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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

Industrial and Labour Developments in July, 1945.

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Government of India:

Indian Boiler Regulations to be revised.

The Central Boiler Board at its meeting, which concluded at New Delhi on 4-7-1945, decided that the Indian boiler regulations should be revised immediately so as to bring them in line with upto date industrial development and requirements.

This decision has been taken in order that the supply of boilers to India may be simplified and her post-war requirements more readily met. The work of revising the regulations has been entrusted to a sub-committee of the Board. In carrying out the revision, the sub-committee will be guided by current British and American standard specifications and boiler codes.

(The Hindustan Times, 6-7-1945).

Assam:

The Assam Maternity Benefit Rules, 1945.

Reference was made at page 1 of our report for January 1944 to the enforcement in Assam, with effect from 1-2-1944, of the Assam Maternity Benefit Act, 1944. In exercise of the powers conferred by section 16 of this Act, the Government of Assam has now issued the Assam Maternity Benefit Rules, 1945; the rules are published in the Assam Gazette dated 18-7-1945. The rules come into force from 1-9-1945.

(The Assam Gazette, Part II, dated 18-7-1945, pages 745-753).

Bihar:

Amendment to the Bihar and Orissa Factories Rules, 1936.

The Government of Bihar has gazetted on 4-7-1945, the draft of certain amendments to the Bihar and Orissa Factories Rules, 1936, for eliciting objections to or suggestions on the draft amendments; the draft will be taken into consideration on or after 4-10-1945. Addition of (1) Vegetable oil hydrogenation factories, (2) Chemical factories and chemical plants attached to other factories, (3) Lead smelting and refining factories, (4) Railway Locomotive running repair factories, is sought to be made in the Schedule to sub-rule (1) of the Bihar and Orissa Factories Rules, 1936. By amendment, adult male workers employed in Plywood factories on the preparation of glue, gluing, combining, pressing, drying and any such other operations which must proceed concurrently with such operations and must be carried on

continuously for technical reasons, are exempted from the provisions of section 37 of the Factories Act, subject to the following conditions: (a) that no worker shall be allowed to work (i) for more than eight consecutive hours without a rest interval of at least one hour, nor (ii) for periods which spread over more than twelve hours, in any one day; and (b) that any such worker shall be allowed to take light refreshment if he so desires at his place of employment once during any period which exceeds four hours.

(Notification No. 727-IF-38-L, dated 25-6-1945; pages 378-379 of Part II of the Bihar Gazette, dated 4-7-1945).

Application of the Mines (Amendment) Ordinance, 1945,
(Re. Creeches) to Chota Nagpur and Santal
Parganas.

Reference was made at page 1 of our report for May 1945, to the Indian Mines (Amendment) Ordinance, 1945, authorising the Government of India to make rules regarding creeches in mines employing women. By Notification No. 91-VIII-8/45L.T. dated 26-6-1945, the Government of Bihar has directed that this Ordinance shall apply to Chota Nagpur Division and to the Santal Parganas District.

(Notification No. 91-VII M-8/46-L.T. of the Bihar Gazette, dated 4-7-1945).

The Bihar Maternity Benefit Act, 1945.

Reference was made at page 2 of our report for May 1945 to the publication in the Bihar Gazette of the Bihar Maternity Benefit Bill, 1945, for eliciting public opinion. The Bill has now been passed, and the Act (Bihar Act III of 1945), which received the assent of the Governor of Bihar on 13-7-1945, is gazetted for general information in the Bihar Gazette dated 18-7-1945.

(Bihar Gazette, Part IV, dated 18-7-1945, pages 9-17).

Bombay:

Bombay Non-Urban Labour Housing, Sanitation and Provision
Shops Regulations, 1945.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 4 of the Bombay Non-Urban Labour Housing, Sanitation and Provision Shops Act, 1944 (vide page 2 of the report of this office for April 1944), the Bombay Government have now framed rules for regulating the housing and sanitary conditions and the opening of provision shops for non-agricultural labour in non-urban areas. Separate sets of regulations have been framed for (a) employers other than such building contractors as employ not more than 500 labourers for a period of not more than six months, and (b) building contractors employing not more than 500 labourers for a period of not more than six months. These regulations were gazetted on 5-7-1945.

The Bombay Non-Urban Labour Housing, Sanitation and Provision Shops Regulations, 1945.— These regulations have been framed in respect of employers, other than such building contractors as employ not more than 500 labourers for a period of not more than six months. They require the employer to build residential quarters for his labourers and specify the accommodation, sanitary and other facilities to be provided.

Residential Accommodation.— According to the regulations, all residential quarters shall have a plinth of at least one foot above the ground level. When the surrounding land is damp or low-lying the plinth shall be at least two feet above the ground level. The quarters are to be let out to the labourers free of rent and are to be so constructed that every living room shall have a window, a superficial area of not less than 100 square feet, and a floor to ceiling height of at least 10 feet. Further, an open space equal in width to the height of the quarters shall be provided both in front and the rear of all quarters, and of not less than 15 feet in width between quarters of more than one storey. In all such residential quarters accommodation is to be at the rate of 15 square feet per inmate of less than 10 years of age and 30 square feet per inmate of 10 years of age or over.

Provisions for Proper Sanitation.— All residential quarters are also to have adequate arrangements for a supply of wholesome water, proper sanitation and lighting. At least one enclosed bathing place and one washing place are to be provided for every 10 rooms or less, and all residential quarters are to be provided with privy accommodation on the scale of at least one privy seat for every twenty persons or less. In all residential quarters wholesome water is to be provided for the use of the residents and of all employed labour, at the rate of 10 gallons per head per day.

Medical and Other Facilities.— The regulations also lay down that an employer must make provision for free medical aid and first aid and must establish a grain and grocery shop in the vicinity of the residential quarters of the workers and keep it regularly supplied. If the number of labourers (including the members of their families) occupying the quarters exceeds 500 the employer has to employ a full-time medical officer.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, Part I, dated 5-7-1945, pages 1750-1752).

Bombay Non-Urban Labour Housing, Sanitation and Provision Shops Act: Rules for Building Contractors employing not more than 500 Labourers.

The following regulations were gasetted by the Government of Bombay on 5-7-1945 in respect of building contractors employing not more than 500 labourers for a period of not more than six months for regulating the housing and sanitary conditions of the non-agricultural labour employed by them.

Construction of Huts.— Every such contractor shall construct a sufficient number of huts on a plot of land approved by Government for the use of his labourers free of rent. The camp must be situated on a high level removed from rank jungle and must be well drained. The huts should ensure a floor space at the rate of 30 square feet per head and should be laid out in rows with a space of not less than five feet between two huts and 30 feet between two rows.

Provision for Water Supply and Sanitation.— The contractor is also required by the regulations to ensure an adequate supply of pure and wholesome water at the rate of 10 gallons per head per day. All water for drinking purposes has to be treated with potash permanganate or tropical chloride of lime or such other drug or drugs as may be directed by the Controlling Officer.

As regards bathing and washing places, the regulations prescribe one suitably screened bathing place for every 20 persons or less and one washing ~~bathing~~ place for every 30 persons or less. The contractor has also to provide an adequate number of latrines and urinals with separate provision for males and females and an adequate staff for effecting conservancy and cleanliness of the camps.

Medical Facilities.- To provide free medical aid to the labourers the contractor is required to engage a registered medical practitioner with a travelling dispensary for a camp containing 500 persons or less, if there is no Government or private dispensary situated within 5 miles from the camp.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, Part I, dated 5-7-1945, pages 1752-1753).

Application of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938.

Reference was made at page 3 of our report for June 1939 to the Bombay Government's Notification No. 2847/34-A dated 30-5-1939, announcing the classes of concerns in the cotton textile industry to which the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, was to apply. By Notification No. 2847/34-I dated 17-7-1945, the Government of Bombay has ~~amended~~ amended the classes to include in such concerns certain mechanics' shops attached to dyeing, ~~bleaching~~ bleaching departments.

By another Notification No. 2847/34-II dated 18-7-1945 the Government of Bombay has directed that all provisions of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act shall apply in certain specified areas to (a) all concerns, using power and employing twenty or more persons which are engaged in the manufacture of hosiery or other knitted articles made of cotton, wool, silk, or rayon or an admixture of two or more of them and in all processes incidental or supplemental ~~thereto~~; (b) all ^{Mechanics'} Shops attached to, and all dyeing, bleaching and printing departments in the above concerns.

(The Bombay Gazette Extraordinary, dated 18-7-1945, pages 136A-136B).

Suspension of certain provisions of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939, during ~~Ramzan~~ Ramadan.

On account of Ramadan, the Government of Bombay has by Notification Nos. 4249/34-I dated 19-7-1945, directed the suspension from 9-8-1945 to 9-9-1945, of the operation of certain provisions of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939, relating to closing-time, payment for overtime, the spreadover of period of work and intervals for rest and ~~suspensary~~ compensatory holidays for weekly holidays lost or payment of wages in lieu thereof, as far as these provisions apply to sweetmeat shops and milk shops.

By another Notification No. 4249/34-II dated 19-7-1945, the Government of Bombay has similarly directed the suspension of ^{the} operation of provisions relating to the noting of overtime in the register of wages and compensatory holidays for weekly holidays lost or payment of wages in lieu thereof, as far as these provisions apply to persons employed in restaurants, and eating houses.

The period 9-8-1945 to 9-9-1945 covers the month of Ramzan, during which Muslims are enjoined by their religion to fast during day time and take food only during night time.

(Part IV-B, The Bombay Government Gazette, dated 26-7-1945, pages 141-142).

Orissa:

Amendment to Orissa Factories Rules.

The Government of Orissa has gazetted for general information the draft of an amendment providing that workers shall be allowed to take light refreshment once during any period of work which exceeds 6 hours.

The draft will be taken into consideration on or after 29-10-1945.

(Notification No.3231-Com.,dated 18-7-1945; The Orissa Gazette dated 20-7-1945, Part III, ~~pages~~ Page 130).

Application of the Mines(Amendment) Ordinance, 1945
(Creches) to partially excluded areas
OF ORISSA.

Reference was made at ~~page~~ page 1 of our report for May 1945, to the Indian Mines (Amendment) Ordinance, 1945, authorising the Government of India to make ~~rules~~ rules regarding creches in mines employing women. By Notification No. 2983-com. dated 2-7-1945, the Government of Orissa has directed that this Ordinance shall apply to all the partially-excluded areas of the Province of Orissa.

(The Orissa Gazette, Part III, dated 6-7-1945, page 117).

SOCIAL POLICY.

Training of Labour Welfare Officers in Calcutta University: to be continued on Permanent Basis.

The Calcutta University has recently decided to place on a permanent footing the training course for labour welfare officers which it instituted as an experimental measure over two years ago and to institute a Diploma in Social Work (Labour Welfare).

A specialised training course for labour welfare officers was originally introduced by the Calcutta University in December 1942, at the instance of the Indian Jute Mills' Association. Later, the Government of India made the Calcutta University a centre for the training of its labour welfare officers (vide page 1 of our report for December 1944). The course is now to be placed on a permanent footing as a recognised activity of the University. Only those who are directly concerned with labour welfare work are to be admitted to the course.

(The Indian Textile Journal, June, 1945).

Conciliation in Central Government undertakings: Regional Labour Commissioners Appointed.

Reference was made at page 4 of our report for November, 1944, to the decision of the Government of India to extend the labour conciliation machinery for undertakings under the control of the Central Government. In pursuance of this decision, an organisation has been set up under Mr. S.C. Joshi, the Chief Labour Commissioner of the Government of India, with headquarters at New Delhi. In addition, ~~there~~ three Regional Labour Commissioners under the Chief Labour Commissioner, have been appointed at Bombay, Calcutta and Lahore to administer the new machinery locally. The new set-up also includes a Deputy Labour Commissioner at New Delhi, 9 Conciliation Officers and 24 Labour Inspectors (Central) located at various centres throughout India, and one Central Inspector of Industrial Canteens.

Undertakings Covered and Scope of Work.- Industries falling in the "Central sphere" are (1) all industrial establishments owned or controlled by the Government of India, (2) Federal railways, (3) mines and oilfields and (4) major ports. The Chief Labour Commissioner and his officers will be in charge of conciliation, welfare and operation of certain labour laws in these industries. Their functions include assistance in the formation and maintenance ~~in~~ of voluntary machinery in industrial establishments, prevention and settlement of trade disputes and maintenance of information regarding wage rates and conditions of work. They will promote good relations between employers and workers. They will also examine welfare measures and will give advice to employers and Government on these measures.

Relations with the Existing Machinery.- As the Chief Labour Commissioner's organization will be responsible for conciliation in all Federal railways, existing machinery under the Conciliation Officer (Railways) and Supervisor of Railway Labour ceases to have separate existence. The Officers under the Chief Labour Commissioner will be invested with statutory powers of conciliation under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929. They will also be empowered as supervisors of railway labour and as inspectors under the Acts relating to

payment of wages and employment of children in Federal railways and major ports. The Assistant Labour Welfare Advisers appointed by the Central Government at various provincial centres will be redesignated as Conciliation Officers and work under the Regional Labour Commissioners.

(The Statesman, 22-7-1945).

CONDITIONS OF WORK.

Protection of Young Workers.

Amendment of Bombay Children Act, 1924: Committee appointed to consider revision.

From time to time various defects in the Bombay Children Act, 1924, have come to light and ambiguities in the interpretation of the Act have been noticed. Again some amendments are necessitated by practical difficulties experienced in the administration of the Act, which suffers from overlapping and defective arrangement. Consequently, it has been felt that the Act requires overhauling. The Government of Bombay has appointed the following Committee to consider amendments to the Act and to put up proposals :-

Mr. F.E. Streetfield, (Chairman); Mr. Oscar H. Brown; Miss H.K. Davis; Miss K.H. Cama and Mr. A.K. Khan, (Secretary).

(Press Note dated 6-7-1945 issued by Director of Information, Bombay).

7

Industrial Health and Safety.

Rules for Treatment of Tubercular Employees of Industrial
and Commercial Concerns: Suggestion by Director of Public
Health, Bengal.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce is reported to have under consideration a suggestion by the Director of Public Health, Bengal, for the introduction of rules, similar to those in respect of Government servants, for treatment of tubercular employees of industrial and commercial concerns at recognized tuberculosis hospitals. The Director has also sent to the Chamber a joint draft note on the subject by two tuberculosis experts, together with a copy of Government rules.

Implementation of the rules requires provision for early diagnosis of the disease at recognized tuberculosis clinics or hospitals and treatment in tuberculosis hospitals and sanatoria for such cases as need them. As most of the employees are not in a position to afford the expenses of treatment in residential institutions, the Chamber may consider the feasibility of subsidizing a certain number of beds for the employees recommended by them. The capital cost involved in subsidizing is about Rs. 3,000 per bed and the cost of treatment is Rs. 3 per bed per diem, excluding the cost of X-ray films and special expensive medicines.

(The Indian Textile Journal, June, 1945).

Wages.

Wages in the coal-Fields: Government of India undertakes
census.

It is understood that the Government of India has deputed Mr. S.P. Saksena, Statistician of the Director of Cost of Living Index Scheme, Simla, to conduct a wage census in the Indian Coalfields. Mr. Saksena, along with the Bihar Labour Commissioner's organisation, has started discussions with the managers of coalfields in order to fix up the form to be drawn up for the wage census.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4-7-1945).

Industrial Disputes.

Industrial Disputes in British India during the Quarter ending 31-12-1944.

According to statistics published by the Department of Labour, Government of India, the total number of stoppages during the quarter ended 31-12-1944 (including 13 in progress at the close of the quarter) was 194, and the number of workers involved 140,165 as against 109 stoppages involving 92,481 workers for the same quarter of the previous year; the total number of man-days lost was 488,295 as against 293,961. There were 8 stoppages involving 5,000 or more but less than 10,000 workers. In one stoppage more than 100,000 man-days were lost.

