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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Government of India:

More Pre-Natal Holidays for Women Miners: Bill further to amend Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941: Reference to Select Committee.

A Bill further to amend the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941, was gazetted by the Government of India on 10-3-1945.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill, it is intended to prohibit the employment of women below ground in mines when in an advanced stage of pregnancy and to grant maternity benefit to those women workers who are so prohibited. Employers are already prohibited from employing in mines women for 4 weeks after delivery and women are entitled to benefit for 4 weeks before and after delivery. The present war-time and purely temporary removal of the ban on the employment of women below ground makes it necessary to extend the period of prohibition in the case of women working underground and to arrange for payment of benefit over a longer period. The Bill therefore proposes to prohibit the employment of women below ground for a period of 10 weeks before confinement as an addition to the present prohibition of employment for four weeks after confinement and to make the woman eligible for benefit for a period of ten weeks before the date of confinement.

Provisions :- Section 3 of the amending Bill provides that no owner or manager of a mine shall employ any woman below ground in the mine while she is pregnant, if he has reason to believe, or if the woman has informed him that she is likely to be delivered of a child within ten weeks. Clause (b) of section 4 of the amending Bill provides that if any woman employed below ground in a mine who is pregnant gives notice either orally or in writing to the manager of the mine that she expects to be delivered of a child within ten weeks from the date of such notice, the manager shall permit her, if she so desires, to absent herself from work up to the day of her delivery and such leave shall be treated as a period of authorised absence on leave. Section 5 of the amending Bill provides that every woman working underground in a mine who has been continuously employed in that mine or in mines belonging to the owner of that mine for a period of not less than six months preceding the date of her delivery shall, if she complies with the other conditions imposed by the Act and is certified, when so required, by a qualified medical practitioner or midwife as being likely to be delivered of a child within ten weeks, be entitled to receive, and the owner of the mine shall be liable to make to her, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, a payment at the rate of eight annas a day for every day during the ten weeks immediately preceding and including the day of her delivery and for each day of the four weeks following her delivery. Clause (a) of section 7 provides for advance payment, by the manager of the mine, of the maternity benefit for ten weeks to a woman who is entitled to such benefit and has given the notice required under the Act.

Central Assembly refers Bill to Select Committee.- Moving reference of the above Bill to a Select Committee, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, said in the Central Legislative Assembly on 29-3-1945 that the original Act already prohibited employment of women underground for four weeks after confinement. The present measure, which sought to prohibit their employment for 10 weeks before confinement, was a temporary one designed to meet criticism both inside and outside the House. He

expressed the hope that the ban on the employment of women underground would be reimposed very soon.

Mrs. Renuka Ray said the Bill was only a half measure. She however felt that it would, to some extent, alleviate the suffering of women miners. Mrs. Ray and Mr. N.M. Joshi reiterated their opposition to allowing women to work underground.

The Assembly finally passed the motion for referring the Bill to a Select Committee.

The above Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, was passed by the Central Legislative Assembly on 11-11-1945. Further details will be given in our Report for April 1945. (The Statesman, 31-3-1945; The Gazette of India dated 10-3-1945, Part V, pages 43-46).+

The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1944: Debate in Central Assembly.

The Central Legislative Assembly took up for consideration on 29-3-1945, the Factories (Amendment) Bill which had been referred to a Select Committee on 7-11-1944 (vide page 1 of our report for November 1944). The Bill as amended by the Select Committee is published in the Gazette of India dated 17-3-1945.

Having consideration of the Bill as reported by the Select Committee, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, explained the changes made by the Committee. The Bill was to come into force in January, 1946, in all provinces simultaneously. Sub-sections had been added, first, to ensure that the special benefits conferred by the original Act did not preclude any rights to which the worker might be otherwise entitled; secondly, to give 14 days holidays with pay to children; thirdly, to cover the case of workmen who were discharged or who resigned before they had earned holidays; fourthly, to authorize inspectors to act on behalf of the workmen in respect of any dispute in the matter of holidays; and fifthly, to secure uniformity of working in all provinces.

Discussion of the Bill is not yet concluded.

The Central Legislative Assembly passed the above Bill on 2-4-1945. Further details will be given in our Report for April 1945. (The Statesman, 31-3-1945; The Gazette of India, dated 17-3-1945, Part V, Pages, 47-51).+

Bombay:

Clerical Workers in Ahmedabad Mills: Exemption from Operation of Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939.

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (k) of subsection (1) of section 4 of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939 (Bom.XXIV of 1939), the Government of Bombay has on 8-3-1945, issued a notification exempting a number of classes of clerical workers employed in such mills in the Ahmedabad Municipal Borough and the Ahmedabad Cantonment as are members of the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, from the operation of the Act, during the continuance of the war. The classes exempted, typists and stone-typists, bill clerks, invoice clerks, ledger clerks, filing and despatching clerks, ration shop clerks, assistant secretaries, assistant salesman, gate keepers and assistants, and sales office clerks.

(The Statesman Bombay Government Gazette part IV-B, page 29).+

District Health Officers appointed Additional Inspectors of Factories: Bombay Government's Notification.

In exercise of the powers ~~of~~ conferred by sub-sections (5) and (6) of section 10 of the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934), the Government of Bombay has by a notification dated 13-3-1945 appointed the District Health Officers in the Province of Bombay to be additional Inspectors of Factories within the limits of their respective jurisdictions as District Health Officers. The powers of any such additional inspector shall be limited to the powers to enter any factory within the limits of his jurisdiction and to make such examination of the premises, and of any prescribed notices, registers and muster rolls as may be necessary for satisfying himself, that the requirements of sections 13, 14, 15(2), 17, 18, 19, 20, 32(b) and 33(4) of the Act are being properly observed. The defects found and remedies ~~suggested~~ suggested for enforcing compliance with the requirements of the sections referred to shall be reported by the Inspectors to the Chief Inspector of Factories who shall pass final orders in each case.

(Notification No. 352/34, dated 13-3-1945, The Bombay Government Gazette, dated 22-3-1945, Part IV-A, Page 43).+

Provision Facilities
Supply of Water for Washing in Factories: Bombay Government's Notification Amending Bombay Factories Rules, 1935.

The draft of a certain notification introducing certain amendments in the Bombay Factories Rules, 1935, regarding the provision of washing facilities in factories was gazetted by the Government of Bombay on 20-3-1945. Under these rules every factory shall provide troughs, wash-basins or showers for the use of the workers. In the case of workers whose work involves contact with any injurious or noxious substance, there shall be (i) a constant supply of water, (ii) a tap for every 15 workers and (iii) free and adequate supply of nail brushes and ~~samp~~ soap. The number of taps shall be in proportion to the number of ~~man~~ workers. In any area where a constant supply of water is available, water shall be made available at all times. In any other area, unless the Inspector for any special reason otherwise permits in writing, water shall be supplied at the rate of 1 gallon per ~~man~~ worker per day and be available at all times. There shall be separate washing accommodation for women; it shall be provided with adequate privacy. These rules do not affect any rules providing for washing accommodation in hazardous occupations.

(Not. No. 1822/34, dated 20-3-1945, The ~~Gazette~~ Bombay Government Gazette, dated 29-3-1945, Part IV-A, pages 44-45).

Sind:

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Competency Certificates for Technical Staff
IN INLAND VESSELS: SIND GOVERNMENT'S DRAFT
Notification.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 29 of the Inland Steam Vessels Act, 1917 (I of 1917), the Government of Sind Gazetted on 6-12-1944 certain draft rules regulating the examination and grant of certificates of competency to Engineers, engine-drivers, ~~and~~ masters and serangs in inland steam vessels and engineers and engine-drivers in ~~inland~~ inland motor vessels.

(Issues of the Sind Government Gazette, dated 22-2-1945, Part IV-A pages 45 to 89 and dated 1-3-1945 Part IV-A pages 90 to 111).

Sind & the Punjab.

Industrial Statistics Act, 1942: To be enforced
in Sind and the Punjab.

Sind.
The Industrial Statistics Act, 1942 (vide page 2 of our report for April 1942) is to come into force in the province of Sind on 1-4-1945. In exercise of the powers conferred by the Act, the Government of Sind propose to collect statistics relating to the factories in the province. The draft rules framed for this purpose by the Government have been published in the Sind Government Gazette dated 22-3-1945.

Under the draft rules every owner, proprietor, manager or any officer of any factory on whom the Statistics Authority serves a notice in writing has to submit returns in a prescribed form by a prescribed date.

Part A of the form requires general information such as the name and address of the factory, the industry it engages in, the total number of days and hours worked during the year covered by the return and the normal number of working hours per day under the first, second and third shifts.

Part B of the form requires the owner or manager to furnish information relating to the capital structure of the factory during year under review; Part C, a description of the products and by-products, the quality produced during the year and its ex-factory wholesale value; Part D, a description of the materials used in production during the year, and their quantity and value; ~~and~~ part E, details regarding the quantities and values of the power, fuel and lubricating materials consumed by the factory during the year.

Part F, of the form is split up into two parts and requires the owner or manager of the factory to furnish information relating to labour and other personnel employed, wages and salaries paid, etc. Part F-I requires information as to the average number of persons employed daily as salaried engineers, and technicians or in an administrative or clerical capacity, their total salaries, total dearness allowances and total bonuses paid during the year. Part F-II requires the management of the factory to furnish information as to the average number of adult workers (men and women) and children (boys and girls) employed per day, the total wages paid during the year in cash including overtime pay, dearness allowances etc, total overtime earnings and the total amount paid toward dearness allowances.

Punjab:

Industrial statistics on the above lines are to be collected in the Punjab also. The draft rules framed by the Punjab Government are on the same lines as the Sind draft rules and are published in the Punjab Gazette dated 30-3-1945.

(The Sind Government Gazette, dated 22-3-1945, Part IV-A pages 142-149; The Punjab Gazette dated 30-3-1945, Part I, pages 212-214).

6

SOCIAL POLICY.

Improved Machinery for Settlement of Industrial
Disputes: Memorandum submitted to Bengal
Government by Bengal Provincial Committee of
A.I.T.U.C.

The adoption immediately of legislative measures for setting up a Conciliation Court for the speedy settlement of labour disputes in Bengal is urged in a memorandum submitted to the Labour Minister, Government of Bengal, by the Provincial Committee of the All-India Trade Union Congress recently. The object of the memorandum is to focus the attention of the Central and the Provincial Governments and the public in general on certain defects in the working of the machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes.

The following are some ~~is~~ of the main proposals contained in the memorandum: (a) A time limit of one month, commencing from the date on which the workers' demands are first represented to the Government, should be placed on the satisfactory settlement of a dispute by conciliation methods. Failing to reach a settlement within this period, the dispute should automatically be referred to adjudication provided the union concerned applies for the same. The adjudicator should be appointed ~~within a week of the application reaching the Government.~~ (b) A time limit of one month should be placed on the completion of the adjudicator's enquiry and the making of his award. The Government order on the award should be published within a week of receiving it from the adjudicator. The award itself should be communicated in full to the union concerned. (c) The Government should take all necessary measures, including legal action, to ensure prompt and full implementation of the award by the employers concerned. (d) The issues for adjudication should be framed only after a thorough enquiry and full consultation with the union. (e) A panel of whole-time adjudicators should be appointed without delay. (f) The Government's proposed scheme of appointing assessors in each adjudication case should be brought into operation only after full discussion with representatives of the Bengal Committee of the All India Trade Union Congress. (g) Officers should be appointed to ensure proper hearing of all compensation cases. (h) A Conciliation Act should be adopted immediately providing for the setting up of a permanent Conciliation Court for the speedy settlement of everyday disputes. The Labour Commissioner should have no responsibilities other than those of dealing with industrial disputes. (i) The Central Government also should adopt similar measures for the settlement of disputes in the Central undertakings, such as railways, ports and docks, ordnance factories, etc, within the province. (j) The Bengal Government should immediately commence the publication of the monthly working class cost of living index for all the important industrial centres in the province.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 16-3-1945). +

7

6th Meeting of Standing Labour Committee, New Delhi,
17-3-1945: Prof. B.P. Adarkar's Report and Revision
of Constitution of Tripartite Labour Conference
discussed.

Prof. B.P. Adarkar's report on the health insurance for industrial workers in India and the question of the revision of the constitution of the Tripartite Labour Conference were the two major items on the agenda of the 6th meeting of the Standing Labour Committee held at New Delhi on 17-3-1945. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, presided. Mr. M. Stack and Mr. R. Rao of the I.L.O. also attended the meeting as visitors and comments made by them on the proposed scheme of health insurance were circulated.

The delegates, including those representing employers and workers, warmly appreciated Prof. Adarkar's report and expressed their views on questions relating to medical and cash benefits, the qualifying of waiting periods, the type of treatment, medical organisation and State contribution. A number of delegates emphasised the importance of going ahead with the scheme as early as possible, and there was general agreement that, in order to secure the benefits resulting from broadening the basis of the scheme, it was advisable to extend its scope to all organised industries and perennial factories. It was also agreed that the Centre should go ahead with the preparation of a scheme of insurance and that, if they found it possible to do so, they should include in this scheme maternity benefits and workmen's compensation. It was also agreed that the provincial Governments' and the workers' and the employers' organisations should be consulted on the subject, and a Bill embodying the main proposals should be introduced in the Central Assembly.

The other major item on the agenda of the meeting was a proposal to change the constitution and functions of the Tripartite Labour Conference and the Standing Labour Committee with a view to classify these functions in two lists, one dealing with general subjects such as terms and conditions of employment, labour legislation, social security, etc., and the other with concrete questions relating to labour welfare and administration of labour laws. In the memorandum placed before the Committee, it was suggested that a labour welfare committee, including representatives of important industries, should be set up to deal with the subjects in the second list and that the Labour Conference and its Standing Labour Committee should confine themselves to subjects like terms and conditions of employment, labour legislation and social security considered from an all-India standpoint. It was agreed that a sub-committee should be appointed to examine these proposals.

(The Vanguard, dated 19-3-1945).

8

Progressive Increase in Expenditure on Nation
Building Services in Bombay.

A statement on the budget of the Bombay Government for 1945-46 issued to the Press in the last week of March by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay draws attention to the progressive increase in recent years of the total expenditure incurred by the Government on 'Nation Building Services' such as Education, Medical Services, Public Health, Minor Irrigation Works, Agriculture, Veterinary Services, Cooperation and Rural Development.

are the
The following/figures:-

Year	Expenditure. (Rs. Million).
1940-41 (Actuals)	31.9
1941-42 (")	34.9
1942-43 (")	36.8
1943-44 (")	41.4
1944-45 (Revised)	54.3
1945-46 (Budget)	64.4

The proposed expenditure on these services in 1945-46 exceeds by more than Rs. 10 million the revised estimates for the current year.

(Bombay Budget, 1945-46, Statement to
the Press by H.E. the Governor of
Bombay, page 5). ←

Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 1944: Views of
Millowners' Association, Bombay, and A.I.T.U.C.

Reference was made at pages 1 to 2 of our report for October, 1944, to the Government of India's Draft Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 1944. The following are the main points of criticism of the Bill expressed by the Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association in the course of a memorandum addressed to the Central Government.

Dearness allowance also to be 'earned'. The proposed amendment seemed to draw a distinction between "overtime pay, bonus or additional remuneration for increased output or any other additional remuneration of the nature aforesaid" and dearness allowance (i.e., any sum payable to counteract abnormal economic conditions). In the case of bonus, etc., the expression used was "earned under the terms of his contract of employment", which meant that overtime pay and bonus would become payable only if they were earned, i.e., if the conditions attached to the payment were fulfilled by the operatives concerned. In the case of dearness allowance, however, the expression used was "any sum payable" which was likely to be interpreted by the operatives to mean that dearness allowance would become payable regardless of the terms and conditions on which it was paid. The quantum of dearness allowance in Bombay was linked up with the number of days on which the operative concerned was actually at work. The

~~Committee were~~

Committee were anxious to ensure that the amendment should not be interpreted to mean that dearness allowance would become payable irrespective of the number of days put in by the operative.

