

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

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Industrial and Labour Development in November, 1946.

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

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## NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Government of India:

### Workmen's State Insurance Bill, 1946.

On 6-11-1946, a Government Bill, called the Workmen's State Insurance Bill, 1946, was introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly by Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Member, Government of India. The Bill extends to the whole of British India and will come into force on a date to be fixed by the Government.

The Bill aims at compulsory state insurance providing for certain benefits in the event of sickness, maternity and employment injury to workmen employed in or in connection with work in factories other than seasonal factories and applies to all factories (including factories belonging to the Crown), other than seasonal factories.

Statutory Corporation to be established.- The Statement of Objects and Reasons points out that a scheme of this nature has to be planned on an all-India basis and administered uniformly throughout the country. With this object, the administration of the scheme is proposed to be entrusted to a Corporation constituted by central legislation, to be called the Workmen's State Insurance Corporation. The functions of the Corporation will be performed by a Central Board constituted of representatives of Central and provincial Governments, and will also include three representatives of employers', three of workers and ~~the~~ two of the medical profession. The Board will also include certain members elected by the Central Legislative Assembly. A Standing Committee of the Board will act as the Executive of the Board, and a Medical Benefit Council will also be set up to advise on matters relating to the administration of medical benefit. The Board is empowered to promote measures for the improvement of the health and welfare of insured persons and for the rehabilitation and re-employment of disabled and injured workmen and may ~~incur~~ incur in respect of such measures expenditure from the funds of the Corporation within the limits prescribed by the Central Government.

Workmen's State Insurance Fund.- The insurance fund will be mainly derived from contributions ~~xxx~~ from employers and workmen. The contributions payable in respect of each workman are based on his average wages and are payable in the first instance by the employer. The employer is entitled to recover the workman's share from the wages of the workmen concerned. Workmen whose earnings do not exceed 10 annas a day are totally exempt from payment of any share of the contribution, the entire contribution on account of such workmen being met ~~as~~ by the employer. Provision has also been made for the preparation of proper budgets and the audit of accounts.

Benefits.- Under the Bill the insured workman is entitled to the following benefits:-

(a) Sickness Cash Benefit.- A workman, if certified sick and incapable of working, will receive for a period not exceeding 8 weeks in any continuous 12 monthly period, a cash allowance equal approximately to half his average daily wages during previous six months. He will also be entitled to receive medical care and treatment at such hospitals, dispensaries or other institutions to which the factory in which he is employed may be allotted.

(b) Maternity Benefit.- Woman workers will be entitled to receive maternity benefit at 12 annas a day for 12 weeks. They are also entitled to medical aid at medical institutions.

(c) Disablement and Dependents' Benefits.- A workman disabled by employment injury will receive, for the period of ~~full and~~ disablement of life depending on whether the disablement is temporary or full and permanent as the case may be, a monthly pension equivalent to half his average wages during the previous twelve months, subject to a maximum and minimum. Where disablement is partial, the pension is proportionately reduced. In case of death resulting from employment injury, the pension will be payable to the widow or widows, minor sons and minor and unmarried daughters, or in case there are no widow and legitimate children to other dependants, of the deceased workman. The workman is also be entitled to medical care and treatment.

Provision of Medical Treatment to Workers.- The Bill makes provision for medical care and treatment to insured workmen by provincial Governments at such hospitals, dispensaries and other institutions as may be prescribed for the purpose. The cost of the medical benefit will be shared between the provincial Government and the Corporation in such proportions as may be agreed upon between them. In case the average incidence of sickness cash benefit in any province is in excess of the all-India average, the provincial government will also bear such share of the cost of the excess incidence as may be agreed upon between it and the Corporation.

Workmen's State Insurance Courts to be set up.- The Bill provides for the constitution of Workmen's State Insurance Courts to decide disputes and adjudicate on claims. The cost of the tribunal will be paid, <sup>from</sup> ~~by~~ the insurance fund. Matters that may be referred to such courts have been prescribed and such matters will be beyond the jurisdiction of civil courts.

Powers of Provincial Government.- Provincial Governments are empowered to exempt any factory or class or group of factories from the operation of all or any of the provisions of the Bill, for a period not exceeding one year and may thereafter from time to time renew any such exemption for periods not exceeding one year at a time, provided that such exemption are not granted or renewed after the expiry of four months after the enactment of the Bill.

Rule making Powers.- The Central ~~tax~~ Government may make rules on matters relating to the administration of the Corporation, such as nomination and election of members of the Board, Standing Committee, Medical Benefit Council, powers and duties of the principal officers, raising of loans, investment of funds, accounts to be maintained by the Corporation, their audit and publication. Provincial Government may make rules on matters relating to the workmen's insurance courts to be set up under the Act, establishment of hospitals, dispensaries, medical institutions, etc., and the scale of medical benefit to be provided to insured persons. The Board may make regulations on matters relating to the working of the scheme, e.g., collection of contributions, payment of benefits, returns and other particulars to be submitted by employers in respect of workmen employed by them, the conditions to be observed by insured persons in respect of benefits, etc.

(The Gazette of India, dated 9-11-1946,  
Part V, pages 319-357).

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Industrial Disputes Bill, 1946: Central Assembly  
refers Bill to Select Committee.

On 1-11-1946, the Central Legislative debated the Labour Member's motion for reference to Select Committee of his Bill to provide for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes, (vide pages 1-2 of the report of this office for October, 1946).

Industrial Peace Essential.- Explaining the main provisions of the Bill, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, the Labour Member, said that the best solution of disputes between employers and workers lay in voluntary settlement, but none the less the Government must have the power to intervene in the interests of the community at large and to effect an agreement by compulsory adjudication if necessary. He maintained that neither the employers nor workers had unrestricted rights in the settlement of trade disputes if in consequence public interests were jeopardized. However, it was not the Government's intention to do away with voluntary settlement of disputes. Before the Government could embark on large-scale State industrialization it must establish industrial peace. The Government was aware that in order to secure industrial peace the Government should ameliorate the working and living conditions of labour. He assured the House that the Government would press on with vigorous measures for the benefit of labour.

Workers' Right to Strike.- Mr. N.M. Joshi (Nominated Labour) moved an amendment for the circulation of the Bill till 31-10-1947. Mr. Joshi said that the principles which the Bill covered were so fundamental that any hasty consideration of this measure would be harmful. Illegalization of strikes and compulsory arbitration provided for in the Bill, were two provisions which vitally affected the interests of the working classes. These provisions were entirely new to peace-time labour legislation of the country. It was true they were contained in the Defence of India Rules but that was a war-time measure adopted against the wishes of the country. Mr. Joshi thought that the industrial unrest prevailing in India had been very much exaggerated. There was undoubtedly unrest but that was due to different causes. The Government had not taken many worth while social security measures to improve the condition of the workers. Strikes, were resorted to by all kinds of people and not only by the working class, Cessation of activity was not abnormal. Strike was a normal activity of a dissatisfied human being. If a man was compelled to do work against his will and on pain of being sent to jail, it amounted to the introduction of a form of compulsion, if not a form of slave labour. While Mr. Joshi agreed that in the interests of the community the Government had the right to intervene in industrial disputes, he also pointed out that the community had certain obligations to labour.

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Labour) characterized the Bill as a "repressive measure" which attempted to make a breach of civil contract a penal offence. It was not only against the interests of the working classes of this country but all persons who stood for the democratic right of citizenship.

Mr. Aftab Ali (Nominated Labour), opposing the motion, said that the Bill by taking away the right to strike from trade unions, would make the unions impotent. He belonged to a group of trade unions which normally did not believe in going on strike. He maintained that unions could not be in a position to negotiate with the employers if they did not have the power to strike. Mr. Aftab Ali offered to accept the Bill, if it was acceptable to the International Labour Office. In the alternative, he suggested that the Government should call a conference of representatives of employers and labour and try to arrive at a common measure of agreement.

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Wages Affected by frequent Strike.- Supporting the Government's motion, Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners Association) said that due to the war both capital and labour had been strengthened in the last six years and if there were any strikes or lock-outs in these circumstances, they would last not for a month or two, but for six months or more. The country ~~can~~ not afford such long strikes. It was better in the interests of the consumers, labour and industry to have compulsory arbitration not only for public utilities, but for all industries. Mr. Vadilal said that the strikes in the thirties in Bombay had resulted in doing great harm to the industry as well as labour. The situation had become so bad that ~~the~~ labour wages in Bombay which were the highest in India and about 15 per cent higher than in Ahmedabad, were to-day 10 per cent lower. Bombay labour had sustained a loss of Rs. 150 million during war-time.

Assembly Accepts Government's Motion.- Finally, the Assembly accepted by 52 votes to 5 the Government's motion for reference of the bill to a Select Committee. The Labour Member in his concluding speech wanted those who were so emphatic in explaining to labour ~~as~~ its rights to be equally emphatic in bringing home to it its obligations to society.

(The Hindustan Times, 2-11-1946;  
The Hindu, dated 15-11-1946;  
The Statesman, dated 15-11-1946).

Amendment to Mines Maternity Benefit Rules, 1943, gazetted.

Reference was made at page 1 of the report of this Office for November, 1945, to the draft of certain amendments the Government of India proposed to make to the Mines Maternity Benefit Rules, 1943. The draft has now been approved and gazetted.

The amendment is of a technical nature and relates principally to certain addition<sup>l</sup> forms to be included in the Annual Returns to the Chief Inspector of Mines.

(The Gazette of India, dated 23-11-1946,  
Part I, Sec.1, pages 1652-1654 ).



The C.P. and Berar Maintenance of Public Order Bill, 1946, passed: Government temporarily invested with additional powers to curb Industrial Unrest.

On 15-11-1946, the Central Provinces and Berar Legislative Assembly passed the Central Provinces and Berar Maintenance of Public Order Bill on a motion of Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla, the Premier.

The Bill is designed to prevent fomenting of industrial or other unrest in the province. It is based largely on the Defence of India Rules. The Government proposes to restrict its operation for one year and assume powers under this Bill to make orders restricting movements of or detaining certain persons, imposing collective fines and controlling meetings and processions.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons, appended to the Bill says: The present state of unrest in the country owing to communal and other reasons and the undercurrent of nervousness and tension, as a result of extra-provincial disturbances, had been a constant source of anxiety to the Government. The activities of anti-social elements in the population designed to sow the seeds of discord in the fertile field provided by the existing economic disequilibrium, which is an inevitable aftermath of the war, have aggravated the difficulties of the situation. Dangerous ills require drastic remedies and this Bill seeks to provide such a remedy.

The Bill was assented to by the Governor on 21-11-1946, and has been gazetted as an Act.

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Extraordinary, dated 11-11-1946 and 23-11-1946, pages 571-574 and 571-574; The Statesman, 13-11-1946; The Bombay Chronicle, 18-11-1946 ).

Census of Manufacturing Industries Rules, 1946:  
Proposed amendment for inclusion of Additional Industries.

The Central Provinces and Berar Government had published a notification dated 28-12-1945 regarding the Census of Manufacturing Industries & Rules, 1945, (under the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942) which it proposed to adopt. The Government has, on 10-7-1946, published the draft of certain amendments which it proposes to make to the above Rules. The draft will be taken into consideration on or after 15-12-1946, and objections and suggestions are invited by that date.

The amendments relate to the inclusion of additional manufacturing industries in Schedule I of the Rules and to the annual returns to be submitted under the Rules. (For Census of Manufacturing Industries Rules of other provinces see page 10 of this office's October, 1946 report).

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Extraordinary, dated 15-11-1946, pages 393-569 ).

C.P. and Berar Industrial Disputes Settlement Bill  
1946, Referred to Select Committee on 11-11-1946 .

On 11-11-1946, the Central Provinces and Berar Legislative Assembly agreed to refer to a Select Committee the C.P. and Berar Industrial Disputes ~~xxx~~ Settlement Bill 1946, to which reference was made at pages 11-12 of the report of this Office for September, 1946.

(The Times of India, 13-11-1946).

Madras :

Madras Trade Disputes Adjudication (Temporary Provision)  
Bill 1946: Governor-General withholds Assent.

The Madras Trade Disputes Adjudication (Temporary Provision) Bill, 1946, to which reference was made at pages 13-14 of the report of this Office for September, 1946, has not received the assent of the Governor-General, on account of certain technical objections. Object<sup>ions</sup> ~~da~~, based on the fact that the Bill did not cover the industrial and labour disputes relating to industries and business undertaken by the Government of India.

In view of the fact that since the passing of the Bill, the Government of India has reenacted Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules (vide pages 1-2 of the report of this Office for October, 1946) the Government of Madras feels that its Bill has been rendered unnecessary.

(The Hindu, dated 10-11-1946).

Madras Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1946,  
dropped in view of All-India legislation.

It is understood that in view of the Government of India's Workmen's State Insurance Bill, 1946, (vide pages 1-2 of this report) which provides for maternity leave and benefit for 12 weeks, the Government of Madras has decided not to proceed with its Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1946, reference to which is made at page 9 of the report of this Office for October, 1946.

(Madras Information, 16-11-1946).

N.W.F.P.:

N.W.F.P. Trade Employees Bill, 1946:  
Referred to Select Committee.

The North-West Frontier Province Assembly, on 14-11-1946, referred to a Select Committee the N.W.F.P. Trade Employees Bill, 1946, moved by the Finance Minister, Mr. Mehar Chand Khanna. The Bill seeks to regulate the hours of work of trade employees and provides certain amenities for them. The leader of the opposition, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, supporting the principle of the Bill, advocated a 48-hour week instead of 54 and suggested that employment of children under 14 should be prohibited.

