committee and it was decided that the recommendation made previously should not be followed by member mills in cases where a full day's work was not done as a result of operatives going on strike. In cases where a full day's work had not been done on account of a strike, it was recommended that wages and dearness allowance of workers concerned for that particular day should be strictly in proportion to the number of hours actually put in by them on that day. For instance, if the operatives of a department stopped work at 9-30 a.m. after working for one hour, they should be paid 1/9th of their daily wages and dearness allowance and not 1/4th or 1/2 according to the custom and usage of mills. In the case of piece workers the question of paying proportionate wages did not arise.

(Excerpts from the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for April and May, 1944).

Cost Price Grocery Shops for Higher-paid Railway Employees.

About 600 grain shops have been opened in India to supply cheap food stuffs to lower-paid Railway employees. To supply the various needs of the higher-paid employees in Railways, Government is now developing a scheme to open cost price grocery and consumer-goods shops. Goods not available in India will be imported.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-7-1944).

Industrial Disputes.

Government of India's Order Settling Dispute between Bombay Dockyard Administration and its Employees.

A trade dispute, which has now been in existence for some weeks, between the administration of the Bombay Dockyards and its employees regarding the workers' demand for increase of basic pay, bonus, gratuity etc. was referred by the Government of India to Mr. D.V. Naga, I.C.S., for adjudication under Defence of India Rules 81-A, on 6-6-1944. Since adjudication efforts have failed, the Government of India has, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (b) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules, issued on 24-7-1944 the following order: (1) That the basic wage rates of daily rated workers on rupees two or less per day in all the establishments of the Bombay Dockyard, Bombay, in the city of Bombay and in the Bombay Suburban District shall be increased by two annas per day with effect from 24-7-1944. (2) Any worker in any of the said establishments ordered to work overtime shall do so, and shall be paid for such work at the following rates:-

I. on week days-----

- (i) Overtime in excess of 8 hours, but not in excess of 10 hours, a day..... 1 1/4 normal rate.
- (ii) Overtime in excess of 10 hours a day... 1 1/2 " "
- (iii) For work done between 7 P.M. and 6.30 A.M. or on Saturdays, between 4 P.M. and 6.30 A.M. (but not in addition to overtime under (i) or (ii)) For every hour worked..... 1 1/2 " "
- Work in excess of 10 hours a day..... 1 1/2 " "

II. on Sundays-----

For any period, whether day and night..... 1 1/2 " "

The order is to be in force for six months in the first instance and, if no notice in writing to terminate is given to the Administration by the workers, during the continuance of the present war. The notice may be given any time after four months from the date of the order, but shall

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have the effect of terminating the order only upon the expiry of two months after the notice has been given.

(Notification No.L.R.19, dated 24-7-44,
The Gazette of India, dated 24-7-1944,
Part I, Section 1, page 996).

and Employment.

Army Men for Civil Posts under Government: Temporary Transfers Arranged. +

Reference was made at page 28 of our report for May, 1944, to the decision of the Government of India to make emergency recruitment of civilian officers for the Central and Provincial Governments from among Army Officers.

A press Note of the Government of India dated 25-7-1944 dealing with this decision points out that owing to the suspension of recruitment of permanent civil servants for the duration of the war, an increasing strain has been felt by the civil administration and a stage has now been reached when the civil administration can no longer continue without reinforcements. Continuing demands made on the open market both by the Government and by organizations auxiliary thereto, the press note states, have seriously reduced the man-power of suitable calibre available for recruitment to civil posts, and Government has been obliged to turn to the Army as the only source from which adequate reinforcements can now be obtained. The military authorities have therefore, been approached with a request to release temporarily a sufficient number of officers whose services can be lent to civil Governments in India.

The officers will be appointed after such preliminary training as is considered desirable for the posts. The object will be to maintain and strengthen the general administration and to provide sufficient staff for new and specialized branches of work, as those connected with food and civil supplies. The appointment will be for the duration of the war in the Far East and probably for a limited period thereafter. The ratio of recruitment between Indians and Europeans will be 50: 50. The total number of men required at present is 500.

(The Hindustan Times, 26-7-1944).

The decision has been severely criticised in the Indian Nationalist press.

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New Classes of Employees to be deemed
Technical Personnel: Government of
India's Notification.

The Government of India notified on 7-7-1944 that the following classes of industrial employees will be deemed 'technical personnel' for the purposes of the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, 1940 (vide pages 33 to 34 of our report for June 1940): I- Managerial or Operational staff — Structural engineers; II- Supervisory staff — Technical Assistants; and III- Skilled and Semiskilled Trades and Occupations — Crusher attendants, feedwater station attendants and miller-owners in cement factories, drivers of motor vehicles, and all classes of mechanics, and several classes of workers in electric lamp factories.

(Notification No. TRC(I)1, dated
2-7-1944, The Gazette of India, dated
16-7-1944, Part I, Section 1, page
929).

Safety Measures.

Fire Fighting Arrangements in Major Ports:
Amendment to the Defence of India Rules
to the Gazette of India No. 5.

The Government of India has on 22-7-1944 gasetted an amendment in the Defence of India Rules under which the Central Government may, with a view to ensuring the safety of any major port and of persons and property therein, in the event of fire, by order require the port authority to make, within such periods as may be specified in the order, such fire fighting arrangements as may be so specified.

(Notification No. 5-DC(73)/44, dated
22-7-1944, The Gazette of India,
dated 22-7-1944, Part I, Section 1,
pages 959 to 960).

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Welfare.