The Committee also felt that the expression "any other additional remuneration of the nature aforesaid" in the proposed definition was unnecessary. All possible categories of remuneration which a worker would earn under the terms of his contract of employment were already specifically covered in the proposed definition, and an unspecified and vague reference to any other additional remuneration was undesirable as it might in future lend itself to unnecessary complications. The words "any other additional remuneration of the nature aforesaid" might therefore, be deleted from the proposed amendment.

Time limit for payment of wages to discharged worker.- The present amendment proposes that where the employment of any person is terminated by or on behalf of the employer, the wages earned by him shall be paid before the expiry of the third day from the day on which his employment is terminated, whereas the existing clause provides for payment to be made before the expiry of the second working day. The Committee felt that consideration should be had for the possibility of the days immediately following the termination of an employee's services being holidays. In the case of Holi and Diwali, for example, mills in Bombay would be closed for three days consecutively, and it would be possible to pay the wages of discharged workers on these days. They, therefore, preferred the continuance of the present payment system whereby payment was made not later than the second working day. It appeared from the notes on clauses appended to the Bill that the amendment was made to suit the conditions of seasonal factories and factories that closed down, and the Committee, therefore, suggested that, if government desired to meet these special cases, the present section might be allowed to remain as it was, viz., retaining the words "second working day" in the subsection, and that the case of seasonal factories, etc., might be met by an altogether new sub-clause.

With-holding of increments.- From the notes on clauses attached to the Bill, it appeared that the new clause regarding the withholding of increments and the reduction of wages of an employee to a lower stage in the scale had been necessitated by a decision of the Sind Chief Court, according to which temporary reduction of an employee from one step in an incremental scale to another amounted to "deduction" within the meaning of the Payment and of Wages Act. The Committee's objections to this clause were two-fold: first the expression "on an incremental basis" was vague — any employment, where there was any prospect of financial improvement, might be described as on an incremental basis; and second, the expression "for disciplinary reasons" was also not very clear. If the intention was to make the with-holding of increment illegal except in cases of breach of discipline by the employee, then the employer was precluded from with-holding the increment on other grounds, such as, slackness, failure to take increased responsibility, etc. The employer was justified in linking a particular wage with a particular standard and in with-holding increments if that particular standard was not maintained. The scope of the amendment should, therefore, be widened with a view to making the with-holding of increments for reasons other than disciplinary reasons, legal under the Act.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings, of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during February, 1945).—

A.I.T.U.C.'s Views.

The following is a summary of the criticism of the Bill by the A.I.T.U.C.:

The A.I.T.U.C. does not consider that a change in the definition of "wages" has been found to be necessary, either in ~~the~~ connection with the fixation of piece rates or the calculation of wages under a profit-sharing scheme or for the inclusion of dearness allowance in wages. Also the change proposed in the amending Bill goes much ~~against~~ the object stated.

The A.I.T.U.C. does not approve of the proposed amendment regarding the number of days that may be allowed to lapse (after the last day of the wage period) before payment is made. The main object of the Act is not only to ensure that wages are paid regularly, but also that they are paid promptly after they become due. The intervals of 7 days and 10 days permitted under the Act are themselves too long, and what is required is an amendment to the effect that all wages, in all factories and establishments, irrespective of the number of workers employed, should be paid before the expiry of the third day. Separate provision may be made for seasonal factories and factories that close down in regard to the period within which payment should be made to workers whose employment is terminated. The present amendment is considered unnecessary.

No general powers should be vested in Provincial Governments to permit any special deduction from wages. The new sub-section enabling the withholding of increments in wages, or reduction of wages to a lower scale, for disciplinary reasons should be dropped.

(The Trade Union Record, March, 1945) . + +

Women's Work.

Need to reimpose Ban on Employment of Women
Underground in Coal Mines: Cut Motion
carried in Central Assembly.

A cut motion to discuss the need for the immediate re-imposition of the ban on the employment of women underground in coal mines was passed by the Central Legislative Assembly without a division on 13-3-1945.

Moving the cut motion, Mrs. Kenuka Ray said that there had been ~~consistent and~~ insistent protest throughout the country against the employment of women underground. Last year when the question was raised in the House, the Government had given the assurance that it was only a temporary measure and that the ban would be reimposed. The Government did not appear to have any such intention at present. She therefore appealed to the House to support her motion.

Labour Member's Reply.- Replying on behalf of the Government, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, said that he felt very unhappy in taking the decision to employ women underground, but circumstances were such that it was impossible to take any other action. As early as 1929, long before the international labour convention was passed, the Government of India had taken steps to stop the employment of ~~women in~~ women underground and had prescribed how each year the number of women employed should be reduced. On the other hand, Dr. Ambedkar pointed out, the All-India Women's Council ~~had~~ at its meeting in December, 1934 had dealt with the disadvantages of the Government's proposals for the restriction of women labour in mines and had come to the conclusion that, if women were removed from underground work, under the then conditions, distress would be so great in miners' homes that it would far outweigh the advantages, though it now supported the international convention. Women had been working in mines in India as late as 1937, and Dr. Ambedkar did not believe that within 10 years there had been such a revolution in moral and political consciousness in the country that they were not prepared to tolerate the employment of women in mines. Employment of women underground in coal mines had had to be permitted because of the fall in coal production since 1941 and the Government had no intention of keeping women underground for a moment longer than was necessary.

As stated above, the cut motion was carried without division.

(The Statesman, 14-3-1945 and
The Hindustan Times, 14-3-1945)...

Industrial Disputes.

Industrial Disputes in British India during
quarter ending 30-6-1944.

According to statistics published by the Labour Department, Government of India, the total number of stoppages of work during the quarter ending 30-6-1944, (including 1 in progress at the close of the quarter) was 197 and the number of workers involved 163,333, as against 223 stoppages involving 106,791 workers for the same quarter of the previous year; and the total number of working days lost was 1,331,668 as against 516,400. There were 2 stoppages involving 5,000 or more but less than 10,000 workers and one involving 10,000 ~~xxxxx~~ workers or more. In 3 stoppages 100,000 or more man-days were lost and in two of them, the number of workers involved was less than 5,000.

Provincial Distribution.- The largest number of disputes occurred in Bombay where there were 69 disputes involving ~~xx~~ 38,853 workers and entailing a loss of 169,828 working days; followed by Bengal with 61 disputes involving 63,626 workers and entailing a loss of 195,299 working days; the United Provinces with 21 disputes involving 19,207 workers and entailing a loss of 71,162 working days; the C.P. and Berar with 19 disputes involving 26,916 workers and entailing a loss of 829,825 working days; Madras with 15 disputes involving 6,787 workers and entailing a loss of ~~46,328 working days~~; Bihar and Sind with 4 disputes each involving 4,930 and 1,107 workers and entailing ~~x~~ losses of 16,518 and 2,274 working days respectively; Orissa with 2 disputes involving 1,215 workers and ~~entailing a loss of 5,766 working days~~; and Assam and the Punjab with 1 dispute each involving 660 and 32 workers and entailing losses of 440 and 128 working days respectively.

Classification by Industries.- Classified by industries, the largest number of disputes occurred in the cotton, woollen and silk mills where there were 35 disputes involving 47,682 workers and entailing a loss of 940,112 working days; followed by the engineering industries with 33 disputes involving 12,736 workers and entailing a loss of 37,245 working days; the jute mills with 22 disputes involving 51,607 workers and entailing a loss of 158,026 working days; the railways, including railway workshops, with 6 disputes involving 8,020 workers and entailing a loss of 64,939 working days; and the mining industry with 3 disputes involving 539 workers and entailing a loss of 2,275 working days. There were 98 disputes in other industries involving 42,749 workers and entailing a loss of 129,071 working days. Thus the textile industry, including cotton, silk, woollen and jute, accounted for 29 per cent of the number of stoppages, 61 per cent of the workers involved and 82 per cent of the working days lost.

Causes and Results of Disputes.- Of the 197 disputes, 126 arose on questions of wages or bonus, 32 were in respect of personnel and 4 of leave and hours; 34 disputes were due to other reasons; 43 disputes were wholly successful, 56 partially successful and 82 unsuccessful. No definite results were obtained in respect of 13 disputes.

(Communiqué issued by the Department of Labour, Government of India, on 5-3-1945). + + +

Welfare.

Labour Welfare Centres in the Province of Bombay.

With a view to provide industrial workpeople and their children means of healthy recreation such as indoor and outdoor games and sports, amusements and educational facilities for better utilisation of leisure, the Government of Bombay undertook to organise some Model Welfare Centres for the industrial labour in the large cities of the province such as Bombay, Ahmedabad and Sholapur in 1939. In future the Bombay Government intend to establish welfare centres throughout the province to cover all industrial areas.

The welfare centres in the province are classified in four categories, viz. "A", "B", "C", and "D". "A" type centres are housed in pavilions or Government buildings built in the form of a theatre with extensive open space attached to it to serve as a play-ground or as a gymnasium. "B" type is a replica of "A" type centres in smaller premises with activities on a lesser scale. No "B" type centre has yet been opened anywhere. "C" type centres are housed in hired premises and provide for only indoor recreational and educational facilities, while "D" type centres provide only for outdoor recreation such as games and sports.

All "A" and "C" type centres are provided with equipment for indoor games such as chess, draughts, carrom, etc. They have also women's sections providing literary, sewing and embroidery classes and organising suitable games. At "A" type centres a full-time nursery school, in charge of a trained lady teacher, is conducted between 9.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. for children between the ages of 3 and 6 who on arrival are bathed and dressed in clean uniform and are given lessons in Montessori system. A children's play-ground is also attached to the "A" type centres with equipment for their play and is supervised by a full-time overseer and a part-time teacher. Every "A" type centre and some of the "C" type centres have been provided with radio sets and at each "A" type centre in Bombay and Ahmedabad there is a gymnasium attached to the pavilion with wrestling pits and bathing arrangements. Static and circulating libraries have been attached to the "A" and "C" type centres and the Bombay Labour Welfare Department which possesses its own cinema equipment and a number of films arranges periodical shows. In all "A" and "D" type centres, arrangements for outdoor sports, such as hockey, football, volley-ball, basket-ball, cricket, etc., are made and inter-labour centre competitions are held. In addition to this, some of the centres also provide medical facilities. The staff for an "A" centre consists of a full-time superintendent, a full-time labour welfare organiser, a full-time nursery lady teacher, a peon and a cleaner; that for a "C" centre, a full-time labour welfare organiser, a part-time lady worker, 2 part-time workers and a full-time cleaner.

In the city of Bombay there are, at present, 3 "A" type, 9 "C" type and 4 "D" type centres. In Ahmedabad there are 1 "A" type and 4 "C" type centres. In Sholapur there are 5 "C" type centres and in Dabli there is 1 "C" type centre.

(Indian Labour Gazette, March, 1945). + +

14

General.

Administration of the Factories Act, 1934,
in U.P. during 1943.

During 1943 the number of factories in the United Provinces subject to the Factories Act, 1934, increased from 912 to 934. The number of operatives increased from ~~222,524~~ 232,524 to 254,839; there was a decrease in the number of women in factories coming under section 2(j) of the Act, and an increase in the same in the notified factories.

No figures relating to earnings are available. The majority of the factories, other than those exempted, worked ~~in~~ to the full limit permitted by the Act. The practice of employing overlapping shifts was reported in many large factories.

Special attention was paid to the provision of adequate and suitable sanitary arrangements particularly in the seasonal factories, and it was reported that there was some improvement, notably in respect of water supply. Many factories were visited by the staff of the Public Health Department and advice given on the best methods of cleaning, storing and distributing drinking water to the operatives. As regards factory lighting and ventilation, progress was slow owing to difficulty in obtaining plants and materials. Arrangements in most of the factories were nevertheless found to be good and generally sufficient for the needs of the workers. Housing conditions remained much the same as in the previous year. In respect of general welfare of labour, however, particular mention may be made of the work done by a few large firms. The Government welfare centres appeared to be growing in popularity.

The total number of accidents increased from 3,774 in 1942 to 4,709 in 1943; the average rate of accidents per hundred workers also increased from 1.62 to 1.85. The fencing of dangerous machinery was generally reported to be good, although the materials essential for this purpose continued to be in short supply.

(Indian Labour Gazette, February,
1945).+

Labour Policy of Government of India: Cut Motion
in Central Assembly.

The Central Legislative Assembly discussed on 12 and 13-3-1945 a cut motion moved by Mr. N.M. Joshi to discuss the labour policy of the Government of India and to censure it for inadequate protection of labour.

Mr. Joshi's Charges.- Moving the cut motion, Mr. Joshi complained that measures to protect labour were neither prompt nor adequate, particularly with regard to coal-mine labour. If there was a shortage of labour for coal-mines the only remedy was to pay the miners well and not allow the Indian miner to remain the worst paid working class man, as against the British miner who was the best paid working class man in the world. Mr. Joshi also asked the government to take the coal industry into its own hands and not give bonus to mine owners who were interested only in getting more money and not giving more coal to the country. He suggested the setting up of a full-fledged Labour Ministry and asked the Government to

remedy the absence of trained welfare, insurance, health and other experts in the Labour Department.

Labour Member's Reply.- Replying to the points raised by Mr. Joshi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Labour Member, explained the stages by which the Government had increased dearness allowance to their employees and argued that for the lack of uniformity in the allowance, Mr. Joshi and other labour leaders were responsible. The Railwaymen's Federation, for instance, indulged in a game of power politics in order to secure higher allowances. The Posts and Telegraphs Union's representatives waited on the Member for Posts and Air and threatened strikes and secured an increase for themselves. The rest of the workers had nobody to look after them, and neither the Trade Union Congress nor the Labour Federation had a policy applicable to the working class as a whole. The Labour Member referred also to the wages of coal-mine labour and explained the different bonuses and allowances besides free meals given to them.

Eventually, Mr. Joshi withdrew his cut motion.

(The Hindustan Times, 13, 14-3-1945
and The Statesman, ~~13, 14-3-1945~~
13, 14-3-1945).+

Conditions of Work in Shellac Industry in India.

The following information about conditions of work in the shellac industry in India is taken from a note published in the Trade Union Record, March, 1945:

Distribution of the Industry.- The shellac industry in India was originally confined to Mirzapore, U.P., where raw lac was brought from Bihar and C.P. Gradually, factories were started in the very areas where raw lac was found. At present, the industry is scattered in the provinces of Bihar, U.P., C.P. and Bengal. In U.P., Mirzapore is the only centre. In Bihar, there are three big centres, Balrampur, Jhalda and Pakaur, and scores of small factories distributed over a large area; the largest number of factories is in Bihar. In C.P., Gondia is the chief centre. In Bengal, Calcutta has a few big factories. It is estimated that about 30,000 workers are engaged in the industry throughout the country.

The factories are seasonal. In Mirzapore, however, stocks are maintained for working all the year round. There are large fluctuations in employment. Machinery is utilised in big centres like Jhalda and Calcutta, but usually the industry is organised on a small scale. Factory-owners show little interest in giving technical education to the workers.

Nature of Work.- The work done falls mainly under four heads: (1) crushing the stick-lac, (2) washing and separation of the lac from the waste material, (3) cleaning, and (4) bagging the seed lac, squeezing out the molten lac and making it into sheets. Of these (1) and (3) are done mostly by women and (2) and (4) by men.