(National Call, 16-11-1946).

Cochin State:

The Cochin Industrial Employment (Standing Orders)  
Bill, 1122 (1946).

The Government of Cochin State has gazetted, on 9-11-1946, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Bill, 1946, which it proposes to introduce in the Cochin Legislative Council.

Under the Bill, employers are required to frame draft "Standing Orders", defining conditions of employment under them and submit these Orders to the "Certifying Officer" for certification. The draft should cover all the matters specified in the schedule to the Act and any other matters that the Government may prescribe by rules. The Certifying Officer is empowered to modify or add to the draft Standing Orders so as to render them certifiable under the Act. It will not be his function however (nor of the appellate authority) to adjudicate upon their fairness or reasonableness. There is a right of appeal against the decisions of the "Certifying Officers".

The Statement of Objects and Reasons, appended to the Bill, points out that the Government ~~management and workers in industrial~~ of India has enacted the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, XX of 1946 (vide page 4 of the report of this Office for April 1946) which provides for the framing of "Standing Orders" in all industrial establishments employing one hundred or more workers. It is deemed necessary to statutorily provide for the framing of Standing Orders in the State also. In the first instance the Bill when enacted will apply to specified categories of industrial establishments. Power is, however, vested in the Government to extend the Act to other classes of industrial establishments or to grant exemptions, where necessary, by notification.

(The Cochin Government Gazette, supplement to Part I, dated 9-11-1946, pages 1-8).

Ceylon:

Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Ordinance  
(No. 35 of 1946).

An Ordinance to amend the Maternity Benefits Ordinance of 1939 ~~which~~ received the assent of the Governor of Ceylon on 26-8-1946 and came into force on the same day. (Reference was made to the proposal to amend the Ordinance at pages 28-29 of the report of this Office for November 1929, in the course of summary of the Administration Report of the ~~Administration~~ Commissioner of Labour, Ceylon, for 1944).

The amending Ordinance ~~and~~ substitutes the words "has worked" for the words "has been employed" in section 4 of the Maternity Benefits Ordinance, 1939, and prescribes for the woman worker claiming maternity benefit a qualifying period of 150 days' work within the period of one year immediately preceding the date on which she notifies her intention of claiming maternity benefit.

Exemption for Estate Employers providing Alternative Maternity Benefits.- The amending Ordinance further provides that where the Commissioner of Labour has issued to any employer a written certificate which states that such employer is an employer who has made arrangements for providing for female labourers employed on his estate such alternative maternity benefits as may be prescribed, such employer shall provide, in lieu of the maternity benefits prescribed in the Ordinance, those alternative maternity benefits:- (a) to every female labourer who is resident on such estate; and (b) to every female labourer who is not resident on the estate and who has, prior to her confinement, given notice in the prescribed manner to such employer of her desire to receive those alternative maternity benefits.

Powers to obtain Information and Powers of Inspection.- Other changes introduced by the amending Ordinance enable the Commissioner of Labour to require any employer to furnish before a specified date a return containing such particulars as may in the opinion of the Commissioner be necessary for the purposes of the Ordinance and empower the Commissioner or any special officer at any time during the day to enter any factory, estate mine or shop where women are employed, for the purposes of inspection and of ascertaining whether the provisions of the Ordinance have been complied with or contravened.

(Summarised from a copy of the Ordinance forwarded to this Office by the Commissioner of Labour, Ceylon).

Medical Wants (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 36 of 1946).

Reference has been made above to the ~~the~~ Ceylon Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Ordinance of 1946, which amends the Maternity Benefits Ordinance, 1939 in certain important respects. Some consequential amendments have, therefore, been necessitated in the Medical Wants Ordinance and have been duly carried out by the Medical Wants (Amendment) Ordinance, of 1946. The most important amendment exempts the superintendent of an estate from the obligation imposed upon him by the Medical Wants Ordinance of supplying food to a female labourer for one month, if such labourer is granted under the Maternity Benefits Ordinance, the maternity benefit or the alternative maternity benefit referred to in that Ordinance, in respect of that confinement.

The amending Ordinance received the assent of the Governor of Ceylon on 26-8-1946. (Summarised from a copy of the ordinance forwarded to this Office by the Commissioner of Labour, Ceylon).

## SOCIAL POLICY.

### Separate Organisation to deal with labour and Housing Problems in Bombay.

The Government of Bombay has created a separate secretariat organisation to deal exclusively with labour and housing problems in the province. The organisation is under the charge of a Deputy Secretary and came into existence early this month.

Hitherto labour problems were not regarded as being of sufficient importance to merit a separate secretarial staff. ~~This~~ Till a few years ago, Government's interest in labour affairs was confined to registration of trade unions under the Trade Union Act passed by the Central Government in 1926, for which purpose the office of the Commissioner of Labour was created. With the introduction of the Industrial Disputes Act by the Congress Ministries in 1937, a new office, that of the Labour Officer was created. The new organisation is a recognition of the growing importance which both labour and housing have since assumed; it is headed by Mr. M.G. Monani, I.C.S., under the designation Deputy Secretary for Labour and Housing.

(The Times of India, 6-11-1946).

### Burma Government's Statement of Policy: Joint Labour Boards to handle Labour Problems.

The members of Burma's newly formed Executive Council in a joint statement of policy issued on 8-11-1946, declared that their "guiding objective would be the establishment of Burma as a sovereign State under a truly National Government with unrestricted control of internal affairs, defence, finance and foreign policy."

Equal Opportunity for All.- The statement assures "complete equality of status and opportunity for all races inhabiting the country and the immediate withdrawal of all laws and regulations considered as repressive".

Labour Policy.- Among other points, included in the statement, reference is made to the success of the administration during the first month of its tenure of office in settling the widespread labour strikes in the country. The statement further promises the establishment of joint labour boards to handle future labour problems.

(The Hindu, dated 9-11-1946).

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States Labour Ministers' Conference, New Delhi,  
28 and 29-11-1946.

A conference of Labour Ministers of Indian States and representatives of the Central Government convened by the Government of India, was held at New Delhi on 28 and 29-11-1946. The Conference was convened with a view to discussing and evolving a programme of labour legislation which should be implemented during the next five years. Definite proposals for this purpose, which had been discussed and generally agreed at a recent Conference of Provincial Ministers held in New Delhi (vide pages 20-22 of the report of this Office for October 1946), were placed before the Conference.

The conference was attended, among others, by Nawab Yusuf Yar Jung (Hyderabad), Mr. H.C. Dhandra (Indore), Mr. O.S.N. Sheriff (Mysore), Sir Teja Singh Malik (Patiala), Mr. Mohd. Bashir (Kashmir), a representative of the Chamber of Princes and representatives of the Labour Department of the Government of India, including the Chief Adviser, Factories.

Labour Member's Address.- Inaugurating the Conference, Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, Labour Member, Government of India, referred to the importance of States in the industrial economy of India and pointed out that a little over one-sixth of the industrial establishments in the country were located in the States and that these establishments give employment to more than 350,000 workers. In addition, there are about 156,000 workers employed in plantations. Mining operations in the States give employment to about 30,000 workers. The States have a substantial interest in cotton ginning and textiles, minerals and metals, food, drink, tobacco, chemicals, dyes, wood stores and glass industries. Their interest is likely to increase as a result of the industrial expansion in the future.

Need for Common Labour Policy.- Stressing the need for evolving a common labour policy for India, he said that the States cannot be indifferent to what is happening in the matters relating to labour policy and administration in the provinces, nor can the provinces afford to ignore labour conditions in the States in formulating and executing their labour policy. It is to their mutual interest, therefore, that they should follow a uniform policy. "This co-operation between the provinces and the Government of India on the one hand and the States on the other is necessary not only in relation to matters affecting workers in industrial establishments, mines and plantations, but also in respect of questions affecting workers in agriculture."

Implementing of I.L. Conventions.- Emphasising the need for the due implementation of International Labour Conventions by Indian States, he reminded the Conference that more than one committee of the recent International Labour Conference at Montreal debated the position of the Indian States in regard to the application of conventions adopted by the International Labour Conference, and added: "After hearing their representative who went as an Adviser to the Indian delegation, the Committee noted with satisfaction the statement made by the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes in inaugurating the Standing Committee on Labour that 'it was the function and the duty of the States to protect by legislative measures the health, welfare and security of the working classes'. The report, however, also expressed the concern of some members that there appeared to be no provision by which the obligations of international labour conventions might be extended to or assumed by Indian States. This is a matter which is sure to be raised again in future International Labour Conferences and it is desirable that the States should take immediate steps to meet the criticism. Therefore, States should join with the Central and Provincial Governments in formulating and enforcing a progressive labour policy".

Machinery for Joint Action.- He then directed attention to the desirability of instituting machinery for securing the fullest measure of consultation in forging legislation and devising administrative measures, and referred to the Indian Labour Conference and the Standing Labour Committee on which six industrially important States, namely, Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, Baroda, Indore and Gwalior are represented. These States, he said, account for a substantial proportion of the industrial and plantation labour employed in Indian States. Though these bodies meet periodically, ~~he said,~~ they were not in a position to take decisions on important aspects of labour policy as ~~these~~ were attended mostly by permanent officials. Hence, it was necessary to set up a high-powered machinery capable of handling policy questions. The Provincial Labour Ministers' Conference had unanimously agreed that Ministers should meet once in six months, oftener, if necessary, to review the programme of work and take policy decisions. If the States would agree to join these Conferences, the question of their representation had to be considered.

Labour ~~Conditions~~ Conditions in States.- Dealing with the various items of labour legislation undertaken by the Government of India, he hoped that the States would agree to extend their co-operation in limiting hours of work and giving holidays with pay. He added: "Wherever we have come to some stage of finality, the proposals have been evolved in consultation with the representatives of States on the Indian Labour Conference and the Standing Committee, and, therefore, represent more or less agreed measures. The details of other proposals will be discussed by the tripartite organizations".

Inspection Services.- Dealing with the great scope for improvement in the conditions of factories in the States, he said: "It is necessary that we should give serious consideration to the problems relating to the organization of an adequate inspection/service, so that when the question is debated at the International Conference in June, 1947, we may be able to give a very satisfactory account".

Resettlement and Employment Exchanges.- Concluding, he referred to the Resettlement and Employment organization of the Government of India, and said, the problems which this organization will have to tackle are difficult and unless there is the fullest co-ordination the results will not be satisfactory. The aim is that Employment Exchanges in the provinces and ~~the~~ in the States should not be limited to ex-servicemen only and that they should be linked together as one co-ordinated whole so as to facilitate the migration of labour, where necessary, for employment. Similarly, the training ~~schemes~~ schemes which are at first intended primarily for the benefit of ex-servicemen will, gradually develop into a co-ordinated training scheme for the whole of India. This is necessary if the dearth of skilled personnel is to be removed. He urged the States to co-operate to the full in securing the necessary co-ordination in the Employment Exchange/service and in the technical and vocational training schemes.

(The Hindustan Times, 30-11-1946).



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5th Meeting of the Statutory Labour Advisory  
Committee, Hyderabad State.

Addressing the 5th Meeting of the Statutory Labour Advisory Committee, held in November 1946, the Hon'ble Nawab Zaheer Yar Jung Bhadur, Labour Member, the Nizam's Government, emphasised the point that the Hyderabad Government earnestly desired to see labourers adequately housed, ~~and~~ clad and fed, living a life of contentment, and their children well-nourished, well cared for and well-equipped to enter the arena of life as citizens of tomorrow. He made a brief survey of labour conditions in the State and reviewed the work done by the Labour Department since the last meeting of the Committee. Several important matters, including the proposal to reduce the number of working hours and to increase the overtime allowance by one and a half to two times the present scale, were discussed at the meeting. The main points brought out by the Labour Member are given below :-

Review of Work Done.- Since the last meeting of the Committee, two Assistant Commissioners and four Inspectors had been appointed in the Labour Department. The question of posting Inspectors at Subba headquarters and the new scheme for the expansion of the Department were under Government's active consideration. The Holidays with Pay Bill had been approved by Government. Schemes providing educational and medical facilities for mine labour had been drawn up and the preliminary work for implementing them had been started. The question of ~~Hyderabad~~ introducing a Trades Disputes Regulation was under consideration with a view to providing permanent machinery for the settlement of disputes. The Employment Exchange section of the Resettlement Department, was doing good work and arrangements concerning technical training and resettlement were being ~~made~~ accelerated.

(Hyderabad Information, November, 1946).



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Inspection.Factory Inspectors to help in solving Labour Problems:  
Conference of Chief Inspectors of Factories, New Delhi,  
November, 1946.

A Conference of the Chief Inspectors of Factories, presided over by Sir Wilfred Garrett, Chief Adviser, Factories, was held in New Delhi, towards the end of November, 1946. The agenda of the Conference, included, amongst other items, consideration of the the I.L.O. questionnaire on Factory Inspection, amendment to the Factories Act (vide page 2 of the report of this Office for October 1946), measures for training factory inspectors and dissemination of information regarding inspection work.

Addressing the Conference, which was attended by the representatives of all Provinces and Indian States, besides a representative of the Chamber of Princes, Mr. S. Iall, Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India, declared that although the workshop for labour legislation in India was the Labour Department of the Government and the Provincial Secretariats, it was the experience of the Factory Inspectorate which should be the basis on which legislation affecting factory workers should be developed, and pointed out that it was essential that factory inspectors should be efficient and that, they were in a position to help to find a correct solution of the ills which invariably accompanied modern industrial development.