Provincial Distribution.— The largest number of disputes occurred in Bombay where there were 71 disputes involving 64,105 workers and entailing a loss of 271,385 working days; followed by Bengal with 63 disputes involving 32,863 workers and entailing a loss of 125,928 working days; ~~in~~ C.P. and Berar with 23 disputes, involving 23,976 workers and entailing a loss of 40,612 working days; ~~in~~ United Provinces with 13 disputes, involving 10,577 workers and entailing a loss of 30,535 working days; Madras with 12 disputes, involving 3,666 workers and entailing a loss of 5,113 working days; Bihar with 8 disputes, involving 3,827 workers and entailing a loss of 12,633 working days; Delhi with 2 disputes, involving 763 workers and entailing a loss of 977 working days; and Assam and Orissa with 1 dispute each, involving 338 and 50 workers and entailing losses of 1,014 and 100 working days respectively.

Classification by Industries.— Classified by industries, ~~the~~ largest number of disputes occurred in cotton and woollen and silk mills, where there were 45 disputes, involving 54,185 workers and entailing a loss of 234,267 working days; followed by engineering industries with 12 disputes, involving 7,968 workers and entailing a loss of 20,929 working days; Railways, including railway workshops, with 10 disputes, involving 30,437 workers and entailing a loss of 61,568 working days; jute mills with 3 disputes, involving 16,853 workers and entailing a loss of 48,438 working days; and mines with 1 dispute involving ~~xxxxxxx~~ 1,386 workers and entailing a loss of 6,061 working days. There were 123 disputes in the miscellaneous industries, involving 29,336 ~~xxxx~~ workers and entailing a loss of 117,142 working days. Thus the textile (cotton, silk, woollen and jute) mills accounted for 25 per cent of the number of stoppages, 51 per cent of the workers involved and 58 per cent of the man-days lost.

Causes and Results of Disputes.— Of the 194 disputes, 143 arose out of questions of wages and bonus, and 11 each in respect of personnel, and ~~xxxx~~ leave and hours; 29 disputes were due to other causes. 30 disputes were wholly successful, 60 partly successful and 68 unsuccessful; no definite results were obtained in respect of 21 disputes, and no results were announced by the end of the quarter in the case of 2 disputes; and 13 disputes were in progress, at the end of the quarter.

(Communique dated 7-7-1945 issued by the Department of Labour, Government of India).

12

Government of Madras Passes Orders on the Adjudicator's
Award in Buckingham and Carnatic Mills Dispute.

Some interesting points are made out in the adjudicator's award in the trade dispute between the management of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, and its employees, on which orders were passed by the Government of Madras in the third week of July 1945.

Six-Loom System to be reintroduced.- Of the seven points referred for adjudication, three were given up in the award and four. The first related to the working of the twelve-loom system. The adjudicator found that the twelve-loom system imposed a strain on the weavers and recommended that each weaver should not be placed in charge of more than six-looms. The Management has agreed to the abolition of the system and to the revival of the six-loom system. It has also made certain suggestions relating to ~~allocation~~ allocation of work particularly when an operative is in charge of four looms. The Government has accepted the recommendation of the adjudicator and also the proposals of the Management.

Permanency.- The second important point related to the position of workers classified as temporary. On this question the recommendation of the adjudicator was that all workers who had put in continuous service of at least one year should be treated as permanent. The Government have accepted this recommendation subject to the condition that the temporary workers to be made permanent ~~now could not claim the privilege of purchasing stores from the~~ Work-people's Stores in view of the practical difficulty pointed out by the Management in regard to the procurement of ~~the~~ necessary stores. The Management promised to extend the privilege to such men to the extent practicable.

Wage Board.- On the question of the adequacy of the present wages, the adjudicator recommended the setting up of a Wage Board consisting of representatives of the employer and employees together with an impartial individual to fix the wages of workers. The Government, after considering the matter, has come to the conclusion that no action need be taken now as the wages of workers would be revised as a result of the first recommendation of the adjudicator, and as wages would have to be fixed for the entire textile industry in the Province, on a more or less uniform basis and as the question of setting up of Wage Boards was now under the consideration of the Government of India.

Dearness Allowance.- The adjudicator had recommended an enhancement of the dearness allowance at Rs.8 a month to workers ~~whose~~ ^{with} income less than Rs.50 a month. He had observed that the Management was quite generous in the matter of granting dearness allowance to its workers as compared with several other firms and that the rate was the highest in Madras. In the circumstances, the Government did not consider it necessary to force the Management to meet the extra expenditure recommended by the adjudicator.

Under the Defence of India Rules, the Government have ordered that the ~~management~~ above decisions shall be binding on both the Management and the workers for a period of one year.

(The Hindu, 25-7-1945).

13

Welfare.

Canteens in J.K. Group of Mills in Cawnpore.

The Juggilal Kamapat Group of Mills at Cawnpore have provided a canteen at Kamla Club, the principal institution of the Group, for the entertainment and recreation of workers through sports, radio-broadcasts, dramas, songs, cinemas, etc. At the canteen arrangements exist for the supply of English and Indian lunches and dinners, cold and hot drinks, etc., at moderate rates under very able and experienced caterers, while for the convenience of the workers there is a regular messing arrangement where both vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals are supplied at very cheap cost. The canteen has been started in view of the difficulties the workers experience in going to their houses for midday meals, or in finding ~~any~~ suitable cheap and ~~satisfactory~~ nutritious meals outside.

There are already canteens in ^{the} J.K. Iron and Steel and ^{the} J.K. Cotton Mills, running under the management of Indian Tea Market Expansion Board and the supervision of ^{the} canteen panels, organised under the auspices of the Hithari Committee which is a representative body of the Management, Departmental Officers, mistries, clerks, supervisors, and workers. These canteens work on a non-profit making basis, are run on strictly hygienic lines, and cater to the needs of large number of workers who are able to get their wholesome food at moderate prices. Besides, the workers have the benefit of radio and light music during their leisure. The entire cost of the buildings and their equipment, consisting of cemented tables, chairs, loudspeakers, etc., is borne by the management.

("J.K. Review", July, 1945).

14

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Role of Indigenous Manufacturers in the Indian Economy:
Consideration of Immediate and Post-War Problems.

That indigenous manufacturers should work for removing the mistaken impression of the Indian consumer that Indian manufactures were insufficient to meet his needs, was one ~~one~~ of the main points emphasized by Prof. S.K. Roy, in his presidential address at the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Indigenous Manufacturers' Association held at Calcutta on 29-6-1945. Quoting an instance of this impression, he ~~said~~ said: "There is a cloth famine raging all over the country today which naturally leads the consumer to think that the production of the Indian cotton and textile industry falls short of consumption. But if we ascertain the facts underlying this artificial famine we shall find that to-day India's cotton textile industry employs .3 million more men and women than before the war, that production is now at the rate of 4,800 million yards of cloth a year as compared with 3,800 million yards before the war, that including the contribution of handloom industry, the cloth available for civilian consumption in the country in the year 1943-44 amounted to 5,868 million yards, which represents about 94 per cent of average peacetime available supplies".

He also called upon indigenous manufacturers to work for better ~~marketing facilities and the raising of the standards of their products.~~ He appealed to the Government to help indigenous industries by facilitating the supply of raw materials and other essential goods necessary for running the factories with regularity, so that the labour employed in them may be kept on and their wages may be paid regularly.

Among the resolutions passed one was by way of protest against the enhancement of ~~sales tax.~~

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 2-7-1945).

Seven Government Subsidised Factories for the large-scale
Production of Vegetable Ghee to be set up in Madras.

Seven ~~hydrogenation~~ hydrogenation oil factories, each producing 3,000 tons of Vanaspathi (vegetable ghee) annually will start functioning in Madras City, Guntur, Hospet, ~~and~~ Visagapatam, Katpadi, Cuddalore and Chittoor; in a year's time; the government of Madras will assist in the setting up of these factories. On 6 and 7-7-1945, a conference of departmental officials and the promoters of the factories, was held, Sir S.V. Ramamurthy, Adviser to the Government of Madras, in charge of Development Department, presiding, to discuss the setting up of these factories and the kind of assistance required from the Government.

(The Hindu, 7-7-1945).

15

A Barrage Project for Lower Sind under way.

A project like the Lloyd Barrage, has been designed by the Government of Sind for Lower Sind. The project will cost Rs. 150 million which the Sind Government proposes to meet from its surplus balance.

The project is designed to bring 2,500,000 acres of land under cultivation, and 1,500,000 acres under rice, 200,000 acres under wheat and the rest ordinary crops, including cotton.

(The Hindu, 7-7-1945).

Godavari Valley Development: Rs. 240 Million Scheme
Sanctioned by Hyderabad Government.

A scheme originally prepared by Lt. Col. Slaughter, Adviser to the Commerce and Industries Member, Hyderabad State, has been sanctioned by H.E.H. the Nizam. The scheme is called the Godavari Valley Development Scheme and will cost Rs. 240 million. It is expected to bring 800,000 acres of land under irrigation in the districts of Warangal, Karimnagar and Adilabad, besides making available about 75,000 K.W. of cheap electric power, enabling the establishment of a number of industries in the Godavari Valley area, especially chosen for its proximity to coal and iron fields as well as a number of other important raw materials.

The Secretary, Post-War Planning Department, has been appointed as the Chief Commissioner of the Scheme.

(The Hindu, Madras, 4-7-1945).

Damodar Valley Project to Cost Rs. 550 Million: Further Allocation
of ~~Reserving~~ Financial Obligations.

Reference was made at pages 9-10 of our report for January 1945, to a conference of representatives of the Central, Bengal and Bihar Governments held at Calcutta on 3-1-1945 to discuss a multi-purpose project, designed to exploit the river Damodar for irrigation, electrification and navigation. A further meeting of the experts of the Governments of India and Bengal is expected to be held early in August to discuss the rough estimates of expenditure on the Damodar Valley Project, involving a capital outlay of Rs. 550 million. The project, when completed, will generate 300,000 kilowatts of electric power, will make vast tracts of land fertile through irrigation, and prevent floods from devastating large areas. To begin with two or three dams will be constructed, the number ultimately going up to seven or eight. The scheme will be financed by the Government of India, but as it will benefit largely by Bengal and partly Bihar, it is these two provincial Governments which will ultimately meet the obligation which the Centre will undertake on their behalf.

The decisions taken in connection with the Damodar Valley project will have an important bearing on similar schemes in other parts of India.

(The Hindustan Times, 24-7-1945).

Industrialisation in Madras: Government address
Questionnaire for eliciting information.

Reference was made at page 19 of our report for August 1944 to the press communiqué issued on 7-8-1944 by the Government of Madras in regard to the industrialisation of the Province. The Provincial Post-war Reconstruction General Committee which was constituted to deal with industries, divided itself into several smaller committees, each to deal with one aspect of the problem. The reports of these smaller committees were considered by the Industries Sub-Committee, whose recommendations were placed before the General Committee. It has been found that the information so far collected is not complete enough as it does not give the entire picture of the existing industries; nor can it serve as an adequate basis for schemes of industrialisation. A questionnaire designed to help in filling up the ~~annoying~~ omissions has, therefore, been addressed by the Joint Secretary to the Government of Madras, in the Development Department, to important industrialists and members of the Central and Provincial legislatures in the Province, to elicit facts relating to the position of industries in the Province and their development.

The questions asked relate to resources, locality, trade factors, capital and finance, machinery, statistics, technical education, industrial insurance, particular industries, textiles and cottage industries; and answers to them are expected to reach the Government ~~at~~ by ~~the~~ August 15 at the latest.

A list of 134 industries which in the opinion of the Government can be started or improved in Madras has been added to the questionnaire for information.

(The Hindu, 26-7-1945).

National Planning Committee: Work interrupted by
political conditions to be resumed: Sub-Committees
asked to finalise reports.

Reference was made at page 22 of our report for January, 1941, to the statement by Prof. K.T. Shah, Hony. General Secretary, National Planning Committee, to the effect that the work of the Committee should not be held up because its chairman, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was in Jail, and that, of the reports submitted till ~~then~~ then 14 were final, and that 12 had been considered by the Committee while 2 awaited consideration. He had also indicated that remaining 10 interim reports should be completed by April 1941, when the next meeting of the Committee was to be held.

Owing to the unsettled state of affairs in the country, the work of the National Planning Committee could not, however, be proceeded with. But now that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has been released from Jail, he desires to resume work in connection with the National Planning Committee. Prof. K.T. Shah, the Secretary of the Committee, has, therefore, circularised its various sub-committees asking them to finalise and submit their reports before 10-8-1945.

In the case of reports which were submitted nearly five years back, it is pointed out that, if desired, they may be revised in the light of the developments since the date of their submission.

(The Hindu, 24-7-1945).

18

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Unified Scheme of Social Security: Prof. Adarkar's
Revised Scheme.

Reference was made at pages 24-25 of our report for October, 1944, to the scheme of health insurance for industrial workers in India, drawn up by Prof. Adarkar. In the light of the suggestions put forward in the Stack-Rae Note (a printed copy of this Note was sent to Montreal with our minute F.2/466/45 dated 22-3-1945), Prof. Adarkar has now drawn up a unified scheme of social security to cover health insurance, maternity benefit and employment injury (a printed copy of this scheme was sent to Montreal with this office's minute F.2/1101/45 dated 26-7-1945).

Scope of Unified Scheme.- The Scheme covers all workers employed in perennial factories under the Indian Factories Act, 1934. Provision is made to ~~also~~ cover all workers employed on contract system working in perennial factories and also workmen employed by or on behalf of the factory owner on temporary jobs outside the factory. Persons employed in Naval, Military, and Air ~~Force~~ Services of the Crown are excluded from the scheme. The risks covered will be sickness, child birth (maternity) and employment injury of the insured worker. All workers covered by the Scheme will be compulsorily insured and will have to pay a monthly contribution depending on their earnings. A worker will be entitled to a payment at a fixed rate between 62½ per cent and 66-2/3 per cent of his basic earnings which will include dearness allowance and any other element of remuneration which is of a regular character. For the purposes of contribution and cash benefits, workers will be classified in six wage classes. A worker's contribution will be directly cut in stamps from his earnings.

Finances for the Scheme.- It is expected that all cash benefits for sickness, maternity and employment injury, 1/3rd of the cost of administration, and 2/3rds of the medical cost will be met from the contribution paid by employers and ^{workers} plus the interest on balance and investments.

The Government of India will bear 2/3rd of the cost of ~~maternity~~ ~~administration~~ administration as ex-gratia, for a period of five years, after which the entire matter will be reconsidered. The 2/3rd cost of medical care, which the Fund is to bear, will be passed on the Provincial Governments who will supplement 1/3rd cost from their own revenue.

Administration.- The scheme shall be administered by a Central Board of Social Insurance to be set up under a Federal Act. The Board will be assisted by Regional Boards and Local Committees.

(The Indian Labour Gazette, June, 1945).

Health Insurance for Industrial Workers: Recommendations
of the Indian Medical Association.

At the 17th meeting of the Working Committee of the Indian Medical Association, held at Delhi on 9-7-1945, the Committee discussed Prof. Adarkar's report on health insurance for industrial workers and a statement was prepared to be forwarded to the Department of Labour, Government of India, provincial Governments and employers and labour organizations. The statement makes certain suggestions for the success of health insurance in India and demands the inclusion of representatives of the Indian Medical Association ~~xxxx~~ in the Committee that may be appointed by the Government of India before the proposals are given final shape.

In a statement issued at the end of the meeting, the Association declared that "nothing short of a scheme on the lines of the Beveridge Plan will meet the requirements of the people of India". The Committee felt that, though the unified scheme of social security, health insurance and maternity benefit circulated by the Labour Department (A copy of the Unified Scheme was sent to Montreal with our minute P.2/1101/45 dated 26th July, 1945), is a considerable improvement on the scheme originally proposed in the reports submitted by Prof. B.P. Adarkar, it ignores fundamental factors necessary for the prevention of diseases and achievement of positive health, on which must depend the success of any scheme for the relief of sickness. While noting that Messrs. Stack and Rao were in agreement with the major part of the Association's views, the Committee felt that, if the Montreal experts had conferred with the representatives of the Association, they would have supported the Association view-point fully.

Omissions pointed out.- In the Committee's opinion, the following fundamental assumptions necessary for the success of the scheme had been left out:

Early adoption of unemployment insurance and creation of new employments; adoption of pre-medical measures, e.g., regulation of wages, enforcement of factory laws, good housing, nutrition, education, etc. and a national health drive. About medical care, the committee held that dependants of insured workers should be included in the scheme from the start, and that if the Central or provincial Governments or employers are unwilling to pay for the medical care of dependants of insured workers, the necessary amounts may be levied from the workers for the purpose—the amount varying with the number of dependants.