Employment of Women and children.- The Royal Commission on Labour mentions in its Report that women form about 30 per cent of the labour force in the industry. It also found that in C.P., Bihar and Orissa, children under 12 years of age were also employed — all largely inside

stove-rooms, which in the opinion of the Director of Health of the Central Provinces, could not but be harmful to them, on account of the excessive heat. A recent report mentions that children employed in the Bihar factories are mostly below 12. The Royal Commission Report also ~~argues~~ refers to the "buildings with leaking roofs and earthen floors, poor lighting and ventilation and universal absence of any washing and sanitary arrangements" as some of the characteristics of the industry in general. Great ~~exhaustion~~ exhaustion is felt by the workers at the end of the day and debilitation is often experienced after 3 or 4 months of regular work.

Deduction from Earnings of Workers.- Wages in the industry have always been low, and the conditions have deteriorated ever since the outbreak of the war. No dearness allowance is being paid to compensate for the rise in the cost of living. On the other hand, employers at Balrampur have started making illegal deductions. ~~There is a system of illegal deduction from the wages of the workers - small dastari, Goshala, and mahabiri.~~ Some times workers are employed without any remuneration (begari). Women workers at Balrampur get 5 to 6 annas per day for which they are required to work from 9 ~~xxxxx~~ a.m. to 8 p.m. Further cuts in wages have recently been decided upon by the employers.

Risks and Accidents.- During the ~~past~~ ^{hot} season work has sometimes to be carried on in an atmosphere of 130 F. Mainly as a result of this, the workers often grow weak in eyesight. ~~Risks~~ Distortion of limbs and asthma are two common ailments contracted in the long run. Workers, during the process of work, suffer from burns; those in the washing department sometimes slip and fall down, and get injured. A report from Mirzapore says, "It is difficult to give the number of accidents, but recently one died due to burns, and one ~~was dead~~ in 1943, due to a similar cause. No compensation was paid".

Application of Factories Act.- The Royal Commission on Labour recommended that the Factory Act should be forthwith extended to factories, employing less than the scheduled number in the case of offensive trades, such as Shellac manufacture. But no action has been practically taken on this recommendation. A majority of the factories in the U.P. and Bihar are outside the scope of the Act. Only certain ~~big~~ big factories have been brought under it. In C.P. the Factories' Act has been made applicable only to factories in Gondia.

Organisations and unions.- Recently, there has been a wide spread ~~awakening among the workers.~~ The Chapra Mazdur Sabha of ~~Mirzapur~~ Mirzapur, formed in 1940, was affiliated to the A.I.T.U.C. at its Nagpur session and the Chapra Mazdur Sabha of Balrampur was affiliated to the A.I.T.U.C. at its Madras session recently. It is hoped that C.P. also would soon have a trade union of lac workers ~~affiliated~~ affiliated to the A.I.T.U.C.

(The Trade Union Record,
March, 1945). r +

17

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Cost of Living Indices in India: Criticism of
Present Method of Compilation *

A critical examination of the present method of compiling cost of living indices in India and the need for its improvement is made in the memorandum, "Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers in India — A critical Study", by Mr. S. Subramanian, Statistician to the Economic Adviser, Government of India. The memorandum is a supplement to "The Guide to the Current Official Statistics—Vol. I", relating to production and prices, which has already been issued.

The Government has been having under examination the whole basis of the various Provincial series of working class cost of living index numbers which have assumed considerable importance in connection with the fixation of dearness allowances and allied questions. Dealing with the existing indices, the memorandum points out that the various family budget studies on which they are based, except in the case of Bombay and Madras and ~~and~~ to a certain extent of Nagpur, are either defective or incomplete. Since the inquiries were held at different times, there can be no guarantee that the weights for the different series possess a sufficient degree of inter-comparability, and, consequently, it is inadvisable to rely on the existing provincial series for an accurate inter-provincial comparison of the ~~various~~ ~~illustrations~~ of the cost of living. Regarding their basis and significance, the following further comments are made: (1) The collection of price data is done in different ways in different provinces. In some provinces, prices are collected twice a week, in some once a week, and in some once a month. Again, in some provinces there are trained investigators and in some others it is done by officials of the various departments. (2) The constitution of the index numbers differs from province to province. Some provinces do not include house rent. Miscellaneous items are omitted in some provinces and very few items are included in others. Comparability between the different series, it is pointed out, can be secured only if comparable standards of living are assumed, if the price collection is done in a uniform manner, and when the constitution of the various index numbers is brought to a uniform basis.

The memorandum also contains an account of the Government's new scheme for the preparation and maintenance of the cost of living index numbers on a uniform basis for the whole of India. It is expected the scheme will be published shortly.

(Indian Information, dated
1-3-1945). ← +

* India—Supplement to Guide to Current Official Statistics—Vol. I; Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers in India—A critical study by S. Subramanian, Statistician; Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi; Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, New Delhi, 1945. Price As. 12 or 1s. pages 20 .

Research Institute of Textile Technology to be started by Ahmedabad Mill-owners' Association.

The Ahmedabad Mill-owners' Association has decided to start a Research Institute of Textile Technology at a cost of about Rs. 6.5 million. It may be recalled that provision has been made in the Budget of the Central Government to allow cost incurred on research to be accounted as debit expenditure for purposes of the Excess Profits Tax.

(The Hindu, 15-3-1945). +

Working Class Cost of Living Index for Various Centres in India during August and September, 1944.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during August and September, 1944, as compared with July, 1944.

Name of Centre	Base=100	July, 44.	August, 44.	September 44.
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	241	250	239
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1937	211	222	220
Sholapur	Year ending January 1928	199	200	205
Nagpur	August 1939	265	265	263
Ludhiana	1931-35	357	358	328
Cawnpore	August 1939	327	332	331
Patna	Average cost of living for five years preceeding 1914.	337	336	332
Jamshedpur	Ditto	355	357	366
Jharia	Ditto	379	403	432
Madras	Year ending June 1936	203	204	204
Madura	Ditto	206	195	196
Coimbatore	Ditto	226	227	227

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India for August and September, 1944). + #

War and India's Paper Industry: Production Doubled:
Post-War Prospects.

The effects of the war on India's paper industry and the post-war prospects of the industry were reviewed by Mr. R.W. Mellor, in his presidential address at the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Paper Makers' Association held at Calcutta on 9-3-1945. The main points brought out are briefly noticed below: -

When the Indian Paper Makers' Association was founded in 1895 only five mills were members and the total annual production of paper could not have been more than about 20,000 tons. The industry struggled for existence till 1914, when war conditions gave the mills an opportunity to develop on a prosperous basis. The inevitable slump came, however, after the Great War, and about 1920 the outlook was very dark indeed. In 1924-25 the Tariff Board decided in favour of protection for the industry and from that date the industry has developed steadily. Today the Association combines the interests of eight mills with a total of twenty-four machines, making seventy-five per cent of the total production of paper in India.

During the first few months of the present war conditions were fairly normal. Production remained constant, but manufacturing costs began to rise with an everincreasing tempo, so much so that today the ~~main~~ main raw materials have advanced in cost by 200 to 300 per cent, and wages, ~~including food benefits, by over 200 per cent.~~ There have been similar high increases in the costs of machine-clothing, chemicals and mill stores and, indications today are that costs have not yet reached the peak. Like other industries, adequate supplies of coal still constitute a serious problem. Transport of both raw materials and finished goods has been one of the main difficulties to contend with and, coupled with it, there have been decisions by the Railway Companies raising the rates of freight both on raw materials and finished paper. Paper prices have, however, been practically stable for some time and the industry as a whole is now on a firm basis.

In spite of difficulties the paper industry, since the outbreak of the war, has succeeded in practically doubling its total tonnage production and has been able to manufacture qualities previously not made in India—qualities of especial importance to the Army and the war effort generally. For a short time Government actually requisitioned 90% of the total production of the mills and later reduced its demand to 70%, leaving industry, trade and education to struggle along with the rather inadequate balance of 30%. Recently, however, the Government of India has introduced a stricter measure of price and distribution control through the Paper Directorate in Calcutta. Also during recent months Government has been able to achieve a much closer coordination between Government and civil demand and to import a considerable tonnage of paper. This has made possible the release of a larger percentage of the total Indian output of paper to the ordinary consumers. The division of paper for Government and the public is now decided on a quarterly basis, and it is expected that in April the total production will be shared equally, which while not yet sufficient for the general market, ~~is~~ a decided improvement.

Post-War Prospects.- As regards the future, Mr. Mellor pointed out that it was difficult to plan ahead for the pulp and paper industry in India on a realistic basis without a correct idea of how the present very much increased production of paper is likely to fit into the national peacetime economy. ~~is~~ When the unusual Government and Army demand begins to decline, more paper will be available for civil consumption, and how

the demand keeps pace with it is likely to depend upon the post-war educational policy of the Government of India and the Provinces and States, and the post-war development of trade and industry in India. This important point, Mr. Mellor suggested, Government should always have in consideration when imports are being sanctioned.

(The Statesman, 14-3-1945).+

Need for Development of Non-Ferrous Metal Industry in India : Mr. R.H. Kamani's Plea for State Assistance.

The need for greater assistance from the Government of India for the development of the non-ferrous metal industry in the country was stressed by Mr. R.H. Kamani, President, the Jaipur Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kamani Metals and Alloys Ltd., at a press conference held at New Delhi on 11-3-1945.

Mr. Kamani pointed out that, ^{when} the position regarding the supplies of non-ferrous metals was most acute in India, ~~it~~ was this refining and manufacturing industry which filled ~~in~~ the gap and supplied some of the most vital requirements of the defence, railways and essential industries in the country. Development to a certain extent had taken place in the industry during the war years, but, with proper Government help, the present nucleus could be expanded considerably and made to meet all India's essential requirements both in peace and war.

The following ~~was~~ measures were suggested by him for immediate adoption: (1) Government should declare that the non-ferrous industry is a key industry and that Government will give the necessary protection and help ~~to maintain it~~ to maintain it and give full scope for its development. Protection against competition from foreign countries will be necessary at least in the early years. The most suitable form of protection would be the grant of a subsidy. (2) All export of non-ferrous scrap from the country should be prohibited or restricted and import of scrap should be allowed free of duty. At the same time, so long as India is not producing sufficient non-ferrous metals to meet her own requirements, import of virgin metals should be allowed at a lower rate of duty as compared with the rate of duty on finished or semi-finished manufacture of non-ferrous metals. (3) A sum of Rs. 10 million should be earmarked for expenditure, mainly on the exploitation of new sources of supply. Many mines have been abandoned owing to lack of modern equipment; with the help of up-to-date machinery, it may now be possible to exploit the mineral deposits at lower depths than was possible in former times.

(The Hindustan Times, 12-3-1945).+

Research
National Laboratories to be set up by Government of India.

Speaking in the Central Legislative Assembly on 28-3-1945 on a supplementary demand for Rs. 552,000 for Scientific and Industrial Research, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, the Planning Member, Government of India, stated that the Committee appointed under the chairmanship of Sir Shammukhan Chetty had suggested the levy of a cess on industries to meet the very large expenditure on industrial and scientific research which might be incurred in future. This proposal was under Government's consideration. In this connection he stated that Government proposed to set up five National Laboratories—Chemical, Physical, Metallurgical, Glass Research and Fuel Research.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 30-3-1945).

The Indian Central Oilseeds Committee Bill, 1945.

The Indian Central Oilseeds Committee Bill was introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly on 8-3-1945 and has been published in the Gazette of India dated 10-3-1945.

India is one of the world's principal producers of oilseeds and it is considered necessary to put oilseeds research, development and technology on a more permanent basis than they are at present. Accordingly the Bill provides for the setting up of an Indian Central Oilseeds Committee on the lines of other similar commodity committees such as the Indian Central Cotton Committee and the Indian Lac Cess Committee. The Committee which will have on it representatives of all the important interests concerned, will devote exclusive attention to all problems connected with the improvement and development of the cultivation and marketing of oilseeds, the production and marketing of their products and all matters incidental thereto. To provide the Committee an independent source of income, it is proposed that, as in the case of other similar Committees, funds should be provided by the levy of an excise duty at the rate of one anna per maund of oilseeds crushed in power-operated mills in British India.

(The Gazette of India, dated 10-3-1945,
Part V, paragraphs 37-43).

Indian Coconut Committee set up.

In pursuance of section 4 of the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944 (X of 1944) (vide page 8 of our report for August, 1944) the Government of India has on 28-2-1945 notified the constitution of the Indian Coconut Committee. The Committee consists of 26 members and includes, among others, representatives of the coconut growers, the coconut oil industry, the Governments directly connected with the industry, and the Central Legislature.

(Not. No. F.43-1/45-A, dated 28-2-1945, The
Gazette of India dated 3-3-1945, pages 263-4).

Committee to administer Cotton Textile Fund to be appointed by Central Government.

The Government of India, under the powers vested in it by clause 5 of the Cotton Textiles Fund Ordinance, 1944 (vide page 11 of our report for July, 1944), has decided to constitute a committee to administer the Cotton Textiles Fund. The committee will consist of about 15 members, including representatives of the Textile Control Board, the All India Handloom Board, exporters and the Government of India, and a few non-officials with technical knowledge. The secretary will be an officer of the Textile Commissioner's office.

(Not. No. 244/1-TB/44, dated 5-3-1945, The Gazette of India, Extra Ordinary, dated 5-3-1945, pages 195-196).+

Industrial Conditions in India: American Consulate General's Questionnaire.

According to ^{an} the A.P.I. message dated 7-3-1945 from Calcutta, the American Consulate-General has issued a comprehensive questionnaire to certain industrial concerns in India requesting information relating to their production facilities, methods, equipments, quantity and types of production per year, employment and wages, raw materials, settled prices and distribution organisations.

(Dawn, dated 9-3-1945).+

Central Institute to train up Film Technicians to be set up in India.

It is learnt that efforts are being made for the establishment of a central institute for the training of technicians in India to assist the promotion of the film industry and to put it on a much wider and stable foundation and also to make this country self-supporting in regard to the manufacture of raw films, technical machinery and other accessories. The Committee of the Independent Film Producers' Association has passed a resolution on the subject. Mr. K.S. Hirlekar, Honorary Secretary of the Association, has been authorised to take steps for the constitution of a fact-finding body to investigate the possibilities of starting the training institute and a research laboratory.

(The Hindu, 31-3-1945).+

Sone Valley Development Scheme: Decisions of
Government Representatives' Conference.

A multipurpose project for developing the Sone Valley on regional lines was discussed at a meeting of representatives of the Central Government and the Governments of the U.P., the Central Provinces, and Bihar held at New Delhi on 10-3-1945. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, presided.

The project is intended to utilize the water of the Sone river for increasing irrigation, development of power and navigation. Irrigation engineers and other experts have visualized the possibility of installing a perennial hydroelectric power plant in the region providing energy over an area between 175 and 250 square miles. Utilization of power for pumping from tube-wells or from rivers will increase irrigation. The project can also provide cheap power for industrial development, and for other rural and urban requirements. It was generally agreed at the conference that the project had immense possibilities. It was, however, necessary that a detailed inquiry should be made into the potentialities of the project. The delegates agreed that a project engineer should be appointed by the Central Government for these inquiries. It was also considered necessary that there should be a liaison officer, whose duty would be to assess the power requirements of the entire area and for this purpose, to undertake, if necessary, lead surveys with the help and co-operation of the provincial and State Governments. Half the cost of these inquiries would be borne by the Centre and half by the provinces and States in accordance with a formula to be devised by the Finance Department, Government of India.

(The Hindustan Times, 11-3-1945).

Economic and Social Conditions of Poona City
Before the War: Gokhale Institute's Survey.