Recommendations.- The conference recommended that the Chief Adviser's Organization should function as a centre of information relating to factory inspection and improvement of working conditions in factories and that it should undertake propaganda to educate employers and workers alike in the meaning of factory laws. ~~and it should provide~~ The organisation should also provide training to young factory inspectors. The Conference also recommended that a museum might be opened to help in the education of factory inspectors. Regarding inspection standards, it was agreed that an assignment of 150 to 200 factories per inspector may be accepted for the present as a practicable standard.

(The Hindustan Times, 29-11-1946;  
The Eastern Economist, dated 6-12-1946).

Wages.

Interim Relief for Textile Workers:  
Madras Government Orders Enquiry .

Pending the report of the Court of Enquiry appointed by the Government of Madras to investigate into the various problems connected with working conditions of labour in the textile industry in Madras province (vide page 20 of the report of this Office for July, 1946), the Government has appointed in November 1946, Rao Bhadur M. Venkatramayya to examine the question whether textile workers in the Province require any interim relief, and if so, to what extent.

Mr. Venkatramayya, after holding his court, on 13 and 14-11-1946, at Coimbatore, said that it was necessary to give interim relief to the labourers, but on what basis and what percentage will be decided after further consideration. He also announced that he would submit his recommendations to Government before 17-12-1946.

(The Hindu, 15 and 19-11-1946).

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Forced Labour.

Forced Labour banned in Nagod State.

Nagod State, Central India, has passed orders in November 1946, guaranteeing certain fundamental rights to its subjects. One of the main provisions in this order is prohibition of begar (forced labour).

(Hindustan Times, 9-11-1946).

General.

13 More Reports of the Rege Committee.

Reference was made on pages 18 and 19 of the report of this Office for April, 1946, to 35 reports that had been compiled by the Labour Investigation Committee, appointed by the Government of India in 1944. A batch of 13 more reports, by the Committee were placed before the Central Assembly, when it met for its autumn session, in the second week of November.

The reports are on the following industries :-

- A. Factory Industry.- (1) Match. (2) Jute. (3) Cotton textiles. (4) Tanneries - leather goods. (5) Sugar. (6) Cotton ginning. (7) Building.
- B. Transport Industry.- (8) Port Labour. (9) Tram and Bus Services. (10) Non-gazetted Railway Services.
- C. Other Industries.- (11) Municipal Labour. (12) Printing presses. (13) Central Public Works Department.

(The Hindustan Times, 16-11-1946).

Working of Factories Act in Bihar during 1945.

At the close of 1945, the number of factories in Bihar subject to the Factories Act was 536. Of these only 462 factories, 392 perennial and 70 seasonal, were actually working. The average number of days worked by perennial and seasonal factories during the year were 255 and 184 respectively.

Employment Figures: 30 per cent increase in Employment during 1945.- The average daily number of workers employed rose by about 30 per cent as compared with the previous year, the number of workers in 1945 being 168,408 as against 129,247 in the previous year. Of these no fewer than 78,546 were employed in a single district, viz., Singbhum. During the year employment increased in the engineering, minerals and metals, food, drink and tobacco and chemicals industries but declined in the textile industry. The minerals and metals group recorded the largest increase, viz., from 56783 in 1944 to 70904 in 1945.

Employment of Women and Children.- Of the total number of persons employed, 31,472 were women and 765 adolescents and 357 children. As compared with the previous year, there was a very marked rise in the number of women employed, the figure having risen from 10,269 in 1944 to 31,472 in 1945. The bulk of the increase in women's employment was in perennial factories.

Inspections.- Of the 462 factories, 386 were inspected during the year. The total number of inspections rose from 520 in 1944 to 631 in 1945 and 34 of these were made by the Lady Inspector of Factories.

Safety Measures.- According to the report on the working of the Factories Act, the Inspectorate paid particular attention to the removal of dust and fumes in certain factories. The report however, adds that the employers particularly of small factories, do not yet realise that the expenditure incurred in the installation of fencing, guards or similar safety measures is in their own interest as much as in the interest of the work people. Many of the smaller factories put up frail wooden or bamboo fencing to comply with the orders regarding fencing which gets broken in a very short time. Again workers in certain factories do not take interest in the use of eye-glasses or respirators, and in a number of factories where Safety Committees have been functioning, the report expresses doubt as to whether they are serving the purpose for which they were organised. Certain factories have started their own safety departments with a whole-time paid Safety Inspector while others have organised No-accident Campaigns and have awarded prizes to the department with the lowest number of accidents. These seem to have proved of considerable value.

Accidents.- The total number of accidents during the year was 4,921 as against 4,598 in the previous year. Of the total number of accidents 24 were fatal, 381 serious and the rest minor.

Industrial Diseases.- In regard to industrial diseases, the report points out that there are no specific regulations to protect workers employed in trades handling silica, asbestos and pitch and tar against silicosis asbestosis and tar pitch cancers respectively. Very few cases of such diseases have been ~~xxxx~~ reported but this may be due to the fact that there is no machinery of recording and reporting on industrial diseases and to the fact that most of the workers on these jobs are transitory and are not long employed on the same job.

Ventilation and Lighting.- The position under this head is fairly satisfactory in most of the factories which have been constructed after 1936, when the Bihar and Orissa Factories Rules came into force, but in the older factories, the standards of ventilation and lighting have much to be desired.

Rise in Wages.- During the year there was an appreciable increase in the wages in most of the industrial areas in the Province.

(Indian Labour Gazette, October, 1946).

Working of Factories Act in the Punjab during 1945.

Statistics and Factories and Workers.- The total number of factories in the Punjab registered under the Factories Act increased from 1,253 in 1944 to 1,343 in 1945. Of the latter, 1,206 were actually working. The major expansion in the number of factories took place in the metal works and engineering industries. The number of operatives employed in 1945 was 155,990 as compared with 147,732 in the previous year. Of the total operatives employed, 138,622 were adult male workers, 7,610 women workers, 7,393 adolescents and 2,361 children.

Hours of Work, etc.- Most of the perennial factories worked up to 60 hours per week under exemptions granted to them. All railway workshops, military establishments and textile mills enjoyed exemption, from the sections of the Factories Act relating to working hours and holidays for the duration of the War.

Water-supply, Lighting and Sanitation.- As regards the supply of water to workers, the position was generally satisfactory, but a number of factories were unable to improve their water supply arrangements due to non-availability of structural materials and water pumping machinery.

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Again, lighting arrangements in factories were reported to be satisfactory, but, ~~again~~, so far as artificial lighting was concerned, improvements were handicapped by the acute shortage in regard to the supply of electric bulbs and kerosene oil. Sanitary conditions in the factories, as a result of warnings and prosecutions lodged against certain factory owners, showed some improvement. But cleanliness of the area surrounding the factories is not within the jurisdiction of the Inspectorate, ~~of the area~~ and it was found that in many cases there ~~was~~ no regular outlet or sanitary arrangement for disposal of drain water and factory refuse. In regard to humidification, it is stated that during the hot damp months of July and August the factory managements found it difficult to maintain the low relative humidity required by the rules and it is pointed out that the installation of modern air-conditioning plants is the only remedy for the summer season in the Punjab.

Wages.— An increase in wages ranging from 15 to 25 per cent was reported to have been effected in factories in different parts of the province. War allowances were paid by prominent large-scale factories in different forms, viz., (i) dearness allowances (ii) bonuses and (iii) supply of necessities of life at lower than market rates. In this connection, the report points out that lack of suitable and adequate housing accommodation near about factories, prevented the flow of labour from the countryside to the towns and helped to keep up the wage level in cities.

Housing.— The factories in the Punjab house only an infinitesimal portion of their labour, and the factories which were eager to construct additional housing accommodation for their labour were not able to do so for want of sufficient building material.

Welfare.— Only a handful of prosperous and flourishing establishments ~~have~~ made any welfare provisions for ~~the~~ their labour. The report states that the majority of the factory executives do not understand or appreciate modern welfare schemes.

Inspections and Prosecutions.— Out of 1,206 working factories, 444 were inspected once, 109 twice, 26 thrice and 2 more than 3 times during the year. The total number of inspections was 749 as compared with 655 during the ~~year~~ previous year. During the year 660 cases were instituted against 163 factory owners or managers and fines amounting to Rs. 9,437 were imposed during ~~the year~~ 1945. Of the total number of prosecutions 452 resulted in convictions.

Accidents.— 3505 accidents occurred in 1945 as against 3361 during 1944. ~~The~~ increase in the number of accidents is attributable to the increase in the number of operatives employed as also to the inexperience of most of the workers. Of the accidents 18 were fatal, 313 serious and 3,174 minor. The average rate of accidents, however, per hundred operatives was 2.24 as compared to 2.27 in 1944. In this connection it is stated that although as compared to the previous year the accident rate has gone down, there is a definite need for 'safety first' propaganda to reduce the number of accidents.

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## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

### Iron and Steel Shortage: Central Government's Plan for Fair Allotment.

A Government of India press note, issued early in November 1946, states that in order to ensure a fair distribution of iron and steel, of which there is great shortage in the country, the Government of India had decided, in consultation with the ~~provincial~~ provinces, to introduce immediately a new scheme of allotment. According to the scheme, all the available iron and steel will be divided into two quotas, one for the Railways and the other for industrial and civilian needs. The Railway quota will be operated by the Railway Board and the other by the Iron and Steel Controller. In this scheme, the allotment to the general public has been nearly doubled in comparison with what has been available to them since the end of the war.

Allotments for 1947.- India's production of iron and steel for 1947 is estimated at 900,000 tons. Although capacity exists for 1,200,000 tons, failure of adequate supplies of metallurgical coal and increase in labour troubles have lowered and are still hampering indigenous production. As there is a world shortage of iron and steel, imports into India, during 1947, may not be more than 150,000 tons. Allotments for 1947 would, therefore, be: Railways-300,000 tons; Iron and Steel Controller-750,000 tons.

Specific Allotments for Industrial and Civilian Needs.- The Iron and Steel Controller's quota will be for specific allotments, during 1947, of (1) 150,000 tons for industrial maintenance and packing purposes, (2) 210,000 tons to steel processing industries, (3) 80,000 tons for the development schemes of the Central, Provincial and State Governments, (4) 50,000 tons to the development of private industries, (5) 250,000 tons to the public, including small-scale manufacturers of consumer goods in provinces and States, and (6) 10,000 tons for export, which will be reduced to an absolute minimum and allowed only on the orders of the Government.

(The Hindustan Times, 6-11-1946).

### Agricultural Income-Tax: Madras Government's Proposal.

To augment the revenues of the Province, the Government of Madras has decided to take steps to levy a tax on agricultural incomes. It is understood that incomes of Rs. 5,000 and less per year are to be exempted. A special officer is to be appointed immediately to work out the details.

(The Hindu, 5-11-1946).

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Interim Mica Advisory Committee set up.

The Government of India has set up an Interim Mica Advisory Committee on Mica, pending settlement of the long-term policy on the basis of the recommendations of the Mica Inquiry Committee (vide pages 21 and 22 of the report of this Office for April, 1946). The Committee will advise the Government of India on questions relating to mica trade and industry, which have arisen after the cessation of the activities of the Joint Mica Mission.

The Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department, Government of India, will act as Chairman, and the Director, Geological Survey of India, as Vice-Chairman of the Committee, which consists of 12 other members, 3 officials and 9 non-officials.

(The Hindustan Times, 8-11-1946).

Income-tax to be introduced in Hyderabad.

According to a Hyderabad Government communiqué H.E.H. the Nizam has sanctioned the introduction of income-tax in the Dominions. Among exempted incomes are incomes from agriculture, religious and charitable trusts, co-operative societies, etc.

Accordingly a scheme in the form of a draft regulation has been prepared. The scheme will be placed before the Financial Advisory Committee for consideration and views expressed by the Committee and suggestions and comments received from public and recognised associations will be considered by the Government before finalising the scheme.

("Dawn", 12-11-1946).

Nationalisation of Motor Transport: Madras Government  
to Constitute Committee.

It is learnt that a Committee of the Cabinet, will be constituted by the Government of Madras shortly to go into the question of nationalisation of Motor Transport Services in the Province.

The Committee will be composed of the following Ministers: Mr. R. Raghava Menon (Chairman), Messrs. V.V. Giri, K.R. Karanth, Daniel Thomas, K. Bhashyam and Koti Reddi.

(The Hindu, 5-11-1946).



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No Change in Par Value of Rupee: Government of  
India's Decision.

The Government of India has communicated to the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund that the par value of the rupee in terms of gold is .0086357 ounce of fine gold per rupee (vide page 31 of the report of this office for September, 1946).

(The Statesman, 11-9-1946).

Indian Railway Enquiry Committee, 1947, appointed:  
Terms of Reference.

The Government of India has decided to appoint a High Power Railway Inquiry Committee with the following terms of reference: (i) Suggesting ways and means of securing improvement in net earnings by (a) economies in all branches of railway administration, and (b) any other means. (ii) Ascertaining the extent of staff surplus to requirements and suggesting practical methods of absorbing them in railway services.

Personnel of Committee.— The Committee will consist of Mr. K.C. Neogy, M.L.A., (chairman); Mr. I.S. Puri, Additional Financial Commissioner, Railways, Mr. J.N. Nanda, General Manager, the Nizam's State Railway, Khan Mohammed Yamin Khan, Prof. Humayun Kabir, Vice-President All-India Railwaymen's Federation. There will be two more members, of whom one will probably be a railway expert from U.S.A. and the other a high-ranking railway officer on Indian railways. Their names will be announced later. Mr. M.N. Chakravarti, an officer of the transportation (traffic) and commercial department of N.W. Railway, will act as secretary.