Other points raised by the Committee were:

Treatment of Special Diseases.- The committee also recommends that provision ~~shall~~ should be made for proper institutional treatment for diseases such as tuberculosis, leprosy, venereal diseases, etc. If necessary the Central and provincial Governments should make extra contribution for the purpose.

Panel System, preferred.- The committee hopes that the original idea of Prof. Adarkar regarding whole-time service personnel, to which the Association had objected, will be given up if it has not been already dropped, and that the panel system as prevalent in the United Kingdom with further improvements will be put up in force. The committee feels that the basic principle of free choice between doctor and patient and personal (as against official) relationship should be maintained. It is in the best interest not only of the workers, but of the State as well to foster the idea of family physician and make it possible for the treatment and care of an entire family to be undertaken by one doctor of their choice.

Need for Specialists.- For laboratory and specialist services, local ~~consultants~~ consultants and specialists may be employed, either on a per capita or part-time salary basis.

The committee ~~hopes~~ hopes that the Central Government will arrange for a conference with the Indian Medical Association before their health insurance scheme is finalized.

(The Statesman, 11-7-1945).

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Training in Higher Technology: Sir M. Visvesvarayya emphasises need for Institutes of Technology.

Presiding over the eighth annual meeting of the Court of the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore on 2-7-1945, Sir M. Visvesvarayya laid stress, inter alia, on the need for technical and vocational training, in addition to mass education. The following is a summary of his views:

In the Indian educational system, mechanical engineering should be given a high place, further, besides enforcing compulsion for spreading elementary education, some form of vocational or practical training connected with the practice of agriculture, industries and occupations should be simultaneously imparted in schools. Next should come technological and professional middle grade education to train managers, foremen and other skilled workers for the various industries, occupations and professions which needed them. For making adequate provision for this class of men, India requires some 5,000 technical and professional schools in the country including the States. If the example set by America before the last world war is to be a guide, it will be necessary to train not less than 5,000,000 technicians and professional men of the middle grade type annually to assist the vast Indian population to produce commodities and services, or acquire purchasing power sufficient for its subsistence needs. To guide its industrial and business activities, the country wants men of directing ability—scientists, inventors, engineers, also leaders in professions connected with industries, communications, shipbuilding, forestry, mining and other services. Until last year there was no move to meet the want, but recently, the Government of India have announced that they propose to start an Institute in India for certain higher technological courses for studies upto the standards maintained in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in U.S.A. But this programme falls far short of India's needs, one, but at least four Institutes of Technology will be in demand as soon as the population begins to realise its helplessness without instruction in higher technology. A liberal outlay on capital goods and experts will be necessary very soon when the decision is taken that the various mechanised devices—motor transport, tanks, etc., needed for the defence of India, date to be manufactured within the country itself. In certain business circles, the establishment of an Industrial University and a University of Commerce have been recommended. In this case also, more than one institute of each type will be needed soon.

(The Hindu, dated 4-7-1945).

21

MIGRATION.

Indians in Burma: Bombay Conference's Demand for
Facilities for Resettlement and Protection of Rights.

Problems relating to the resettlement of Indian nationals in Burma and the conservation of their interests and rights were discussed at a conference convened in Bombay on 7-7-1945 by the Burma Indian Chamber of Commerce. Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar presided. The conference was attended by representatives of various associations, commercial bodies and other Indian interests in Burma. Dr. H.B. Khare, Member, of Commonwealth Relations, Government of India, was also present.

Presidential Address: Right of Re-entry and settlement, Protection of Trading Rights.— Addressing the Conference, the chairman, Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar, said that the right thing to do would be to wait for Burma to settle down and for civil government to be established and then to solve the problems calling for solution at a roundtable conference of Burmese, Indians, ~~and~~ Europeans and Chinese. But ~~there~~ there was a fear in many Indian quarters that certain ~~but-and-dried~~ solutions would be forced on Indians without previous consultations with the interests concerned—a fear which has been due largely to the British Conservative Party's Blue ~~print~~ ~~on~~ Burma. Referring to the specific problems now facing Indian nationals in Burma, the chairman said that the large number of Indians ~~was~~ stranded now in Burma must be enabled to get back and rejoin their families in India. At the same time facilities should be given to Indians to go to Burma to the same extent as they were being given to persons of British nationality. After the restoration of civil administration there, Indians should have the same right to go to Burma and carry on their trade as they had before the war. As regards property of Indian nationals in Burma, the chairman urged the setting up of a committee to go on a tour of inspection of the agricultural areas of Burma and to report on the damage and means of repairing that damage. The committee should also report on the conditions of residential property and explore the requirements of Indians in the matter of foodstuffs, clothing and other necessities. Also in any scheme ~~and~~ distribution of rice, the normal channels of trade should have their just, natural and proper place. Indian evacuees returning to Burma should not ~~be~~ find that they have been ~~unjustly~~ ousted from the rice export trade. Other points stressed by the chairman were the need for a treaty of alliance between India and Burma and raising the desirability of ^{India's} representative in Burma to the rank of a High Commissioner.

Resolutions: Protection of Indian Property.— The conference adopted a resolution asking the Military Administration of Burma to accord the same facilities to Indians who proceed to Burma as might be accorded to Britons and others proceeding to that country during the period of military occupation. Resolutions were also adopted asking for facilities to a representative committee of Burma evacuees to proceed to Burma to survey agricultural and residential properties, and to restore normal trade channels between the two countries at the earliest possible moment.

Dr. Khare, Commonwealth Relations Member, assured the conference that so far as ~~the~~ he was concerned, he would safeguard the rights of Indians and in that matter he would make no distinction between any religion, community, caste or colour.

(The Times of India, 9-7-1945 and
The Statesman, 10-7-1945).

22

Kenya Government's proposals to reorganise
Administration: Protest by the East African
Indian National Congress.

In a cable sent to Reuter's headquarters in London, the Secretary of the East African Indian National Congress has stated that the Kenya Government proposals for reorganising the administration of Kenya are totally unacceptable to the Indian Congress.

One of the chief proposals is that all authority should be decentralised into the hands of special members of the executive council responsible for particular departments. The Congress does not oppose this, provided such members are selected only from the Colonial Civil Service. The Congress is willing to use the experience of members of the public by ~~xxxx~~ including them on representative standing committees which should be formed to advise members in charge of departments, but objects to their joining the executive council with responsibility for the departments because all such are taken from the European minority only, which forms less than 1 per cent of the total population and is not responsible to the rest of the population. The Government proposals, if carried out, will result in devolving the executive powers on the non-official European minority and ~~xxxx~~ retard the country's progress to real self-government.

The Secretary of the congress also expresses regret that the Kenya Government is ~~now ready with new white immigrant settlement plans~~ without any plans for Indian land settlement; he denies that Indians are town-dwellers only, and affirms that they are mostly farmers.

The Secretary of the Congress also urges consideration of the Indian claim to a common electoral roll, common franchise and equal opportunity for assisted settlement, and requests the British government to appoint a ~~xxxx~~ Royal Commission to investigate all political factors, and to make recommendations for common economic, cultural and political advancement.

In an editorial dated 18-7-1945, the Hindu of Madras points out that if the decentralization scheme formulated by a special committee composed exclusively of Europeans is given effect to, it "may have very serious repercussions on the position of the Indian community and indeed of the natives from the point of view of political influence and power compared with ~~xx~~ that of the white settlers". The measure "will decentralise executive power in such a manner as to concentrate it ~~it~~ in the hands of non-official Europeans who owe allegiance to the Settlers' Association organised by Lord Delamere to the prejudice of the interests of the other elements in the population". The general effect of the ~~xxx~~ European settlement scheme, the paper observes, "will be to hit at the economic opportunities of Indians and natives; for it to reserve practically all land of any value for the exclusive use of Europeans".

(The Times of India, 16-7-1945 and
The Hindu, 18-7-1945).

AGRICULTURE.Stabilisation of Agricultural Prices: Views of Committee of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Reference was made in our report for February 1945 (vide page 32) to the Agricultural Price Sub-Committee set up by the Government of India and its terms of reference. The Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry have now forwarded to the Government of India their views on the fixation of agricultural prices.

The Committee state that they subscribe to the policy of assuring a minimum economic return to agriculturists along with an all-round improvement in the economic conditions of India. The Committee argue that the most fundamental prerequisite of such a policy is to maintain an expansionist economy in India for which all the aspects of economic policy—fiscal, monetary, industrial, agricultural, transport and employment—should be properly correlated. They feel, however, that stabilization of agricultural prices can be envisaged only when the war-time controls are removed. Such price stabilization should be on an all-India basis in which every Indian State and province should accept the policy and undertake to implement the same uniformly.

Subsidies to High-cost Producers and Buffer Stocks.— Agricultural prices should be maintained at a level which must be fair to the producer, i.e., which covers the cost of production and leaves a margin of income to ensure a healthy standard of living to the agriculturist. The Committee advocate that, while the average cost of production should be the basis of determination of agricultural prices, producers having higher cost of production be given a subsidy, which should be so enforced as to achieve efficient and economic production. Also if agricultural prices are not to be allowed to fall below a minimum desired level, Government might have to enter the market to sustain agricultural prices. The Committee, however, advocate considerable caution and, as far as possible, the avoidance of this.

Opposition to State Monopoly of Procurement and Distribution.— While realizing that regulation of imports and exports might become necessary, the Committee oppose the principle of State monopoly of internal procurement and distribution or of the import and export of agricultural produce. In this connexion, they point out the damaging effects of direct participation by Government during war-time.

Need for Expansionist Economy.— But, the Committee of the Federation emphasize, the most practical way of ensuring economic prices to the agriculturist is to ensure that the general prosperity of the country is maintained in all spheres by guarding against all deflationary factors and by pursuing a policy of economic expansion in the country. Also the scheme of price fixation can, in no way, be considered a substitute for a programme for the improvement of farming through the use of fertilizers, better seed, irrigation and stopping the processes of fragmentation, sub-division, soil erosion, deforestation, etc. In this connection the Committee advocate a long range programme of crop planning with a view to meet the food and nutrition requirements of the country along with the industrial and export demands for the raw materials of India. The Committee observe that as long as there are unemployed resources particularly of land and labour available in the country, no difficulties are likely to arise in achieving targets of production under a long range crop planning.

Rural Development in Bombay Province in
1945-44. *

During the period under report, the officers of the Revenue Department, who co-ordinate the rural development activities in the districts, were pre-occupied, among other things, with the work arising on account of the war, and a very difficult food situation in the province, while various other Departments, connected with rural development, were working under many serious handicaps. According to the report, these difficulties were not allowed to interfere with the normal rural development work. As a matter of fact, food shortage in this province brought home the need for fully husbanding the agricultural resources of the Province, and the steps, which were taken by the Government for the purpose, led to an enormous increase in the activities of the Agricultural Department. At the same time, the arrangements made by Government for distributing foodstuffs and the controlled articles in the rural areas helped the co-operative movement. The activities of the irrigation section of the Public Works Department also received an impetus owing to the need for growing more food crops and bringing the maximum area under irrigation. Another important feature of the work during the year was the preparation of post-war plans of the Government. They have been drawn up with very special attention to the needs of rural areas and will vitally affect the course of rural development.

The more salient features of the report are noticed below:

Prevention of Soil Erosion.- The prevention of soil erosion by the construction of bunds on scientific lines has been receiving increasing attention. Apart from the extensive bunding projects undertaken by the Government in the scarcity areas of Bijapur and Sholapur Districts, many District Rural Development Boards interested themselves in anti-erosion measures and maintained staff and spent money for the purpose.

Improved Methods of Cultivation.- The Taluka Demonstration Centres and Development Associations, Co-operative Implement Societies and Better Farming Societies were of considerable help in introducing improved tillage methods in villages. The use of improved seeds and implements was made in a large number of districts; digging of manure pits and the use of various manures for increasing soil fertility were stressed; and more than 10,000 tons of groundnut cake were supplied to cultivators for manure at concession rates. The subsidy thus given amounted to about Rs. .4 million.

Protection against Insect Pests.- Extensive measures were taken through departmental agencies for the protection of crops against insect pests. In certain districts steps were taken for the destruction of caterpillars, grass-hoppers, white ants and field rats. Over 12,000 packets of sulphur dust were distributed in East Khandesh for the prevention of black smut on jowar and for treating santra (orange) and mosambi trees against stem borers. Use of bordeaux mixture was made in Ahmednagar and Manara Districts to fight mildew on grapes and koleroga of betelnuts.

Credit Societies.- Efforts were continued during the year under review to extend the activities of the better managed credit societies, in order to enable them, apart from supplying credit, to promote better farming, better business and better living.

* Annual Report of Rural Development Activities in the Province of Bombay for the Year 1945-44: Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press; obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Bombay, or through the High Commissioner for India, India House, Aldwych, London, W.C.2, or through any recognized Bookseller. Price Annas 2 or 3d. 1945. Pages 26.

The Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act has been in operation in 15 talukas and petas of the Province for some time past. A committee was appointed to review the working of the Act and to suggest improvements. As a result of the report of the committee, Government proposes to amend the Act and to extend its working to 70 talukas and petas of the Province. With the extension of the Act, arrangements for provision of finance to debtors of their cultivation needs are being made, and Government expects that this will be done mainly by the co-operative societies. Steps are being taken to organise, in the areas selected for the extension of the Act, a net work of co-operative credit societies which would be able to finance ~~debtors~~ ^{debtors} at a reasonably low rate of interest. With a view to link up credit for crop finance with the marketing of product of the debtors, steps to organize sale organisations in the areas where the Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act would be extended, are also in progress.

Experiments for devising Improved Appliances and Training of Artisans.-In the sphere of rural industries, the work of the Industries Department consisted chiefly of experiments to devise improved appliances and training of the artisans and others in the use of these appliances. Subsidies were sanctioned in some cases, and other assistance was offered to the trained artisans by grant of loans for buying appliances, and marketing of the finished products. Arrangements were made to train villagers in use of improved off ghani (press) designed by the Department and manufacture of glass and glass bangles on improved lines at the Village Industries Experimental Workshop, Poona. The trainees were given free instruction with the benefit of scholarships of Rs.20 each per month and facilities of free dormitories for stay in Poona during their course of training. The rural workers, who received training at the various demonstrations, were further helped by way of loans and subsidies. During the year, 170 artisans were sanctioned grants and loans amounting to Rs.47,404.

Public Health and Sanitation.- In the sphere of public health and sanitation, the work of the Rural Development Staff and District Rural Development Boards consisted chiefly of popularising measures beneficial to the health of the rural population and allotment of grants for the maintenance of medicine chests, training of village midwives (dais) and assistance to medical practitioners settled in rural areas.

Primary Education and Classes for Adults.- The work of promoting primary education in rural areas was carried out in all districts through the establishment of schools by local authorities in villages with a population of over 700, and encouraging private enterprise to open voluntary schools in villages with a ~~min~~ population of less than 700. Steps were also taken to promote physical training for boys attending primary schools. Over 500 adult education classes worked during the year and were attended by 13,000 adults. 300 new village libraries were registered as part of the post literacy scheme, bringing the total number to 1,500.

Rural Broadcasting Service.- A rural broadcasting service was started during the year. When fully in operation, the service will cover the whole Province. There will then be daily broadcasts in Marathi, Gujarati and Kannada, and radio sets will be installed in villages to pick up these programmes. Besides entertainment, the broadcasts contain talks on agricultural topics, market prices and other items of rural interest.

Propaganda for Village Improvement.- The Village Uplift Vans continued to tour in all districts and to carry on propaganda in favour of village improvement activities; officers of the various departments co-operated in giving lectures on various subjects. The village film scheme was in operation in all the districts. The cinema operators stationed in the districts carried out demonstrations on various subjects such as hygiene, sanitation, education, agriculture, etc. The scheme has proved successful in attracting the masses as it combines instruction with amusement.

Land Settlement in Assam: Future Policy of Provincial Government.