The first part of the survey of the economic conditions of Poona City before the outbreak of the present war, undertaken by the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, has been published by the Institute. The investigations give a picture of the main occupations of the citizens of Poona, their trade and industry, social and educational attainments, public health, the extent of poverty and the distribution of wealth. According to Dr. Gadgil, Principal of the Institute, the survey is the first of its kind carried out in India and should prove very useful for planning future schemes of social and economic reforms.

(Dawn, dated 6-3-1945).4

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Prof. Adarkar's Report on Health Insurance: A.I.T.U.C.'s Criticism.

The following are the main points raised by the A.I.T.U.C. in a memorandum prepared by it on Prof. B.P. Adarkar's Report on an health insurance Scheme for industrial workers in India (vide pages 24-25 of our report for October, 1944):

The scheme should conform completely to the standard set up by the International Labour Convention on the subject.

Scope of the Scheme to be extended.- The scheme should extend to all organized industries, including seasonal factories. Without adequate safeguards, it is undesirable to make exception in the case of employment under the Crown, local or other public authority, or in any public utility concern. Exception in favour of private factories will lead to unfair practices. It would be unwise ~~xxxxxx~~ to seek success at the cost of comprehensiveness.

Eligibility: Conditions to be relaxed.- Workers should not be excluded from the scheme on the ground of old age and permanent invalidity. Such ~~xxx~~ cases deserve special attention. If an employer chooses to employ persons with these disabilities, he should be charged a higher contribution. Clerical staff should also be included in the scheme. The term "continuous service", should be precisely defined and the scheme should be applied to all workers in employment for some time before its introduction. Factories should be required to arrange for automatic recording of attendance and for maintenance of proper service cards. There is no need to fix a ny upper age limit.

Contributions and benefits.- No contribution or only a nominal one should be charged from the lowest paid worker, the whole or the bulk of it being recovered from his employer. Workers should be classified by wages according as they receive monthly (1) Rs. 20 or under (2) between Rs.20 and Rs. 50 (3) between 50 and Rs. 100 and (4) between Rs. 100 and Rs.200. The respective contributions of ~~employers~~ employers and workers should be as ~~follow~~ below:-

	Class			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Employer's contribution	1-12-0	1-6-0	1-2-0	0-14-0
Worker's	Nil	0-6-0	0-10-0	0-14-0
Total contribution per worker	1-12-0	1-12-0	1-12-0	1-12-0

Bonus might be excluded in determining wages, but all other allowances should be included.

The necessity of reducing cash benefits at the start is not appreciated. Workers suffering from chronic diseases of an infections nature should not be excluded from cash benefits. The qualifying ~~xx~~ period, if at all necessary, should not exceed two months. The duration of the cash benefits should be raised to 180 and 90 days, respectively for permanent and temporary workers. The rate of the cash benefits for the four classes suggested above should respectively be (1) annas 4; (2) annas 8; ~~xxxx~~ (3) annas 12; (4) Re. 1. Full cash benefits should be admissible after 2 months' contribution. Some of the dependents also should be entitled to medical benefits.

The provisions regarding punishments for offences are too stringent and would act harshly on the worker. ~~The same is the case regarding penalty for granting assistance to an insured worker.~~

(The Trade Union Record, January and February, 1945)♦

AGRICULTURE.

Subsidising Food grains and Food stuffs: Government of India set up Committee to examine Question.

The Government of India have, it is understood, set up a committee of representatives of various departments to examine, in all its bearings, the question of subsidising food grains and foodstuffs in the country. Sir Theodore Gregory is to be the chairman of the committee.

The committee will examine the social, financial and administrative aspects of the problem in the light of data which is being collected. Railways and private industrial establishments, which have been running cheap grain shops, have been approached for eliciting information regarding the cost of subsidising foodstuffs sold to their employees through their cheap grain shops in order to neutralise the rise in the cost of living and also in respect of the scale of dearness allowance. The committee is expected to examine the question whether the subsidy, if decided upon, should be given to the producer or the consumer. The report is expected to be ready by the middle of April, 1945.

(The Times of India, 19-3-1945).+

Agricultural Prices Sub-Committee: Questionnaire issued.

The Sub-Committee set up by the Government of India to inquire into the question of stabilisation of agricultural prices (vide page 32 of our report for February 1945) has, it is understood, drafted a comprehensive questionnaire which will be issued to the Provincial Governments and important individuals and commercial organisations. It is expected that it will take about two months before answers are received.

(The Hindu, dated 15-3-1945).+

Bihar Government to send Agricultural graduates Abroad for Training.

Six agricultural graduates selected from the staff of the Agriculture Department are proposed to be sent abroad every five years by the Bihar Government as a measure of agricultural development in the province. It is further proposed to send abroad annually for the succeeding five years a regular succession of junior officers who prove efficient and deserving.

(The Hindustan Times, 19-3-1945).+

* Bill to amend Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act, 1939.

In August, 1945, the Government of Bombay appointed a committee to inquire into the working of the Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act, 1939, and to suggest measures for simplifying the procedure for debt adjustment and to provide for large-scale and speedy composition of agricultural debts. A draft Bill to amend the Act, giving effect to the recommendations of the committee accepted by the Government, is published in the Bombay Government Gazette dated 2-2-1945.

The main amendments contained in the Bill are explained in the statement accompanying the published draft of the Bill. Under the more important of these, provision is made for the recruitment of legal practitioners to man the Debt Adjustment Boards; the paying capacity of the debtor and the number of instalments of repayment of the awarded debt are reduced in view of the present inflation in prices and the consequent rise in the value of property; and debtors who are parties to any proceedings under the Act are to be advanced loans by authorised persons for crop finance.

Provision is also made to safeguard the interest of debtors who are temporarily engaged in any of the Defence Services. They are being exempted from personal cultivation of land if they had been cultivating the land personally at the commencement of the first of the two cultivating seasons immediately ~~at the commencement of the first~~ preceding the date of the establishment of the Board or the date of joining the Defence Service. It is also proposed to exclude their income from service for the purpose of calculating income from sources other than agriculture and manual ~~pur~~ labour. Also such of them as cannot appear before the Board on account of war conditions are permitted to be represented by agents.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated 2-2-1945, part V, pages 8-21, The Times of India, 15-2-1945).+

✓ Zamindari System to be abolished in P Bengal:
Government to purchase landholding interests.

It is learnt that the Government of Bengal has decided to implement the recommendations of the Flood Commission (1940) in regard to State purchase of all landholding interests in the province. A beginning is to be made with the District of Faridpur, and the Sundarban area. Government has set up machinery in this connection and an officer of the Revenue Department has been entrusted with preparing a plan for State purchase. It is understood it will take about 6 months to complete settlement operations in Faridpur.

The basis of payment for the land taken over is now under consideration of the Government. The Flood Commission has recommended fifteen times the annual rental as compensation to the landlords.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 17-3-1945).+

2 Bill to amend Bombay Land Improvement Schemes Act, 1942.

The Bombay Land Improvement Schemes Act was drafted in 1942 with a view to its application to small areas — perhaps a village or two. Since the passing of the Act contour bunding has been carried out in a large number of villages and the work is progressing extremely rapidly. In fact, so far it has been impossible to carry out the various provisions in the Act regarding formal notifications and the preparation of the record of rights and liabilities rapidly enough to keep pace with the work.

Experience shows that there is a very large demand for contour bunding and land improvement and to meet this demand it is necessary for Government to press ahead for faster than originally contemplated. This amending Bill, therefore, proposes to simplify the procedure prescribed under the Act by dispensing with formal notices, etc., and by preparing a statement containing a few particulars. The rights and liabilities created by schemes under the Act are proposed to be incorporated in the existing record of rights maintained under the Bombay Land Revenue Code.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated 9-2-1945, Part V, pages 22-28).

✓ Peasant Welfare Activities in the Punjab.

With the Rs. 6,000,000 granted to the Fund this year by the Provincial Government, the Punjab Peasant Welfare Fund (vide page 18 of our report for March 1944) now amounts to Rs. 27,000,000. This year Rs. 1,000,000 has been allotted for stipends to the sons of landholders ~~and~~ who pay land revenue of less than Rs. 20 a year. Also a cooperative marketing shop is to be opened in each district to enable cultivators to sell their produce to advantage.

(The Vanguard, 2-3-1945).

* Proposal to levy Agricultural Income-tax in Madras.

A Bill to provide for the levy of a tax on agricultural income in the Province of Madras has been published in the Fort St. George Gazette dated 20-3-1945. The Bill has been published for the purpose of eliciting public opinion and will be taken up by Government for consideration on or after 21-5-1945.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, the Government has decided to impose a tax on agricultural income not only because it is equitable to do so, but to find additional revenue for expenditure on schemes of post-war development. For the present it is proposed to levy the tax on every person whose total agricultural income in the Province is not less than Rs. 5,000. In calculating the ~~tax~~

total agricultural income, cultivation expenses, amounts paid as land revenue or rent to a superior landlord, interest paid on mortgage if the land is subject to a mortgage and the like will be excluded. Exemption from taxation is also allowed on payments made for insurance on the life of the assessee or of a wife or husband of the assessee or in the case of a joint family on the life of any male member of the family, subject to a maximum of one-sixth of the total income.

The rate of taxation will be determined by the Madras Finance Act for the time being in force. In 1945-46, only agricultural incomes above Rs. 5000 are to be taxed. In the case of individuals the first Rs. 1500 of the income is to be exempted; the next Rs. 3500 is to be taxed at 9 pies in the rupee and the subsequent slabs are to be taxed at higher rates, the maximum being rate being 2 1/2 annas in the rupee. In the case of companies, the whole of their agricultural income is to be taxed at a flat rate of 2 annas in the rupee.

As regards the yield of the tax, the Board of Revenue estimates that it will vary from Rs. 1.7 million to Rs. 6.5 million, the probable collection in 1945-46 being about Rs. 4.0 million, The Government hope that it will be found possible to develop this tax and eventually to relieve the poorest class of cultivators from the burden of taxation. The proposal to levy an income tax on agricultural incomes has roused some criticism. The main arguments advanced are that the present time is inopportune and that the new tax should be levied only by a popular Government; and that the tax may lead to a general set back in the development of agriculture, encourage fragmentation of holdings, raise costs of production and increase the cost of living in rural areas.

(Fort St. George Gazette, dated 20-3-1945, part IV-A, pages 11-34; Government of Madras, Press Note dated 21-3-1945; and the Eastern Economist, 30-3-1945). + +

NAVIGATION.

Government of India establish Seamen's Welfare Directorate.

A Seamen's Welfare Directorate has been established under the Government of India, in the Department of Commerce, for the planning and speedy provision of amenities for merchant-seamen in India. Mr. Neryin Armstrong, lately Adviser to the Ministry of War Transport, has been appointed Director of Seamen's Welfare, with effect from March, 1, 1945.

(The Vanguard, 27-3-1945) . + +

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES
AND PUBLIC SERVANTS

Employment Conditions of Shop Assistants in British India:
Working of Provincial Legislation.

The working of the Provincial Acts (the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939; the Punjab Trade Employees Act, 1940; the Bengal Shops and Establishments Act, 1940; and the Sind Shops and Establishments Act, 1940) regulating the hours of work and other working conditions of persons employed in shops, commercial establishments, restaurants and places of public entertainment in Bombay, the Punjab, Bengal and Sind ~~is~~ for the period ending 31-12-1943 is reviewed in an ~~next~~ article in the Indian Labour Gazette of March 1945. All these Acts extend to the whole of their respective provinces but are applied in the first instance to certain selected specified areas, the Provincial Governments being empowered to extend their application to other areas by notification. These powers have been utilised in varying degrees by the different provinces.

~~within~~ ~~was~~ Bombay.- The total number of shops, commercial establishments, etc., was the purview of the Act, as also the number of workers employed in these, is given below:-

Place	No. of		No. of		No. of	
	Shops	persons Employed	Establishments	Persons Employed	Restau- rants, theatres, etc.	Persons Employed
Bombay.....	42,432	82,822	7,088	37,075	3,775*	26,423 [§]
Ahmedabad....	10,056	13,437	509	2,455	1,061	6,765
Hubli.....	1,838	1,295	163	375	224	830
Sholapur....		Information not available.				
Garsi.....		Information not available.				
Total.	54,326	97,554	7,760	39,905	5,060	34,018

* Includes 3,716 restaurants and 59 theatres.

§ Includes 25,082 persons employed in restaurants and 1,341 employed in theatres.

Bengal.- The total number of shops and establishments covered was about 80,000. The total number of employees covered, however, was not known.

The Punjab.- The Punjab Act covered 102,158 shops employing 46,915 workers and 18,080 commercial establishments employing 43,848 persons.

Sind.- The following table gives similar information about Sind:-

Place	No. of Shops	No. of Persons employed	No. of Commercial establishments	No. of Persons employed.	No. of eating houses	Person employed.
City and Cantts. of Karachi and Drigh Road.	10,026	Information not available.	1,452	Information not available.	849	Information not available.
Shikarpur.	1,150	680	175	260	206	225
Hyderabad.....		Information not available.				
Total.	11,176	680	1,627	260	1,055	225

Inspection and Enforcement.- The number of Inspectors, inspections, prosecutions, etc., under the Acts are shown in the following table:-

Province	No. of Inspectors.	No. of Inspections during			No. of irregularities during			Prosecutions during		
		1941	1942	1943	1941	1942	1943	1941	1942	1943.
Bombay.	30 (including 2 Chief Inspectors and 1 part-time Inspector.)	95,364*	40,023*	42,579*	Information not available.	38	3,159	3,807	7,038	
Bengal.	13 (including 1 Chief Inspector)	3,253	1,950	3,892; 2,317	2,746	2,283;	52	27	73	
The Punjab.	57 (including 3 reserve Inspectors and 5 Divisional Inspectors)	Information not available;			Information not available;			848	3,586	
Sind.	7	17,040	23,050;	4,209	7,039;	1,159	6264			

* In respect of Bombay only. Information for other places not available.
 § Some cases remain undecided at the end of every year and are included in the next year's figures.
 ^ In respect for Bombay city only. The figures for 1941 and 1942 are those for all the places in the Province to which the Act applied.
 & Figures are for financial years.
 & Out of the total prosecutions 53 were successful, one case was withdrawn and 76 were acquitted.

- ** In respect of the city and Cantt. of Karachi and Drigh Road only.
 *** In respect of the city and Cantt. of Karachi and Drigh Road and Shikarpur town only.

General Observations.- No hard and fast rule has been laid down in the Punjab regarding the number of inspections to be carried out by the inspectors, each inspector ~~now~~ being expected to visit the shops, etc., in his jurisdiction as many times as he can. Also, whenever the Act comes into force in a certain area every effort is made to educate the public and for this purpose warning notices are issued to the defaulters for the first few months and prosecutions are not lodged till it is considered that the public has become sufficiently acquainted with the provisions of the Act.

In Bombay province, it is reported that on the whole the purpose of the Act is being served satisfactorily. The Act could not "claim to have brought about any great improvements in the economic condition of the employees"; nevertheless it has benefited them by ensuring the enjoyment of rest and holidays and reducing their hours of work. Tangible expression of the benefits secured under the Act is being found in the creation of employees' unions and the requests from shops and establishments assistants from widely scattered places for extending the provisions of the Act to the other areas. The questions of extending the Act to the remaining bigger towns of the province and of rectifying the defects ~~now~~ detected in its provisions in actual administration are reported to be under the consideration of the Provincial Government.