The Committee, which will be known as "the Indian Railway Inquiry Committee—1947", is expected to meet early in April, 1947, by which time the Government hopes to have received and dealt with the adjudicator's award in regard to hours of work, weekly rests, leave reserve and leave rules, (vide pages 74-75 of the report of this office for April, 1946). In the meantime, Mr. Puri will be engaged in collecting data germane to the inquiry in order to facilitate its deliberations when it starts work.

(The Hindustan Times, 27-11-1946),

Plans for increased Sugar Production.

Matters relating to agricultural and technological research with special reference to the acceleration of production of sugar, gur and khandsari (jaggery and unrefined sugar), and schemes for ascertaining better storage method for gur were discussed at the fifth meeting of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee, held at New Delhi on 31-10-1946, under the Chairmanship of Sir Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Several five-year schemes of agricultural research with a view to enhancing the output of sugar in Madras, Central Provinces and the North-West Frontier Province were sanctioned by the Committee. A scheme for fostering industries subsidiary to the sugar industry, such as candy and confectionery manufacture, was also sanctioned.

(The Hindustan Times, 2-11-1946).

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Nationalisation of Motor Transport:  
Bombay considering Scheme.

It is understood, that motor transport services in Bombay Province are proposed to be taken over and run under a Government Department according to a scheme of nationalisation, now being considered by the Provincial Transport Board in Bombay. The plan, which has yet to be scrutinised by the Bombay Government, contemplates the elimination of private operators of motor transport services throughout the province and creation of a statutory body to control and organise the services entirely in the public interest and in co-ordination with rail and sea transport. The controlling interest in the new venture will remain with the Government, but the railways will be invited to join and take a 25 per cent share of the profits. It is also learnt that existing operators are to be compensated in respect of serviceable vehicles and equipment, as well as the unexpired terms of their permits to conduct the services. They will be entitled, however, to a share in the profits of the enterprise.

To maintain the efficiency of the transport services, in view of the lack of competition, a high standard will be set for recruitment, which will be ~~xxxxxxx~~ done through the Public Service Commission. The scheme now under consideration contemplates the absorption of the staff now employed by private enterprises.

(The Times of India, 1-11-1946).

Banking Companies (Restriction of Branches) Bill, 1946:  
Central Legislature passes measure.

The Government of India gazetted on 9-11-1946, the Banking Companies (Restriction of Branches) Bill, 1946. The Bill extends to the whole of British India. The principal provision of the Bill is that "no banking company shall open a new branch or change the location of an existing branch without obtaining prior permission in writing from the Reserve Bank of India".

The Statement of Objects and Reasons, attached to the Bill, points out that in recent years there has been a rapid increase in new branches of banks' mostly at places where adequate banking facilities are already available. Complaints have been received regarding failure of some of the banks to repay deposits received at new branches. In several cases new branches have worked to the detriment of the depositors by involving heavy capitalised expenditure out of proportion to the resources of the bank, payment of high rates of interest on deposits, speculative activities to make up the higher cost, manipulation of accounts, employment of untrained and untrustworthy managers, etc. As these developments, the Statement points out, are fraught with danger to the banking structure of the country and are forestalling and vitiating in advance the provisions of the Banking Companies Bill which will take some time before it is enacted and put into force, it has become necessary to give immediate effect to clause 18(6) of the Bill for controlling branch banking. This Bill is designed for this purpose.

The Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly, on 4-11-1946, by Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member. Stressing the need for restriction of branches, he stated that in 1938 there were only 1,471 banking offices in India, but their number increased to 2,710 at the end of 1942;

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3143 at the end of 1945; 4,550 at the end of 1944; and 5,266 at the end of 1945. The Bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 14-11-1946, and by the Council of State, on 19-11-1946.

(The Gazette of India, Part V, dated 9-11-1946, pages 245-246, L.A. Bill No. 44 of 1946;  
The Hindustan Times, 14-11-1946;  
"Dawn", dated 15-11-1946;  
The Statesman, dated 20-11-1946).

Meeting of Standing Finance Committee, New Delhi,  
19-11-1946.

The Standing Finance Committee of the Central Legislature, at its meeting held on 19-11-1946, reviewed various Government schemes. Among the plans sanctioned were proposals for construction of houses for coal-miners, establishment of a cement factory in Bihar and initiation of a course of vocational training for demobilised service personnel.

10,000 Houses to be built for Coal-Miners.— The Government's housing scheme for coal-miners envisages the construction of 10,000 houses at an estimated maximum cost, including the cost of land, of Rs. 2,500 each, for miners in the coal-fields. The Standing Finance Committee approved the scheme of the expenditure, during the current year, of Rs. .4 million for 1,000 houses and a sum not exceeding Rs. 3.6 million for the remaining 9,000 houses during the subsequent year. The ~~xxx~~ Central Government will grant a subsidy of 20 per cent of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 400. Rent will be charged for the houses, the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund bearing one-third and the balance being met by the mineowner and the ~~occupant~~ occupant.

Cement Factory at Sindhri.— The proposal for the establishment of a cement factory, as an adjunct to the fertiliser project at Sindhri in Bihar, to an estimated total cost Rs. 12,826,000, <sup>has approved.</sup> A factory is already being established for the production of about 350,000 tons of ammonium sulphate per annum from Indian gypsum. The process to be employed will throw up some 850 to 1,000 tons per day of calcium carbonate sludge as a by-product. This ~~will~~ <sup>is</sup> be used for the manufacture of cement, and the proposal to establish a cement factory <sup>for the purpose of</sup> utilising this by-product.

Training for Ex-Servicemen.— The Committee approved the scheme for vocational training of demobilised services personnel, which is estimated to cost the Government Rs. 994,337 as capital outlay and Rs. 4,729,156 ~~in~~ annually. The scheme proposes to increase the earning capacity of ex-servicemen and facilitate their resettlement in civil life by giving vocational training. The scheme includes provision for 30,160 seats with a training capacity of 39,000 persons per annum. To start with, the target is 10,000 seats, distributed in agriculture, cottage and small-scale industries, commercial occupations and apprenticeship in large-scale non-engineering industries. There will be three types of training centres, namely, 20 centres under the Labour Department of the Government of India, other Central and Provincial and State Governments and private institutions. The duration of the scheme will be three years in the first instance.

(The Statesman, 20-11-1946;  
Commerce and Industry, 4-12-1946).

Industrial Finance Corporation Bill, 1946:  
Introduced in Legislative Assembly.

Reference was made on page 26 of the report of this office for February, 1946, to the Government of India's move to establish an 'Industrial finance corporation'. A Bill to establish the Industrial Finance Corporation of India was gazetted, on 9-11-1946, by the Government of India. The Bill, which extends to the whole of British India, seeks to establish an Industrial Finance Corporation for the purpose of making medium and long-term credits more readily available to industrial concerns in British India, particularly in circumstances where normal banking accommodation is inappropriate or recourse to capital issue methods is impracticable.

Corporation's Main Functions.- According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, appended to the Bill, following are the main features of the Bill: (i) The Corporation will have a share capital of Rs. 50 million. The shares will be held only by the Central Government, the Reserve Bank, scheduled banks and insurance companies, investment trusts and other like financial institutions. There will be no private holding of shares. (ii) The Corporation will be authorised to issue bonds and debentures for amounts which, together with the contingent liabilities of the Corporation, shall not exceed four times the amount of the paid-up share capital of the Corporation. (iii) The Corporation may accept deposits from the public repayable after a period of not less than ten years and on such other terms as the Corporation may think fit. (iv) The Corporation will be authorised to make long-term loans to industrial undertakings, repayable within a period not exceeding twenty-five years and to underwrite the issue of shares and debentures subject to the provision that the Corporation will be required to dispose of any shares or debentures acquired by it in fulfilment of its underwriting liability within a period of seven years.

The Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly, on 6-11-1946, by Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member.

(The Gazette of India, Part V, dated  
9-11-1946, LA. Bill No. 52, pages 274-288),  
The Hindustan Times, 7-11-1946)

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SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Working of Workmen's Compensation Act in Madras  
during 1945.

Accidents and Amounts of Compensation as reported by Employers.-

According to the annual report of the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in the province of Madras for the year 1945, ~~returns~~ returns, during the year under review, were called for from 3,515 establishments, and received from 2,882. Accidents were reported in 397 ~~xxxxx~~ returns. On the whole 4,398 cases of injuries were reported under the Act, out of which in 4,329 cases compensation amounting to Rs. 149,634 was paid. Of the 4,398 cases of accidents, 71 resulted in death, 227 in permanent disablement and 4,100 in temporary disablement. The compensation reported to have been paid in the cases of death, permanent disablement and temporary disablement was Rs. 53,223, Rs. 47,620 and Rs. 48,790 respectively.

Proceedings before Commissioner.- As regards proceedings before the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, there were 104 cases pending at the commencement of the year. 409 cases were filed and 36 cases were transferred by other Commissioners making a total of 445 as against 327 during the previous year. Of these 549 cases, 404 cases were disposed of during the year. 145 cases were pending at the close of the year, of which 87 were disposed of.

(Government of Madras G.O. No.1396,  
dated 15-5-1946, received in this  
Office on 20-11-1946 ).

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with Mr D. S. Sanyal

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### NAVIGATION.

#### Free Medical Treatment for Seamen in Indian Ports: Government of India's decision.

It is gathered that the Government of India has decided to provide free treatment to all seamen in Indian ports. The standard of treatment of seamen both "on articles" and "off articles" will be the same. Funds for this treatment will be obtained from shipowners in case of men "on articles" and Government grants will be used in case of men "off articles". The share of shipowners will be based on the volume of each company's shipping in a particular port. The Government of India has also decided that the clinic built by the Seamen's Welfare Directorate in Bombay should be taken over by the Health Officer, Bombay, or failing that it may be administered by the Surgeon-General of Bombay.

In this connection, it may be pointed out that under Section 34-A of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1906, it is the liability of the shipowners to provide seamen "on articles" with medical facilities for illness or injury not brought about by their own wilful act, or default or by their own misbehaviour.

("Oceanite", The Maritime Union of India  
News Publication, ~~Aug~~ August-September,  
1946, issue, page 27 ).

#### Rs. 15 Million Grant to Indian Seamen.

According to the United Press of India, the Government of India will shortly disburse cash benefit, to the extent of Rs. 15 million, among Indian seamen. The amount has accrued in favour of the seamen out of the increased premium imposed on war risk insurance during the war period and is known as post-war credit pay.

(The Hindu, 19-11-1946).

#### Scindia Company's Move for Continuous Employment: Graded Scales of Wages for Shipyard Workers .

A statement, issued about the middle of this month by the management of the Scindia Company, states that the company has recently introduced ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> ~~grade~~ <sup>grade</sup> all its employees engaged at Vizagapatam shipyard, grades scales of wages with annual increments and a provident fund scheme. The scheme is designed to ensure a greater sense of security and permanency of employment in the workers.

(The Times of India, 9-11-1946).

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939: Working during 1945.

The following is a summary of a review of the working of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939, during 1945 prepared by the Government of Bombay.

During the year 1945, the Act applied to 10 urban areas including important cities like Bombay, Ahmedabad, Poona and Sholapur and was extended to cover two new areas, namely, Godhra and Uran. The review adds that the Government of Bombay has decided to extend the application of the Act to a number of new urban areas as soon as the necessary staff is appointed by the respective municipalities.

During the year, 67,491 shops, 8,594 commercial establishments and 6,368 restaurants and theatres, etc., employing 115,653, 42,130 and 40,162 persons respectively, came under the scope of the Act. In Bombay city alone there were 42,432 shops, 7,088 commercial establishments and 3,775 restaurants and theatres, etc., employing 82,822, 37,075 and 26,423 workers respectively, which were covered by the Act. There were 16 Inspectors under the Act in the city of Bombay, 7 in the Ahmedabad Municipal Borough and 3 in Poona city and the rest of the areas employed one Inspector each. In the Bombay city 54,555 visits were paid by the Inspectors during the year. The total number of prosecutions launched under the Act was 4,558, out of which only 19 were unsuccessful while 63 cases were withdrawn.

The review points out in the Bombay City, the number of prosecutions launched under the Bombay Shops and Establishments Rules always exceeds the number of those launched under the provisions of the Act itself. The reason might be that the maximum penalty for breaches of the Rules, viz., a fine of Rs. 50/- has few terrors for the employers. The review concludes that the administration of the Act in Bombay city during the past 5 years shows that the opposition to the Act has now died down.

( Indian Labour Gazette, October, 1946 ).

Higher Pay for Madras Teachers: Education Minister Promises Government Support.

At a conference of teachers held at Madura, on 12-11-1946, Mr. T.S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Minister for Education, announced that the Government proposes to allot 28 million rupees for improving the pay of teachers. He said that the Government was anxious to better the status of teachers in every possible way. It was possible that they might be given representation on certain Committees and Boards. He warned teachers to get rid of the view that they should have fewer days and lesser hours of work. Such demand savoured of trade union methods and was certainly not conducive to the best interests of the country nor the education of children.

( The Hindu, 15-11-1946 ).

NATIVE AND COLONIAL LABOUR.

Enquiry into Conditions of Aborigines: Madras  
Government Appoints Committee.

The Government of Madras has appointed a Committee to enquire into the material conditions of the aboriginal tribes living in the province and to suggest ways and means for their uplift.

The Committee will be under the Chairmanship of Mr. V. Raghavaiah, Parliamentary Secretary, and Mr. V. Subbaroyan its Secretary.