Supply of Essential Articles to Industrial Workers: Government's Empowered to Issue Orders to Employers: Amendment to Defence of India Rules.+

An amendment to the Defence of India Rules under which the Central and Provincial Governments were empowered to issue instructions to industrial employers to supply foodstuffs at specified rates to their employees and their dependents was adopted by the Government of India in October 1943 (vide page 89 of the Indian Labour Gazette, October 1943).

The above rule has now been amended so as to extend its scope to cover also other essential articles which the Governments might specify, in their orders issued to the employers concerned.

(Indian Labour Gazette, July, 1944).

Hostel for 'Bevin Boys' Opened at Letchworth, England.+

A new Hostel for 'Bevin Boys' was opened at Letchworth, near Cambridge, on 18-7-1944 by Mr. B.G. Tomlinson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour. The Hostel provides accommodation for 480 persons and is equipped with a modern kitchen, a canteen and recreational rooms.

(The Hindu, dated 19-7-1944).

The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1944. (Ordinance No. XXVII) +

Reference was made at pages 44 to 45 of our report for January, 1944, to the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Ordinance, 1944, under which it was proposed to build up a fund for the welfare of colliery labour by levying a cess on all coal and soft coke despatched by rail from collieries in British India. An Ordinance amending this Ordinance so as to extend the scope of the cess to all varieties of coke has been promulgated by the Government of India on 24-6-1944.

(Ordinance No. XXVII of 1944 of Government of India, reproduced by the Punjab Gazette, dated 7-7-1944, Part IV, page 54).

Compensation for War Injuries.

The Bombay Explosions^s (Compensation) Ordinance,
1944, (Ordinance No. XXXII of 1944) .A

An Ordinance to provide for and regulate the payment of compensation for death and permanent personal disablement and damage to property due to or arising out of the explosions and fires which occurred in the Bombay Docks on 14-4-1944, to restrict litigation in connection with the explosions and fires, and to make certain other provision in connection therewith, ~~was~~ ~~been~~ promulgated by the Government of India on 1-7-1944. The amounts payable as compensation for deaths and permanent disablements vary according to the monthly income of the person concerned at the time of the explosion, the compensation payable in respect of partial injuries being a percentage of the amount due in respect of permanent disablement depending on the nature of the injury. Payments in respect of death and permanent disablement is made according to the following scale:

Pay Scale (Monthly).

Amount of Compensation.

(a) for death, (b) for permanent disablement.

	Rs.	Rs.
nil or not exceeding Rs.20.	900	1,300
exceeding Rs.20 but not exceeding Rs.30 ..	1,300	1,900
exceeding Rs.30 but not exceeding Rs.40 ..	1,800	2,500
exceeding Rs.40 but not exceeding Rs.50 ..	2,200	3,200
exceeding Rs.50 but not exceeding Rs.60 ..	2,600	3,800
exceeding Rs.60 but not exceeding Rs.70 ..	3,200	4,400
exceeding Rs.70 but not exceeding Rs.80 ..	3,600	5,000
exceeding Rs.80 but not exceeding Rs.100 ..	4,500	6,300
exceeding Rs.100 but not exceeding Rs.200..	5,200	7,400
exceeding Rs.200 but not exceeding Rs.500..	7,000	8,500
exceeding Rs.500 but not exceeding Rs.1,000.	8,000	10,000
exceeding Rs.1000 but not exceeding Rs.1500.	10,000	12,500
exceeding Rs.1500 but not exceeding Rs.2000.	12,000	15,000
exceeding Rs. 2000 ..	14,000.	17,000

For partial ~~injuries~~ injuries, the compensation payable varies from 70 to 5 per cent of that payable in respect of permanent disablements.

It is also provided that where any compensation for any injury or death is otherwise recoverable under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, or under any policy against personal accident or under any other contract or scheme providing for the payment of compensation for death or accident, the amount of compensation determined in accordance with the above rates shall be reduced by the amount of compensation otherwise recoverable.

(Ordinance No. XXXII dated 1-7-1944, of the Government of India, reproduced in the Bombay Government Gazette, dated 15-7-1944, Part IV, pages 155-172),

War Finance.

Memorandum of
Control of Capital Issues by Federation
of Indian Chambers of Commerce and
Industry to Government of India.

According to a communiqué dated 22-7-1944 issued by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Committee of the Federation has addressed a comprehensive memorandum to the Government of India regarding certain aspects of the Government's recent announcement relating conditions and procedure of control of capital issues. (Vide pages 27 to 28 of our report for April, 1944). In the memorandum the Committee deplares that the grant of consent to any proposed issues of capital is ~~a~~ ^{being} ~~made~~ ^{made} under certain restrictions, which are bound to create very uncertain conditions for the new companies because Government, which itself claims to be progressing with the ~~the~~ ^{the} points of industrial planning, would only grant an consent, ~~without~~ ^{without} ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~commitment~~ ^{commitment}, as regards restrictions already imposed or that may be imposed in future, and the release of capital invested in Government securities. If this is the case, how ~~can~~ ^{can} Government, ~~demands~~ ^{demands} the Committee, expect an investor to invest his money and an honest management to invite capital for a new concern under such uncertain conditions?

Referring to the Committee's suggestion that Government should ~~appoint~~ ^{appoint} associate representatives of commerce and industry with the working of the ~~control of capital issues~~, ~~the memorandum~~ ^{the memorandum} points out that, if merely an official body is to consider and dispose of applications for grant of permission for new flotations, proper development of Indian industries ~~will be jeopardized~~. ~~The consideration~~ ^{The consideration} of applications, especially with regard to post-war industrial planning, release of capital on an appropriate date and priority in regard to release or import of materials, machinery, etc., requires an intimate knowledge of the country's industrial conditions and it is, therefore, absolutely essential that an effective body of Indian industrialists should be constituted to advise Government in these matters.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-7-1944).