According to section 24 of the Act all expenses incurred by a municipality or a local board in connection with the Act are to be paid out of the municipal or local fund as the case may be. But to reduce the burden on the finances of these local bodies subventions equal in amount to the fines recovered under the Act (but not exceeding the actual expenditure incurred) are being given to the local authorities and are to be continued for a further period of three years.

In Bengal, the Government has received applications from some mofussil centres for the extension of the Provincial Act to them. But the Government is awaiting the result of the experiment, at the places where the Act has been extended in the first instance before it considers the extension of the Act to other places.

(Indian Labour Gazette, March, 1945).

U.P. Government Employees' Unions to form Federation.

With a view to consider the question of forming a joint association of all the employees of the U.P. Government, a joint meeting of the ministerial officials of the Government offices in Allahabad was held recently under the auspices of the Allahabad Collectorate Ministerial Association, with Mr. B.L. Bhatia, president of the P.W.D. Ministerial Establishment Association, U.P., in the chair. The meeting passed a resolution welcoming the move of the U.P. Ministerial Collectorate Officials' Association to form a federation of the ministerial service associations of all the departments in the United Provinces. The Resolutions were also passed declaring that the dearness allowance granted to the ministerial staff was quite inadequate and suggesting that Government should be moved to grant them the same dearness allowance and facilities as had been granted to railway officials. The meeting demanded for

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ministerial Government servants such other facilities and privileges in regard to the supply of consumer goods, recreation leave and allowance as were being ~~grant~~ provided for higher grade officials.

(The Leader, dated 19-3-1945).+ +

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CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

All India Handloom Board to be Constituted by Central Government.

The Government of India has had under consideration the problems facing the handloom industry, which have been in many ways considerably aggravated by the war, and has now resolved to constitute an All India Handloom Board with the following functions :-

(1) To make recommendations to the Government of India on the proportion of the yarn available from Indian production which should be supplied to each Province and State interested in obtaining it for handloom weaving. (2) To assist handloom weavers in obtaining dyes, chemicals, stores, etc., at fair prices through their recognised associations or through Provincial or State Governments. (3) To investigate and report on the best methods of marketing handloom products. (4) To undertake research particularly into markets and the improvement of production. In pursuing such researches the Board should make use of any ~~existing~~ Provincial or State organisations already in existence. (5) To advise on the administration of the grant-in-aid given by the Government of India for the furtherance of the handloom industry. (6) To consider the conditions of work of handloom weavers.

If in the opinion of the Chairman of the Board any recommendation of the Board appears likely to affect in any manner the interests of the mill industry, he should, before submitting it to Government for consideration, take steps to consult the Textile Control Board and obtain its views thereon. The Board will consist of 30 members made up as follows: The Textile Commissioner, Government of India, (Ex-officio Chairman), 3 non-officials nominated by the Government of India, 17 members nominated by the Provinces including 8 representatives of the handloom industry, 4 members nominated one each by the following States :- (a) Hyderabad; (b) Mysore; (c) Travancore; and (d) Kolhapur and Deccan States, and 5 members representing the millowning interest (nominated by the Textile Control Board). The Special Officer, Handloom Board, will be Secretary to the Board, ex-officio.

(Resolution No. 10/1. TC/45, dated 12-2-1945; The Gazette of India, dated 17-2-1945, Part I, Sec.1, pages 206-207). ✓

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LIVING CONDITIONS.

Nutrition.

Midday Meal for School Children: Madras Government's Proposal

According to a report published in the Hindu, Madras, the Government of Madras has under consideration a proposal to provide mid-day meals to poor children in elementary schools, at a cost of one anna per meal. The scheme is to be introduced in selected areas in each district in the province during 1945-46. The feeding arrangements are to be under the control of the local bodies. There is to be a local committee for each school or centre to purchase and supervise the quality and quantity of food supplied, subject to frequent check and inspections by supervisors appointed by Government.

(The Hindu, 13-3-1945).

Hyderabad Sets up Nutrition Advisory Committee.

Nutrition surveys conducted throughout the Hyderabad State have revealed that almost the entire population of the State, owing to wrong selection, takes an "unbalanced" diet. The Public Health ~~and~~ Department ~~and~~ the State has, therefore, come to the conclusion that, in order to improve the dietary habits of the population of the State, it is vitally necessary to bring about a close contact between nutrition workers and those concerned with food production. The ~~direct~~ object is the provision of an "optimum" diet for all the people of the State irrespective of income.

To achieve this object ^{the} Hyderabad Government has set up, according to a report published in the Bombay Chronicle, Bombay, a Nutrition Advisory Committee consisting of 21 members with the Revenue Member as its President and the Nutrition Officer as its Honorary Secretary.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 3-3-1945). +

Legislative Protection for Milk Industry in India: British Food Experts' suggestion. +

Mr. R.A. Pepperall, Chief Regional Milk Supply Officer with the British Ministry of Food, who is touring India at the invitation of the Government of India, suggested in a Press interview at Lahore on 24-3-1945 that legislation is necessary to protect India's milk industry. Mr. Pepperall has visited a large number of towns and villages in India, including Sabarnati and Sevagram, where he discussed India's milk problems with Mahatma Gandhi. He is returning to England early in April, when he will submit his report to the Government of India. Mr. Pepperall said that he was in India to see to what extent the milk legislation in England

could be applied to India with necessary modifications. He suggested that some organization especially dealing with milk and cattle problems was necessary in India.

(The Statesman, dated 26-3-1945). +

Milk Advisory Board to be set up by
Government of India.

The Government of India is contemplating the creation of a board of specialists to advise it on the question of improving India's dairy farm and cattle breeding industries. A batch of specialists, who recently passed out of the Imperial Research Institute, Bangalore, is now engaged in an All-India tour for the purpose of ~~studying~~ studying these industries, with special reference to methods for improvement of the quality ~~of~~ of milk, pasteurisation, refrigeration and purification.

(The Hindu, dated 5-3-1945). +

Housing.

Cawnpore Urban Area Development Bill.

The draft of a Bill to provide for the development and expansion of the urban area of Cawnpore, which the Governor of the United Provinces proposes to enact, is published in the Government Gazette of the United Provinces dated 10-3-1945. The Bill ~~seeks~~ to give effect to the main recommendations of the Committee appointed by the United Provinces Government to inquire into the civic problems of Cawnpore (vide pages 28-29 of our report for January 1945).

According to the statement of objects and reasons attached to the Bill, owing to the large increase in the population of the Cawnpore Urban Area during recent years the sanitary, housing and other conditions in the city have steadily deteriorated. Large-scale improvement has become urgently necessary. If the civic administration of the city is to be put on a sound footing and the necessary improvements effected, a new authority should be created which should not only take over all the functions and duties of the Improvement Trust, but should also assume full control over, and responsibility for water supply, drainage and sewage disposal. Such an authority should also be in a position not only to formulate policy, but also to execute it with the maximum of energy and the minimum waste of time. It is, therefore, proposed to establish a "Cawnpore Development Board", for a period of five years in the first instance. The board will be fully representative of public opinion of all classes in Cawnpore and will have a strong executive under an official President.

The Bill also provides for the execution of development schemes, such as a special ~~one~~ scheme in respect of insanitary areas; a rehousing scheme; a street scheme; a town expansion scheme; and a transport scheme.

The draft Bill is to be taken into consideration on or after ~~April~~ 10-4-1945.

(Government Gazette of the United Provinces, dated 10-3-1945, Part VII, pages, 3-16)*

Acute Housing Shortage in Bombay City: Average of Ten persons to a room.

While the population of Bombay city has increased by no less than 50 percent in the last four years, the total number of houses has not increased appreciably owing to the ban on building activities. Also out of the available accommodation, 600 houses have been requisitioned so far by Government, and a considerable proportion is taken up for commercial establishments, offices, godowns, factories and entertainment houses. According to the available figures, Bombay city has altogether 35,800 houses, and 40,000 single-room tenements in the slum areas. These structures among them have to provide shelter for the city's population of two and a quarter million. The average housing facilities on this basis work out at about 63 persons per house and ten persons to a room in the slum areas.

A scheme to relieve this congestion was suggested to the Government by Mr. N.V. Modak, City Engineer, comprising of the erection of 1,500 temporary hutments with an estimated life of 15 to 20 years. The Government, however, have turned this down on the ground of ~~scarcity~~ scarcity of building material. Mr. Modak now suggests that the Government might consider a scheme of issuing licences to those willing to put up houses

consider a scheme of issuing licences to those willing to put up houses on conditions that the houses when constructed would be placed at the disposal of the Government for the duration.

(The Hindustan Times, 10-3-1945). +

ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.

Employers' Organisations.

18th Annual Session of Federation of Indian Chambers
of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi,
3 and 4-3-1945.

A number of subjects relating to the economic situation in India and the industries and trade of the country during the war and the post-war period were discussed at the 18th annual session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry held at New Delhi on 3 and 4-3-45 under the chairmanship of Mr. J.C. Setalvad, President of the Federation. Among the distinguished visitors present were several high officials of the Government of India, including some Members of the Executive Council.

Presidential Address.- The food situation in India, coal production and supply problems, transport difficulties, import policy regarding consumer goods, sterling balances, post-war reconstruction and India's attitude towards international monetary plans were some of the major subjects dealt with by Mr. Setalvad in his presidential address.

Food Situation: Need for Improvement.- The critical food situation which caused such widespread anxiety throughout the war, was relieved to a certain extent during the year under review (1944-45). But production is still ~~inadequate~~ inadequate. There is not enough food to go round even at the existing low rate of consumption. The situation must therefore continue to be under close observation of both the Central and Provincial authorities and every possible measure should be adopted to enable the country to feed itself without dependence on outside sources of supply. Steps are being taken by the Government of India for expediting the manufacture of chemical fertilisers. What is being attempted now will hardly touch the fringe of the problem, but it may be hoped that the experience gained in the initial effort would soon be turned to advantage and that in the course of the next few years fertilizers would be made available in the required quantities at prices which would bring them within the reach of the average cultivator in this country. Government must also apply their minds to tackling some of the other big problems connected with agricultural economy. Soil erosion and fragmentation of lands are two ~~other~~ other problems of considerable importance which ~~industries~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~Government~~ ~~must~~ ~~also~~ ~~be~~ ~~tackled~~ ~~scientifically~~. ~~industries~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~Government~~ ~~must~~ ~~also~~ ~~be~~ ~~tackled~~ ~~scientifically~~.

Coal Shortage.- The coal situation in India during the past year has practically eclipsed all the immediate economic problems. This is very largely attributable to the deficiencies in the general statistical organisation which does not provide, at any given time, up-to-date data to make possible the formulation of right policies both as regards immediate conditions and future development. The failure on the part of Government to tackle this situation in advance, must also be attributed to the fact that responsibility in this regard is being shared by several departments. If the activities of these departments had been properly co-ordinated and concentrated attention had been paid to the situation as it was developing, industries would not have been so badly handicapped as has been their experience in the past 12 months. It is hard to understand that when countries like the United Kingdom and the United States of America, with their enormous manufacturing capacity, can produce thousands of planes, tanks, trucks, etc., it should be found impossible for the Government of India to obtain from these countries coal cutting

and other machinery as well as essential stores to enable Indian collieries to produce larger output. It is also not easy to understand that with the enormous man-power in the country, shortage of labour should handicap maintenance of even pre-war output. There still exists very large scope for improvement in the working conditions in collieries. The coal situation today menaces to be a very serious handicap to all plans for large-scale industrial development of the country. Two directions in which the Government ought to concentrate are the conservation of the better types of coal for the metallurgical industries and the carrying out of intensive geological surveys throughout the country to find additional sources of coal supply.

Transport Difficulties.- The ever-increasing demands made by the military on India's transport system, have tended to reduce transport facilities for trade and industry with the result that even where supplies are available in large quantities in certain centres their distribution has been considerably hampered. This is again another illustration of the lack of foresight on the part of the authorities.

Banking and Insurance Legislation.- There are two important pieces of legislation now before the Central Assembly; one, a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Banking Companies; the other, a Bill to amend the Indian Insurance Act. This Federation, along with various other commercial organisations in the country, has all along been urging for a revision of the Banking law into a comprehensive Act in a manner which would ~~integrate~~ integrate the whole credit structure and mechanism of the country, and ~~making~~ provisions for: (1) encouragement of expansion of banking and credit facilities; (2) protection of Indian banks from ~~competition of foreign banks~~; and (3) regulation of banking business. The Bill under reference is mainly confined to matters relating to the structure and framework of banking as represented by joint stock banks. It is very necessary that the other aspects, namely, development of banking and regulation of the activities of foreign banks, should also receive immediate attention. It is to be hoped that Government will revise their proposals in the light of comments and suggestions on the Bill received from representative commercial organisations, and take steps to place on the statute book a really comprehensive Act covering all essential aspects.

The Federation welcomes the move of the Select Committee for recommending the insertion of Section 40A and 40B limiting the overall costs of life assurance and general assurance business in this country. In view of the difficult problems the Indian insurance business is facing in this country, it is a move in the right direction.

Hydari Mission and Import Policy.- Whilst one would have expected the Government of India to make their best endeavour to utilise Indian industries to their maximum capacity, what is being envisaged through the Hydari Mission may be a ~~sharp~~ curtailment still further of the operating capacity of some of the big industries like steel and chemicals which require large supplies of coal, and the replacement of their reduced ~~output~~ output by imports from abroad, particularly the United Kingdom. The immediate reaction of this step is bound to be serious, in as much as a large number of people normally employed in these big industries would be thrown out of employment and a number of ancillary industries connected with them will have pro tanto to reduce their activities. On a long-range view, the imports of such goods from abroad will indirectly prejudice the position of Indian industries in the home markets and supply a sort of impetus to foreign competitors. The Federation, therefore, registers its most emphatic protest against such action on the part of the Government of India and calls upon them to take the Indian public into confidence as to their intentions regarding the Hydari Mission.

Development and Planning.- Plans for the economic development of India have been published by various groups of people. One of the results of this has been that the country has now been made planning-conscious and even the Government of India has been compelled to recognise the inevitability of their taking an active and positive part in the planning of India's future economic development. The establishment of the new Department of Planning and Development and the appointment of Sir Ardeshir Dalal to be in charge of it are generally welcomed. Any scientific and methodically planned development of the country requires elaborate preliminary ground-work. However, no further delay is justified in Government formulating definite policies and attitudes which would influence, if not actually determine, the development of industries. Government should immediately consider and issue a statement of their industrial policy recognising their fundamental duty and obligation to do everything possible, consistent with safeguarding the interests of the community at large, to encourage and develop both the expansion of the existing industries and the promotion of new ones. The Planning Member in one of his public statements said that Government were considering the question of instituting a permanent Tariff Board. This should be done as early as possible. The institution of a permanent Tariff Board would make possible detailed and scientific examination of new industrial projects which could, in the near future, be brought into existence. Government also must clarify their existing nebulous attitude towards the number of new industries started during the war by referring their cases to the Tariff Board, and, on their recommendation, give a categorical assurance that Government would stand by such industries after the war. There are many small and ~~medium-scale industries~~ which today are rendering a very important and useful service in the supply of several articles to the larger industries, which, before the war, were practically all imported from abroad. It appears that, in recent months, import of these articles from abroad has been resumed. This is a case where immediate action is called for from the Government. Import of such competitive goods should be so regulated that the new industries are allowed to work at their maximum capacity to supply the needs of the Indian market, and foreign imports ~~should~~ may be permitted only to the extent required to make good the balance. In the enunciation of industrial policy, Government should categorically assure the country that sources of valuable raw materials would not be parted with in favour of non-nationals. Government should also make it perfectly clear that they will neither countenance nor encourage any important industry in the country being controlled by non-nationals. This country would welcome co-operation of outside industrialists and technical experts and even financial assistance on a moderate scale, but those should be subject always to the over-riding condition that in no case will the control of her industries be vested in non-Indian hands. It is quite possible to attract ~~foreign~~ foreign technical assistance on terms which would not involve parting of control to foreign hands, If Government accepted the above principle in their industrial policy, it would considerably help Indian industrialists and ~~small~~ entrepreneurs in ~~negotiating~~ negotiating such arrangements with outside interests, and make possible the promotion, at an early date, of a number of new important industries in the country.