Terms of Reference.— The Committee has been asked (a) to investigate and report on the economic and social conditions, customs and habits, and modes of ~~living~~ worship, marriage laws and rules, etc., of the tribes in question, their progress in education, methods of cultivation and desirability of continuing "podu" or "shifting" cultivation, whether they are indebted and exploited by other communities and, if so, how to prevent it, whether they are addicted to drink and how to prevent it, whether there are any customs which, though repugnant to modern ideas, still deserve to be preserved and whether their interests are adequately looked after by the Government officials concerned; (b) to investigate and report on the grievances of the members of the tribes especially in matters such as gaming rights, access to forest produce; and (c) to consider and report on the changes necessary to be introduced in the policy relating to the administration of the Criminal Tribes Act, with particular reference to the question of tackling the nomadic habit prevalent among several of the tribes and on such other matters as may be germane to the uplift of the tribes.

The Committee will tour the areas concerned and submit its report before 31-12-1946. It will enquire into the conditions of tribes in the Madgole Agency and other Agency areas as well.

(The Hindu, 20-11-1946).



CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Development of Hand-Spun and Hand-Woven Cloth Industry  
in Hyderabad State.

A scheme involving an expenditure of Rs. 5.5 million initially for developing khadi industry in Hyderabad State, to clothe the entire rural population of the dominions, with hand-spun and hand-woven 'khadi' within a period of ten years, has been prepared by the All-India Spinners Association, Hyderabad Branch.

The scheme aims at supplying 25 yards of cloth to people below ten years of age, 30 yards per head to persons between the ages of 10 and 15; 40 yards to those between 15 and 50, and 50 yards to ~~those between~~ persons above 50 years annually. The prices worked out will be about five annas per yard in the first year, going down by less than half that amount at the end of the ten-year period.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 26-11-1946).

Industrial Co-operatives and Village Industries  
Conference, Poona, 2-11-1946.

An Industrial Co-operatives and Village Industries Conference was held in Poona on 2-11-1946. It was convened by the Co-operative Department of the Government of Bombay.

Mr. Vaikunth L. Mehta, Minister for Finance, Co-operation and Village Industries, in his inaugural address, announced that the Bombay Government was keen on taking the necessary steps for the revival and development of village industries and described some of the measures already taken by the Government to facilitate the process of development, such as, the creation of a separate post of Joint Registrar for Industrial Co-operatives and Village Industries, the transfer of the cottage industries section from the Department of Industries to the Co-operative Department, the appointment of the Village Industries Committee, and establishment of a Provincial Industrial Co-operative Association to co-ordinate and develop the industrial co-operatives.

Development of Village Industries.- Among the resolutions passed by the Conference was one which recommended to the Government that, with a view to the immediate development of village industries, suitable areas should be taken up where these industries should be given maximum help in every way, and that in the first instance, such industries should be chosen for development as were of proved utility and could absorb the highest number of men and available raw material, ~~and~~ and as could be immediately revived, organised and developed on an economic basis. The industries selected by the Conference for development were: tanning and leather work, smithy and carpentry, dairying, cotton and wool weaving, oil pressing, paddy-husking and hand pounding of rice, bee-keeping, coir manufacture and processing and preservation of fruit and vegetables. The Conference passed a series of resolutions suggesting State protection for cottage ~~industries~~ and subsidiary industries and relating to the structure of the industrial co-operative organisation, loans and subsidies to

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industrial co-operatives, and organisation for providing work to destitute and unemployed women. It was also recommended that in view of the scarcity of cloth, hand-spinning and hand-weaving societies should be organised in different parts of the province and that the Government should help these societies in providing the necessary finance, implements, raw materials and technical advice in the production and sale of cloth.

(The Times of India, 13-11-1946).

LIVING CONDITIONS.

Nutrition.

Nutrition Drive in Madras: Hotel Menus to Indicate calorific value of Food Items .

The Nutrition Sub-Committee of the Regional Rationing Advisory Panel, Madras, has decided to recommend to the Government that all local and municipal bodies authorised to issue licences to hotels and restaurants should insist on the licences displaying on a board, as one of the conditions of the licence, the menu, noting ~~and also to indicate the calorific value of each item~~ ~~the~~ ~~noting~~ against each item its average weight, price and calorific value, and that the inspecting officers should be required to check the correctness of these details.

It was also decided to recommend that hotel and restaurant keepers should keep a record of the composition of the articles prepared and make it available for inspection by the supervising authorities.

(The Hindu, dated 16-11-1946).

Meeting of Travancore Nutrition Committee, Trivandrum, 6-7-1946: Industrial Canteens Recommended.

The nutrition problems of Travancore State were discussed at a meeting of the Travancore Nutrition Committee, held at Trivandrum, on 6-7-1946. The Committee decided that all industrial concerns, employing labour on a large scale, should be asked to run canteens supplying the workers with wholesome food at reasonable cost and the Labour Department of the State should be requested to encourage the canteens and also to consider the desirability of enforcing the opening of ~~the~~ industrial canteens by legislation, if necessary.

(Nutrition Bulletin No. 22, October, 1946).

Housing.Madras Corporation's Scheme for 50,000 Houses.

It is understood that the Madras City Corporation has under consideration a housing scheme costing Rs. 280 million. The scheme, which is to be spread over a period of 10 years, will provide 50,000 new houses to accommodate about 300,000 city dwellers. Under the proposed scheme, 30,000 houses are to be built for the lower middle classes each costing about Rs. 4,000, 10,000 houses at Rs. 7,500 each, for the upper middle classes, and the rest at a cost of Rs. 14,000 each, for the upper strata of the city population.

(The Times of India, 26-11-1946).

Workers' Organisations.

Meeting of Central Board of Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh,  
New Delhi, 20-11-1946: Decision to Merge with A.I.T.U.C.

A meeting of the Central Board of the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh (vide page 48 of the report of this Office for March 1946), was held at New Delhi on 20-11-1946.

Affiliation with A.I.T.U.C.: Insistence on Correct Membership Records.- The Board resolved that all unions with which members of the Sangh were connected should be affiliated to the Trade Union Congress in order to strengthen it as the central organisation of labour in the country, to promote through it the policy and programme of the Sangh and to secure such changes in the constitution, organisation and administration, of the A.I.T.U.C. as to make it a fit and efficient instrument for the realization of the legitimate aspirations of the working class and of the sangh.

The Board expressed the opinion that members of the Sangh should take immediate steps to secure, as far as the Trade Union Congress was concerned, the adoption and application of the following conditions relating to Trade Union membership:

"The union will take scrupulous care to see that its records and returns of membership are in complete accord with the actual payment of membership due which should be payable for each wage period, unless an exception is made by the working committee in the case of any union in respect of the frequency of payment.

"Member shall mean a person who is an ordinary member of the union and who has paid a subscription of not less than two annas per month, provided that no person shall be deemed to be a member if his subscription is in arrears for a period of three months or more next preceding such time.

"The working committee may relax in the case of particular unions the condition relating to minimum subscription, provided that in no case ~~subscription~~ the minimum subscription will be less than one anna per month.

"And, if artificially created difficulties prevent the carrying through of these reforms, all Congressmen in the Trade Union Congress should withdraw from it and proceed to form a central organisation on suitable lines".

Congress Labour Policy to be supported.- The Board took note of the resolution of the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress on 15-8-1946 embodying Congress policy in relation to labour (vide page 5 of the report of this Office for August, 1946), and requested every branch and every member of the Sangh to carry out to the fullest extent the policy and the directions contained in the resolution and to report to the Sangh any violation ~~and~~ of this on the part of Congressmen or of labour organisations with which Congressmen were connected.

Support for Arbitration.- The Board invited the special attention of members of the Sangh and Congressmen in general to the fact that Congress policy in the matter of industrial disputes favoured recourse ~~to~~ arbitration in all cases in which ~~the~~ other means of amicable settlement failed or were not available.

Finally, the Board approved of the Bombay Industrial Relations Bill (vide pages 7-9 of the report of this Office for September, 1946), and requested members of the Sangh and Congressmen to give their full co-operation for the successful working of this legislation.

Bombay Bill to serve as Model for other Congress Ministries.- The Board suggested that the Bombay Industrial Relations Bill should serve as a suitable model of legislation in the other provinces and advised Congress Ministries to undertake similar legislation.

(The Hindustan Times, 20-11-1946).

Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act 1926 in Bihar during 1944-1945.

Number of Registered Unions.- On the 31-5-1945, there were 49 registered trade unions in the province of Bihar. During the year under report 8 new unions were registered as against 11 in the preceding year, and the registration of 4 unions was cancelled. Most of the applications for registration submitted during the year were returned as they were not correctly filled. The Registrar of Trade Unions proposes to furnish trade unions with model constitution and rules for the guidance of the applicant unions.

Membership of Unions.- The total membership increased from 47,898 to 73,428; the highest increase was in the textile industry (from 123 to 910) followed by railways (from 890 to 1,341).

Assets.- The opening balance, income and closing balance for the year were Rs. 5,869, Rs. 28,855 and Rs. 5,797 respectively.

In a few cases, the unions succeeded by direct negotiation with the management in securing important concessions, for the workers. It is reported that in most cases the employers do not take kindly to the unions and refuse to recognise them.

(India Labour Gazette, October, 1946).

Meeting of General Council of All-India Trade  
Union Congress, Delhi 29-11-1946 to 1-12-1946:  
Opposition to Compulsory Arbitration.

The General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress met at New Delhi, on 29-11-1946, to consider a number of problems facing Indian workers today, ~~and~~ including Central and provincial legislation for the settlement of industrial disputes. Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose, President of the All-India Trade Union Congress, presided.

Opposition to Compulsory Arbitration.- The Council felt that these bills relating to industrial disputes, Central as well as provincial, at present under consideration, embodied the principle of compulsory arbitration to which it was opposed. It insisted that before taking measures restricting workers' right to strike, the Government should consider the reasons for discontent and remove these grievances. In the opinion of the Council, the definition of public utility as given in the Industrial Disputes Bill of the Government of India, was much 'too wide'. Power given to the provincial governments to declare any industrial undertaking a public ~~utility~~ utility was unjustified and was likely to be abused. If in the interest of protecting the life of the people or preservation of peace it became necessary to avoid a strike in any industry, the proper solution according to the Council was that the industry should be publicly and socially owned and should ~~never~~ not be operated by private enterprise. The Council felt that prohibition of the right to strike in any industry which was privately owned was wrong.

Demand for Extension of Social Security.- As regards the health insurance scheme for industrial workers now under consideration, the Council demanded that the proposed State Insurance Bill (vide pages 1-2 of this report) should be amended to include provisions against unemployment and old age.

Support for Industrial Canteens.- The Council welcomed the proposed legislation regarding industrial canteens (vide page 2 of the report of this Office for October 1946) and suggested that provincial governments should be empowered to make rules for the establishment of canteens in every industrial undertaking employing more than 100 workers.

Other resolutions adopted by the Council related to firings on workers which had recently occurred in a number of Indian States in connection with industrial disputes, the communal situation in the country and the need to remove all restrictions on civil and trade union liberties so that the workers who belonged to both the communities, viz., Hindu and Muslim, should be able to work for communal peace.

200 New Unions Affiliated to All-India Trade Union Congress.- During the session the General Council sanctioned the affiliation to the All-India Trade Union Congress of 200 new unions with a membership of 150,000. These unions belong to different parts of the country and represent workers from various industries. The new affiliations will raise the membership of the All-India Trade Union Congress to 700,000.

The General Council elected two representatives— Messrs. N.V. Phadke and Manek Gandhi, to attend the conference of workers' and employers' delegates convened by the Government of India on 6 and 7-12-1946 to discuss the Government's five-year programme of labour legislation (vide pages 11-18 of the report of this Office for October, 1946). It was provisionally decided to hold the next annual convention of the All-India Trade Union Congress in Bengal in February, 1947.

Progress of Trade Unionism in Madras Presidency  
in 1944-1945.

Number of Registered Unions.- According to the annual report of the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in Madras, during the year ending 31-3-1945, there were 122 unions on the register at the beginning of the year and 50 unions were registered under the Act during the year. The registration of ten unions was cancelled either because they failed to submit the annual returns or because they had ceased to exist. The dissolution of one union was registered during the year. The total number of unions registered, since the commencement of the Act up to 31-3-1945, was 298, of which 161 were actually on the register at the end of the year under report. 12 of these 161 unions did not submit their returns or submitted incorrect and incomplete returns.

Unions whose objects are not confined to the province.- There were 7 unions and a federation of 21 unions whose objects were not confined to the province. The membership of these unions increased from 56,178 to 59,874. During the year there were 6,157 new members, while those who resigned numbered 2,441.

The assets of these unions rose from Rs. 63,695 at the beginning of the year to Rs. 71,958 at the close; the income during the year was Rs. 53,408.

Unions whose objects are confined to the Province.- The membership of unions, whose objects are confined to the province, rose from 66,779 to 88,270; 51,825 new members joined their respective unions during the year; those leaving, numbered 33,334. Railways, including railway workshops and transport other than tramways, recorded an increase from 1,899 to 4,927; textiles from 34,172 to 40,107; docks and ports from 2,560 to 3,913 and Engineering from 3,834 to 4,594.

The assets of these unions increased from Rs. 107,756 at the beginning of the year to Rs. 131,236 at the end, income being Rs. 132,095.

48 unions availed themselves of free official audit arranged by the Registrar as against 37 in the last year.

The corresponding figures for the total number of members in the registered trade unions and the total balance in the general account fund for the previous year were, 120,879 and Rs. 149,867.

(Government of Madras, G.O.No.182, dated  
19-1-1946, received in this Office on 2-12-1946)



SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Prohibition of Opium Smoking: Government of India's Decision.