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Production.

Coal Production and Control Measures..4

The personnel of the Coal Control Board, the constitution of which was envisaged in the Colliery Control Order, 1944 (vide page 30 of our report for April, 1944) has been gazetted by the Government of India on 28-6-1944. The Board consists of thirteen members, five officials including, the Supply Member, Government of India, who is the Chairman of the Board, the Coal Commissioner, the two Deputy Coal Commissioners of Production and Distribution and the Joint Financial Adviser, Munitions Production, and eight non-official members nominated by the different coal interests.

Under the new colliery administration scheme now in force, the Coal Commissioner's primary task is to implement the decisions of the Government with regard to increasing the raisings of coal for the country as a whole. He will also ensure that the demands of consumers as approved from time to time by the War Resources Committee of the Council are met as far as possible. Increases in production will be attempted not only by making good shortage of colliery labour, but also through the medium of new schemes designed to intensify output in selected collieries by the use of machinery. On the distribution side, the object will be to estimate the minimum essential requirements of the railways, industries and other consumers and, when these have been approved by the War Resources Committee of the Council, to ensure that distribution takes place on the approved basis. The functions of the Deputy Commissioner (Distribution) include: estimation of requirements and allocation of coal, price grading, inspection and movement of coal, price fixation for coal, adoption of fuel economy measures and collection of statistics. Six regional coal controllers have been appointed for the Bengal, Bihar, Punjab, Baluchistan, Assam, Central Provinces and Talcher fields. Their duties include: ascertaining from the collieries within their areas their essential requirements of colliery stores, bringing to the notice of the Coal Commissioner problems such as shortages of labour and transportation difficulties, and suggesting measures likely to improve production.

The Coal Control Board, which held its first meeting at New Delhi on 1-7-1944, discussed the various problems relating to the production and distribution of coal in the country. Other points discussed at the meeting included supply of foodstuffs and consumable goods in the coal fields, procurement and distribution of mining stores and equipment, labour recruitment and conditions of working of labour, restriction of working of coal seams etc. It transpired in the course of discussions that the labour question was the crux of the whole problem of increased production. It was stated on behalf of the producers that they were not averse to granting higher wages to their labour besides supplying foodstuffs and consumable goods at concession rates provided they could get better work from them. It had been found that although as a result of the introduction of the new rationing scheme for the colliery labour the attendance of labour in the fields had improved by about 30 per cent, production had not shown any increase.

At a meeting of the Andhra Chamber of Commerce at Madras on 18-7-1944, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Supply Member, Government of India and Chairman, Coal Control Board, ~~meeting with~~ dealt with the long-term problems of coal production, and pointed out that increase in production was to be effected by the import of various types of machinery and the Government of India had deputed a special officer to the United Kingdom

and the United States for making the necessary ~~production~~ purchases. He hoped that some of them would be available by early next year. The present production of coal had fallen by 3,000,000 tons from the pre-war output of 25,000,000 tons, but he was sure that within the next four years, the production would go up to 35,000,000 tons. He, however, felt that even the maximum output would not suffice for the full industrial development aimed at by Government. It was therefore proposed to exploit fully the hydro-electric resources of the country as well.

(Notification No.841 dated 28-6-1944: Issued by the Supply Department, reproduced from the Gazette of India Extraordinary by the Punjab Government Gazette, dated 14-7-1944, Part II, page 335; The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 3-7-1944, The Hindustan Times, 12-7-1944 and The Times of India, 22-7-1944).

Working of Multiple Shifts in Madras
Factories.

In the province of Madras during April 1944 there were 248 factories with 39,576 workers working on a multiple shift system. These were distributed over a wide range of industries; rice mills, however, accounted for 147, or 59.3 per cent of the number of concerns, although for only 6,042 or 15.3 per cent of the workers involved. Twenty-seven textile concerns worked multiple shifts contributing 15,960 or 40.3 per cent of the total number of workers doing multiple shifts. Three jute mills accounted for 6,469 or 16.3 per cent of the workers, followed by 20 engineering concerns employing 2,790 hands and one ordnance clothing factory with 2,600 employees.

(Indian Labour Gazette, July, 1944, pages 11).

Expansion of Indian Industries during
War time: Preliminary survey by
Dr. P.J. Thomas.

A preliminary survey of the expansion of industries in India during the war, especially after the entry of Japan into it, is understood to have been carried out by Dr. P.J. Thomas. The findings of the inquiry have not yet been made available to the public, but from a report on the survey published in the Hindustan Times dated 15-7-1944, it is understood that Dr. Thomas has recorded the growth, in particular, of those industries supplying the needs of the Armed Forces, textiles, footwear and glass industries, and the chemicals and minerals industries. He is understood to have suggested that a closer understanding and more active cooperation between the Government and the industries would be essential for the stability and growth of industries in the post-war period.

"Reports on the Development of Industries for War Supplies (Directorate-General of Supply, by Dr P.J. Thomas. Printed by the Manager, Govt. of India Press, Simla, 1944"
MP IV+89.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-7-1944).

British Advisory Mission on Machine
Tool Utilization in India . . .