Reference was made at page 18 of our report for January, 1945, to the Assam Government's scheme of land settlement. At the meeting of the Assam cabinet held on 14-7-1945, a resolution laying down the Government's policy regarding land settlement was adopted; its salient features are noticed below:

(1) planned settlement, (2) recognition of immigrants, (3) protection of tribal classes, and (4) maintenance of reserves. Immigrants, who came to Assam before 1-1-1938, and those who have lost their khiraj patta (a kind of tenancy right) lands by erosion or acquisition for military purposes, will, according to the resolution, receive precedence, over other immigrants in the matter of land settlement. Outside the tribal belt their claims will be considered along with the claims of indigenous landless people in respect of lands available for planned settlement. The scheme of planned settlement will operate at first only in 14 districts of the Assam valley.

(The Leader, 27-7-1945).

"Regulation of Markets" Scheme in U.P.: Elimination of Malpractices.

The co-operative department of the U.P. Government, it is learned, have drawn up a scheme to be known as 'regulation of markets' for marketing and grading of agricultural produce. The scheme aims at regulating the markets in order to ensure a fair deal to the cultivator by defining the location, and areas of the markets and entrusting the management of each regulated market to a market committee which will watch the interest of the producer and the trade alike. The other aspects of the scheme will be the elimination of the malpractices and regulation of market charges, introduction of standard weights, licensing of market functionaries, specification of standard qualities, settlement of disputes over quality and provision of facilities to bullocks and pack animals by providing shelter in the markets.

The area selected for application in the first instance will be the main assembling markets for grains, gur, oilseeds, etc. The scheme will be entirely self-supporting as it is intended to levy licence fees and fees for the registration of transactions.

(The Leader, dated 9-7-1945).

Improving Sind Agriculture: Agricultural Adviser's Scheme.

Proposals which would make Sind almost as prosperous as Egypt, are outlined in a 70-page booklet prepared by Mr. Roger Thomas, Agricultural Adviser to the Sind Government and a European zemindar possessing practical knowledge of farming in Sind for over 10 years.

Increased Acreage: Encouraging Immigrant Labour: Co-operative Farming. Among the main recommendations by Mr. Thomas for harnessing Sind's agricultural wealth in the post-war period are: early construction of the proposed barrages,

which by utilizing more of the Indus water— at present only 17 per cent is being used— would bring 4,000,000 more acres under cultivation; immigration of outside labour to meet the acute agricultural labour shortage, but offering to sell them Government lands in small lots and a share in the crops; greater use of tractors till such time as the province is considered ripe for general farm mechanization; introduction of co-operative farming on the model of the Sudan Gezira scheme in which the State, the cultivator and the managing agency undertake to cultivate large blocks of land on produce sharing basis; revision of official land sales policy so as to encourage peasant proprietorships; survey of areas on the embankments of the Indus river to determine prospective use of lift irrigation and construction of tubewells both for irrigation and drainage; planned housing and more liberal provision for sanitary and medical equipment for the rural population; and finally recruitment of outside experts on a temporary basis to train the Indhis and substantial expansion of the present agricultural staff on better salaries.

Scientific Agriculture: Utilisation of Desert Land.— The scheme also provides for a veterinary college, besides the existing agricultural college, a plant breeding and testing station for every 50 acres in each of the 61 talukas of Sind, supply of fertilizers to farmers at concession rates for the coming three years, mobile workshops for every district, four cattle breeding farms, cattle shows and fairs, plantation of babul trees in the Sukkur barrage waste lands and even the use of the desert area for the production of improved varieties of millets and oilseeds. Ways and means for improving the quality of cotton by distribution of select seeds for an area of 600,000 acres or 80 per cent of the total crop area are also suggested, while for wheat and rice, which are grown far above the requirements of the province, emphasis is laid on improvement of the quality.

(The Statesman, 21-7-1945).

The Malabar Tenancy (Second Amendment) Bill, 1945:
Protection of tenants from eviction.

With a view to make ^{clear} specific certain provisions relating to eviction of tenants in the Malabar Tenancy Act, 1929, the Government of Madras proposes to amend the 1929 Act, and has published, for eliciting public opinion, the Malabar Tenancy (Second Amendment) Bill, 1945, in the Fort St. George Gazette dated 24-7-1945. Clause (5) of sections 14 and 20 of the Malabar Tenancy Act, 1929, provides that a landlord may evict a tenant on the ground that the landlord requires the holding bona fide for his own cultivation or for that of any member of his family who has a proprietary and beneficial interest therein. Similarly, clause (6) of sections 14 and 20 enables a landlord to evict tenants from their holding on the ground that the landlord requires the holding or part thereof for building purposes for himself or any member of his family. The Government considers it necessary to make the intention clear, namely, that eviction should be allowed only if the landlord needs (1) the holding for purposes of raising crops or other produce for his own maintenance or upkeep or for that of any member of his family or a branch of the family having a proprietary interest in the holding; and (2) the holding or part thereof for purposes of constructing a building for his own use or occupation or for that of any member of his family, or a branch of the family having a proprietary interest in the holding. The statement of object and reasons appended to the Bill points out: The intention of the Malabar Tenancy Act was to confer a fair degree of security of tenure on tenants and to protect them against arbitrary

evictions. By the amendment, the position is sought to be made clear that there should be no eviction unless there was real necessity for the landlord to get possession of the land; the ~~fact~~ ^{idea} that the landlord 'requires' ~~for~~ the land ~~alone~~ is not sufficient for eviction; it should further be made clear that the landlord or his family "needs" the land.

(The Port St. George Gazette, dated 24-7-1945, Part IV-1, pages 63-65).

NAVIGATION.

Government of India's Schemes of War Pensions and Compensation for War Damage to Effects for Indian Seamen.

Reference was made at page 20 of the report for this Office for February 1942 to the schemes of compensation for Indian Seamen which the Government of India had framed on the lines of the War Pensions and Detention Allowance (Indian Seamen, etc.,) scheme, 1941, adopted by the Minister of Pensions, Great Britain, on 14-10-1941 and the Compensation to Seamen (War Damage to Effects) Scheme, 1939, adopted by the Board of Trade and the Minister of Shipping (vide pages 31 to 32 of our January 1942 report). The Government of India in the Commerce Department has by a resolution dated 7-7-1945 decided to revise the War Pensions and Detention Allowances (Indian Seamen) Scheme, 1942, and the Compensation to Indian Seamen (War Damage to Effects) Scheme, 1942, published with the Resolution of the Government of India in the Department of Commerce, No. 275-W. II (20)/41-War dated the 14th February 1942. The revised texts of the two Schemes, which are deemed to have come into force with effect from 1-5-1944, are published in the Gazette of India dated 7-7-1945. The Schemes apply to masters and members of the crew of the British Indian Ships.

The War Pensions and Detention Allowances (Indian Seamen) Scheme, 1945.-
Provision made in the scheme for the award to seamen of gratuities for disablement of a permanent and prolonged character or special allowances "where a seaman suffers a permanent and prolonged disablement which is directly attributable to a qualifying injury or to detention" and where gratuities cannot be awarded. Other awards under the scheme include: (1) wives' allowances (2) widows' pensions, (3) children's allowances, (4) dependant's pensions. In the case of awards in respect of death, no award shall be made under this Scheme in respect of the death of a seaman: (a) if his death occurs more than seven years after the date of the qualifying injury or of the end of the detention to which his death is claimed to be directly attributable; or (b) if a gratuity has been awarded under this scheme in respect of the disablement of the seaman on the basis that the disablement was directly attributable to the qualifying injury or the detention to which his death is claimed to be directly attributed:

Provided that, where the Central Government in the exceptional circumstances of any particular case so directs, an award in respect of the death of a seaman may, notwithstanding the provisions of sub-clause (b) of this clause, be made if: (i) his death was directly attributable solely to the qualifying injury or detention to which his disablement was directly attributable; (ii) his death occurred not later than two years after the date on which that qualifying injury was sustained or that detention came to an end; and (iii) the degree of that disablement was assessed and certified at not more than twenty per cent.

Award of Detention Allowances.- Seamen who have suffered detention may be awarded detention allowances for the whole or any part of that detention. These allowances consist of (1) "reserved allowance" which may be paid to the seaman after his detention has come to an end, and which shall not exceed 20 per cent of the pay drawn by the seaman at the time of his detention, (2) "available allowance" which may either during the detention of the seaman or after his detention has come to an end, be paid to or applied for the benefit of his wife, his eligible child or his dependant or any two or more of them or to his own benefit if not paid to his wife, eligible child or dependant. The said available allowance shall be at such rate as the Central Government may, from time to time, determine having regard to all the circumstances of the case, being a rate which does not exceed 70 per cent of

the pay drawn by the seaman at the time of his detention. The remaining 10 per cent of the pay of the seaman drawn by him at the time of his detention shall be set off against payments of pocket money during the detention of the seaman and any outstanding balance in his favour shall be paid at the time the detention has come to an end.

The Compensation to Indian Seamen (War Damage to Effects) Scheme, 1945.-

Under this Scheme, (1) Where a seaman sustains any war damage to his effects, the Central Government may award him such compensation for the damage as it thinks fit but not exceeding: (a) in the case of a seaman of rank lower than a tindal, sixty rupees, and (b) in any other case, seventy-five rupees or one month's wages at the rate to which the seaman was entitled when the war damage occurred, whichever is more. (2) In the event of the death of a seaman, the Central Government may award any compensation that would have been payable to him under sub-clause (1) if he had survived, to any persons who prove themselves to the satisfaction of the Central Government to be entitled to the effects, if any, of the deceased seaman.

The claims for compensation are required to be made within a year after the damage occurred.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Sec.1, dated 7-7-1945, pages 868-873).

Welfare of Indian Seamen: Government of India Constitutes ad hoc Advisory Committee.

The Government of India have had under consideration the question of improving the conditions of Indian seamen generally. With a view to obtaining the advice of the interests concerned, they have constituted a small ad hoc advisory committee consisting of nine representatives, three each of the Government of India, shipowners and seamen. The Committee will consist of:- Chairman — Sir Mohammad Anisul Haque, Member of for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies; Members — Mr. S.R. Zaman, Joint Secretary Commerce Department; Prof. B.P. Adarkar, Deputy Secretary, Labour Department; Mr. L. Balcombe and Mr. A. Orr Deas, Representatives of the Calcutta Liners Conference; Mr. N.A. Master, Representative of the Indian National Steamship Owners Association; Lt. Genr. Aftab Ali, M.L.A., (Bengal), Indian Seamen's Union, Calcutta; Mr. Mohiuddin, Indian Quartermasters Union, Calcutta; Mirza Akbar Hasan, National Seamen's Union of India, Bombay; and Secretary — Shankri Prasad Shrivastava, Research Officer, Labour Department.

The first meeting of the Committee will be held on 4-8-45, in New Delhi to discuss inter alia the question of instituting a scheme of social insurance for seamen, the setting up of a more permanent tripartite body to advise the Government on seamen's problems, recruitment, hours of work, holidays with pay and clothing for seamen.

(The Hindustan Times, 27-7-1945; The Statesman, dated 1-8-1945).

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES
AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Regulation of Conditions of Work of Shop Assistants: Position
in Bombay, Punjab, Sind and Bengal.

The following table giving the total number of shops, commercial establishments, restaurants, theatres, etc., under the purview of Shops and Establishments legislation in the four main provinces — Bombay, the Punjab, Sind and Bengal — in which shop legislation is in force is taken from an article: "Shop-Labour in India", published in the Eastern Economist, New Delhi, dated 20-7-1945:-

Province	No. of shops	Persons employed	No. of Establishments	Persons employed	No. of Restaurants, Theatres, etc.	Persons employed
Bombay (Bombay, Ahmedabad, Hubli)	54,326	97,554	7,760	59,905	5,060	34,018
Punjab	102,158	46,915	18,080	43,948	—	—
Sind (City and Cantts of Karachi)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shikarpur, Hyderabad)	11,176	680	1,627	260	1,055	255
Bengal (The total number of shops and establishments covered was about 80,000).	—	—	—	—	—	—

Prosecutions.— The following table gives figures regarding prosecutions in Bombay, the Punjab and Sind for 1941, 1942 and 1943; for Bengal figures are not available:-

	1941		1942		1943	
	Success-ful.	unsuccess-ful.	Success-ful.	unsuccess-ful.	Success-ful.	Unsuccess-ful.
Bombay	2,675	36	3,695	17	3,516	10
The Punjab	—	—	818	30	3,432	111
Sind	—	—	852	12	4,757	19

Legal Position Cleared.— At first it was not clear whether the Shop Acts were applicable to one-man establishments. But a recent Bombay High Court decision has made the issue clear. The High Court has ruled that the Act applied to one-man establishments also and that the owners were bound to close their establishments at the specified hour. The High Court also cleared away one other difficulty in the interpretation of the Act, namely, whether it was applicable to daily wage-earners. The High Court ruled that it was applicable. If the Act is not applicable to daily wage-earners, an employer can evade the much-useful provisions of the Act by treating his regular servants on a daily wage basis merely for the sake of evasion. In one case in the Punjab, the validity of the Act itself was attacked on the contention that it is ultra vires of the Provincial Government inasmuch as it does not deal with any of the subjects enumerated in the Provincial list in Schedule VII of the Government of India Act. But it was interpreted by the Judge that No. 27 of that list was covered it.

(The Eastern Economist, 20-7-1945).

Leave for Rest and Recreation: Travelling Allowance
Concession to Central Government Servants.

To assist Central Government servants who take leave in India during the war for rest and recreation necessary to keep them fit for duty, the Government of India sanctioned in May 1944 certain concessions in respect of expense of journeys performed for the purpose of such leave subject to certain prescribed conditions. (The concession came into force from 1-1-1944)

The concession is admissible in respect of each Government servant (a) who ~~has been~~ has been in Government service for at least one year and (b) who does not draw dearness allowance. It is thus admissible to gazetted officers and to nongazetted officers and servants of the Central Government drawing pay above Rs. 250/- p.m. in area A, above Rs. 200/- p.m. in area B and above Rs. 150/- p.m. in area C. A Government servant, satisfying the prescribed conditions, is permitted both when proceeding on, and returning from, leave for rest and recreation to draw for himself one railway fare of the class to which he would be entitled if he were undertaking a journey on tour, and if married, one fare of the same class for his wife, once a year in respect of each such journey. To become entitled to this concession the wife of a Government servant need not accompany her husband but may precede or follow him to the same destination within the calendar year.

The total amount payable to the Government servant by way of this concession (covering both journeys) is, however, subject to the following maximum limits:-

	Single Officer	Married Officer who avails himself of the concession for himself and his wife.
Government servants of the first grade.	Rs. 150/-	Rs. 300/-
Government servants of the second grade.	Rs. 75/-	Rs. 150/-
Government servants of the third grade.	Rs. 40/-	Rs. 80/-

Normally the concession is admissible only in the case of Government servants proceeding on leave for rest and recreation. But it is also allowed to a Government servant who has been granted leave on medical advice for change of climate and rest.

Note.- Area A includes Calcutta, Bombay and their vicinities. Area B comprises the following towns: Abbettabad, Agra, Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Amritsar, Bangalore, Benares, Cawnpore, Dacca, Darjeeling, Dehra Dun, Delhi, Dhanushkedi, Hyderabad (Deccan), Karachi, Lahore, Lucknow, Madras, Meerut, Mussoorie, Nagpur, Naini Tal, Ootacamund, Patna, Peshawar, Poona, Quetta, Ranchi, Rawalpindi, Shillong and Simla. Area C includes all the areas in India not specified in A and B above.

Note:-The first grade includes officers of the superior services such as the Indian Civil Service and all other officers of Government in receipt of actual pay exceeding Rs.750 per month; second grade includes all Government servants in receipt of actual pay exceeding Rs.200 (in the case of those on revised rates of pay - Rs.175) but not exceeding Rs.750; third grade includes all other Government servants, except constables, and forest guards, etc.

(Home Department, Government of India, Office Memorandum No. 196/43 Public (C) dated 16-5-44 and connected Memoranda of the same Department dated 29-5-44, 2-8-44, 2-9-44, 5-1-45, 26-2-45, and 26-5-45).

33

Residential Hostel and Cafeteria for 1000 Central Government
Clerks: A New Government Venture.