The Government of India has, in consultation with the provincial Governments, decided to prohibit altogether the smoking of opium in British India, exception being made only in favour of existing addicts so long as they survive and subject to their producing medical certificates in terms to be prescribed. The absolute prohibition prevailing in some of the provinces will not be affected by this decision, nor will there be any objection to other provinces adopting a more radical policy than the one now announced.

As regards the Indian States, 75 at least have already prohibited or are now prohibiting absolutely the smoking of opium within their territories, while the rest are making declarations on lines similar to that now made by the Government of India.

(The Statesman, 20-10-1946;  
The Gazette of India, Extraordinary,  
dated 20-11-1946, pages 1177-1178).

N.W.F.P. Assembly votes for Prohibition.

On 13-11-1946, the North-West Frontier Province Legislative Assembly adopted a resolution for gradual introduction of prohibition of all intoxicating liquors and drugs except for medicinal, scientific or industrial purposes.

(The Statesman, 16-11-1946).

Total Prohibition to be introduced in Cochin State.

The Government of Cochin has proposed to introduce total prohibition in the State. ~~with certain exceptions~~ A committee composed of twelve members has been appointed to advise the Government, among other matters, on the ways and means to meet the deficit in revenue by levy of fresh taxation on equitable and sound principles, and the question of providing alternative employment to workers now engaged in tapping industry.

The measure will entail a loss in revenue of Rs. 6 million to the State exchequer.

(The Hindu, 18-11-1946).

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PUBLIC HEALTH.

Plans of Medical Relief for Rural Areas in  
India.

Replying in the Legislative Assembly, on 8-11-1946, to Mr. Madandhari Singh, Mr. S.H.Y. Ousman, Health Secretary, gave details of the present plans for the extension of medical relief in the rural areas. They include the provision of the following new institutions and appointments: Madras—270 rural dispensaries, 450 village health centres, and 45 group centres; Bombay—100 subsidised medical practitioners' centres, in addition to 330 recently started; Bengal—500 new rural dispensaries; United Provinces—500 additional dispensaries and 600 additional subsidised medical practitioners, 74 travelling dispensaries, and 55 travelling units for epidemic work; Punjab—375 rural dispensaries and 320 subsidised dispensaries; Bihar—32 rural health centres and one travelling dispensary in each sub-division; Central Provinces—60 new dispensaries and 100 subsidised medical practitioners; Assam—145 rural welfare centres to which dispensaries will be attached; Sind—40 new dispensaries; Orissa—100 new dispensaries; Delhi and Ajmer—Merwara—Health centres will be established on the Bhore Committee plan (vide pages 50-60 of the report of this Office for March, 1946). In the beginning, ~~rural~~ three such centres will be opened in the rural areas in each Chief Commissioner's province.

The Provincial plans are being reviewed by the provincial Governments in the light of the Bhore Committee report. The Central and provincial Governments have made provision in their plans for ambulance services, the improvement of hospitals, and the training of staff which will directly or indirectly assist in the provision of medical relief in the rural areas.

(The Hindu, 9-11-1946).

All-India Medical Institute: Advisory Committee set up.

The Health Survey and Development Committee (vide pages 50-60 of the report of this Office for March, 1946) recommended that the Central Government should set up an all-India medical institute to provide teaching and research facilities of the highest order. A press note, issued by the Government of India towards the end of November, 1946, states that the Government of India has accepted in principle this recommendation and set up a Committee of leading medical educationists to advise Government on the steps to be taken to establish the institute and also on its location. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, will be the chairman of the Committee and Dr. B.C. Roy, Dr. Jivaraj Mehta, Dr. M.A. Hameed, Col. P.B. Bharucha and Lt.- Col. V.R. Mirajkar will be the members.

("Dawn", 26-11-1946;  
The Times of India, 26-11-1946).

## EDUCATION.

### Sargent Report being implemented: Education Minister's Review of Central and Provincial Education Schemes .

In the Legislative Assembly, on 4-11-1946, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Education Member in the Interim Government, in reply to a question by Mr. Madandhari Singh, made a statement on the action taken or proposed to be taken on the principal recommendations of the Sargent Report on post-war educational development in India (vide pages 32-34 of the report of this Office for January, 1944). Mr. Rajagopalachari pointed out that the Government of India accepted generally the principles and the objects of the Report, of the Central Advisory Board of Education on post-war educational development in India, popularly called the Sargent Report. The decision of the Government of India was conveyed to the provincial Governments and they were asked to prepare their educational development plans in the light of the main recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of Education. All the Provincial Governments, with the exception of that of the North-West Frontier Province, have now prepared their first five-year programme of educational expansion. The Centrally-administered Areas and the Central Government have also prepared their five-year plans, which are complementary to the plans prepared by the Provinces. This entire proposed programme involves a total expenditure of Rs. 1250 million approximately. The schemes are being examined by the Government with a view to according their final approval. Some of the plans received from the provincial Governments are still tentative, but their finalised plans are expected very shortly.

The following is taken from a press report of the Education Minister's review of the Central and provincial Governments' education schemes:

Provincial Schemes.- The provincial Governments have been requested to embark forthwith on schemes selected out of the five-year plans which are of an urgent character. As far as education is concerned, schemes regarding higher technical education, the training of teachers, and educational facilities for ex-servicemen received high priority. These schemes have been examined by the Government of India and those found suitable ~~and~~ have been sanctioned for immediate execution.

In the first quinquennium, a reasonable provision has been made in the Provincial and Central plans towards the following essential requirements:-

- (i) Universal Compulsory and free basic (Primary and Middle) education for all boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 14.- Except in Sind and the North-West Frontier Province whose plans have not yet been finalised, Bihar, Orissa, Madras the United Provinces, and the Centrally Administered Areas have agreed to provide for compulsory basic (primary and middle) education in due course for the entire age-group of 6-14; the remaining Provincial Governments have not made it clear if it is their objective to ~~also~~ cater for the entire age-group 6-14, though they have made provision for the age-group 6-11 in the first instance. The rate of progress is mainly determined by the availability of trained teachers. The total expenditure proposed in the Provincial plans on basic (primary and middle) education, including indirect expenditure on the training of teachers, inspection and school meals amount to Rs. 569.5 million (Rs. 205.2 million capital and Rs. 364.3 million recurring), which is about 58 per cent of

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the total expenditure on Provincial education schemes. The total expenditure on basic (primary and middle) education during the quinquennium in Central Areas will approximate to Rs. ~~120~~ 19 million (capital Rs. 11.4 million, recurring Rs. 7.9 million). Most Provinces have also agreed that the education to be imparted at earlier stages, would be through the medium of creative activities.

(ii) Technical and Commercial Education.- The Government of India's scheme, under which approximately 500 scholars are being sent abroad each year for technical training and scientific education (vide page 64 of the report of this Office for January 1945), would cost the Central Government approximately Rs. 36 million over the five-year period. An All-India Council for Technical Education (vide pages 25-26 of the report of this Office for December 1945) has already been set up to make a survey of the needs of the country as a whole and recommend ways and means to meet her urgent requirements. The Provinces have made the following additional provisions in the five-year period: (1) establishment of 160 new institutions (105 junior technical and vocational schools, and 35 technical high schools, 16 polytechnics, and 4 engineering colleges); and (2) expansion and reorganisation of 32 junior technical institutions, 12 technical high schools, and 10 engineering colleges.

(iii) Adult Education.- The expenditure proposed by the provincial Governments on Adult Education in the first quinquennium is Rs. 21.0 million which is about 22.2 per cent of the total expenditure on all Provincial education schemes.

(iv) Secondary Education.- The five-year plans also include a reasonable provision for strengthening secondary education with a view to meeting the requirements of professional and technical colleges, for the training of teachers, and for the improvement of the health of the school child. Special attention has been paid to women's education to make up for the present deficiency.

Schemes to cost Rs. 70 Million.- The total capital expenditure for the above schemes will amount to Rs. 70.1 million and the recurring expenditure in the five-year period will total to Rs. 44.3 million and the ultimate recurring expenditure per year will be about 21.4 million. While the Provincial plans propose generally to improve facilities for turning semi-skilled and skilled craftsmen, foremen, and chargemen and some engineers, the training of high grade engineers and technologists, (designers, planners, research workers, production experts, etc.) to take up positions of trust and responsibility in industry will be provided by the two proposed Central Higher Technological Institutions, each with an annual output of 1,000 engineers and technologists costing 50 million in capital and 4.6 million annually in recurring expenditure. The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and the Delhi Polytechnic will also be strengthened considerably. These four institutions together with other provincial colleges will ensure an annual output of about 4,000 engineers and technologists in the quinquennium. It is also proposed to set up a Technical Teachers' Training College to train teachers for technical high schools and senior technical institution. The Central schemes are expected to cost about Rs. 84.8 million in capital and Rs. 29.6 million total recurring expenditure for five years and with an ultimate recurring expenditure of Rs. 10.6 million per year.

The Provincial and Central schemes for the five-year period on technical education will involve an expenditure of about Rs. 250 million (capital Rs. 160 million and recurring Rs. 70 million).

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University Education and Research.- It is proposed to spend approximately Rs. 25.4 million on the three universities (Delhi Rs. 11.4 million, Aligarh Rs. 7 million and Benares Rs. 7 million) during the quinquennium to strengthen the universities and bring them up to the standard prevalent in other educationally advanced countries. Benares and Aligarh Universities will be assisted to set up a Medical College each to teach up to the degree standard. Provincial Governments in their development plans have made some provision for strengthening the Provincial universities. They propose to spend approximately Rs. 52.4 million in the next quinquennium.

Institute of Sciences: Other Education Schemes.- The National Institute of Sciences will advise the Government of India on all scientific matters. It is also contemplated to give substantial grant-in-aid to all-India research institutes which are in a position to promote higher scientific research and it is proposed to spend about Rs. 7.5 million for promotion of scientific research in educational institutions in the quinquennium.

The Department of Education of the Government of India has also prepared a number of schemes which have been approved by the Co-ordination Committee of the Cabinet. It is proposed to start a post-graduate Training College for men and women and a Training College for Physical Education and to reorganise the present Lady Irwin College for Domestic Science by next year in Delhi. A grant has been paid to the Visva-Bharati, for the training of teachers on the lines recommended by the Board and a grant is being paid for the same purpose to Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, where a scheme for the training of ~~teams~~ teachers has already been started. A ~~programme~~ proposal for reorganising the Morris College of Hindustani Music, Lucknow, on an all-India basis is also under consideration in the Department of Education.

(The Hindustan Times, 5-11-1946).

C.P. Government's Five-Year Literacy Plan:  
2,500 Schools to be Opened.

Addressing a gathering of teachers and citizens in Jubbulpore, on 31-10-1946, Mr. S.V. Gokhale, Education Minister, revealed that the Government of the Central Provinces has prepared a five-year plan to wipe out illiteracy from among the masses. The Minister added that the Government has decided to open 2,500 new primary schools in willages in order to remove illiteracy and a normal training school in each district for preparing trained and qualified teachers.

Teachers for Villagers.- Appealing to enthusiastic and educated young men to settle down in villages to take up the task of educating children and adults, Mr. Gokhale stated that the Government will give to such enthusiastic teachers, a monthly allowance of Rs. 30 and also some land for their maintenance. The teachers will not be transferred from one place to another and will be allowed to settle and work peacefully in places of their choice.

(The Hindustan Times, 3-11-1946).

Employment.

Factory Employment in British India: Trends during 1945.

Trends in factory employment in British India during 1945, are analysed in an article on the subject appearing in the October 1946 issue of the Indian Labour Gazette. The following is a summary of the article.

5 Percent Increase in Factory Employment during 1945.— The total number of persons employed in factories in 1945 was 2.645 million, ~~in 1945~~ as against 1.751 million in 1939, an increase of 50.9 per cent. The number of persons employed in 1945 exceeded the 1944 figure by 120,000 or by about 4.8 per cent. The following table shows the total volume of factory employment in British India in 1939, 1944 and 1945.

	Number of workers employed ('000)			Increase (+) or decrease (—) in 1945 over—		Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—) in 1945 over—	
	1939	1944	1945	1944	1939	1944	1939
<b>Government and Local Fund Factories.—</b>							
Perennial.....	131	420	456	+36	+325	+8.6	+248.1
Seasonal.....	1.4	0.5	0.7	+0.2	-0.7	+40.0	-50.0
Total.	132	421	457	+36	+325	+8.6	+246.2
<b>All Other Factories.—</b>							
Perennial.....	1,329	1,807	1,910	+103	+581	+5.7	+43.7
Seasonal.....	290	295	276	-19	-14	-6.4	-4.8
Total	1,619	2,102	2,186	+84	+567	+4.0	+35.0
Grand Total.	1,751	2,523	2,645	+120	+892	+4.8	+50.2

As can be seen from the above table, perennial factories accounted for almost the entire increase in factory employment. Employment in seasonal factories declined by about 6 per cent as compared to 1944.

Government and Local Fund Factories: 500 per cent increase in Employment in Ordnance Factories.— Among Government and Local Fund Factories the highest increase in employment was recorded by ordnance factories, the rise being about 505 per cent over the corresponding figures for 1939, and about 17 per cent over those for 1944. The next noticeable rise took place in engineering (general). The numbers employed in this group rose from about 8,000 to 30,000 in 1944 and to 38,500 in 1945. The highest percentage rise as compared to the pre-war level was in the clothing group, although as compared to 1944 there was a slight fall. In clothing factories, dockyards, railway workshops and mints, however, there was a slight decline in employment during 1945. Detailed figures with regard

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to employment in the different classes of factories are given below.