An advisory mission of machine tool utilisation experts from the United Kingdom, headed by Sir William Stanier, F.R.S., a former Chief Mechanical Engineer of the London, Midland, and Scottish Railway Company, and Scientific Advisor, British Ministry of Production, arrived in India on 26-7-1944. The Mission will advise the Central Government on measures to be taken to ensure that the fullest use is made of the available machine engineering plant and machine tools in the country. Other members of the mission are : Mr. A.J. Jarvis, from the British Railways Staff; Mr. W.H.C. Clifton, Production Engineer, Ministry of Aircraft Production; Mr. E.W. Palmer, Manager of the Railway Department of Messrs. G.D. Peters; Mr. I.V. Woolley, Machine Tool Controller, British Ministry of Supply.

(The Indian Railway Gazette, August, 1944, and The Hindustan Times, dated 28-7-1944).

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Control Measures.

The Cloth and Yarn (Export Control) Order,
1944.

The Cloth and Yarn (Export Control) Order, 1944, gazetted by the Government of India on 8-7-1944, prescribes, in respect of mill-made cotton cloth and yarn exported from India, maximum margins which may be charged by mills and exporters over and above the ex-mill ceiling prices applicable to similar goods in the ~~internati~~ internal market. The margins are intended to compensate mills for the maintenance of minimum standards for export and also cover exporters' expenses and profits. Powers have been taken by the Central Government to prescribe and enforce minimum standards of specification and packing for cloth intended for export.

(Notification No.67-CW (41-A)/43,
dated 8-7-1944, The Gazette of India,
dated 8-7-1944, Part I, pages 903 to
904, and the Statesman dated,
11-7-1944).

Control of Tailoring Charges in Calcutta

Maximum tailoring charges have been tentatively fixed for different classes of tailoring establishments in Calcutta by the Deputy Controller-General of Civil Supplies, Government of India, Eastern Region.

Tailoring establishments have been divided into A, B and C classes, and different maximum rates have been fixed for tailoring cotton and woollen suits, coats, trousers and vests. Tailors are also warned not to charge for the cloth prices higher than those already fixed by the Government.

(The Times of India, dated,
10-7-1944).

The Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution)
Order, 1944. +

The Government of India has on 15-7-1944 issued the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1944, which provides that the Controller-General of Civil Supplies may specify approved dealers in respect of any of the 31 articles listed in a schedule attached to the order, and thereupon no importer or producer of that article shall, except with the written permission of the Controller-General, sell or otherwise dispose of it to any person who is not an approved dealer in that article. The order gives power to the Controller-General to fix the prices at which the scheduled articles may be sold by importers, producers or dealers, and lays down that different prices may be fixed for different localities and different classes of importers, producers or dealers. The articles in the schedule include wines, spirits and liquors, pencils, toilet requisites, boot and metal polishes, steel pens, typewriters and parts, wireless sets and parts, cycle spare parts and accessories, clocks, time-pieces and watches, crockery, sports goods and grinders.

(Notification No. F.90457) AP/44,
dated 15-7-1944, The Gazette of
India, dated 15-7-1944, Part I,
Section 1, pages 925 to 926).

The United Provinces Vegetable (Movement)
Control Order, 1944. +

According to a Press Note of the United Provinces Government dated 17-7-1944, the Provincial Government has, with a view to ensure an adequate supply of vegetables at reasonable prices, both for the army and civil population, issued the United Provinces Vegetable (Movement) Control Order, 1944, which bans the export from the province, except under permits or military credit notes, of vegetables of the certain categories.

(The Leader, dated 19-7-1944).

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Success of Textile Control Measures:
Mr. Eriksnaraj Thackersey's
Review.

In an address at a meeting of the Textile Control Board at Bombay on 15-7-1944, Mr. Eriksnaraj Thackersey, Chairman of the Board, reviewing the measures adopted by the Textile Control Board, declared that both the main objectives aimed at by the Board, namely, a substantial reduction in the prices of cloth and yarn and a considerable increase in their production within a reasonable period of time, had been attained to a large extent. Statutory prices of textile goods had come down by about 60 per cent after the introduction of Control. Production too was running at a fairly high level throughout the period. As against an average annual production of 3,500 million yards prior to the war, the Indian textile mills have produced about 4,500 million yards in 1943. Handloom production has increased considerably and is rapidly reaching the 2,000 million yards mark.

Out of a gross total of 6,500 million yards, roughly 1,200 million yards every year were to be earmarked for export and the requirements of the Defence Services, leaving a balance of approximately 5,300 million yards of cloth for distribution in the home market in the country.

Mr. Thackersey also declared that transport facilities for internal distribution had improved considerably.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 15-7-1944).

Price Control.

First Meeting of Central Consumers' Council,
New Delhi, 17 and 18-7-1944.

Reference was made at page 33 of our report for May, 1944 to the decision of the Government of India to set up a non-official Central Consumers' Council to advise the Government on problems relating to the civil supplies of consumer goods other than food stuffs. The Council, which was set up recently, held its first meeting at New Delhi from 17 to 18-7-1944, Sir Azizul Haque, Member for Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India, presiding.

A Government memorandum on the working of the various control measures was presented to the Council. Discussions in the meeting mainly revolved on these measures and Government gave assurances regarding the release for civilians of more consumer goods like brass for utensils, iron and steel for agricultural implements, and kerosene. Criticisms of the consumers' representatives were directed against the unavailability of controlled goods like drugs, electric bulbs and footwear at the prices fixed by Government and the prevalence of black markets in them.

The proceedings of the Council were held in Camera.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-7-1944).