A new departure in respect of the conditions of life of Central Government employees has been made by the Government of India by the provision recently of a residential hostel for over 1000 bachelor clerks employed in the Defence Head Quarters at New Delhi. The ~~provision~~ provision of residential quarters by the Central Government for its employees is a fairly old practice, and the new factor in connection with the present venture, necessitated by the present dearth of ~~the~~ lodging and boarding facilities in New Delhi, is that Government has made arrangements for catering to the food requirements of the 1000 odd clerks residing in the hostel.

Hostel Accommodation.— There are two main divisions of 18 living blocks of 18 and 18 rooms in each. A common lavatory block has been provided for each set with 10 per cent latrines, 10 per cent bath with showers, 20 per cent lavatory basins and 8 per cent urinals in each of the lavatory blocks. The residential rooms are 14' x 11'-9" each and can accommodate two clerks in each room. A newar bed, a chair and a writing table have been provided for each resident.

Common Rooms.— The dimensions of the common-reading rooms are 60' x 40' each. They are tastefully decorated and well furnished with easy chairs, etc. The walls are all spray-painted and have artistic decorative designs. News papers, magazines, periodicals and facilities for indoor games have been provided in these rooms. House Committee meetings of the residents of the hostel are also held in the common rooms. The open spaces around the cafeteria block are utilised for outdoor games.

Cafeteria and Dining Halls.— A unique feature of this hostel is the cafeteria block. The block is divided into five main sections, the kitchens being in the centre. On either side of the kitchen are two large dining halls, and at each end of the halls are two reading rooms and lounge comfortably furnished. In the passages between the dining halls and the reading rooms at each end, wash basins with towels have been provided. A counter is located at this place for the residents to receive their tokens for meals, on presentation of their meal cards to the clerk in charge. There are two dining halls one for vegetarians and the other for non-vegetarians, each measuring 102' x 80', and with a total seating capacity for 750 persons at a time. There are four sets of serving counters for meals and two for serving tea, situated in the centre of each of the dining halls.

Service.— Meals are served according to the cafeteria system. The residents go to the serving counter in 'queue' formation. Each picks up the set of utensils (plate, cups and tray) from the first counter and passes on to the next, behind which stand the servers to serve the various items of meals, and the resident after collecting his food proceeds to the dining table. In the course of his meal if he desires to have any additional quantity of any item he has to receive it from the counter, himself. As soon as the meals are finished, the waiter removes the utensils and cleans the table. This system of service reduces to the minimum the time taken for serving food to a large number of residents and considerable savings are also effected in the waiter staff.

Management.— The Cafeteria is run by a contractor on a contract basis. A House Committee has been constituted of the residents consisting of 7 members elected from amongst them. The Resident-Clerk of the War Department who is a full time in-charge of the Cafeteria, is an ex-Officio Member of the Committee. General meetings are conducted fortnightly and special meetings are arranged as and when required according to necessity. The Committee looks after the quality of food served and arranges the menus in consultation with the contractor.

Food Charges.- The following are the prevailing rates for the different types of meals served in the Cafeteria:

	Per month	
(a) Vegetarian meals	Rs. 24-8-0	} (two meals per day with morning and evening tea/coffee).
(b) Non-Vegetarian meals	Rs. 29-8-0	
(c) Madras meals	Rs. 22-8-0	
(d) Bengali meals	Rs. 28-0-0	

Payments are made in advance by all the residents who are then issued monthly cards bearing the days of the month and the number of meals.

Personnel.- The staff employed by the contractor is —

Manager 1, supervisor 4, Head Cooks 2, Cooks 12, Servers 24, ~~and~~ Clerks 4, and Servants 16.

(Summarised from "Feeding the Worker — Canteens in Industry" — No.3, June 1945 issued jointly by the Departments of Food and Labour, Government of India).

CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

2nd Meeting of Co-operative Planning Committee.

The second meeting of the Co-operative Planning Committee set up by the Government of India was held at Bombay from 11 to 18-7-1945, under the chairmanship of Mr. R.G. Saraiya. The committee considered the draft report proposed by the chairman. Among the important questions discussed were the establishment of an All-India Council of Co-operation and an All-India College of Co-operation, Co-operative Farming, Industrial Co-operatives and the relation between Co-operation and the State.

The next meeting of the Committee has been tentatively fixed for October, 1945.

(The Hindu, dated 21-7-1945).

36

LIVING CONDITIONS.

Spare Time.

Farmers' Clubs and Youth Hostels in the Punjab: Plans for
Better Utilisation of Leisure.

The Government of the Punjab has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 255,000 for organising a number of Farmers' clubs equipped for sports, games and lectures on agricultural subjects, in the villages of the Province.

The idea of the movement is entirely new to India. Its sponsor is Mr. W. Cowley, Provincial Secretary, Punjab Branch of the Boy Scouts Association. During 1945 Mr. Cowley proposes to start 400 clubs in 400 selected villages. Every club will be fully equipped for sports, games and lectures on ~~agricultural~~ agricultural subjects. The main objects of the Clubs are to learn to understand the soil, animals and the plants; to grow food and live a healthy useful life; to encourage vigour of body and quickness of mind through love of games and sports; and to develop self-respect, and humility among the young people of the countryside. The movement is designed to make the farmers' leisure of nearly six months pleasant and profitable; and, besides agricultural instruction, the programme of the clubs will include instructions for young farmers in local history, geography and nature study. The recreational activity will cover sports, music, ~~and~~ drama, dancing and social events.

The organisation will keep in close touch with the headquarters of the National Federation of young Farmers' Clubs in England. It will arrange reciprocal visits abroad and welcome parties from other countries. The National Federation has already promised to pay all the expenses of parties from India.

Youth Hostels.— Another idea of Mr. Cowley is the opening of youth hostels. The FIRST youth hostel, built at a cost of Rs. 30,000 provided by the Punjab Government has been opened at Tara Devi near Simla. It can accommodate 120 persons. Mr. Cowley says: "Although many such hostels exist in England and other countries, this is the first of its kind in India and perhaps in Asia". It is planned to establish hostels in Kulu and other parts of the Himalayas. In the plains, the buildings used for the young farmers' clubs can serve for this purpose.

(The Statesman, 24-7-1945).

37

LIVING CONDITIONS.

Nutrition.

Rules regarding supply of Milk to Women employed
underground in Mines.

In pursuance of Condition (iii) of the Notification of the Government of India in the Department of Labour No. LMW-2(3), dated the 20-6-1945 (vide page 44 of our report for June, 1945), the Government of India in the Department of Labour has by notification No. LMW-2(3) dated 28-6-1945 prescribed the following rules for the supply of milk to women employed in underground work in mines:

(1) (a) Every mine owner shall supply milk once daily to all women who have worked that day underground; (b) The milk shall be supplied at a suitable stall situated ~~near~~ close to the exit from the underground working; (c) The milk shall be supplied at the end of the shift or relay; (2) The milk supplied shall be either (a) fresh milk, or (b) condensed milk (full cream unsweetened or sweetened) diluted in the proportion of three parts by volume of water to one part of condensed milk; (3) If fresh milk is supplied, the quantity shall be not less than eight fluid ounces per head and if reconstituted condensed milk is supplied, the quantity shall be not less than ~~fifteen fluid ounces per head~~; (4) If by reason of shortage of milk, a mine owner is unable to supply milk, intimation shall be given at once to the Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee constituted under the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Ordinance, 1944 (Ordinance No. VII of 1944); and the latter shall give such assistance as is possible in the supply of milk at the cost of the mine owner.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, ~~xxxxx~~ dated
7-7-1945, Section 1, page 880).

Review of Progress of Rationing in India: 569 Towns and
52 Million people covered.

In an address on "Food Control and Rationing in India", to the Nilgiris Rotary Club, Mr. W.H. Kirby, Rationing Adviser to the Government of India, said that if India was to be saved from food disasters in future, it was essential that food control and rationing should be continued until India's production of foodstuffs was sufficient to meet her internal requirements. Describing the history of food rationing from its introduction in India in 1943, he stated that Bombay served as the first operational centre for food rationing in India and the success achieved there was taken as the basis for inaugurating rationing schemes in other Provinces and States, with necessary modifications to suit local conditions. Rationing was proceeding smoothly in all areas and the activities of the ~~black~~ black market in grains had been considerably minimised if ~~not~~ not completely wiped out; more than 550 towns and 52,000,000 people now enjoyed the benefits of rationing.

Measures relating to Nutrition.- Mr. Kirby also declared that various measures, such as industrial canteens, school feeding and milk priority were being planned by Provincial Governments, which were also dealing with the

nutrition aspect of vulnerable sections of the population. The assistance of nutrition experts was being enlisted frequently in dealing with food problems ensure the advancement of the health of the masses through proper feeding.

(The Times of India, 18-7-1945).

Nutritional Welfare of the People: Report of the Sub-Committee on Nutritional Requirements.

The following are ^{some} of the more important recommendations made in the recently submitted Report of the Sub-Committee on nutritional requirements set up by the Nutrition Advisory Committee of the Indian Research Fund Association: (1) Production targets based on satisfactory estimates of existing and potential production and the nutritional requirements of the population should be set up by Province and States in close collaboration with the Government at the Centre. In carrying out this task due allowance must be made for all the factors in the situation. (2) Government must assume responsibility for ensuring adequate nutrition standards, on which the welfare of the people depends. A beginning in this direction can be made by a vigorous development of public health, nutrition work and the formulation of sound and sound policy based on the science of nutrition. Hitherto food policy had been concerned mainly with the supply of the minimum quantities of cereal grains needed to sustain the population at a low level of nutrition. It is necessary that consideration should be given to all the foods which are needed to make up a well-balanced and satisfactory diet, which is essential for maintenance of good health. (3) Food and agricultural authorities should, in all their activities, strive to provide a satisfactory diet for the entire population. (4) As an immediate policy, emphasis may be laid on an increase in the production of fish and vegetables. (5) Attention should be paid to the education of the public with a view to popularising alternative cereals to rice, and schemes for covering the special needs of "vulnerable groups", e.g., school-feeding, provision of milk to expectant and nursing mothers and young children, etc.

("Dawn", Delhi, dated 30-7-1945).

Training in Inland Fisheries: Central Government Grant.

In furtherance of its food production campaign, the Government of India has placed a sum of Rs. 28,000 at the disposal of the Bengal Government to meet the cost of the Inland Fisheries Training Scheme, Calcutta, for the second course commencing on August 1, 1945. Out of this amount, Rs. 14,000 will be the grant from the Government of India towards the training scheme and the balance of Rs. 14,000 will be recovered in due course from the participating provinces and States. The above grant is for a complete course of six months.

Provision is being made for a total of 25 trainees. The Government of India has agreed that five seats may be allotted to Bengal, two to Bombay, one each to the Punjab, the U.P., Bihar, Orissa and Assam; two each for Hyderabad and Jaipur States; while Cochin, Mysore, Kelhapur Regency Council,

Handgaon Darbar, Cooh Behar Darbar, Sonapur Darbar, Patna State and Bareda will have one seat each. The Government of India has further agreed to the training of five officers of the Bengal Fisheries Department free of cost.

(The Statesman, 15-7-1945).

Workers' Organisations.Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, during 1942-43.

The following statistical information regarding the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, during 1942-43, is taken from the Indian Labour Gazette for June 1945. The statistics relate only to trade unions which are "registered" under the Act, and which have submitted returns prescribed under it. Since, under the Act, registration and the consequent submission of returns, is not compulsory, no figures relating to unregistered trade unions have been taken into account. The figures of both registered and unregistered trade unions available for the province of Bombay alone were, on 1-12-1942, 189 unions with a membership of 185,356, of which 89 with 155,732 members were registered.

Number and membership of registered trade unions.- The total number of unions fell from 747 in 1941-42 to 693 in 1942-43; of 693 registered unions, returns under the Act were received only from 489, whose total membership was 685,299, the corresponding figures for 1941-42 being 455 and 573,520. The average membership for registered unions increased from 1,260 to 1,401 in 1942-43. The following provinces recorded a rise in the number of unions (indicated in brackets): Ajmer-Merwara (2), Bengal (1), Bihar (3), Bombay (3), Delhi (1), Madras (4); the number of trade unions whose objects are not confined to one province increased by 2; it remained stationary in Assam, N.W.P., and Orissa; and fell in C.P. and Berar (6), in Punjab (4), and U.P. (14).

General progress of trade unions.- As compared with 1941-42 the membership of unions which submitted returns increased from 573,520 to 685,299, the highest figure recorded since 1927-28. As in previous years, the group comprising the largest number of unions was that with a membership of 100 to 299, although it accounted for only 40 per cent of the total membership. The group of unions with a membership of 10,000 to 19,999 each, contributed 34.0 per cent of the total membership. It was observed in the Bengal report that "it may be said that the trade union movement is gradually gaining ground and the workers are realising the utility and importance of forming unions and registering them under the Indian Trade Unions Act to fight for their legitimate demands and privileges". On the other hand, in the province of Delhi the period under report "was one of comparative apathy to trade unionism due to the rapid improvement in the economic position of the working classes and the incentive to organise themselves in trade unions ceased to operate with the same intensity as in the preceding years when a trade union was looked upon as the sole guardian of labour interests". The rise of over 35 per cent in the membership of trade unions in U.P. (in spite of a fall in the number of unions), however, was, according to the report from that province, "probably due to increased employment on account of the war", as also due to greater interest taken in the trade union movement and "to the help it renders to the workers in securing better conditions of service".

Organisation of women workers.- The following table shows a steady increase in the number of women who were members of registered trade unions from the year 1927-28 to the year 1942-43:-

Year	Membership	Year	Membership
1927-28	1,168	1935-36	7,309
1928-29	3,842	1936-37	9,025
1929-30	3,299	1937-38	14,703
1930-31	3,151	1938-39	10,945
1931-32	3,454	1939-40	18,612
1932-33	5,090	1940-41	19,417
1933-34	2,999	1941-42	17,094
1934-35	4,837	1942-43	25,972

Income and Expenditure.- The total income of the registered trade unions decreased Rs. 1,767,446 in 1941-42 to Rs. 1,596,984 in 1942-43; from figures of the balance in hand also decreased during the period from Rs. 1,226,900 in 1941-42 to Rs. 1,210,530 during 1942-43. The average income was Rs. 3,265-13-1 per union and Rs. 2-5-3 per member during 1942-43 as against Rs. 3,884-7-11 per union and Rs. 3-1-4 per member during 1941-42. In Bombay out of the total assets of Rs. 493,181, Rs. 136,061 or 27.59 per cent represented the amount of unpaid subscriptions due. Five unions were alone responsible for Rs. 90,685 or 66.7 per cent of the amount of unpaid subscription. In case of several unions the expenditure was "out of all proportion to their income and had it not been for the large donations which they received they would hardly have been able to keep functioning". The Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, had large financial resources with an income of Rs. 50,445. This Association paid Rs. 34,459 by way of educational, social and religious benefits and granted other benefits such as funeral, old age, sickness, unemployment, etc., to the extent of Rs. 12,639. It also maintained a political fund and had a balance of Rs. 11,111 during 1942-43 although there was no income during the year. In Bengal an amount of Rs. 8,024-4-3 was spent for providing benefits to members of various unions.

Cancellations of registration certificates.- During 1942-43 the registration certificates of 148 unions were cancelled (Ajmer-Merwara 1, Bengal 81, Bombay 25, C.P. & Berar 11, Delhi 3, Madras 5, N.W.F.P. 1, and U.P. 21).

Provincial Figures.- The following table gives the comparative figures of registered trade unions and their number in different provinces:-

Province	Number of registered trade unions.		Number of Unions making returns		Membership of unions making returns	
	1941-42	1942-43	1941-42	1942-43	1941-42	1942-43
Ajmer-Merwara.	1	3	1	3	238	4,794
Assam.	5	5	5	5	1,502	1,948
Bengal.	228	229	133	147	175,595	221,635
Bihar.	38	41	16	11	10,337	18,738
Bombay.	74	77	59	69	120,153	150,688
C.P. & Berar.	55	49	38	35	23,984	29,430
Delhi.	29	30	21	23	21,546	16,895
Madras.	137	143	76	86	42,924	49,451
N.W.F.P.	6	6	4	3	317	418
Orissa.	3	3	3	3	535	359
Punjab.	69	24	15	23	7,191	12,493
Sind.	35	28	33	28	11,500	8,934
U.P.	42	28	28	27	17,493	20,976

The number of registered trade unions whose objects are not confined to one province was 27 in 1942-43, of which 26, with a membership of 168,540, made returns; the corresponding figures for 1941-42 were 25, 23 and 140,205, respectively.