Sterling Balances :- Early Settlement called for.- The accumulation of sterling balances in London during the war which has continued to cause serious anxiety to this country has been engaging the attention of the Federation. The consideration of this question assumed international importance last year when the President of the United States of America convened a Conference of the United Nations at Bretton Woods to find a solution for the monetary problems which will confront the world at the end of this war. The Indian delegation which attended this Conference brought the question of India's sterling balances to ~~fore~~ the fore at this

Conference and pleaded for their orderly liquidation through the mechanism of the International Monetary Fund, which was proposed to be established. It is a matter for serious disappointment to this country that the efforts of the Indian delegation did not fructify.

In spite of the Finance Member's indication that discussions with His Majesty's Government would be held at an early date for the orderly liquidation of the sterling balances, no arrangements have yet been made for any such negotiation. There is not much truth in the argument that so long as the war continues and the sterling balances go on accumulating, it is premature to discuss a solution of this problem. In fact, the larger the dimensions these balances take, the ultimate solution will become increasingly more difficult. The commercial and industrial community of India, therefore, calls upon the Government to open immediate negotiations with the United Kingdom to settle the principles for an early and orderly liquidation of these balances. It appears that as a result of the pressure brought to bear upon the British Delegates at Bretton Woods Conference, Lord Keynes on behalf of the United Kingdom, gave a categorical assurance that these balances would be as honourably paid as they have been generously given. That assurance is good as far as it goes, but it does not in the least indicate either the time or the form in which repayment would be obtained by India. The sterling balances are in the nature of balances on current account, and therefore, India is entitled to make such use of them as she chooses. Taking, however, a realistic and businesslike view of the exceptional situation created by their magnitude, it is obvious that these balances cannot be liquidated overnight. But that does not and should not imply that India should forfeit her right to demand their repayment in such form and at such times as would accord with her best interests. It is, of course, generally realised that a considerable portion of these balances will have to be liquidated through the purchase of goods in the United Kingdom. But India can consent only to buy such goods as she needs and which would not prejudice her own industrial development. It would not be reasonable on the part of the United Kingdom, in reaching a settlement of this vexed question, to withhold from India the first lien on her industrial capacity in respect of such goods which are urgently required for accelerating the economic development of India, subject to the needs of the rehabilitation of her own industries. It would ~~not be reasonable~~ be equally unreasonable for the United Kingdom to deny to India the use of certain portions of these balances for meeting her requirements outside the United Kingdom, particularly when the industrial capacity of the United Kingdom cannot cope with the requirements of India. If Government of India immediately start negotiations with the United Kingdom treasury, there would be no insuperable difficulty in evolving a basis of agreement which, whilst giving due consideration to the difficulties of the United Kingdom, will secure the substance of India's demand for the utilization of these balances to her best interest.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
Empire Dollar Pool: Indian Partnership should cease.- Since the inauguration of the Empire Dollar Pool, India is being made to contribute to it all dollar funds that accumulate to her credit. It is true that India has been allotted every year a certain amount of dollar exchange from the Dollar Pool. But the United Kingdom has always refused to tender a statement of accounts on the operations of the pool. No statement has yet been made about the balances accumulated in the Pool or on the total amount of dollars allotted to India. The persistence with which, in spite of repeated demands, this information has been withheld from India only serves to create an atmosphere of suspicion that India is not being fairly treated as a partner in the Pool. A full statement on the operations of the pool should be made available to the Indian public. As to the future, either the Pool may be dissolved, or India should withdraw her partnership so that all the dollar accumulating to her share may be made available unreservedly for her use.

India's Participation in International Financial Arrangements.- So far, ~~the Government of India has not placed the proposals for the establishment of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank before the Indian Legislature for approval, and it appears to be their intention to seek the approval of the Legislature only after the schemes have been piloted through the American Congress and British Parliament.~~ The non-official Indian delegates have already expressed dissatisfaction with certain features of the scheme as they finally emerged from the Bretton Woods Conference.

It is felt ~~as~~ essential that India should insist on getting a permanent seat on the executive committee of the Fund; and, with all her desire to make her contribution to the International effort for solving the World's monetary problems, she should not accept membership of the Fund before reaching an agreement with the United Kingdom in regard to the liquidation of the sterling balances. It is inconsistent that while creating an International Monetary Fund for solving the world's monetary problems on a multilateral basis, India should be asked to solve her most important monetary problem on a bilateral basis.

Inflation.- Closely allied with the problem of sterling balances is the question of inflation in India. Controls of various types affecting numerous commodities have been instituted by the Government of India to counteract its evil effects, and those are being daily extended in their range. In some directions these controls have shown a certain measure of success, but even today it is not possible to state with confidence ~~that controls have succeeded in eliminating hoarding or wiping out black markets.~~ One obvious explanation of this deplorable state of affairs is the failure on the part of Government to give in their counteracting measures that proper weightage to relieving the acute shortage of civilian goods which is being increasingly felt all over the country today. This raises the very important issue of India's capacity to carry all the burdens which are being imposed on her. The Government of India cannot be unaware of the strain to which Indian economy is being put in coping with the increased demands that are made ~~on~~ on the country. The situation is continually deteriorating, and unless ~~the~~ the Indian economy is gradually relieved of this burden, the breaking point cannot be far distant. Those who airily compare the war effort of industrially advanced countries like the United Kingdom and the United States of America with that of India ~~must~~ forget the fact that for a century and over, India's economic potentialities were cruelly ignored and that the effort she has put in during the last 5 years in spite of official apathy and lack of encouragement, is in no sense inferior to the efforts of the richer and the more advanced countries in the West.

Resolutions.- A number of resolutions on the political situation and on the Government of India's policy regarding the import of consumer goods, taxation of industries, development of export trade, post-war development of industries and the adverse effects of the control exercised by the Government on various activities connected with industrial production and trade were adopted at the session; the more important of these were the following:

Political Situation: Release of Leaders urged.- The Federation greatly deplored ~~that~~ the absence of any improvement in the political situation in the country. It was firmly of opinion that the continuance of the stalemate was not only detrimental to the political and economic stability of the country, but also not conducive to an early and successful conclusion of the war. It was therefore necessary to release forthwith all the political leaders and workers detained without trial and to take effective measures for the early establishment of a National Government which was essential for the economic and social development of the country.

Amendment of Defence of India Rules.- The application and working of the Defence of India Rules, particularly Rule 122, and the orders under the Hoarding and Profiteering (Prevention) Ordinance had resulted in considerable harassment to those who come under their purview. The Government of India should therefore, so amend the Rule and the orders that only those persons who were in actual management of the concerns might be proceeded against in cases of contravention.

Expansion of Indian Merchant Navy.- The Federation strongly urged upon the Government of India the necessity for taking immediate steps for a large-scale expansion of the Indian Merchant Navy which should in future be owned and managed entirely by Indian Nationals. All possible encouragement and assistance should be given to enable the development of a ship-building industry in India with Indian capital and under Indian control and management, for the purpose of building ocean-going ships in India.

Consumer Goods: Import Policy Criticised.- The Federation strongly protested against the policy adopted by the Government of India, apparently designed to check inflation, of importing consumer goods from abroad; these goods were competing with the products of Indian industries which were handicapped in maintaining or expanding their production in the absence of any concerted and serious effort on the part of Government to import the necessary plant and machinery, chemicals and other raw materials from abroad. In order to bring about a steady increase in the standard of living of the people, rapid industrialisation of the country should be undertaken without delay. This could be secured by the maximum utilisation of the country's industrial capacity and its natural resources and by securing from abroad only the balance of such consumer goods as might be required.

Too Heavy Incidence of Taxation.- The war-time taxation policy of the Government of India in respect of industries was such as tended to hamper their post-war development. It left no adequate reserves to meet the post-war requirements of industries for renewals, replacements and expansion of capital assets, and thereby undermined their stability and competitive strength vis-a-vis industries in other countries. It was necessary, therefore, to ~~formulate~~ the ~~tax~~ tax structure in such a way as would positively encourage and accelerate the industrial progress of India.

Development of Export Trade.- While taking note of the position secured during the war by the manufactures of Indian industries in the markets of the neighbouring countries, the Federation felt that the Government of India should take energetic steps to enable the industries not only to maintain their present position in these markets but also to strengthen it further in the post-war period.

With regard to the disruption during the war, of the normal export trade channels which were previously available ~~annex~~ for the agricultural produce and raw materials of India, the Government of India, in consultation with the interests concerned, should devise measures to counteract the effects on foreign markets of the subsidised exports of raw materials ~~of~~ other countries and to secure a more advantageous position for ~~such of~~ India's monopoly raw materials as raw jute, raw cotton and mica.

Post-war Development Policy: Declaration to be made.- There was a growing anxiety in the commercial and industrial community of India with regard to the all-round industrial development of the country after the war, and an early declaration of Government's policy in respect of the following aspects would be helpful in allaying this: (a) the role of the State in the future; (b) the extent of protection against internal and external competition to be offered to Indian industries; and (c) India's

participation in any international arrangements which may impede the fullest utilisation of her resources.

Effect of Controls on Trade and Industries.- The Federation was gravely concerned over the working of the numerous controls imposed by the Central and the Provincial Governments, under the Defence of India Act and the Ordinances, on the import and export, procurement, purchase, distribution and transport and movement of commodities, as these controls had resulted in bribery and corruption on an increasing scale and had not only dislocated the smooth and efficient working of the normal channels of trade but had also failed to produce the desired results. The system of controls had, in the main, been restrictive and injurious and created artificial difficulties in the conduct of trade and industry by imposing undue restrictions on the floatation of new concerns and the grant of import licences for raw materials, plant and machinery for increasing production. These restrictions, combined with the defective system of allocation of coal and other raw materials, had taken away the incentive for the expansion of industry and hindered production which was so urgently needed by the country. In any scheme of Government control, the association of the non-official, commercial and industrial interests should be a sine qua non of its imposition and working if inefficiency, delay and failure were to be avoided. Government should, therefore, review the administration of all the controls and revise and rationalise them so as to encourage industrial and agricultural expansion and facilitate smooth and quick distribution through normal trade channels.

Rationalisation of Coal Industry.- The present state of chaos and crisis resulting in the closing of several factories, mills and industries in the country due to the short supply of coal would not have occurred if Government had taken prompt measures with regard to raisings and distribution. In the interests of further industrialisation, an increasing production of coal should be assured by the Government taking all possible steps at an early date to explore new sources of supply, introducing methods of rationalisation and offering such prices for coal as would ensure the continued operation and proper development of collieries. With a view to stimulate greater raisings of coal at a reasonably high level, Government should take effective measures such as (a) procurement of essential plant, equipment and stores, (b) creation of such conditions as would counteract the deflection of mining labour to more remunerative work, (c) offer of facilities for transport of inter-colliery stores, (d) provision of greater supplies of food and other daily necessities required by mining labour, and (e) offer of certain relief from taxation to the industry in view of its being a wasting asset.

Resolutions were also adopted relating to the position of Indians in South Africa and Burma, citizenship rights for Indians in the United States of America, India's participation in the International Monetary Fund and sterling balances.

Office bearers for 1945-46.- The following office-bearers were elected for 1945-46. President: Sir Badridas Goenka; Vice-president: Lala Gurusharan Lal; and Honorary Treasurer: Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar.

(From Printed copies of the Presidential Address and the Resolutions received in this Office from the Secretary of the Federation; and the Hindustan Times, dated 5-3-1945). + +

Resolutions adopted by 5th Annual Conference of
All India Manufacturers' Organisation, New Delhi,
24 and 25-2-1945.

The following are some of the more important resolutions adopted by the All India Manufacturers' Organisation at its 5th annual conference held at New Delhi on 24 and 25-2-1945, with Sir M. Visvesvaraya, president of the Organisation, in the chair:

The Organisation welcomes the recent announcements made by the Planning Member, Government of India, regarding India's economic development and urges upon the government to make a rapid survey of the resources available for industrial development and to fix, at an early date, suitable production targets for industries. It suggests that the proposed Tariff Board should be composed of a non-official president assisted by two officials. At least two heavy and key industries should be established in each province in order to secure regionalization of industries. It is highly necessary to initiate a vigorous village industrialization drive throughout the country. Such conditions should be brought into being in India as would enable her to take her part in world commerce and world monetary affairs as a free nation on terms of equality, with other countries. The Disposals Board proposed to be set up by the Government of India should be associated with it Advisory Panels composed of representatives of Indian industrial and commercial interests. A statistical organisation should be set up without delay.

(Commerce and Industry, 21-2-1945).†

Workers' Organisations.

Proposed All-India Labour Organisation to work on Gandhian Lines: Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh.

According to reports published in the Bombay Chronicle, under directions from Mahatma Gandhi, the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh, which was formed in 1938 with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as President, has revised its constitution and appointed Mr. Gulsarilal Wanda as secretary to open provincial and local branches; the new organisation will work on the principles of truth and non-violence for which Mahatma Gandhi stands.

The functions of the Sangh are to assist in the formation of trade unions and in securing their recognition by employers; to train workers for the work of organisation and administration of trade unions; to guide trade unions in matters of policy and administration; to establish welfare activities in industrial centres for the uplift of the working classes and development of its internal strength; to make efforts to get suitable legislation for ameliorating the conditions of workers; and to prepropagate the principles of truth and non-violence.

Mahatma Gandhi has entrusted the task of chalking out the details to Mr. Gulsarilal Wanda, who is at present engaged in deliberations with the various nationalist elements active in the working class. It is probable that Congress leaders like Mr. B.G. Kher, Yusuf Meherally, S.K. Patil and few others from Bombay and Maharashtra might be included in the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 12-3-1945 and
15-3-1945).+

Amalgamation of Trade Unions by Industry by Industry:
A.I.T.U.C. President's Circular Letter to Member
Unions.

The urgent necessity for better coordination and unification of Indian trade unions industry by industry was stressed by Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose, President, A.I.T.U.C., in a circular letter dated 20-2-1945 addressed to all affiliated unions. Mr. Bose points out that one of the major tasks of the A.I.T.U.C. at present is to organise and co-ordinate the activities of the member unions ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ in each industry in order to formulate common demands and to devise ways and means to enforce them. Suggestions have been made that industrial and zonal conferences should be held for this purpose. But the following proposals are considered more effective as they might also pave the way for the unification of all the different groups working in the Trade Union movement. (1) In each province, steps should be taken to hold industrial conferences at an early date. (2) In order to make a conference successful, there should be a joint committee representing all the unions in the industry entrusted with making preparations for the conference. The committee will act under the direct guidance of the provincial committee. (3) Efforts should be made through these conferences to amalgamate all the unions in each industry into one. If the proposal for amalgamation is not agreed upon by all the unions, a co-ordination committee should be set up in accordance with the rules that may be laid down by the provincial committee. (The Trade Union Record, Jan-Feb. 1945).+

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Annual Meeting of All India Railwaymen's
Federation to be held at Secunderabad on
23 and 24-4-1945.