Meeting of Central Food Advisory Council,
New Delhi, 20 to 22-7-1944. +

A meeting of the Central Food Advisory Council (vide pages 30 to 31 of our report for June, 1944) was held at New Delhi from 20 to 22-7-1944, Sir J.P. Srivastava, Food Minister, Government of India, presiding. The main resolutions of the Council are summarised below:

1. Import of Implements, Manure Etc.- The Council viewed the food situation with considerable anxiety and urged Government to treat the food problem as an urgent one which must be solved as early as possible. In order to secure results in the immediate future, the meeting urged on the Government of India the necessity of importing fertilisers, plants for manufacturing fertilisers, tractors and agricultural implements and dairy machinery from the U.K. or the U.S.A. on the same conditions on which they were supplied to Russia, North Africa and the Middle East, to avoid a breakdown in the economic conditions of those countries. The present food position in this country is directly due to the war and has a vital bearing on its further prosecution. The supply of India's agricultural requirements should, therefore, be treated as a part of the war effort and priority should be accorded to them.

Agricultural and irrigation advisers from outside may be employed if considered necessary, but due attention should be paid to the rapid training up of Indians in these fields.

2. Irrigation and other facilities.- (a) The Council strongly recommended to the Government of India that it should adopt a bold policy with regard to major irrigation projects, such as surface percolation wells and individual tanks. It should encourage the construction of these works on a very large scale and give very liberal financial assistance to the cultivator to enable him to execute these projects. (b) All types of manures should be distributed for increased production of irrigated food crops on a very much larger scale than has been done so far and that cultivators should be supplied these manures at 50 per cent of the cost. (c) The crop-cutting experimental scheme should immediately be extended to all the wheat growing areas in the country, as also to the rice-growing areas in Bombay, Madras, Central Provinces and Orissa and, if the results obtained in 1943 are again achieved, this technique may be enforced throughout the country for all crops. (d) With a view to maintaining an adequate supply of cattle for agriculture and the production of milk, all possible action should be taken to preserve them.

3. Wheat Imports.- The Council expressed its strong dissatisfaction with the quantity of feed grains which may be expected to be imported of the British Government, by the end of September, 1944, and urged Government to recommend urgently to His Majesty's Government that an assurance should be given that at the earliest possible moment shipments to India would be made of half a million tons of feed grains to constitute a reserve, and at least one million tons annually to cover part of the absolute deficit of feed grains in this country, until normal feed conditions were restored. Only such an assurance would restore the confidence of the people, overcome the recurring menace of famine and effectively support the efforts that are being made to secure and increase the internal feed resources of the country.

4. Uniform Rationing.- The Council was of the view that the present burden of an overall deficiency of feed grains should be shared evenly by all parts of the country and it deprecated the existing disparity of ration scales. It, therefore, recommended that full rationing should be

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introduced in every province in all urban areas and that the basic ration per head should be uniformly 1 lb per adult per day. It urged the Government of India to bring about uniformity in both these matters throughout India without delay.

5. Effective Procurement Measures.- The ~~Finance~~ Council recommended the formation, ~~from its members~~, or a sub-committee to consider the whole question of procurement and to advise Government as to the best method or methods of ascertaining and securing ~~up~~ the surpluses of the growers and linking up production with procurement, with special reference to (a) the ~~strict~~ application of the Food grains Control Order to growers; (b) the supply of consumer goods to cultivators; (c) the provision to cultivators of such incentives as irrigation concessions, supply of ~~such~~ cheap seed and ~~modern~~ and agricultural implements in return for their grain; (d) the methods by which landlords can help in procurement and production of more food grains; and (e) such short-term measures of rent, revenue and land reform as will encourage the landlords and cultivators to increase their production.

6. Other Steps.- In the opinion of the Council more food for consumption ~~is likely~~ to be available only when the following steps were taken: (a) the price of food grains should be fixed at least three months before sowing time at a rate which gives a reasonable profit over and above the cost of production to the cultivator; (b) ~~strict~~ markets in food crops should be stopped altogether; (c) the markets should be regulated and ~~uniform~~ and measures kept uniform in the country; (d) a reasonable margin of higher price for pure and unadulterated grain should be given; (e) confidence should be created amongst the cultivators that they will be ~~protected~~ against dumping from other countries; (f) arrangements should be made, as far as possible, to purchase in the local markets; and (g) the machinery of purchasing agents and officers working in that ~~field~~ should be improved.

(The Statesman, dated 23-7-1944).

Present Food Situation in India: Government's Memorandum to Food Advisory Councils +

The Food situation in India as it prevailed at the end of July, 1944, is reviewed in a detailed memorandum presented by the Government of India at a meeting of the Food Advisory Council which was held at New Delhi on 20 to 22-7-1944. Below are given the salient features of the memorandum:

The total rice crop during 1943-44, according to the estimate of the Government of India, was 30,605,000 tons, as compared with 24,721,000 tons in 1942-43. Despite the statistical surplus in production, the surpluses declared by provinces and States are insufficient to meet the stated deficits. Although Bengal is statistically surplus, the Government of India has allotted a large quota of rice to that province in order to take the pressure of the Calcutta demand off the Bengal markets, and thereby give a fair chance of success to the Bengal aman crop procurement scheme and restore confidence among the people of the province.

Of the principal rice supplying areas, the position in Assam is least satisfactory. The military operation on the Assam border and the persistence of inflationary conditions have made procurement difficult. Purchases for the army were falling behind schedule, and lately it was necessary to advance 9,000 tons of rice from Bengal to the Defence

Services in Assam. In the other main rice supplying areas, namely, C.P., Madhya Pradesh, the Punjab and the Eastern States, procurement is generally satisfactory, but there is little prospect of further surpluses being offered by these areas, which would enable the Government of India to increase the quotas of the deficit areas.