Classification according to industries.- The number and memberships of registered trade unions from which returns were received are classified according to industries in the following statement:-

Branches of industry	1941-42		1942-43	
	No.	Membership	No.	Membership
1. Railways (including workshops and other transport excluding tramways).	92	219,086	80	254,510
2. Tramways.	5	5,458	6	7,400
3. Textiles.	81	155,007	98	161,153
4. Printing presses.	22	6,610	27	6,973
5. Municipal.	34	15,264	36	27,701
6. Seamen.	10	56,628	11	72,826
7. Docks and Port Trusts.	21	27,564	21	38,216
8. Engineering.	26	9,292	40	17,764
9. Miscellaneous.	164	78,611	170	98,786
Total	455	573,520	489	685,299

("Indian Labour Gazette", June, 1945).

South Indian Railway Labour Union: 9th Annual Conference, Golden Rock, Trichinopoly, 24-6-1945.

The 9th annual conference of the South Indian Railway Labour Union was held at Golden Rock, Trichinopoly on 24-6-1945. Dr. T.S.S. Rajan, former Minister, Government of Madras, inaugurated the Conference and Dr. K.M. Ashraf of Bombay presided.

Mr. Giri's Address.- Addressing the Conference, Mr. V.V. Giri, President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, observed that the Secunderabad Conference of railwaymen (vide page 34 of our report for April 1945) had put forward many demands on behalf of railwaymen and that the President and Secretary had placed these demands before the Railway Board and the Government of India. Among other things, they had demanded that the temporary staff of 150,000 engaged during the war must be made permanent. It was for the railway workers all over India to solidly back these demands. Whether the country was to be administered as a whole or to be cut up into Hindustan and Pakistan, workers had to stand for their fundamental rights and would desire a plan of social security even better than the Beveridge Plan for Britain.

Resolutions.- The Conference adopted resolutions demanding confirmation in ~~service~~ service for the 150,000 temporary employees who were being treated as temporary staff and the setting up of a Planning Commission to expand transport, with adequate representation for organised labour in it. The Conference also suggested some measures to accommodate ex-servicemen without prejudice to the continuance in service of the temporary employees. By another resolution the Conference extended its greetings to the members of

the Congress Working Committee and appealed to them and to the leaders of the Muslim League to accept the Wavell offer.

(The Hindu, 26-6-1945).

Meeting of Council of All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union, Delhi, 27 and 28-5-1945: Demand for Revision of Scales of Pay of Postal Employees.

Resolutions demanding an upward revision of the scales of pay of postal employees and protesting against the inadequacy of the increase in dearness allowance recently granted by the Government of India were adopted at a meeting of the Council of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union held at Delhi on the 27th and 28th May 1945.

As regards revision of the scales of pay of postal employees, the Council holds that the Government of India has done a glaring injustice to the large body of postal workers by refusing to revise their scales of pay. Such a forward revision of the scales of pay should be taken up immediately in order to raise the standard of living of low paid postal employees and in order to provide their sons and dependents the facilities and advantages available to better class people.

With regard to dearness allowance, the Council expressed its entire dissatisfaction and resentment at the recent inadequate increase in dearness allowance which took effect from January, 1945, as it did not help to neutralise to any appreciable extent the increase in the cost of living and fell far short of the reasonable relief demanded by the Union at its Conference held at Bombay in December, 1944.

(General letter issued by the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union, Bombay Circle, July, 1945).

Meeting of General Council of A.I.T.U.C., Calcutta - 27 and 28-7-1945: Election of Workers' Representatives for 27th I.L. Conference.

The General Council of the A.I.T.U.C. held a two-day session at Calcutta on 27 and 28-7-1945, Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose presiding.

The Council elected Mr. N.M. Joshi as delegate to the 27th session of the International Labour Conference to be held in Paris, and Messrs. S.S. Mirajkar, Abdul Momin, R.A. Khedgikar and Sibnath Banerjee as advisers; Mr. P.R.K. Sharma was elected as substitute for Mr. Sibnath Banerjee if the latter is not released from detention. Mr. Aftab Ali was elected as delegate to the Technical Preparatory Maritime Conference to be held in London; and Mr. Dinkar Desai (Bombay) and Mr. Mohiudeen (Bengal) were elected advisers.

The Council adopted a number of resolutions, the more important of which are noticed below:

Cloth Shortage.— In its resolution dealing with cloth shortage in India, the Council urged the Government to compel millowners to bring about a further reduction in cloth prices. The meeting called upon the Government to give up its policy of appeasement of the millowners and also strongly urged the Government to enlist the co-operation of the workers and their organisations

by compelling employers to grant their ^{workers'} just demands in order to enthruse them for more production. It asked the Government to call a joint conference of the Government, millowners and workers to prepare a well thought out plan to increase the production of cloth. The Council demanded that immediate steps should be ~~taken~~ taken (1) to release larger quantity of cloth for meeting the needs of the civil population by stopping exports and by importing cloth for the defence services; (2) to increase the production of cloth with the help of the organised unions of workers by granting their just demands; and (3) to introduce a system of cloth rationing throughout the country by associating peoples' representatives and their organisations with the machinery of distribution.

Housing.- The Council expressed deep concern at the growing scarcity of housing for industrial workers in all industrial centres. It condemned the Government, employers and municipal authorities concerned for their failure in this regard, and asked the Government of India immediately to call a conference of representatives of Government, employers, municipalities, local boards and workers to formulate concrete schemes for providing ~~an~~ adequate, healthy and cheap housing facilities for the working class. It also asked for the constitution of central and provincial housing boards to ensure proper and speedy fulfilment of housing schemes.

Re-employment or Compensation of War Workers.- The Council requested the Government of India and Provincial Governments to take immediate steps to provide suitable alternative employment to all workers discharged from factories engaged in war production, on account of the termination of the war in Europe. In the alternative it asked that adequate compensation should be provided to them for loss of employment by way of gratuity or bonus.

Basic Wages.- The Council deplored that the basic ~~wages~~ wage rates of an overwhelming majority of workers engaged in various industries all over the country were extremely low and actually fell even below the subsistence level; the scale of real wages had been further depressed since the outbreak of the war on account of the enormous rise in the cost of living and on account of the absence of adequate ~~dearness~~ dearness allowance; and demanded that the questions of wage increase and the fixation of the minimum living wage should no longer be postponed, particularly in view of the fact that the present time of industrial prosperity was the most opportune for making a beginning in that direction.

By another resolution, the Council protested against the restrictions imposed on trade union activities in the various Coal-mining regions of the country, and urged the removal of such restrictions.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika and Bombay Chronicle, dated 30-7-1945 and the Hindustan Times, dated 1-8-1945).

Miscellaneous.

Technicians in the Textile Industry: U.P. Branch of
the Textile Association opened.

The Textile Association of India, an organisation of technicians employed in the Textile Industry, has opened a branch at Cawnpore. The Association, formed 6 years ago, has a membership of over 1,500, with branches at Sholapur, Khandesh and Indore.

Explaining the objects of the Association at the inaugural meeting of the U.P. Branch at Cawnpore, Mr. Vaidya, who works at the headquarters of the Association, observed that in India technicians were neglected by employers and disliked by employees; they could however improve their status by pooling their resources, exchange of ideas between technicians at various centres and thus becoming more serviceable to the industry in which they are employed.

(The Statesman, 25-7-1945).

46

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Begging in Public Places prohibited: Legislative
Amendment in Madras.

To provide for the prevention of begging in the Province of Madras (except the city of Madras), the local Government has enacted the Madras Prevention of Begging Act, 1945, with the assent of the Governor-General. Power is taken under the Act to arrest begging beggars wherever they are found in the presidency and commit them to work houses or special homes. Specific provision has been made in the Act to prevent begging in railway carriages or in the premises of a railway station. The Act will be enforced in any area from such date as may be notified by the local Government.

It is pointed out in the statement of objects and Reasons that ~~there~~ there is no provision of law under which beggars in maffassal areas can be committed to workhouses or special homes. Such a provision exists so far as ~~the~~ the City of Madras is concerned by virtue of the amendments made to the Madras City Police Act, 1938, by Madras Act XIII of 1941. The Government considered that legislation on the lines of Madras Act XIII of 1941 should be undertaken for maffassal areas.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, Part IV-B,
dated 17-7-1945, pages 21-24).

The Delhi Poor House Rules, 1945.

The Delhi Poor House Rules, 1945, issued by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, are published at pages 190-193 of the Gazette of India Part II-A dated 7-7-1945. The Rules provide inter alia for the appointment of a Warden, Deputy Warden, Medical Officer and Board of Visitors for the Poor House, sets forth the conditions for the detention of vagrants and other persons in the ~~house~~ and for their discharge, defines Poor House misdemeanours, and prescribes the punishments to be awarded. ~~to~~ The Rules come into force from 1-8-1945.

(The Gazette of India, Part II-A, dated
7-7-1945, pages 190-193).

47

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Work of Haffkine Institute, Bombay, in 1942 and 1943.

The resources of the Haffkine Institute, Bombay, were put to considerable strain during 1942 and 1943, states the Director's report on the working of the Institute during those years. (The Haffkine Institute, financed from Government Funds, is one of the most important agencies in India engaged in medical research and the preparation of vaccines, serums, etc.). Owing to the danger of air-raids, large quantities of therapeutic sera had to be supplied to different Provinces and the newly-organised Department of Serum Production had to increase its work considerably to cope with the demands.

Following the outbreak of plague in China, the Institute made arrangements to give a large number of Chinese medical officers, sanitary engineers and bacteriologists intensive training in methods of controlling plague epidemics and in the large-scale production of plague vaccine and therapeutic sera.

A new Department of Nutrition was established at the Institute to handle nutritional problems arising out of the feeding of the population in war conditions. After rationing had been introduced in Bombay City, a large number of samples of foodstuffs was sent to the new Department for analysis, and technical advice was given on nutritional matters. The Department of Vaccines issued 2,730,798 cubic centimetres of plague vaccine in 1942 and 3,330,843 cubic centimetres in 1943. From the opening of the Institute up to the end of 1943, a total of 149,371,365 cubic centimetres of this vaccine ~~issued~~ have been issued. The quantities of anti-cholera vaccine issued were 3,149,703 cubic centimetres in 1942 and 3,574,540 ~~in~~ cubic centimetres in 1943, and of T.A.B. vaccine, 152,331 cubic centimetres in 1942 and 184,468 cubic centimetres in 1943. The Department of Antitoxins and Sera received strong support from all over India, and its products are much in demand from all hospitals.

The income of the Institute for the two years 1942 and 1943 was respectively Rs. 525,705 and Rs. 675,496; and the expenditure was Rs. 456,430 and Rs. 709,701, respectively.

(Summarised from Press Communiqué dated 19-7-1945 issued by the Director of Information, Bombay).

Post-war Development of Public Health in C.P.: Provincial Government appoints an Advisory Committee.

The Government of the Central Provinces and Berar has constituted an advisory committee to advise the Government on matters connected with post-war development in the Medical and Public Health Departments. The Advisory to the Governor in charge of Medical and Public Health Departments will be the chairman of the Committee which consists of 20 members, both officials and non-officials; the Secretary to Government, Department of Medical and Public Health, will act as the secretary of the Committee.

(The Dawn, Delhi, 22-7-1945).

48

Constitution of an Improvement Trust for the City of
Madras: Government enacts Legislation.

The Government of Madras has enacted the Madras City Improvement Trust Act, 1945, to provide for the improvement and expansion of the City of Madras and the constitution of an Improvement Trust for this purpose. The Act received the assent of the Governor-General on 12-7-1945, and has been published for general information at pages 29-76 of Part IV-B of the Port St. George Gazette dated 24-7-1945. The Act provides for the constitution of a Board of Trustees for the Improvement of the City and the neighbourhood. The Board will consist of 9 persons, including the Chairman who will be its executive authority. The other members of the Board will be the Commissioner of the Corporation, the Director of Town-Planning, the Director of Public Health, two members elected by the Corporation, one by the Madras Chamber of Commerce, and another by the Southern India Chamber of Commerce. The remaining member will be a person appointed by the Government. It will be the duty of the Board to make due provision for the improvement and expansion of the City of Madras by opening up congested areas, laying out or altering streets and by framing and executing various improvement schemes.

The Board will have no power to levy any taxes. Apart from miscellaneous items of revenue such as betterment fees and income from investments and lands, the funds of the Board will consist of contributions from the Government and the Corporation, who will each make an annual payment of not less than two and a half lakhs of rupees to such funds. The Board will also have power to borrow money either from the Government, or with the sanction of the Government, in the open market. (Rs 1 lakh = Rs 100,000).

(Port St. George Gazette, Part IV-B, dated
24-7-1945, pages 27 to 76).

EDUCATION.

Madras to make a Beginning in Compulsory Primary Education.

The Post-War Development Plan drawn up by the Government of Madras, provides for the introduction of compulsory education for boys and girls of all communities up to the Fifth Standard in the first instance, the scheme to be completed in a period of ten years from the start.

As a step in advance, the Government has provided a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 in the current year's budget for introducing compulsory education in selected villages of each district. The budget provision will be sufficient for bringing under instruction 1/24th of the total number of children in the Province not now attending any school. The Director of Public Instruction has selected villages in which compulsory education should be introduced, in consultation with the Presidents of District Boards concerned. The new schools will mostly be opened and maintained by District Boards with the help of subsidies which will be provided by Government. But it will be open to private managements also to provide new schools or to expand existing schools under the ordinary rules of recognition and aid. The Director has issued instructions for the opening of schools in districts in which selection of villages has been completed. The District Boards have been required to pass resolutions under Section 44 (a) of the Elementary Education Act, 1920, to introduce compulsory education in the villages selected and to forward them to Government. The Government will pass orders on the resolutions as they are received.

Provision of Midday Meals for Poor Children.- An allotment of Rs. 2,00,000 has also been included in the current year's budget for the provision of midday meals for poor children attending elementary schools.

(The Hindu, dated 7-7-1945).

Reorganisation of Education in Madras: Recommendations of the Madras University Committee.

Detailed suggestions regarding nursery schools, women's education, education of the Scheduled Castes, backward communities and backward areas, physical education, medical inspection and care, and adult education, are the special features of the comprehensive report of the Special Committee appointed by the University of Madras to examine the problems of post-war educational reconstruction. The following are some of the more important recommendations of the Special Committee:-

Free and Compulsory Primary and Secondary Education.- The Committee recommends that there should be free and compulsory education for eight years between the ages of 5 to 6 and 14. There should be only two types of schools, primary and secondary; and primary schools should be located in all villages with a population of 1,000 and centrally between groups of villages within easy access of the children. Emphasis is laid on the fact that the State should hold itself fully responsible for such provisions; that such schools should work in shifts; that there should be part-time and full-time teachers and that the large majority of them should preferably be women. Nursery schools are recommended in industrial areas and in large cities preferably in the poorer and working class localities. Secondary education should be for 6 years.

At the high school stage there should be two types of schools—Preparatory and technical, the ~~preparatory~~ former preparing generally for university entrance and the latter for polytechnics or technological institutions.

The need for compulsory training in handicraft and in physical education throughout this period is emphasized. Facilities should be available for a pupil to change over from one type of school to the other at any stage of his education and high schools should, as far as possible, be located in rural areas.

Modification of Recruiting for Government Service and Training for Trades.-

It is suggested that the present system of recruitment to government service should be modified. Recruitment to junior clerkships and similar posts should be from among those who have finished their school education and the age limit should be lowered to 15. Selected candidates should be trained ~~or~~ for two or more years for the particular posts which they are expected to ~~or~~ occupy. It is recommended that trade schools be set up by the Government where boys who have studied up to the middle school could be trained for two or three years to fit them for some trade. Higher education should be available to all those who finish high school. Such education should be available either through technical or technological institutions or polytechnics or through the ~~university~~ university. The overcrowding of universities is because of lack of provision for other forms of education at the high school stage and later. The system of recruitment to Government service is also responsible, together with the lack of opportunity for young men of promise in other vocations which leaves no alternative to the young student.