Industry Groups.	Number of workers employed('000)			Increase(+) or decrease(-)in 1945 over— ( '000)		Percentage increase (+)or decrease(-) in 1945 over	
	1939	1944	1945	1944	1939	1944	1939
	<b>Government and Local Fund Factories.-</b>						
Clothing.....	2.2	24.9	22.8	-2.1	+20.6	-8.4	+936.4
Dockyards.....	4.9	13.6	12.8	-0.8	+7.9	-5.9	+161.2
Engineering (general)....	7.7	30.0	38.5	+8.5	+30.8	+28.3	+400.0
Railway Workshops...	55.8	121.7	116.5	-5.2	+60.7	-4.3	+108.8
Ordnance factories....	30.7	158.3	185.6	+27.3	+154.9	+17.2	+504.6
Mints.....	1.8	7.7	7.3	-0.4	+5.5	-5.2	+305.6

**All Other Factories.-** Among non-Government factories, employment increased during 1945 in perennial factories in all the industry groups. The biggest increase in the numbers employed was recorded in the group minerals and metals, followed by food, drink and tobacco, textiles, and chemicals and dyes. On the other hand employment in seasonal factories declined by about 5,000 as compared to 1944, in the food, drink and tobacco group, and by 15,000 in gins and presses. Detailed employment figures for the various industry groups are given in the following table.

Industry Group	Number of workers employed('000)			Increase(+)or decrease(-)in 1945 over('000)		Percentage increase(+)or decrease(-) over.	
	1939	1944	1945	1944	1939	1944	1939
	<b>Other Factories.-</b>						
<b>Perennial:</b>							
Textiles.....	817	993	1,011	+18	+194	+1.8	+23.7
Engineering....	148	265	270	+5	+122	+1.9	+82.4
Minerals & Metals	55.1	91.1	125.5	+34.4	+70.4	+37.8	+127.8
<b>Food, Drink &amp;</b>							
Tobacco.....	97	132	152	+20	+55	+15.2	+56.7
Chemicals & Dyes.	55.9	88.9	99.7	+10.8	+43.8	+12.1	+78.4
Paper & Printing.	44.4	52.7	57.0	+4.3	+12.6	+8.2	+28.4
Wood, Stone & Glass.	52.3	96.2	101.2	+5.0	+48.9	+5.2	+93.5
Gins & Presses.	26.0	15.1	16.0	+0.9	-10.0	+6.0	-38.5
Skins & Hides.	12.9	34.6	36.3	+1.7	+23.4	+4.9	+181.4
<b>Seasonal.-</b>							
Food, Drink & Tobacco.	150	162	157	-5	+7	-3.1	+4.7
Gins & Presses.	137	128	113	-15	-24	-11.7	-17.5

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Distribution of Factory Employment among Provinces: 50 per cent increase in Bihar during 1945.- As compared with 1944, factory employment rose most in Bihar, by as much as 50 per cent. Next came the Central Provinces, the Punjab and Bengal and Madras with increases of 8.9 per cent, 5.4 per cent, 5.1 per cent and 4.9 per cent respectively. In Bombay the employment in factories remained stationary, while in the United Provinces it declined by 0.7 per cent. Bengal again forged ahead of Bombay to become the province with the largest number of factory workers in British India and Bombay and Bengal together accounted for 56 per cent of the factory workers in British India. The following table gives the comparative figures for factory employment in different British Indian provinces during 1939, 1944 and 1945.

Province	Number of Workers employed ('000)			Increase (+) or decrease (-) in 1945 over		Percentage increase (+) or decrease (-) in 1945 over	
	1939	1944	1945	1944	1939	1944	1939
Bengal.....	572	709	745	+36	+173	+5.1	+30.2
Bihar.....	96	129	168	+39	+72	+30.2	+75.0
Bombay.....	466	736	736	0	+270	0	+57.9
C.P. & Berar.	64	101	110	+9	+46	+8.9	+71.9
Madras.....	197	266	279	+15	+82	+4.9	+41.6
Punjab.....	78	148	156	+8	+78	+5.4	+100.0
U.P. ....	160	278	276	-2	+116	-0.7	+72.5

(Indian Labour Gazette, October, 1946).



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Control Measures.

Foreign Exchange Regulation Bill, 1946: Referred to a  
Select Committee.

The Government of India gazetted, on 9-11-1946, the Foreign Exchange Regulation Bill, 1946. It extends to the whole of British India, and applies to all British subjects in India, as well as in all Indian States.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons, attached to the Bill, points out that the Bill embodies the financial provisions of the Defence of India Rules relating to exchange control with certain modifications and amendments, and also certain additions such as the section relating to the import of currency and gold and the control over the proceeds of export which are essentially exchange control ~~market~~ matters. These rules have been retained in force for another six months, beyond the first day of October, 1946, under the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance, 1946, (vide pages 63-64 of the report of this Office for September 1946). The Statement further points out that legislation is necessary to give the Central Government powers to continue to control transactions in foreign exchange, securities and gold, by converting the Ordinance into an Act of the Indian Legislature. The Provisions of the Bill have been drafted in such a manner that the degree of restriction on foreign exchange transactions can be relaxed or increased by executive orders, either generally or for particular foreign currencies, in accordance with the needs of trade and finance or international agreements; thus ensuring that flights of capital or wild speculation, which proved so injurious to foreign trade in the period between the two wars, can be immediately controlled.

The Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 6-11-1946, by Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member; it was referred to a Select Committee, on 12-11-1946.

(The Gazette of India, Part V, dated  
9-11-1946, pages 289-307, L.A. Bill No. 53;  
The Statesman, dated 13-11-1946 ).

Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946:

The Government of India gazetted, on 9-11-1946, the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Bill, 1946. It extends to the whole of British India.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons, attached to the bill, points out that controls in respect of certain essential commodities (foodstuffs, cotton and woollen textiles, paper, petroleum and petroleum products, spare parts of mechanically propelled vehicles, coal, iron and steel and mica) have been continued beyond the first day of October, 1946, through the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Ordinance, 1946 (vide page 63 of the report of this Office for September, 1946). It further points out that it is now necessary to convert the Ordinance into an Act of the Indian Legislature. The provisions of the Bill follow those of the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Ordinance. The only substantial change occurs in clause 3(4). This sub-clause, as it stands in the Ordinance, provides for the control of undertakings engaged in the production and supply of coal alone. It is now proposed to make this clause general in effect to include all commodities defined as "essential commodities" in the Bill. It is considered desirable that these powers should be available if it should become necessary to use them.

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The Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly, on 6-11-1946, by Dr. John Mathai, Member for Industries and Supplies in the Interim Government. It was passed by the Central Assembly, on 12-11-1946, and by the Council of State on 15-11-1946.

The above Bill received the assent of the Governor-General, on 19-11-1946, and has now been gazetted Act No. XXIV of 1946.

(The Gazette of India, Part V, dated 9-11-1946; L.A. Bill No. 55 of 1946, pages 310-315;  
The Statesman, 13 and 15-11-1946;  
The Gazette of India, Part IV, dated 23-11-1946, Act No. XXIV of 1946, pages 55-62 ).

### Working of Control of Capital Issues.

According to complete statistics available in November, the total amount applied for under the Control of Capital Issues Scheme, during the period from 1-10-1945 to 30-6-1946, amounts to over Rs. 2,090 million in respect of 897 companies.

The total amount for which consent was given, during the period, was about Rs. 1,650 million in respect of 678 companies. Refusals amounted to over Rs. 330 million relating to 219 companies. The remaining amount represented cases in which partial consent only was given. In issuing consents, schemes are classified as 'Immediate' or 'Long Range'. For the period under review the total amount allowed for 'Immediate' schemes totalled over Rs. 710 million, while for 'Long-range' schemes the figure was over Rs. 930 million. Classified according to industrial and non-industrial issues, the figures show that for industrials, consent for about Rs. 410 million was given <sup>for immediate schemes and for</sup> over Rs. 680 million for 'long-range' ~~figures~~ schemes. For non-industrials, the figures were over Rs. 300 million for 'immediate' and about Rs. 250 million for 'long-range'.

Share of Indian States.- Of the ~~maxi~~ permitted capital issued, during the period, the share of the Indian States totalled Rs. 122.2 million in respect of 54 companies. The total refusals amounted to Rs. 24.2 million in respect of 17 companies. ~~Thaxkxak~~ Of the aggregate amount of consents, the figure for 'long-range' schemes was Rs. 67.6 million in respect of 22 companies.

(a) Industrial Issues.- During the period under review consent was given in respect of 418 companies involving an aggregate capital issue of over Rs. 1,090 million for industrial purposes. Approximately 36 per cent of this (about Rs. 410 million) was for 'immediate' schemes and 64 per cent (over Rs. 680 million) for 'long-range' schemes. These industrial issues are classified under ~~44~~ 44 groups. Textile industry is at the head of the list followed by the Film Industry, Engineering, Iron and Steel Making and Mining and Quarrying. Industries, for which permission was given for the issue of capital, include oil mills, cycle manufacture, drugs and medicines, paints and dyes, soap, cement works, glass, potteries and porcelain, tanneries, plastics, breweries and milk products.

(b) Non-Industrial Issues.- Consent was given during the period, for Rs. 550 million in respect of 260 companies for non-industrial undertakings. These non-industrial schemes are classified under 4 major groups. The Trade and Transport Group heads the list followed by the Financial Group, the Agricultural Group and the Miscellaneous Services Group. The largest amount of permitted capital is shown under House-Building Societies which falls under the Financial Group, the second largest under Shipping and the third largest under Bus Services. (The Hindustan Times, 10-11-1946).

Textile Industry.

Central Legislation for Textile Industry urged:  
Madras Government's Textile Policy Criticised  
in Council of State.

On 7-11-1946, the Council of State adopted, without division, a resolution moved by Sir N. Gopalaswamy Ayyanger, asking the Government of India to undertake, without delay, central legislation for the development of the cotton mill (both spinning and weaving) industry on nationally-planned lines, for preserving and promoting the progress of the handloom industry for meeting adequately the growing internal demands for yarn and cloth, for building up a promising export trade in manufactured cotton goods, and above all for raising the standard of living of the common man both in the cities and the country side. The resolution, further, recommends that the threat to the Indian mill industry, which the Madras Ministry had sounded already (vide page 50 of the report of this Office for October, 1946), and which, there is reason to fear, might be sounded by other provincial Ministries also, deserves to be effectively countered.

Madras Government's Textile Policy Criticised: Government of India's Assurances. During the discussion on the above resolution, the Madras Government's policy in regard to textile mills came for a great deal of criticism. The general opinion of the Council was that "khadi" played only an insignificant role in India's cloth economy. Mr. M.W.M. Yeatts, Secretary, Civil Supply and Industries, Department, explaining Government's policy said that the Central Government had no direct information from the Madras Government on the subject except what had appeared in the press. "India must have a common textile policy" was the position of the Government of India for some considerable time. He did not think that a policy evolved after considerable discussion with States and provinces and on the basis of which spindles had been allocated, machinery ordered and buildings were being erected, would be given up. He further stated that the Government of India had no proposal from any of the participants suggesting a departure from the policy already agreed to.

(The Hindustan Times, 8-11-1946).

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Textile Industry.

Plant to Manufacture Textile Machinery to be set up  
in India.

A textile spinning machinery manufacturing plant is to be started in India, as soon as possible, under an agreement reached between Mr. Krishnaraj Thackersey on behalf of the Indian Textile Delegation to Britain (vide page 65 of the report of this office for September, 1946), and Mr. Kenneth Preston, Chairman of Textile Machinery Makers Limited, in the United Kingdom.

The ~~part~~ British firm is to give full assistance and co-operation in starting the concern, and the project provides for the formation of an Indian company, with a capital of Rs. 15,000,000. While the majority of the shares will be held by Indians, English companies are to have an appreciable financial interest in the company, and will be represented on the board.

The main benefits include the following: 1. Acceleration of production of new machinery which is urgently needed in India to fulfil planned extension of India's cotton textile and industry; 2. Hastening of rehabilitation and replacement of machines, which, owing to being worked at high pressure during the war period without ~~adequate~~ adequate maintenance and overhaul, need replacement in whole ~~and~~ or part immediately.

(The Hindu, 24-11-1946).

## Food.

### Food Situation in India: Debate in Central Legislative Assembly.

The Central Legislative Assembly discussed the food situation in India on 4 and 6-11-1946.

Food Member's Review: Success of Government Measures to meet Food Shortage.- Opening the debate, the Food Member, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, stated that since February 1946 the food situation in India had not improved except for the fact that the monsoon, which had just ended, had on the whole been more or less normal. To meet the food shortage in the country during the last seven or eight months, the Government had adopted three methods, first, imports; secondly, monopoly procurement and controlled distribution; and, thirdly, the stepping up of production.

As regards imports, as against a demand for four million tons of stuffs, India had secured from foreign countries only 1.7 million tons.

Internal procurement had, on the other hand, been more successful. The Government had been able to secure 3 million tons by this ~~method~~ method as against the 1.7 million tons imported. Madras, has been able to procure something like 94 per cent of the surplus with individual cultivators and Bombay came next with 60 per cent procurement of the surplus. The United Provinces, which in recent years had depended upon the Government of India to meet its deficit, had, as a result of the vigorous procurement policy carried on by the Ministry, become free from anxiety. In almost every province there was going to be more or less monopoly procurement. Side by side with this, rationing had been extended and the rationed population, which in March 1945, was about 2 million was 150 million in 1946. Present stocks of food, however, were extremely low, being just about four weeks stock in the beginning of November, and foreign imports were urgently needed.