The principal deficit areas are Bombay, the Deccan States, Travancore and Cochin. The rice requirements of these areas cannot be met in full, but efforts are made to supply the deficiency in rice, millets and wheat.

Millets.- The millets crop during 1943-44 is estimated at 9,550,000 tons, compared with 10,071,000 tons in 1942-43. The quantity of millets offered by the surplus areas is at present 285,000 tons. The requirements of deficit provinces are 227,000 tons. The apparent excess of millets over requirements is, however, not real, firstly, because considerable amounts of millets had to be allotted to certain areas, like Bombay, Travancore and Cochin as substitute for their rice requirements, and secondly, because one of the principal supplying areas, namely, Hyderabad is now unable to offer more than 20 per cent of its volunteered surplus.

Wheat.- The yield of wheat during the year is estimated at 9,251,000 tons, compared with 10,075,000 tons in the preceding year. The result is reflected in smaller surpluses offered by the main producing provinces. The grain is also reported to be inferior in quality.

Conditions in Provinces: Bengal.- Thanks to the harvesting of a record crop and the supplies arranged by the Central Government, conditions of widespread and acute shortage no longer exist in Bengal. Except in certain districts of East Bengal, rice has been available at or within the controlled price.

The Bengal Government is operating a scheme for the procurement of rice which has progressed steadily and sufficient stocks have been purchased by the chief agents of the Bengal Government to justify the expectation that the essential requirements of deficit districts during 1944 will be covered. Procurement has slackened lately because of the onset of the monsoon but it is hoped that steady purchases and distribution will continue throughout the crop year. Procurement plans include the establishment of reserves at points from which pockets liable to special distress can be reached. Recent relief operations have included sale of feedgrains at subsidized prices and a Government scheme of rural rationing has classified the rural populations with the object of ensuring to the most necessitous families supplies of a fair share of available feedgrains. The Bengal Government has set up a Committee under the chairmanship of Justice Braund, to review its procurement and distribution system.

Assam.- The food position in Assam is relatively easy as regards rice, in which the price continues to be high, though controlled. There has been, however, severe shortage of other foodstuffs, vegetables, meat, eggs, etc., and it has been necessary to co-ordinate purchase of military and civil requirements. Efforts are being made to counter inflationary tendencies in the province by increasing the supply of consumer goods and reducing controlled prices.

Bihar.- The position has improved. Earlier in the year markets and traders reacted badly to the steep reduction of the maximum controlled prices which coincided with rumours of a second famine in Bengal and negotiations for the purchase of Nepal rice by the Government of India. Prices rose sharply and procurement became difficult. Producers held back surpluses in the hope of a rise in prices, and the Provincial Government had to permit its agents to buy above the controlled rates. With the lifting of the embargo on the export of rice and paddy from Nepal feedgrains began to move from rural areas to urban markets, and prices eased. The Provincial Government has built up sufficient stocks and has

extended partial rationing to all towns with a population of 50,000 or more.

Madras. - Although, owing to the lateness of the monsoon and a tendency in some districts to withhold grain there was some recrudescence of signs of distress in the coastal area. The position is now on the whole satisfactory. The Provincial Government has introduced a system of monopoly purchase of grain at fixed prices, and is ~~now~~ prepared to requisition feedgrains in areas where voluntary procurement fails. It has also subsidized the sale of feedgrains and adopted other measures of relief to poorer classes of landless labourers and cultivators.

M.P. - owing to a certain amount of damage to crops from hailstorms early in the year and some other reasons, the Provincial Government has not yet been able to offer any surpluses of wheat, gram and barley this year. The internal supply position is, however, fairly satisfactory though arrivals of grain in the markets are below normal, and transport difficulties complicate the problem of keeping numerous towns supplied. Schools to ration a percentage of the population have been introduced and are working smoothly in 38 towns in the province, and the Provincial Government has a firm hold of the markets which it influences by the issue of Government stocks at controlled prices.

Bombay. - A potentially difficult situation in Bombay has been averted by good administration and the early introduction of urban rationing. The greatest difficulty in 1943 was caused by a failure of the millets crop in the ~~upper~~ and non-irrigated districts. In 1944 the Bombay Government expects a gap between feedgrain requirements and supplies of 125,000 tons, and in order to bridge this gap it has taken certain drastic steps. By the enactment of the ~~Food Crops~~ Food Crops Act, a cultivator is compelled to grow food crops in a proportion of his holding. Monopoly purchase by Government agencies has prohibited the cultivator from selling any grain, except small quantities within his village, to purchasers other than Government. An experimental grain law, graded according to land revenue, has been imposed in three districts and may be extended to the whole province by the start of this year. The Bombay Government is also preparing for the extension of rationing to all the towns having a population in the presidency. Sixty towns having a population of 10,000 or more have been selected for the immediate introduction of rationing. Shops have been opened in rural areas for distributing feedgrains to non-producers at fixed prices.

Madras. - Difficulties both of supply and of movement have been experienced but an efficient system of controlled purchase and distribution to deficit districts, which has operated since the beginning of 1943, has prevented serious deterioration. Millets shortage has been reported from a number of districts, and rice shortage in Malabar causes anxiety. Present stocks in the district are just sufficient for rationed distribution, but during the monsoon difficulties will increase, and the district's rice quota has been increased and is supplemented by requisitioning of locally produced grain. Madras is, however, punctually supplying its export quotas under the basic plan.