Women's Education.- Co-education should be permitted in the primary stage and ~~possibly~~ in the degree and professional courses, but not in the high school and intermediate classes. Separate girls' schools and colleges should be established which should provide adequate scope for physical and social activities.

Adult Education.- Adult education should include a literacy campaign for ~~illiterates~~ illiterates and further education of adult literates, and for the former purpose teachers should be trained and literature made available. The committee is not in favour of the use of the Roman script and emphasizes the place of libraries and the role of universities in this connexion. Special facilities are recommended for the education of depressed classes, backward communities and for people of backward areas.

Physical Education and Medical Care.- The Committee, in emphasizing better organization of physical education and medical care, stresses the need for adequate playgrounds, proper supervision and direction of games by duly qualified instructors. An advisory board of physical education is recommended, while for proper medical inspection and care, a regular school medical service with small school clinics, a permanent medical officer on the staff of the larger colleges, co-operative medical stores for students and organization of social welfare movements and expansion of the University Officers Training Corps are recommended.

Training of Teachers and their Conditions of Work.- As regards the training of teachers, only 2 types of training centres are suggested, the graduate and undergraduate, and radical changes are recommended in the staffing of these centres, in the methods of training, in the supervision and guidance of such schools, in the location of the centres and in the facilities that should be available to the students for practical training. Emphasis is laid on the status of teachers. The scales of pay suggested by the Central Advisory Board are recommended and facilities such as study leave, foreign study, cheap holiday resorts, etc., are recommended.

It is pointed out that the State should be responsible for compulsory education and should shoulder the responsibility to a large extent for technical and technological education and to support the universities. The State should also be responsible for increased provision of teachers, for adequate scales of salary, for libraries, laboratories, postgraduate education and research, study leave and foreign scholarships. The establishment of a well-equipped central library with books, periodicals, reports and other publications on educational problems, and smaller libraries of a similar nature at all district centres is also recommended.

(The Statesman, 28-7-1945).

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SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME.

Wages.

Increases in Small Pensions: Bombay Government's Decision.

The Bombay Government has sanctioned further increases in small pensions, as from 1-1-1945. Pensions not exceeding Rs. 20 a month are increased by Rs. 4, pensions exceeding Rs. 20 a month but not exceeding Rs. 60 a month by Rs. 5, and pensions exceeding Rs. 60 a month but not exceeding Rs. 100 by Rs. 6. Pensions between Rs. 101 and Rs. 105 a month are increased to a total of Rs. 106 a month.

(The Hindustan Times, 4-7-1945).

Small pensions: Further Temporary Rise ordered in Madras.

The government of Madras has passed orders directing the revision of the rates of temporary increase in pensions sanctioned previously. The increased rate is to take effect from 1-1-1945 and will be in operation until further orders. The revised rates sanctioned in Madras are the same as in Bombay given above.

(The Hindu, 18-7-1945).

Continuance of Dearness Allowance: Ahmedabad Labour Dispute.

Reference was made at page 49 of the report of this Office for June 1945 to the demand made by the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association for the continuance after 3-6-1945 of the dearness allowance granted to the textile operatives of Ahmedabad and to its rejection by the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association. An attempt at settlement by voluntary submission of the dispute to arbitration failed because the parties could not agree on the terms of reference. It is stated that, while the Labour Association demanded the award of the arbitrators to be applicable to all the employees of the Ahmedabad textile industry, the Millowners' Association wanted it to be left to the decision of the arbitrators. Subsequently, conciliation proceedings were instituted before the Assistant Commissioner of Labour on 25-7-1945, but these also failed.

It is now reported that negotiations have been resumed between the representatives of the Millowners' Association and the Labour Association to refer the question of dearness allowance to the arbitration of the Industrial Court without the intervention of the Government. The negotiations are expected to succeed this time, as the question of dearness allowance is to be referred to the Industrial Court without any terms of reference.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 27-7-1945; The Times of India, 31-7-1945).

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Dearness Allowance to Textile Workers in Gujarat:
Employers Move for Reduction.

The question of the continuance of the dearness allowance to the 200,000 textile workers of Gujarat is attracting attention in mill circles.

Most of the mills of Gujarat have been paying an allowance of seven annas four pies per point of rise in the index level, while the mills of Bombay, Shelapur and Jalgaon have been paying about four annas per point. Every worker in Gujarat mills has thus been getting about Rs. 55 by way of dearness allowance. The millowners of Gujarat contend that such a high rate could not be afforded by them. The Industrial Court recently decided that the employers should neutralise only 66 2/3 per cent of the increase in cost by paying an allowance. In Ahmedabad at present the mills are neutralising 98 per cent of the increased cost while in Bombay and Deccan 75 per cent is being paid as allowances. The millowners feel they have also to reckon with a market which tends to go down day by day and they should prepare for a period of depression.

Notices have already been issued by the millowners that the dearness allowance given at present will be stopped after August 8. The workers all over Gujarat have appealed, and in some cases have sent notices, to the millowners that as the circumstances in which the dearness allowance was granted were still existing, the allowance should be continued till the prices come down. The millowners, however, are not inclined to pay dearness allowance at the present rate.

It is reported that an attempt at conciliation will be made soon and if it fails the case will be referred to the Industrial Court. The workers' case is expected to be strongly represented at any conciliation or arbitration proceedings by the Mazdur Sevak Sanghs all over Gujarat.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 27-7-1945).

Welfare.

Children of Civilian Labourers in Army Ordnance Depots:
Creches Organised.

At an Army Ordnance depot near Bangalore, ^{an} army-organised creche has been provided for the children of civilian labourers working at the depot. Newly-born babies are put under the charge of expert South Indian compounders who are responsible for their welfare and upbringing. Children who can speak and are old enough to learn are given free education, food and clothes. Toys and games are provided to them by the creche.

The creche is paid for partly out of the depot welfare fund, built up largely from canteen profits, and partly out of the depot funds. Out of these funds also books and toys are bought for the children. ~~Boys~~ Boys who cannot work for more than the scheduled five hours, take part in ~~their~~ sports and games before and after their work.

A civil labour officer attends to the interests of the civilian labourers.

(The Statesman, 25-7-1945).

55

Salaried Employees and Public Servants.

Increased Pay for Nurses with War Service.

Increased rates of pay for nurses with prolonged war service are announced in an Army Instruction (India) issued on 14-7-1945.

All officers and auxiliary nurses who are in receipt of military rates of pay under the Indian pay code are eligible for new war service increments. Service since September 3, 1939, is qualifying service for the increases, which are admissible from September 3, 1944, and are as follows:

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service: Chief Principal Matron to Matron (inclusive), Rs. 46 a month after three years' service and an additional Rs. 15 for each subsequent year's service. Senior Sister and below will be entitled to Rs. 34 and Rs. 11 for corresponding periods of service.

Indian Military Nursing Service: Principal Matron to Matron (inclusive), Rs. 40 a month after three years' service and an additional Rs. 15 for each subsequent year's service. Senior Sister and below will be entitled to Rs. 30 and Rs. 10 for corresponding periods of service.

Auxiliary Nursing Service (India) and Indian Voluntary Aid Service: Rs. 20 a month after three years' service and an additional Rs. 6-11 for each subsequent year's service.

(The Statesman, 16-7-1945).

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Control Measures.

Steady Progress of Cloth Rationing: Cloth rationing
in Delhi.

During recent months the rationing of cloth has made steady progress in the large cities of India.

In the Bombay Presidency cloth rationing was introduced in the City of Bombay and its suburbs on 3-6-1945. In Bihar cloth rationing has already been introduced in Patna city and the Government has now issued general instructions for the introduction of similar cloth rationing schemes in all towns where food rationing is in force. In Bengal the details of a scheme for rationing mill-made cloth are, it is learnt, being worked out by the textile authorities, which while a meeting of the Council of Ministers in Sind on the 22nd of May decided to introduce cloth rationing immediately in certain centres in the province.

Cloth rationing in Delhi.— Cloth rationing came into force in Delhi Province on 15-6-1945. Under the provisions of the Delhi Cloth Rationing Order, obtaining cloth except by means of a cloth ration permit has been forbidden. The half yearly quota has, for the present, been fixed at 12 yards per head (6 yards per head in the case of children under eight years of age) and fine cloth is to be allowed to every buyer up to one third of his total quota. Handloom cloth, imported cloth, cloth containing less than 2% of cotton, handkerchiefs, towels and other categories of made up cloth, however, do not come under the rationing scheme.

(The Gazette of India, Part II A, dated 9-6-1945,
pages 161-164; The Indian Textile Journal,
June, 1945, pages 654-657).

Machinery to be set up to control opening and
Re-opening of Coal Mines: Amendment of Colliery
Control Order, 1944.

The Government of India, in consultation with the Coal Control Board, have decided to take steps to set up a machinery to control the opening and reopening of coal mines, according to a press note recently issued by the Government of India. Such control has been necessitated by the fact that large numbers of small pits and quarries have been started in recent months which drain away coal mining labour from established collieries and, with inefficient methods, produce only inferior classes of coal.

The Colliery Control Order, 1944, has, therefore, been amended by inserting the following clause.

"No colliery shall be opened, and no colliery ^{the} working whereof has been discontinued over a period exceeding two months, shall be reopened except with the previous permission of the Central Government and in accordance with such directions as the Central Government may at the time of granting permission or ~~the~~ subsequently give to the owner or the owners concerned".

It is not the Government's intention to ask for information in great detail from persons desirous of opening or reopening coal mines. Control

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will be restricted to requiring the owner or the proprietor to give prior notice and to obtain the Coal Commissioner's approval to commence mining operations or to reopen a mine in any particular coal bearing area in a prescribed form available from the Regional Coal Controller of the area concerned. Permission to open or reopen will be given by the Coal Commissioner after consultation with the Chief Inspector of Mines in India.

(The Statesman, 5-7-1945).

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Textile Industry.

Increased production of Utility Cloth for civilian consumption.

At a press conference in Bombay on 11-7-1945, called to explain the utility cloth scheme which has been in operation since 1-7-1945, the chairman, Textile Control Board, stated that the utility cloth scheme was expected to yield an increased production of 40 million yards, Government consumption was expected to drop by the same figure, that there would be a reduction in exports to the extent of 200 million yards, and that the cloth thus saved would work out at 2½ yards per head.

Object of the Scheme.— According to the chairman, the main object of the scheme for the manufacture of utility cloth is that mills should take such measures as will enable them to increase their yardage production of cloth by at least 10 per cent over the 1944 figure. Mills are required to set apart 90 per cent of their available loom energy for the manufacture of utility cloth, which comprises dhoties, sarees, long-cloth, sheetings, chaddars, shirtings, voiles, mills, coatings, and towels made from single yarn.

Restrictions imposed on Mills.— A restriction has been placed on the number of spindles which mills are permitted to spin according to the spindles installed, and a drastic reduction has been made in the number of varieties of cloth to be produced by these mills; they are required to concentrate on the production of these restricted qualities which, in itself, increases efficiency and production. In order that the mills may make the best use of all yarns woven by them into cloth, the maximum densities of utility cloths ("non-luxury" cloths) have been laid down and no mill is permitted to exceed these limits in respect of such utility cloths. In general, mills have been prohibited to manufacture such ~~qualities~~ qualities of cloth as are wasteful of yarn. For example, mills are prohibited from manufacturing any cloth with folded yarn in warp or weft except in coatings which are to some extent being permitted to be manufactured by use of 2/22s yarn and below within the non-utility range. No mill is permitted to manufacture any cloth with a border whether plain, dobby or jacquard exceeding 2" in width.

Rationalisation.— The chairman pointed out that the Textile Industry has for a long time in the past, resisted any attempts to introduce any rationalisation and standardisation measures, since such measures would to a great extent, curtail their encouragement to diversify production, a step which has been recommended by various Tariff Boards as a means to enable the industry to compete with foreign manufacturers. However, in the general interests of the country as a whole the scheme has been accepted by the industry in good faith.

Wages.— The chairman said that it was not true that wages had fallen since the introduction of the utility cloth scheme.

(The Bombay Chronicle, dated.
13-7-1945).

Compensation for War Injuries.

Indian States included in the Areas of Advisory Committees under War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1943.

Reference was made at page 62 of our report for March 1944, to the appointment by the Government of India Area Advisory Committees at Calcutta and Madras and the Central and Bombay Advisory Committee at Bombay, to ensure the smooth working of the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1943 (vide page 32 of our August 1943 report). With a view to bring the administration of the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1943, as applied in any Indian State, under the jurisdiction of the Area Advisory Committees, the Central Government has amended Government of India, Department of Labour Resolution No. L.W.I.S. 810 dated 2-3-1944, in order to include Indian States in the respective Areas. India is at present divided into three areas—the Bombay area, the Calcutta area and the Madras area; and Indian States are included in the areas nearest to them, for example, Madras States in Madras Area.

(Resolution No. L.W.S. 34(22) dated 21-7-1945 of the Department of Labour, Government of India, The Gazette of India, Part I, Sec.1, dated 28-7-1945 page 998).

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War Risks Insurance.

War Risks Insurance Schemes: Premium Rates greatly Reduced.

A Press Communiqué issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on June 21 stated:

"In view of the improvement in the war situation, the Central Government have had under consideration the question of either giving free cover or reducing the premium payable under the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance."

War Risks (Goods) Insurance.- The Central Government have now decided that all policies expiring on June 30, 1945, issued under the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Scheme shall, without the payment of any further premium, be deemed to be effective for the quarter ending on September 30, 1945. For the quarter ending on September 30, 1945, premium shall, however, be payable on new policies which are either taken out for the first time or are taken out for an amount in excess of the amount for which free cover is provided as above, at the rate of one pice per month for each complete sum of Rs. 100 in respect of goods liable to compulsory insurance, and at double that rate in respect of goods that are voluntarily insurable.

War Risks (Factories) Insurance.- As regards the War Risks (Factories) Insurance Scheme, the Central Government have decided to waive payment of the instalment of premium due on September 1, 1945, under all policies of insurance issued under this Scheme for Factories and Inland Vessels in respect of which all instalments of premium upto, and inclusive of, the quarter ending on August 31, 1945, have been paid by the due date. Premium shall, however, be payable on all new policies and supplementary policies taken out in respect of properties becoming insurable on or after September 1, 1945, but before December 1, 1945, at the rate of one-fourth per cent of the insurable value.

Scope of New Changes.- This announcement, which may be regarded as inaugurating the policy for the inevitable transition from war to peace, is a landmark in the history of war risks insurance in India. The war risks insurance schemes were started under the stress of war. The Goods Insurance Scheme was started in October, 1940, and the Factories Insurance Scheme in May, 1942.

As Insurance companies were not in a position to cover land war risks, commercial interests approached the Government of India for the introduction of a commodity war risks insurance scheme. The Government, after careful consideration of the representations of ~~many~~ the various commercial interests and being satisfied that it was essential, in the interests of ensuring normal trade during the war period, that merchants should be enabled to insure their goods against land war risks, evolved a scheme under which the Central Government undertook the liability of insuring against land war risks in respect of business goods. This was the origin of the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Scheme.

The outbreak of the war in the East and its approach to the very borders of India brought to the forefront the question of insuring factories. Even before, in the wake of the introduction of the goods insurance scheme, commercial bodies had pressed the need for the introduction of a similar scheme to provide cover against war risks to (a) factory plant and machinery and (b) all immovable property. It was felt that a countrywide scheme covering all kinds of immovable properties would be impracticable; it was, therefore, decided to undertake the liability of providing cover against war risks only to factory plant and machinery, factory buildings, and some other Allied properties.

Total Coverage.- The total cover given under the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Scheme amounted to Rs. 1,983.3 million as on April 15, 1945. The maximum total cover in some of the previous quarters exceeded Rs. 4,000 million. The rate of premium payable under the Factories Insurance Scheme was 4 per cent of insurable value during the first insurance period (2 years) and 1 per cent during the second and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent during the third period of one year each. The total cover given amounts roughly to Rs. 4,200 million.

Now Nominal Premium Rates.- In the light of the changed war situation, and the claims experience of the past, the premium rates have now been fixed at the nominal figure of one pice per hundred rupees per ~~month~~ month for the quarter ending September 30, 1945, in respect of goods and at the existing rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent of the insurable value for the remainder of the current insurance period, in respect of factories becoming insurable on or after September 1, 1945, but before December 1, 1945.