The annual convention of the All-India Railway Men's Federation will be held at Secunderabad on 23 and 24-4-1945. Mr. V.V. Giri, former Labour Minister of Madras, is likely to be elected President of the Federation in place of Mr. S.C. Joshi, who has been appointed Labour Commissioner by the Government of India. The Federation will discuss the demands of railway workers for abolition of the new scales of pay, revision of their basic wages and grant of adequate dearness allowance at a flat rate for all railway workers. It is understood that the Railway Board has recently informed the Federation that the question of revising the present scales of dearness allowance is under the consideration of the Board and that the decision will be announced shortly.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-3-1945). +

U.S. Government's Collecting Information re-Indian
Trade Unions and Labour Conditions.

According to an A.P.I. message dated 17-3-1945 from Bombay, the U.S. Government has sought full information regarding the present strength of trade union organizations in India, labour conditions in different industries, employment and wages. It is also learnt that a deputation of representatives of the Congress of Industrial Organizations of U.S.A. is likely to proceed to India shortly to study labour conditions in this country.

(The Hindustan Times, 19-3-1945). +

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Miscellaneous.

2nd All-India Textile Conference, Bombay,
27-2-1945 to 1-3-1945.

The Second All-India Textile Conference organised by the Textile Association (India), with the collaboration of the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay, met on the 27th and 28th February and 1st March 1945 at Bombay.

Sir Joseph Kay's Inaugural Address.- Inaugurating the Conference, Sir Joseph Kay, a prominent mill-owner who was Chairman of the Mill-owners Association, Bombay, in 1921, 1922 and 1935, expressed his optimism for the future with regard to the textile industry. External competition and price cutting had at least for a few years been eliminated. Combined with the production of the handloom industry, they could meet increasing domestic requirements, and with some extension of the industry, export markets were within reach. ~~Advocating~~ Advocating a policy of reasonable protection in the purchase of machinery and plant, Sir Joseph deprecated the purchase of second-hand machinery and plant and cautioned against wild and theoretical planning. Referring to the Platt Report on the Cotton Textile Mission to the United States of America, he said: "There is in the Report much which will enable us to turn our minds to improvements in the ~~running of our~~ manufacture, and in the running of our ~~own~~ own mills. The Indian domestic markets, will in the near future tend to be so large as to justify our taking more seriously than we have done in the past ~~our~~ production". As regards economic controls, Sir Joseph felt there was no reason why Government, once the war was over, should interfere in the normal course of trade in the textile industry. On the question of labour, Sir Joseph Kay emphasised the need for making every effort to secure more understanding relations between the employer and labour and said that progress had been made in recent years in regard to the settling of disputes by arbitration, but there was still much to be done. Further legislation should be so framed as to permit, in so far as was possible, the mills and workers settling their own differences. Pointing out that 'merely more money and less work will not do' Sir Joseph emphasised that labour must be made to realise that it must respond to the benefits which will arise from all the schemes to be introduced for its benefit.

Discussion on Labour Problems.- The second session of the Conference, which was ~~presided over~~ presided over by the Hon'ble Justice Sir H. Divatia, President of the Industrial Court, Bombay, and Chairman of the Bombay Textile Labour Inquiry Committee, was devoted to a discussion on labour welfare and labour legislation. Papers were read on 'Post-War Labour Legislation', 'Labour Welfare in Large-scale Industries' and 'Industrial Health and Medical Service'. ~~Summing up~~ Summing up the discussion, ~~Sir H. Divatia~~ Sir H. Divatia stressed the need for all-India labour legislation. That legislation should apply not merely to textile concerns in British India but should also apply to all textile concerns in India, including the Native States. Again, he felt that legislation must not be for the benefit of one party, but ~~it must~~ it must be for the benefit of all the parties or all the persons concerned. It is the duty of the employer to do all that he can for the satisfaction and welfare measures of the workers. It is equally the duty of the workers to be as efficient as they can when they are paid properly and when their needs are looked after by Government. As regards arbitration, Sir H. Divatia felt that very great care should be exercised before forcing any sort of compulsory arbitration upon the parties.

Synthetic fibres; ventilation, humidification and air-conditioning of textile factories; recent trends in textile machinery development; and the problems of post-war re-equipment were among the other subjects discussed by the Conference.

(The Times of India, 1-3-1945
The Bombay Chronicle, 1-3-1945
The Indian Textile Journal, March, 1945).

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PUBLIC HEALTH.

Medical and Public Health Services in Bombay: Provision
in Budget for 1945-46.

The Bombay Government proposes to spend nearly Rs. 14.7 million on its Medical and Public Health Services during 1945-46.

A survey of the relevant items in the budget shows that emphasis has inevitably been placed on the training and provision of personnel, more especially nursing staff, on the supply of essential drugs and medicines of which there is so much shortage during war time, and on the expansion of schemes of water-supply and sanitation, both urban and rural.

Provision for Training more Nurses.- The College of Nursing started in Bombay nearly two years ago as an experimental measure, is to be continued on a permanent basis. Two more Colleges of Nursing are to be established at Satara and Broach with a training capacity of 60 students per annum, and the training schools for nurses at Civil Hospitals in the mofussil, which have been in existence since 1942-43, are to be continued on a permanent basis.

Provision for Public Health Work in Rural Areas and for the opening of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.- The present experimental scheme in the districts of Ahmedabad, Surat, Sholapur and Bijapur whereby a District Health Officer is appointed and intensive public health work is carried out in the rural areas of the district under his guidance, is to be made permanent and in three of these districts Child Welfare and Maternity Centres are to be set up.

Water Supply Schemes for Rural and Urban Areas.- The Government also propose to spend about Rs. 920,000 for the carrying out of village water supply schemes and a further Rs. 500,000 on grants-in-aid to Municipalities for water-supply and drainage schemes. Among other items for which provision has been made might be mentioned a three-month course of instruction on public health; additional remuneration to subsidised medical practitioners called upon to do public health duties in addition their normal work; expansion of the experimental scheme for the manufacture of sera and vaccine at the Haffkine Institute; the purchase and distribution by the Department, of penicillin, quinine and quinine substitutes; and the strengthening of the nucleus malaria organisation which has been working in the Province since 1942.

(Bombay Budget, 1945-46, Statement to the Press by H.E. the Governor of Bombay, pages 9-10).+ +

EDUCATION.

Education in Bombay: Provision in Budget for 1945-46.

Since the commencement of Provincial Autonomy, Bombay's expenditure on education has steadily increased and the budget for 1945-46 provides for an expenditure of Rs. 26.3 million on education. This amount exceeds the revised estimate for the current year by Rs. 2 million.

In 1945-46, in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Basic Education, the period of training in the Basic Training Centres is to be increased from one to two years and arrangements are to be made for the training of teachers in agriculture and weaving in addition to spinning. All the 85 Agricultural Bias Schools in the Province are to be converted into Basic Schools and 50 more are to be started making a total of 135 Basic Schools. Grants-in-aid are to be given on a more liberal basis to primary and secondary schools run by local authorities and other non-Government bodies and provision is also made for broadening the basis of special grants to such schools to enable them to pay their teachers a more adequate dearness allowance. The educational concessions granted to the children and other dependents of persons employed in the Defence Services are to be extended and, during the current year, the Government has sanctioned the award of 100 scholarships of Rs. 120 each per annum for the sons of soldiers and ex-soldiers domiciled in the Province studying at the King George Royal Indian Military Schools.

(Bombay Budget, 1945-46, Statement to the Press by H.E. the Governor of Bombay, pages 6-8)← +

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME.

Wages.

Enhanced Dearness Allowance for Postal Staff
Government Member's Assurance to Deputation.

A deputation of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Union, led by Mr. S.M. Nauman, M.L.A. (Central), President of the Union, met Sir Muhammed Usman, Member in charge of Posts and Air, Government of India, on 9-3-1945, and explained to him the grievances of the employees of the postal department. Mr. Nauman stressed the need for granting dearness allowance equivalent 50 per cent of the pay to the staff, subject to a minimum of Rs.30 and a maximum of Rs. 80. He also pleaded for the revision of the scales of pay, which were fixed in 1931.

Sir Muhammed Usman assured the deputation that the granting of enhanced dearness allowance was under contemplation by the Government and that an announcement would be made after the receipt of the report of the inquiry committee appointed by the Government in November, 1944 (vide page 34 of our report for November, 1944). As regards revision of salary scales, though discussions on the subject were going on, no decision was likely to be arrived at till the end of the war. The deputation was informed that the issue was a big one as it embraced the question of salaries in all Central Government ~~XXXXXX~~ services.

(The Hindu, 17-3-1945). + +

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Employment.

Amendments in National Service (Technical Personnel)
Rules, 1940: New Rules re. Employment of Technical
Personnel, Desertion, etc.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 19 of the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, 1940 (Ordinance No. 11 of 1940), the Central Government has made certain further amendments in the National Service (Technical Personnel) Rules, 1940. Under the new rules every person included in the definition of technical personnel shall, when accepting employment in an industrial undertaking, report to the owner or manager thereof the name and address of the employer under whom ~~the~~ he was last employed and the date on which he left that employment. Penalty for the breach of or the furnishing of false information under this sub-rule is imprisonment which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to Rs. 1,000 or both. Another new rule provides that every industrial undertaking shall report to the National Service Labour Tribunal the name and address of any person included in the definition of technical personnel who leaves his employment in the undertaking without the permission in writing of the Tribunal. The report shall be sent so as to reach the tribunal within three days of the event. For the purpose of this rule, a person shall be deemed to leave his employment ~~if he absents himself from work for more than ten consecutive days without~~ the permission of the employer.

(Not. No. TRC(1)-2, dated 3-3-1945, the
Gazette of India, dated 10-3-1945,
part I- Sec. 1, page 294).-

✓ Training of Labour Officers in U.K.: First Batch
to leave by end of March, 1945.

The first batch of 20 labour officers of the Central and Provincial Governments to be trained in the United Kingdom under a new scheme of the Government of India is expected to leave India by the end of March 1945. The batch consists of 12 officers of the Labour Department selected by the Government of India and the rest nominated by the Provincial Governments. Under the scheme, the officers will be trained in certain aspects of labour administration, like industrial relations, including the settlement of labour disputes, factory inspection and labour welfare, wage regulation, employment exchanges, demobilization and resettlement and registration schemes. The training will be comprehensive, and will include a course at the headquarters of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, London. Two more ~~such~~ batches of 20 each will be sent for training at an interval of six months.

(The Hindustan Times, 25-3-1945)..-

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Control Measures.

The Aluminium Utensils (Control) Order, 1945.

The Government of India on 24-2-1945 issued the Aluminium Utensils Control Order, 1945, for controlling the manufacture and sale of aluminium utensils and for regulating their prices.

(Notification No. 91-M(9)/45, dated 24-2-1945, the Gazette of India, dated 24-2-1945, Part I, Sec. 1, pages 235-236).*

The Penicillin Control Order, 1945.

To prevent the manufacture and marketing of spurious products under the guise of penicillin and to ensure that penicillin placed on the market conforms to the recognized standards, the Central Government, on 6-3-1945, issued the Penicillin Control Order, 1945, under the Defence of India Rules. Under this order, penicillin which is sold or offered for sale must conform to the recognized standards of strength, quality and purity. Manufacture of the drug will be strictly controlled by a licensing system.

(Not. No. D.292-H(C)/45, dated 6-3-1945, the Gazette of India, dated 10-3-1945, Part I, Sec. 1, pages ~~288-289~~ 288-290).*

The Non-Ferrous Metals Control Order, 1945.

The Government of India, on 9-3-1945, gazetted the Non-Ferrous Metals Control order, 1945, for regulating the distribution of non-ferrous metals. Under this order, importers are required to take out a licence and they may not dispose of any non-ferrous metal to any person who is not in possession of a permit. No person shall acquire from a producer more than 10 Cwts. of any non-ferrous metal in one month without obtaining a permit from the Controller. No non-ferrous metal acquired under a permit shall be used for any purpose other than that specified in the permit.

(Not. No. 486, dated 9-3-1945, the Gazette of India, dated 17-3-1945, Part I, Sec. 1, pages 325-327).*

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Controlled Distribution of Dhotis and Saris in Bombay City and Bengal.

Bombay.- To meet the present acute shortage of certain types of cloth and particularly dhotis and saris, the Government of Bombay has decided to sell only one pair of ~~one pair of~~ dhotis and one pair of saris through approved cloth shops once in six months to each family in the Bombay City and Suburban District. Announcing this at a Press conference on 19-3-1945, Mr. J.K. Thakere, Provincial Textile Controller, said that at the end of the first period of six months the scheme would be reviewed in the light of production and supply of cloth. What was attempted by this ~~arrangement~~ arrangement, was merely controlled distribution of the available stocks of dhotis and saris and not rationing. Rationing in the real sense could be ~~undertaken~~ only if adequate supplies were assured. The aim of the present experiment was limited to securing the distribution of whatever stocks were available to genuine consumers. This new arrangement comes into force on 21-3-1945.

(The Hindustan Times, 20-3-1945).

Cloth Rationing in Bengal.- Mr. H.S. Shrawardy, Minister for Civil Supplies, Government of Bengal, indicated at a Press conference, on 21-3-1945, that full-fledged rationing of cloth would ~~be~~ be in operation throughout Bengal in about six weeks.

(Dawn, 23-3-1945).+

Production.

Measures to overcome Cloth Scarcity: Indian Exporters' Associations' Suggestions.

According to the Indian Exporters' Association, Bombay, the real causes of the present cloth scarcity in Bengal ~~are~~ are: (1) under-production, due to coal shortage and other factors; (2) heavy strain on the textile industry, which has been supplying cloth for military needs to the extent of 900,000,000 yards annually; and (3) illicit smuggling out of India.

The first step to remedy this lies in easing the coal situation so that Indian mills can increase the tempo of production to their full capacity. Similarly, the Government should permit them to increase the number of spindles. So far the Government has been opposed to the putting up of new spindles. The Governments of the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. should be required to supply a substantial share of the military requirements of cloth in India. Illicit smuggling of cloth ~~the country~~ should be sternly stamped out. The stoppage of export of cloth is not the correct method of overcoming the scarcity. Maintenance of the present exports is essential if markets are to be kept intact for the post-war period. If these markets are not maintained, the U.K. and the U.S.A. will capture them in their new export drives.

(The Hindustan Times, 29-3-1945).+

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Food.

Central Food Advisory Council: Second Session,
New Delhi, 28-2-1945 to 2-3-1945.

Problems relating to India's food policy were discussed at a three-day session of the Central Food Advisory Council which began in New Delhi on 28-2-1945.

Food Member's Address.— Inaugurating the session, the Hon'ble Sir J.P. Srivastava, Food Member to the Government of India, said that the Government's policy of statutory price control for the principal food grains and of urban rationing had worked well and claimed that confidence in the ability of Government to forestall shortages, to maintain supplies and to control the prices of the basic cereals had largely been restored. The Food Department was directing attention to the improvement of the nation's diet and a planning branch had been set up to work on both long-term and short-term plans for improving the feeding of the people on scientific lines in close touch with the nutritional adviser on the one hand and with the rationing and basic plan branches on the other. The Government were also contemplating setting up a new division in the Department which will have as its special care, the distribution of sugar, salt, the fresh and protective foods and imported processed foodstuffs from abroad. The Food Member further announced the decision of the government of India to set up a Directorate of Inspection which will work in very close touch with the Storage Directorate and perform similar advisory and helpful functions.

Resolutions.— The resolutions adopted by the Council are noticed below.

Procurement and Rationing.— As regards procurement, the Council accepted the recommendation of the procurement sub-committee that monopoly procurement should continue to be the goal towards which the development of all procurement systems should proceed. With regard to rationing, the Council adopted the resolution passed at the Fifth Food Conference (vide page 46 of our report for February 1945) and recommended by a majority that no supplementary rations of rationed foods should be granted for religious and other festivals.