M.P. - Damage to rabi crops by unseasonable rains in March and April, 1944, has retarded procurement especially of jowar. The Provincial Government is advancing plans towards a Government feedgrains monopoly, and has fixed the percentage of the cultivator's produce graded according to acreage and yield, which is to be sold to Government for the common pool.

N.W.F.P. - The supply position has been complicated by a late harvest, the ~~shortage~~ shortage of the maize crop, and the reluctance of the producing producer to part with grain. Special quotas have been allotted from the Punjab and Sind and high priority arranged for their movement.

Arrivals of grain in the markets have been far below normal and prices made so far are not satisfactory. Prices ruled comparatively low after the harvest, but are now advancing towards the controlled maximum.

The position in Sind harvest has been good and grain is plentiful. Lack of facilities for movement and storage have slowed up purchases and caused a fall of prices.

The position in Travancore-Cochin which was very serious in 1943 has improved, although the ration in both States (13 oss. per adult per day in Travancore and 12 oss. in Cochin) is still less than the austerly level in British India. The whole area of both States, rural and urban, is rationed. As a result of last year's shortage, however, there is evidence of considerable under-nutrition in both the States.

Lately there has been a deterioration in the Ocean States. To relieve the situation special allocations of 10,000 tons of foodgrains have been made from various parts of the country and high priority arranged for their transport.

(The Hindustan Times, 27-7-1944).

Food Advisory Committee Set up in Bengal. +

The Bengal Government has appointed a committee to recommend methods for the internal procurement of food grains and for the storage, transport and distribution of foodstuffs. It consists of Mr. Justice Brand (chairman), Dr. H.N. Law, Mr. H.A. Ispahani and Mr. H.O. Carter. Mr. A. Nilaly has been appointed secretary to the committee.

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

Prices of Wheat Products in Bengal:
Inquiry Committee's Recommendations
Implemented. +

Reference was made at page 48 of our report for November, 1943 to the appointment by the Government of India of a committee consisting of Mr. Justice B.L. Dutt, Regional Food Commissioner, Eastern Region, and Mr. A.L. Cook, Chief Cost Accounts Officer, Government of India, to inquire into the question of the milling charges allowed to the flour mills in Bengal and related matters.

The committee in its report submitted on 30-12-1943 had specified the price at which wheat should be sold to millers by the Provincial Government from 1-1-1944 (the price being subject to revision periodically), grinding charges allowable to mill and the profit of retailers. The Government of Bengal, although it has not accepted in entirety the data on which

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the committee's recommendations are based, is in general agreement with its recommendations and is reported to have implemented them all.

(Resolution No. F.10(1)-Secy/43, dated 26-7-1944; The Gazette of India, dated 29-7-1944, Part I, Section 1, Pages 881 to 882). ✓

Famine Inquiry Commission Appointed.

According to a communique dated 21-7-1944 issued by the Government of India, a Commission consisting of the following members has been appointed as provided by the Famine Inquiry Commission Ordinance, 1944, (vide page 30 of our report for June, 1944), to inquire into the causes of food shortages and starvation in India in 1943: Sir John Woodhead, Adviser to the Secretary of State for India, (Chairman of the Commission) and Sir Mahalal B. Panavati, President of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economists and a retired Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India; Mr. S. V. Manjivarkar, I.C.S., Adviser to the Governor of Madras; Rai Bahadur Nian, A. Lal Bhatia, formerly Vice-Chancellor of the Punjab University and Chief of the Government College; and Mr. W.R. Aykroyd, Director of the Nutrition Research Laboratories of the Indian Research Fund Association, Coonoor, (Members). Mr. R. I. Gopalaswamy, I.C.S., at present Secretary, National Defence Council, and Rai Bahadur D. N. Maitra, Under-Secretary, Food Department, are Secretaries to the Commission.

(The Bombay Chronicle, dated 7-7-1944 and the Statesman, dated 22-7-1944). ✓

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Post-War Reconstruction.

Post-War Reconstruction Plans for Travancore State.

A twelve point programme for the post-war reconstruction of Travancore State was outlined by Sir. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Dewan of Travancore, at a press interview on 1-7-1944.

The programme comprised the expansion of the present hydro-electric resources of the State, the expansion of primary and vocational education, production of fertilisers and chemicals, utilisation and exploitation of soft wood and hard wood resources for the production of plywood and, ultimately, rayon and artificial silk, the exploitation of the mineral sand of the State for extracting valuable rare minerals like ilmenite, monazite and zircon, the enlargement of industries like aluminium, rubber, china clay and porcelain, the speedy inauguration of a large cement plant for the purpose of cement-concreting the main roads of the State and the co-ordination of road transport, controlled by the State with canal and sea traffic and the bringing into existence of a scheme for the utilisation of all the sea, backwater and road traffic in the State. The programme also aimed at the speedy inauguration of machine-tool industries in the State, enabling it to turn out spare parts for State-owned motor vehicles. He also envisaged a big public health drive comprising medical inspection of children and improvement of public health laboratories, which already supplied all the vaccines necessary for the needs of the State and improvement of fishery and purchase and utilisation of trawlers for the purpose of deep sea fishing.