(Indian Information, 15-7-1945).

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✓ Demobilisation and Resettlement.

Projects

Priorities for Schemes of Road-building, Irrigation Projects, etc. as a Measure for Resettlement.

The Government of India, it is learnt will give special attention, in the immediate post-war period, to projects for development of roads, irrigation and electric power generation in order to provide employment both for ex-army personnel and displaced war workers, and to absorb large quantities of basic materials. Such a policy is expected to assist considerably in ensuring a smooth transition from war to peace economy. The problem of getting suitable technical staff to run these schemes is also receiving the attention of both the Central and Provincial Governments.

(The Statesman, dated 5-7-1945).

✓ Training for Managerial Aspects of Resettlement: First Group finished the Course.

Reference was made at page 56 of our report for June 1945 to the course of training in the Managerial aspects of Government's resettlement machinery, started in Delhi on 1-6-1945. The first group of officers who have finished their training have dispersed in five parties. Each of these parties will visit one main industrial area for the purpose of a factory tour. This will enable them to see the working of the various industries and give them an insight into their labour requirements. In each case, this part of the training will last for a fortnight, after which the officers will proceed to various existing employment exchanges for training in practical work.

The course for the second batch of officers started on 11-7-1945.

(The Hindustan Times, 12-7-1945).

✓ Resettlement and Employment Directorate: Mr. Gurmani Appointed Director General.

Reference was made at pages 55-56 of our report for May, 1945, to the Labour Department's Plan for Resettlement of Demobilised Personnel. In pursuance of this plan, the Government of India in the Department of Labour has now appointed Nawab Washtaq Ahmed Gurmani as Director-General of Resettlement and Employment for a period of five years. The Director-General will be the head of the resettlement and employment organisation. He will supervise, co-ordinate and direct the work of both the central and regional sections of the organisation and will maintain close contact with the Departments of the Central Government and with the Provincial and Indian States Governments with a view to bringing about co-ordination of measures connected with resettlement and employment.

Although the primary function of the organisation will be to facilitate the resettlement and employment of demobilised members of the armed forces and discharged war workers, it is hoped that it will develop into a permanent employment service closely integrated with economic policies directed towards achieving full employment and higher living standards for the people of India.

(The Hindu, dated 17-7-1945, and The Hindustan Times, 15-7-1945).

X

20 Per cent of Sind Posts for Demobilised Men: Proposal to settle Demobilised Men on Lands

According to ^a Correspondent of the Statesman the Government of Sind have reserved 20 per cent of the jobs in various departments for demobilised soldiers. Further, Mr. Roger Thomas, Adviser to the Government of Sind on Agriculture and post-war development, has recommended to the Government that to overcome the acute shortage felt in Sind for agricultural labour, demobilized soldiers may be employed as share-croppers by big estate-owners or given Government lands in small lots and co-operative farming encouraged in the province.

(The Statesman, dated, 24-7-1945).

Employment of Ex-soldiers: Madras Government's Decision regarding Road-Works.

The general policy with regard to the labour employed in road construction, maintenance and repairs has recently been examined by the Government of Madras with a view to finding out the extent to which it can be used in facilitating demobilisation and resettlement.

The Post-War Reconstruction General Committee recommended that it should be the general policy of the Government to employ departmental labour, as far as possible, in regard to road construction, maintenance and repairs. The Chief Engineer, Communications, however, was against the acceptance of this recommendation and suggested that some of the road-works might be undertaken by units of demobilised soldiers and the rest of the road development projects might be executed under contract or departmentally, according to the prevailing conditions. After a careful examination of the two systems, the Government has now decided that the contract system might be preferred in the execution of road-works. An exception would, however, be made in the case of units of demobilised soldiers and where the contract system did not yield satisfactory results. The Government feels that ex-soldiers would prefer to work directly under Government and not under contractors. It has, therefore, directed that care must be taken to ascertain their (ex-soldiers') views on demobilisation before deciding on the manner of their employment. First preference should be given to units of demobilised soldiers in the matter of employment on works relating to road construction, maintenance and repairs.

(The Hindu, 18-7-1945).

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Post-War Reconstruction.

Rs. 1,500 Million Plan of Post-War Reconstruction for
Bengal.

Reference was made at page 60 of our Report for June 1945 to the setting up of a Post-War Reconstruction Board by the Government of Bengal. It is now understood that the provincial Government has submitted to the Government of India a five-year post-war development plan, the estimated cost of which is Rs. 1,500 million. The plan includes 200 schemes, and services to be developed are education, public health, agriculture, public works, irrigation, medical, etc. The largest number of schemes under one head relates to agricultural development.

Financing of the Plan.- Financial help from the Centre to the province may amount to a grant of 50 per cent of its expenditure. The balance will have to be met by raising loans or otherwise. The Government of India proposes to devote over Rs. 4,000 million to post-war plans in the provinces.

Administrative Machinery.- The Rowlands (Administrative Inquiry) Committee has reported that the administrative machine in Bengal is inadequate for the tasks that confront it and "still less for the greater tasks that lie ahead". The Bengal Government has, therefore, started recruiting candidates for training in India and abroad. Many workers who will be unemployed when temporary war-time departments are closed may be absorbed in post-war development work.

(The Statesman, 6-7-1945).

Electric Power Supply to speed up Industrialisation
in C.P. and Berar.

Reference was made at pages 60-61 of our report for May 1945 to the five-year plan of post-war reconstruction drawn up by the C.P. and Berar Government. In pursuance of the Government's plans for the industrialisation of the Province, the Government has accepted the recommendations of Sir Henry Howard to start a thermal station in the vicinity of Nagpur to supply power to factories situated in the rich cotton tract lying between Nagpur and Akola; and orders for machinery for this station have already been placed. Steps have also been taken to organise the Electricity Department of the C.P. Government and engage a staff for the first stage of planning and execution. The aim of the Government is to own and operate all future public utility power stations and gradually, if possible, to acquire those now in operation. As a necessary corollary the Government has accepted the principle of acquiring coalfields adequate for a future widespread provincial electric power supply.

(The Hindu, dated 2-7-1945).

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Post-War Reconstruction in Madras: Four Sub-Committees
submit Reports.

Reference was made at pages 59-63 of our report for April, 1945, to the Madras Government's Post-war Development Plans.

At a meeting of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee held at Madras on 10-7-1945 (1) Report on a scheme for a rural uplift organisation in Madras, (2) Report of the Public Health Sub-Committee, (3) Report of the ~~Employment~~ Demobilised Soldiers' Sub-Committee, and (4) Report of the Labour Sub-Committee, were among other matters, presented; this was followed by a general discussion on the post-war reconstruction and development schemes included in the five-year plan of the Government of Madras.

Rural uplift organisation.- The objectives of the rural uplift organisation, according to the scheme, were proposed to be (1) to establish committees or gram sanghams in every village, as part of village life, to proceed from within an urge and for a better village and better village life and to provide a focal point on which all development departments can concentrate their efforts; (2) to induce villagers to help themselves first, before looking to Government for benefits; (3) to interest villagers in the plans of the development departments for betterment of village life and make them anxious to make the best use of the scheme; (4) to co-ordinate the economic uplift effort of each district and to enable the development department to get a leverage to overcome the ryots' inertia by a co-ordinated drive.

Housing.- Among the recommendations of the Public Health Sub-Committee was one recommending that in the matter of minimum standards necessary for the construction of dwelling houses and the materials to be used in such constructions, the minimum floor area in any living or bedroom must be 120 sq. ft. and the minimum fix floor space for the dwelling house should be 320 sq. ft. The materials as would be most suited in each case and were available in the ~~area~~ locality should be used. The cost of one single house with the materials recommended was expected to be about Rs. 1,100. The Committee generally approved of the recommendation with the expression of the view that the standards set up were rather high.

Employment of Demobilised Personnel.- The report of the Demobilised Soldiers' Sub-Committee stated that the task of providing employment to demobilised soldiers was going to be a stupendous one and the Government as taking all possible steps to meet the situation. The necessary organisation and staff were being appointed and it was hoped that they could give employment to a large majority of men returning from the war. The Government had before it a great many schemes in which a large number of soldiers returning home could be absorbed, such as irrigation projects, building of colleges and schools all over the Province, and expansion of roadways. Of the 62 schemes contemplated, ten ~~had~~ had already been approved and nine had been dropped. Schemes which would cost nearly Rs. 12.2 million were on hand. Much progress had been made in the selection and preparation of sites for land colonies and the formation of a Provincial Trust was under consideration. The question of building houses for the returned soldiers was also discussed and the Committee decided that, in view of the ~~high~~ high cost of materials, the construction of substantial houses must be postponed and that temporary houses with thatched roofs, but with strong foundations, were to be built. Co-operative workshops were being constructed and these were expected to pay their way at the end of a period of three years. Schemes for courses of training to fit ex-soldiers ~~in~~ ~~transport~~ ~~to~~ take up civil posts were

also under consideration. The employment of ex-soldiers in motor transport was also considered by the Sub-Committee and it adopted a recommendation that employment could be found for ex-soldiers in goods services run departmentally for the transport of materials for public works, in any public or passenger service which the Government might decide to run themselves and in future vacancies in private transport companies by confining the this issue of authorisation to drive public vehicles to ex-servicemen for three years after demobilisation.

Extension of Labour Legislation to agricultural labours.- The Labour Sub-committee resolved to recommend that legislation designed to improve the conditions of industrial workers, such as the Factories Act, the Maternity Benefit Act, the Payment of Wages Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, etc., should as far as possible, be extended to agricultural labourers with suitable modifications and that a beginning should be made by extending the Payment of Wages Act and the Maternity Benefit Act to plantation labour in the first instance. It was agreed that trade unions should be given the right to represent to the management collective or individual grievances of members, subject to the conditions that the individual's right to represent his own grievances was not interfered with. The Committee also agreed that trade unions should be consulted before any working conditions or standing orders were altered. The Committee agreed that any party applying for arbitration must make out a prima facie case that a trade dispute existed and that direct negotiations between the parties had failed.

Profit-Sharing Schemes, etc.- The Committee further resolved that employers should be requested to introduce profit-sharing schemes, and that provision for continuous research and investigation into labour matters should be made. The Committee agreed with the recommendation for the extension of the period of benefit under the Maternity Benefit Act from four weeks to six weeks after confinement, and that the provisions prohibiting employment of women and children in hazardous occupations now contained in the Factories Act should be extended to non-power factories also.

(The Hindu, 11-7-1945).

Post-War Reconstruction Plans of Hyderabad State:
Estimates for Rs. 1,500 Million.

The following information is taken from an interview, given at Bombay, to a representative of the Times of India by the Publicity Secretary of the Hyderabad State Government, outlining, in general the post-war planning schemes of the Hyderabad Government.

Central Board of Planning.- A Central Board of Planning has been engaged for the last two years in formulating plans of post-war reconstruction in Hyderabad State and making recommendations for introducing reforms in all departments, including education, agriculture, electricity, industries, mineralogy and medical and public health after the war. The schemes, which are meant to raise the standard of living of the bulk of the population, are estimated to cost over Rs. 1,500 million. Certain measures for increasing the production of sugar, textiles, ceramics, glass, coal, iron, and gold are already under examination.

Improvement of Economic conditions.- With a view to improving the economic conditions of the people, it is proposed to open a co-operative society in every village which would serve as a grain bank as well. The village societies will be affiliated to Taluqa (District) Unions which, in

turn, will receive guidance from the Central Co-operative Union at Hyderabad. The staff for manning these institutions will be given proper training. Large irrigation schemes and the possibilities of reclaiming more land and extending anti-erosion schemes are being investigated fully, bearing in mind the principle of co-ordination with the rest of India.

("Hyderabad Information", July, 1945).

Post-War Development of Hardware Industry in India:
Information to be Collected.

Questions relating to the post-war development of the hardware, hollowware, haberdashery, enamelware and cutleryware industries and industries dealing with the manufacture of surgical instruments, steel furniture and fittings were discussed at a recent meeting of the Iron and Steel (Minor) Panel in New Delhi.

Zonal Subcommittees to be set up.- After considering the current position and organisation of these industries, the panel decided to issue questionnaires to firms manufacturing stores covered by the industries. It was also decided to form zonal sub-committees, from the members of the panel, in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Lahore. The function of these committees will be to give the widest publicity to the questionnaires among manufacturers, so that the maximum possible information may be made available to the panel to decide upon the line of action to be taken to develop these industries to their full capacity.

(The Times of India, 14-7-1945).

Post-War Plans of Indian Railways.

According to a message from the Special Correspondent of the National Call, the following problems relating to railways are at present receiving attention.

- (a) Evolution of a scheme for the regrouping of railways to achieve the maximum efficiency and economy in operations. The managers of railways are being consulted and a committee is expected to be appointed soon to examine the scheme.
- (b) The rationalisation of manufacture in railway workshops of renewable parts of locomotives, carriages and wagons and their assembly by areas.
- (c) The revision of the traffic policy of the railways with a view to rendering the maximum assistance to indigenous industries and developing traffic.
- (d) The development of tourist traffic, both foreign and indigenous.

(The National Call, 23-7-1945).

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Post-War Reconstruction Plan for Sind.

Sind's post-war reconstruction plan is estimated to cost about Rs. 700 million. The various Government departments have already worked out their schemes and these are now being examined by the Post-war Reconstruction Department.

The development plans fall under two categories—productive and remunerative such as irrigation and hydro-electric projects, and revenue spending schemes, not directly remunerative like education and public health. The importance of the first category lies in the fact that they also contribute to the government revenue for financing schemes in the second category.

Extension of irrigation is particularly important in Sind and according to the Planning Officer "It is almost a case of doing or perishing". The cost of the irrigation schemes, which include two new barrages is estimated at Rs. 220 million, the agricultural scheme Rs. 100 million, road development Rs. 280 million and education Rs. 40 million. The total cost of the whole planning for the first five years is estimated at Rs. 350 million capital and Rs. 110 million recurring expenditure. The Government of India is expected to give a capital grant of Rs. 40 million and Rs. 5 million are expected from new taxation each year.

The planning report envisages the development of Karachi as a first-class air port and the main airport of northern India, housing a large international colony. An informal committee representing various government interests has been appointed for joint consultations and combined effort in its development.

(The Hindustan Times, 27-7-1945).

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

National Labour Legislation.-

War Time National Legislation Affecting Labour (Revised Edition).
Issued by the Department of Labour, Government of India. 1945.

Social Insurance.-

Annual Report on the Employees' Benefit Fund Trust, Delhi Cloth and General Mills Co., Ltd., Delhi, for the year 1943-44.

Agriculture.-

Annual Report of Rural Development Activities in the Province of Bombay for the year 1943-44. Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. Price As. 2 or 3d. 1945.

Education.-

Report on the Progress of Education in Orissa for the year 1942-43. Vol. II: Statistical Tables and Appendices. Cuttack: Superintendent, Orissa Government Press. 1945.

Social Policy in War Time

Post-war Reconstruction

- (1) Memorandum on Aerodrome And Air Route Construction. Department of Posts and Air, Government of India. (Revised Report)
- (2) Memorandum on Aerodrome and Air Route Organisation. Department of Posts and Air, Government of India. (Revised Report).
- (3) Post War Road Development in India: Proceedings of the Conference of Chief Engineers of Provinces and States held at Nagpur from 15 to 18-12-1943. Department of Posts and Air, Government of India. Price Rs.2/-.
- (4) Report on the Progress of Post-War Planning. Development and Resettlement Department, C.P. and Berar. 15th June 1944.
- (5) Post-War Reconstruction and Development Schemes, United Provinces Government. 1944.
- (6) First Progress Report of Subject Committees of the Post-War Reconstruction Board, Bihar, for the period ending the 20th March, 1944. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1944.
- (7) Memorandum on Post-War Development of Civil Air Transport in India. February 1944. New Delhi: Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press. 1944.
- (8) Post-War Reconstruction Report of the Technical Sub-Committee to the Subject Committee on Transport on the Future of Road Transport and Road Rail Relations, November 1943. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. Price As.10 or 1s.
- (9) The Post-War Development Plan for Bihar (First Edition). Government of Bihar. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1945.