Regulation of Markets and Standardisation of Weights and Measures.— The Council held that regulation of markets and standardisation of weights and measures had been long overdue in India and recommended immediate steps to remove the abuses of the markets and to adopt standard weights and measures. An Ordinance to this effect may at once be issued followed by a legislative measure.

Protective Foods.— The Council resolved that an ordinance should be promulgated to provide stringent punishment against adulteration of milk and milk products to be followed by legislative measures. As regards vegetables, to stimulate production it was essential to improve the marketing machinery and for this purpose the Council recommended the setting up of farmers' cooperatives. In order to improve the financial condition of agriculturists, agricultural cooperative societies should also be organised for carrying on industries such as vegetable and fruit canning and preservation and dairy farming.

Fertiliser Requirements of Food crops.— By another resolution the Council urged immediate steps to carry out countrywide experimental work to ascertain the requirements of various foodcrops for their Nitrogen, Phosphates and Potash needs. Such work should be so planned that results

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are forthcoming between three to five years. The cost of this work should be met out of the 'Grow More Food' funds.

(The Statesman, 1-3-1945 and
Dawn, 3-3-1945).+

Food Planning.

A Planning Section has started functioning under the Food Department of the Government of India. Its object is to secure the most rapid improvement possible in the feeding of the Indian people, particularly the vulnerable sections, by the correct use of the country's available resources. Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao is at present in charge of the section.

The planning is to be both on a short and long term basis. Targets of food production will be fixed in accordance with India's future needs, and due attention will be paid to sound methods of distribution and an economic policy which would ensure to all classes a full and balanced diet within their means. Dr. Rao will maintain close contact with the Economic Adviser to the Government of India and other departments of the Central Government interested in food planning in their respective spheres. Dr. Rao is shortly undertaking a tour of the provinces to conduct inquiries connected with his task and establish contacts with health and nutrition workers in various part of the country.

(The Hindustan Times, 12-3-1945).+

New Vegetable Ghee Factories to be set up: Government of India's Assistance.

The Government of India is planning to increase the production of vegetable ghee in India by 100,000 tons in 1945-46, and for this purpose, to help private industry to establish not more than 20 new factories distributed all over the country. Provincial Governments have been asked to recommend sites for these factories and to suggest names of firms which may be entrusted with their establishment and working. The present production of vegetable ghee in India is ~~approximately~~ 12,000 tons.

(The Hindustan Times, 31-3-1945).+ +

Canteens in Government Factories and Depots: Mr. H.C. Prior's Statement in Central Assembly.

In answer to a question in the Central Assembly on 21-3-1945, Mr. H.C. Prior, Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India, stated that there were 82 canteens supplying cooked food in Government-owned factories and depots towards the close of 1944. Government considered it was better to run cooked food canteens departmentally than through contractors. It had been decided in respect of canteens in Government

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undertakings run departmentally or by workers, to provide rent-free accommodation and to bear the capital charges on cooking utensils and ~~the~~ furniture. There were in all about 375 Government factories and depots, excluding mines, establishments like military farms and depots attached to them, salvage undertakings, canteen undertakings, etc. Government had recognized 69 unions of its employees.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-3-1945). +

War Transport.

Co-ordination

Rail-Road Consideration Plans for Bombay.

It is learnt that plans have now been completed for the co-ordination of rail and road ~~transport~~ transport in the Northern Division of the Bombay Province and that they are likely to be put into effect before the end of June, 1945. For purposes of this scheme, the Province has been divided into nine zones, three of which are in the Northern Division. Negotiations have been completed between the existing road transport operators, the railway authorities and the Government for the formation of a joint stock company for operating the scheme. 30 per cent of the shares have been allotted to the existing operators, while the railway and the Government will own 35 per cent each. Every zone will receive 200 new trucks for use while all the serviceable trucks now running will be bought by the company. The scheme will first be put into effect on roads parallel to the rail route; operation on feeder and other roads will be taken up later.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-3-1945). +

Post-War Reconstruction.

Five-Year Plan of Post-War Development for Assam.

The Assam Government's five year plan for post-war reconstruction in the province was published in the second week of March. The schemes involve a total expenditure of nearly Rs. 840 million, and will have to be examined in detail by the post-war reconstruction committee before they are accepted by Government finally and sent up to the Government of India.

The highest priority is assigned to communications. 13,680 miles of national and provincial highways and district and village roads are to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 544.8 million. About Rs. 85.5 million is to be spent on education, Rs. 83.9 million on public health and medical schemes, Rs. 28.4 million on agriculture and animal husbandry, Rs. 27.4 million on cooperation, Rs. 23.5 million on industrialisation, Rs. 15.5 million on buildings, Rs. 10.7 million on veterinary services and Rs. 5.3 million on social service and village welfare.

Agriculture.- The main objects in this sphere, according to the Report embodying the list of schemes, are (i) to provide for encouragement of all food and money crops; (ii) to meet provincial food requirements as far as practicable conforming to minimum nutritional standards; and (iii) with regard to cash crops, to provide the raw materials for developing ~~industries and export markets wherever feasible.~~ These ~~ex~~ objectives will be attempted by planning crop production targets to be achieved by improved seed production on a province-wide scale; by encouraging the adoption of ~~better cultural and manual operations;~~ by providing for more irrigation ~~pump~~ facilities through irrigation pumps and small irrigation projects; by anti-erosion measures; by organised control of insect pests and diseases in the field and in storage; by the use of better and improved tools and implements wherever practicable; by the organisation of a fruit industry in the province; by improvement and development of animal husbandry and by the organised marketing of agricultural produce based on a better collection of agricultural statistics. In addition, agricultural education will be developed to provide for part of the increased staff required for organised development of the department.

Industrial Development.- Referring to industrial development, the Report lays down three factors, namely (i) power sources, (ii) communications, and (iii) ready access to materials, besides a strong body of experts and industrialists. Assam has a large hydro-electric resources but needs experts to develop them. The province, therefore, looks to the Central Power Board for assistance.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 15-3-1945 and
The Hindustan Times, 14-3-1945) . .

Post-War Reconstruction Plan for Bihar.

The Bihar Government's post-war reconstruction plan has been published in book form and the estimates of cost were discussed at a press conference at Patna on 15-3-1945.

The plan includes 160 schemes and estimates an expenditure of Rs. 1,000 million consisting of Rs. 410 million as contribution from the Centre and the rest from local borrowings and other levies. But Bihar's main difficulty is the prevalent land tenure system. Under the system

the extended wealth that will be produced by the development plans is likely to be appropriated largely by private owners giving little benefit towards the general revenue of the Provincial Government. On the other hand, the non-productive debts will make a huge inroad on the provincial revenue. Relief might be sought through the levy of agricultural income tax, but this is not likely to give much relief.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 16-3-1945).

Textile Committee of the Cotton Production Regulation Board: India to be represented.

India is a major producer of cotton textiles and exports of Indian textiles have met, to a considerable extent, the urgent requirements of Allied and friendly nations abroad. In view of this, the Government of India have decided that India should be separately represented at the textile allocation meetings to be held at Washington under the aegis of the Textile Committee of the Cotton Production Regulation Board. The Government of India have accordingly decided to nominate Mr. Kasturibhai Lalbhai, a prominent mill-owner and a non-official member of the Textile Control Board, Bombay, to represent them on the Textile Committee.

Mr. Kasturibhai Lalbhai is expected to leave for America in the near future.

(The Hindu, 3-3-1945).

Post-War Reconstruction: Suggestions of Industries Committee of Bihar Post-War Reconstruction Board.

A Town Planning Act.- The Industries Committee of the Bihar Post-War Reconstruction Board has recommended for Bihar a Town Planning Act on the lines of the Bombay and the Madras Acts. Such legislation is necessary to regulate the establishment and development of the industrial towns ~~industrial industries in Bihar~~ that would result from the new post-war industries in Bihar.

Legislation empowering Government to take over and manage Property with Mineral Resources.- The Committee has further recommended that in order that the mineral resources of the province may be fully utilised, legislation should be passed on the lines of the Defence of India Rules under which, where the owner of a private property containing essential minerals, is not working or developing the property, Government will have power to take over and manage the property and make such minerals ~~available~~ available to industrialists at reasonable rates.

Conservation of Metallurgical Coking Coal.- Another important recommendation of the Committee is that in the interest of conservation of metallurgical coking coal of which there is only a limited supply in the country, the railways should be made to work with second class coal and necessary steps should be taken by Government for that purpose.

(The Hindu, 14-3-1945).

Training of Technicians Abroad: Board for
selection of candidates appointed.

The Government of India has appointed a board to make the final selection of students to be sent abroad for advanced courses in technical and agricultural subjects directly related to the various plans for post-war development. The board consists of: Sir Maurice Gwyer (chairman); Dr. John Sargent, Education Adviser to the Government of India; Dr. Sir S.S. Bhatnagar; Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan; Captain Sardar Nau Nihal Singh. An expert in each technical subject for which students are to be selected will be co-opted on the board. The selection of students to be sent abroad, including those nominated by Provincial Governments, is expected to be completed by the end of May.

(The Hindustan Times, 30-3-1945). +

Recommendations of C.F. Industries Committee:
Intensified Industrialization Drive.

The following are the more important recommendations made by the Industries Committee appointed by the Government of the Central Provinces in November, 1944, in view of a rapid industrial survey of the Province:—

Undertaking of an immediate survey of the hydroelectric possibilities of the province and establishment of five thermal electric stations (Nagpur, Betul, Chhindwara, Drug-Nagpur area and Chanda area) all to be connected together subsequently so as to form one provincial grid linked up with the all-India grid system; ~~owning and~~ owning and managing of electric power stations by the State; working by the State of the coal mines supplying coal to electric power stations; supply of electric power at such rates as to help industrialization; rationalization of the coal industry by electrification and by improved methods of working; working of the ~~manganese~~ manganese mines by the State; expansion of the potteries ~~industries~~ industry and starting of factories for the manufacture of porcelain, insulators, refractories and tiles; improvement of the existing glass factories and employment of an experienced glass expert from abroad; improvement of cotton-growing, control of the ginning and pressing factories and expansion of the textile industry; stepping up export of oilseeds to maximize internal consumption, refining oil for human consumption, feeding cattle with cake and starting of four factories for the manufacture of vegetable ghee; establishment of a Citrus Research Institute at Nagpur; exploration and demonstration of the industrial possibilities of forest products; seasoning and preservation of timber by chemical treatment, manufacture of bobbins, extraction of tannin, manufacture of paper, and establishment of paper mills in Chanda, Betul and Balaghat; employment of an entomologist to organize the lac industry; organisation of the hides and skins industry on co-operative lines; and starting of three or more bone-crushing factories for the preparation of super-phosphates. Other recommendations include the fostering of cottage industries, establishment of an ammonium sulphate factory in the Katni area, establishment of a permanent Census Department for industrial production and vital statistics on the lines of the U.S. Census Bureau and a thorough overhauling of the labour codes with a view to ensuring that labour throughout the country ^{had} a fair deal.

(The Hindustan Times, 29-3-1945). +

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Financing of Post-War Reconstruction: Fund being
set up in Bombay.

The Governments in the various Provinces in India are already building up funds for financing their post-war reconstruction schemes. Bombay's Post-War Reconstruction Fund amounted at the close of 1944-45 to Rs. 70 million and during 1945-46 the Government proposes to add to it another Rs. 40 million. Assuming that the execution of the post-war programmes will commence in 1947-48 and that the Government will transfer to the Fund another Rs. 40 million in 1946-47, at the commencement of the programme, Bombay Province will have Rs. 150 million in its Post-War Development Fund.

Apart from the amounts transferred to and reserved in the Post-War Reconstruction Fund, considerable amounts are also being spent currently on items of "special priority" such as training of staff and preparation of projects. For example, in 1945-46, buildings, additional or new, are proposed to be constructed for the Colleges of Engineering and Agriculture and for agricultural training centres, and the preliminary stages of setting training and organisation are to be begun on a scheme of extensive livestock improvement. Nearly Rs. 6.5 million has been set apart in the budget for 1945-46 for such 'special priority' schemes.

(Bombay Budget, 1945-46, Statement to the
Press by H.E. the Governor of Bombay,
pages 2-3).

29 Industrial Panels set up by Government of India.

Reference was made at page 58 of our report for January, 1945, to the decision of the Department of Planning and Development, Government of India, to set up 29 industrial panels as a first stage in the preparation of development plans for India for the early years of the post war period. Of those, 25 panels have already been constituted, 2 the more important of which are those established in the following industries: iron and steel (major and minor); heavy and light chemical industries; sugar, alcohol and food; soaps and oils; electro-chemical industries; silk and wool; non-ferrous metal industries; leather and leather goods; scientific industries; ship-building and marine engineering; industrial plant and machinery; machine tools; and light engineering industries.

On receipt of the reports of the various panels and in consultation with Provincial Industrial Committees, an overall plan of industrial development for the country for the first five-year period after the war will be decided upon. Each panel will be given the target to be aimed at in the first five-year period after the war and, wherever possible, the target to be reached within 15 years. For example, the iron and steel (major) panel is expected to plan for an increase of 80 to 100 per cent in production in the first five years. A 50 per cent increase in textiles and 100 per cent in cement have also been indicated. For the textile industry the Textile Control Board will act as the panel. As regards cement, since full information is available with Government, no panel has been constituted.

The personnel of each panel includes persons prominently associated with the industry concerned and one or two experts and also those who by their general knowledge of trade and industry are likely to be useful as members. The panels are not meant to be representative of any particular industrial concern. They are expected to get into touch

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work with all industries concerned, as also with the Industries Committee
of the Provinces and the major States.

(Commerce and Industry, 28-3-1945).

Steps to mitigate Post-War Reaction: Finance
Member's Suggestions.

Replying to the budget debate Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member, Government of India, stated in the Central Legislative Assembly on 26-3-1945 that the Government of India were aware of the whole complex of problems which underlay the post-war price level. He referred to the way in which after the last war attempts were made by cutting down costs, reducing wages, and discharging superfluous labour, to bring about a state of affairs in which ~~small~~ private enterprise felt it could operate profitably again. Sir Jeremy was sure that that method was wrong. He said that the direction in which the world was moving was towards the expansionist philosophy which was held by distinguished thinkers and which might be said to underlie the British White Paper on employment. The Government of India ~~was conscious of the current of world economic thought. But, mere adoption~~ of expansionist theory and policy would not in itself in the conditions of India suffice to neutralize the effects of the cessation of large-scale ~~and expansionism.~~ To mitigate the ill effects of post-war reaction in India, he suggested regulation of demobilization, ~~the~~ maintenance of cheap money policy and regulation of capital issues, facilitation of capital imports and industrial rehabilitation, pushing on with public works and rehabilitation of railways and guarantee of ~~minimum~~ return to the cultivator.

(The Statesman, 27-3-1945). +

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List of the more important publications received in this Office
during March, 1945.

Conditions of Work

- (1) Plan for Labour - Indian Labour and Reconstruction after the War, by Kanji Dwarakadas. Price 8 as. Thacker & Co., Ltd., Bombay. 1945.
- (2) Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1943-44, Vol. II - Statistics. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1945.

Economic Conditions

Government of the Punjab. Budget for the year 1945-46, with detailed Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab. 1945.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

- (1) Report of the Second Conference held at Jamshedpur on the 24th and 25th December, 1944. Indian Federation of Labour, 30, Faiz Bazar, Delhi.
- (2) Presidential Address of Mr. J.C. Setalvad, at the Eighteenth Annual Session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, held on 3rd March 1945, at New Delhi.
- (3) ~~Report of the Committee on the Final Report of the Committee~~ of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, for consideration at the Federation's Annual Session, 1945.