Turning to the financial aspect, he pointed out that it is proposed to build up a fund of Rs. 100,000,000. Two years ago, and, in fact, before the Government of India appointed a Post-War Reconstruction Committee, the Travancore Government had set apart Rs. 5 million in its budget as a nucleus for a post-war reconstruction fund. Last year a sum of Rs. 10 million was also assigned for the same purpose and it was expected that, on account of a large increase in excise, custom, abkari and forest revenue and simultaneous increase of income-tax revenue, it would be possible to set apart over Rs. 15 million this year.

In conclusion, Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar emphasised that the Travancore Government would go ahead with the schemes, independent and irrespective of any all-India plan.

(The Times of India, 3-7-1944).

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Progress of Post-War Reconstruction Work
in Bihar. * *

Reference was made at page 40 of our report for May, 1944 to some of the salient features of the post-war reconstruction ~~plans~~ plans for Bihar as outlined in the First Progress Report of the Subject Committee of the Post-War Reconstruction Board, Bihar. The Subject Committees at work on the various aspects of the problem are: (1) The Labour and Soldiers' Committee; (2) The P.W.D. and Communications Committee; (3) The Agricultural and (5) The Public Health Committee. The plans of some of these committees are only in their discussion stage, although some others have drawn up provisional schemes, two of which were referred at page 40 of our report for May, 1944, and at pages 34 to 35 of our report for June, 1944. The provisions of another scheme drawn up by the Agricultural Committee are incorporated in the Bihar Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill recently gazetted by the Government of Bihar. (Vide Section "Co-operation and Cottage Industries" of this report).

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Employment of Demobilised Personnel.- The problem of affording employment to demobilised soldiers, war nurses and other discharged workers from war industries and projects has been taken up for urgent consideration by the Labour and Soldiers' Committee. The Government of Bihar has already issued orders regarding reservation of 50 per cent of the appointments in Government Departments, which, pending demobilisation, are being filled on a temporary basis only. Estimates are also being obtained from each department of the Government regarding the number and nature of posts which will be available both normally as well as as a result of the operation of the various post-war reconstruction schemes.

Managers of big estates in the Province have been requested to give employment to demobilised men. An estimate of culturable lands which might be available for settlement of demobilised men has also been called for from private and Government-owned estates of each district. The Agricultural Department is taking up the question of reclaiming ~~an~~ land which might be suitable for the settlement of demobilised soldiers. Arrangements are also being made for starting agricultural farms, especially in areas from where large number of recruits have come.

An employment bureau and an employment exchange are being set up to deal with individual cases of employment. Arrangements are also being made for the agricultural and technical education of demobilised men.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 7-7-1944).

* First Progress Report of Subject Committees of the Post-war Reconstruction Board, Bihar, for the period ending the 20th March, 1944: Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna, 1944, pages 71.

Post-War Reconstruction Committee for Industries
constituted by Madras Government.

The Madras Government has constituted a Provincial Post-war Reconstruction Committee for industries. The committee is charged with the task of preparing plans capable of being executed within five or ten years immediately after the war. The plans are to be designed to fill up gaps in the economic structure of the province and for overall industrial reconstruction. The committee consists of eight officials, with Mr. S. S. Ramamurthi, I.C.S., Adviser to the Governor, as the Chairman, and the Special Development Officer, Government of Madras, as the Secretary.

(The Times of India, 3-7-1944)

Post-War Problems of Textile Industry
in Madras Province
constituted by Madras Government.

The Government of Madras has constituted a committee to examine the post-war problems connected with the textile industry, including the manufacture of the machinery and machine tools required for it, and to submit a report. The members will be the Special Development Officer, Development Department, Government of Madras, (Chairman), and the Provincial Commissioner, Mr. K. K. Sadaswamy, Coimbatore, and Mr. N. Seshappa, President, Madras Co-operative Production and Sale Society, members.

(The Hindu, dated 11-7-1944)

Forthcoming International Discussion regarding
Post-war Civil Aviation: Government of India's
Views.

The broad aims which the Government of India wishes to see achieved as a result of any future international agreement on civil aviation are set out in a Press Note dated 23-7-1944.

It says: "In October, 1943, a meeting of representatives of the Governments of the British Commonwealth and India was held in London in order to discuss informally the question of post-war civil aviation development. These discussions were of an exploratory nature and were followed, in London in April this year, by an informal exchange of views between the representatives of the United States of America and those of the British Government. The United States Government has now undertaken bilateral discussions of an informal and exploratory character with various Governments, including the countries of the British Commonwealth, and it has extended an invitation to the Government of India for such a discussion. The Government of India has accepted the invitation and has deputed the following representatives to undertake these discussions: Sir Girja Prasad Bajpai, Sir Gananath Bewoor and Sir Frederick Tymms. The discussions are expected to commence about the middle of August, 1944. Later on an international conference to arrive at an agreement might be held.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-7-1944)

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List of the more important publications received in this Office
during July 1944

Conditions of Work.-

Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year ending 31st December, 1941. Calcutta: Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press. 1943. (For official use only.)

Agriculture.-

Annual Administration Report of the Rural Development Department in the Province of Bombay for the year 1942-43. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. Price As.2 or 3d. 1944.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Proceedings of the Seventeenth Annual Meeting held at New Delhi on 4th and 5th March, 1944, Vol. III - 1944. 28, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi.

Social Policy in War Time.-

"Famine and the Government". Printed at the Bengal Government Press, Alipore, and issued by the Director of Public Information, Bengal.

Post-War Reconstruction.-

First Progress Report of Subject Committee of the Post-War Reconstruction Board, Bihar, for the period ending the 20th March, 1944. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1944.

Proceedings of the First Meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee of the Post-War Reconstruction Board, Bihar, held on the 15th April, 1944.