Short-term Plan to Increase Internal Production by Four Million Tons.- Turning to internal production, Dr. Prasad stated that the Government had a definite short-term programme with a target of an extra four million tons output to be achieved within the next five years. To achieve this objective it was proposed, first, to help small irrigation works, like surface wells, tube-wells, tanks, channels, and small equipment for drawing water from rivers. The Agricultural Development Commissioner might also be sent to various provinces to fix targets. Secondly, manure was to be supplied at a relatively low cost to enable cultivators to increase production. Thirdly, improved seeds would be distributed so as to enable them to secure larger yields. The Government also proposed to help in bringing under cultivation, land which on account of deep-rooted grass was not fit for cultivation, by helping parties to cultivate it with tractors and other mechanical implements. The Government proposed to bear a part of the cost of the scheme for ~~producing~~ producing the extra four million tons. Broadly speaking, it was proposed that 50 per cent of the cost should be borne by the party who would benefit by it and of the other 50 per cent half should be contributed by the provincial Government and the remaining half by the Central Government.

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No Increase in Prices of Food Grains.- Referring to the complaint that the prices of agricultural produce had been kept down, while those of manufactured goods had been allowed to go up, Dr. Prasad felt that no case had been made out for granting an increase in the prices of agricultural produce and gave figures to show that the price indices of agricultural products had recently risen much higher than those of manufactured articles. The Government had, therefore, decided not to agree to an increase in the prices of agricultural produce at the present moment.

(The Statesman, 5-11-1946).

Development of Food Industries in India:  
Five Panels to be set up.

Reference was made, at page 39 of the report of this Office for June 1946, to a survey of food industries in India undertaken by the Central Food Department. Important information has now been obtained from provinces and industries and the Central Food Department proposes to take on hand the planning and development of about forty food industries.

In this connection it is proposed to set up five panels to deal with the development of different groups of allied industries. Panel I, will deal with edible oils, butter, milk powder, milk products, cheese, ice-cream and margarine; Panel II, with bakery products, breakfast foods, biscuits, cornflour, baking powder etc.; Panel III, with beers, wines, spirits, malt, food yeast, aerated and mineral waters; Panel IV, with sugar and sugar products, boiled sweets, chocolate, cocoa powder and starch; and Panel V, will deal with miscellaneous industries such as canned meat, meat by-products, canned foods other than fruits, mustard, shark liver oil, etc. Upon the recommendations of these panels, the Government will determine the control, encouragement and help which different industries may require. Detailed information about the availability and the cost of manufacturing equipment will be made available to the public and the industries concerned.

(The Hindustan Times, 14-11-1946).

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Post-War Reconstruction.

Punjab's Post-War Irrigation Projects: Construction  
of Bhakra Dam and Rasul Power House begin.

The Government of the Punjab has undertaken the construction of Bhakra Dam and Rasul Power House, two of Punjab's eight post-war dam projects (vide page 63 of the report of this office for January, 1946). It is reported that Bhakra Dam, construction of which began early in November 1946, near Rupar in Punjab, will be one of the biggest dams in the world. The whole project is estimated to cost about Rs. 450 million.

Rasul Power House, is a combined hydroelectric hydro and tube-well project against the menace of water-logging, which has already affected two million acres of land and is putting out of cultivation 50,000 acres per year. The power house is estimated to cost about Rs. 100 million.

(The National Call, 9-11-1946;  
The Statesman, 19-11-1946).

Rs. 100 Million Dam Plan for U.P.

The Government of the United Provinces has undertaken the construction of a dam, known as the Nayar Dam, which will provide for storage of the surplus monsoon flow in reservoirs in the Himalayas to be let out under control to supplement the dry weather flow of the main rivers in the U.P. The Nayar Dam is one of the chief post-war projects of the United Provinces Government.

The proposed dam will be 56 miles above Hardwar in the 70-foot wide gorge of the Nayar river and would be 600 feet high above the river bed. This combined storage and power scheme is expected to cost Rs. 100 million and the cost of irrigation channels to utilize the additional supply is expected to be Rs. 10 million. It is anticipated that it will take about eight years to construct the dam.

(The Hindustan Times, 13-11-1946).

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Government's Plans for National Research Laboratories:  
Foundation Stones of two more Laboratories Laid .

Reference was made at pages 65-66 of the report of this Office for December, 1945, to the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, the first in the chain of India's fine National Research Laboratories planned by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, which is under construction at Jadavpur, near Calcutta. The foundation stones of the following two more laboratories were laid in November, 1946 :-

I. National Fuel Research Institute. - Mr. C.H. Rhabha, Member for Works, Mines and Power in the Interim Government, laid the foundation stone of the National Fuel Research Institute at Digwadib, near Dhanbad, on 18-11-1946. The functions of the Institute are to make a survey of Indian coals and to carry out researches on processing with a view to manufacturing metallurgical coke, and investigations on low-temperature carbonization and tar distillation for producing dyes, drugs, plastics, explosives and synthetic liquid fuels. The work of the Institute is divided into a short-term and long-term programme in accordance with the urgent and future needs of the country in respect of fuels.

The buildings of the Institute and the equipment are expected to cost Rs. 1,400,000. The annual recurring expenditure for the first five years will be about Rs. 250,000.

II. National Metallurgical Laboratory. - Mr. C. Rajagopalchari, Education Member in the Interim Government, laid the foundation stone of the National Metallurgical Laboratory of India at Jamshedpur, on 21-11-1946. It is intended to cover all aspects of metallurgical research, both fundamental and applied on ores and refractories and will have a pilot plant for investigations on smelting.

The initial capital cost of the laboratory buildings, equipment and apparatus is estimated at Rs. 4,300,000. The recurring expenditure is expected to be about Rs. 500,000 in the first year. The Tata Iron and Steel Company has announced a grant of Rs. 1,20,000 towards the establishment of the Laboratory. Messrs. Indian Steel and Wire Products and the Mining Metallurgical and Geological Institute of India have also contributed Rs. 100,000 and Rs. 10,000 respectively.

(The Hindustan Times, 19 and  
22-11-1946 ).

Government of India to promote Rail-Road Co-ordination:  
Transport Member's Address at Transport Advisory Council  
Meeting.

The Government of India's plans in the fields of transport development and rail-road co-ordination in India were outlined by Mr. Asaf Ali, Member for Transport in the Interim Government, at the ninth session of the Transport Advisory Council at New Delhi on 28-11-1946.

The cardinal points which should guide India's transport policy, Mr. Asaf Ali stated, were the geographical unity of the country and the evolution of a co-ordinated scheme of all forms of transport. The recognition of the first was dictated by the strategic and economic indivisibility of the country as a whole, and therefore, whatever the future constitution of the country, highways, railways and airways would have to be planned and developed from the long-range point of view of knitting all the territorial units of the country into a harmonious whole.



Rail-Road Co-ordination Tripartite Companies to be promoted.- As regards co-ordination of railway and road transport, the Interim Government was convinced of the need for such co-ordination, and considered that generally speaking, this could best be achieved by the formation of tripartite companies (vide page 76 of the report of this Office for January 1946) so far as passenger transport was concerned. If however any provincial Government did not favour the formation of tripartite companies, but wished to form some other road transport organisation such as a provincialized transport organisation and such a scheme provided for substantial financial participation by the railways, the Central Government, while not objecting to financial participation by the railways, would continue to urge that an equitable adjustment of the existing operators' rights should not be overlooked. As regards goods transport, the general policy was to reserve long-distance traffic for the railways and to allow road transport to cater for short distance and door to door traffic.

Steps to secure Rail-River Co-ordination in North-Eastern India.- Some progress had also been made in the direction of rail-river co-ordination. Some time ago the Government of India had addressed the provincial Governments concerned in the north-eastern part of India and placed before them the major issues involved. Only one of the provinces concerned had so far sent a reply. A memorandum on the subject had been placed before the recently constituted Central Advisory Planning Board, and the Standing Committee of the Legislature would also be consulted in due course.

In the field of road transport, the Transport Member reiterated that it was the intention of the Interim Government to press on with the construction of national highways throughout the length and breadth of India, subject of course to the availability of the necessary funds from the Centre.

(The Statesman, 29-11-1946).

Five-Year Plan for North-Western Frontier to Cost Rs. 100 Million: Schemes to Benefit Tribal Areas.

The Government of North-West Frontier Province has drawn up a five-year plan for simultaneous development of the North-West Frontier Province and the adjoining border region of the tribes, at a cost of Rs. 96,986,000. The plan, which is now awaiting approval of the Central Government, is scheduled to commence on 1-4-1947. The plan envisages a re-organisation of the Province's eight Departments, namely Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Co-operative, Medical, Public Health, Industries and Marketing, Forests and Education on a joint cadre basis for intensive development work both in the tribal areas and in the Province.

Benefit to Tribal Areas.- The plan envisages a big step to bring, for the first time, the 2,400,000 tribesmen of the 25,000 square miles of the border belt on the Frontier, culturally and economically into line with administered India. Explaining why the two parts of the North-West Frontier area have been regarded as a single unit for development purposes, the plan says that without an accommodation with the tribes, which will admit of organised development across the border, the Province cannot develop its own natural resources to the full, nor can it achieve any substantial measure of social progress. In fact, no single one of the six districts which form the North-West Frontier Province, can be separated economically from the tribal area adjoining it, since on the one hand the tribes are dependent on the Province for food and markets,

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and on the other, ~~and~~ the Province relies partly on the tribal areas for many of its raw materials.

The Schemes.- The development plan will incorporate schemes relating to the following items:- (i) Agriculture.- The provincial research station at Farnab will be expanded to deal with soil surveys, crop improvements, plant diseases, etc. A branch of the All-India Fruit Technological Institute will be located at ~~Peshawar~~ Peshawar. There will also be an engineering section consisting of a tractors division and a lift irrigation division. (ii) Animal Husbandry.- Provision has been made for one mobile veterinary unit in each district. (iii) Medical and Public Health.- The plan proposes construction of a new medical college with an associated hospital of 500 beds at Peshawar. It is scheduled to commence in 1947-48. As soon as the new hospital is constructed, the present Lady Reading Hospital will be converted into a Provincial Zenana Hospital. (iv) Education.- The Frontier will have a University and as a first step in this direction, the provincial Government has decided to set up a Committee to examine the question in detail. In order to increase facilities for university education, the plan proposes to raise the Government Intermediate College at Abbottabad to the degree standard and open at Peshawar a new Degree College for Women. (v) Industries.- The plan proposes to enlarge the scope for further large-scale industrial development, such as fruit, drugs, wool, timber, and tobacco. (vi) Forests.- Formation of a new forest division to deal with both conservation and anti-erosion of forests is proposed, while a provincial school for the training of foresters, which was started in 1945, will be continued for during the period of the five-year-plan in Hazara district. (vii) Electric Power.- It is proposed to extend the Malakand hydro-electric scheme in other directions. (viii) Irrigation and Drainage.- Several small irrigation schemes have been prepared. Particular attention will be given to the improvement of Rodkoti Flood Irrigation in Dera Ismail Khan.

Finances.- Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 97 million, Rs. 60.4 million will be provincial and Rs. 36.6 million will be Central. The provincial expenditure includes reserve provision of Rs. 2.9 million for schemes such as complete provincialization of veterinary hospitals; repairs to medical and educational buildings owned by local bodies; conversion of the Municipal Zenana Hospital into ~~the~~ a hostel for staff to be attached to the new Provincial Zenana Hospital; the formation of a university and the formation of a provincial statistical department. The provincial expenditure also includes Rs. 4.9 million on account of residential buildings. Against this the North-West Frontier Province may expect to receive a grant of Rs. 50 million from the Central Government and another Rs. 1.8 million on account of departmental charges recoverable from the Central Government in respect of central civil works and irrigation works in the tribal areas.

(The Hindu, 16-11-1946;  
The Statesman, 17-11-1946).

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50th Session of Indian Railway Conference Association,  
New Delhi, 25-11-1946: Transport Member's Review of  
Present Position of Railways.

The 50th session of the Indian Railway Conference Association was held at New Delhi, on 25-11-1946. Mr. J.F.C. Reynolds, General Manager, South Indian Railway, presided over the session, which was addressed by Mr. Asaf Ali, Member for Transport in the Interim Government.

Presidential Address: Need for Increase in Railway Fares.- In his presidential address, Mr. Reynolds emphasized the need for an immediate increase in railway passenger fares and for an urgent review of the present parcels rate if the railways in India were to remain solvent. The current year was estimated to end up with a deficit of Rs. 104 million and this was likely to increase to a deficit of Rs. 304 million by 1949-50, the cumulative deficit by that year amounting to about Rs. 800 million. He suggested that it would be better to do something now gradually and in stages in the matter of increasing railway fares and the parcels rate rather than ~~leaving~~ leave it until after when there would not only be an annual deficit to be met but also a cumulative loss over the preceding years.

Railway Member's Assurance to Railway Employees.- Addressing the Conference, Mr. Asaf Ali, Member for Transport, assured the railway employees that irksome conditions would not be tolerated a moment beyond the day when a comprehensive survey had made it possible for the Government to bring in new conditions of service and better standards of life. In the meanwhile, however, he urged that every railwayman must consider it a privilege to do an honest job of work in the service of the nation. Railways in India were no longer run by commercial companies as an instrument of exploitation and strikes and inefficient discharge of duties inevitably meant deterioration of revenues besides other consequences to the country's trade and commerce and hardships to vast sections of the population when the movement of essential foodstuffs, fuel and other necessary commodities were either held up or made difficult.

As regards general policy in the field of transport, Mr. Asaf Ali expressed the hope that it would be possible for the Central and provincial Governments and the States to view the development of transportation as a whole and to evolve a co-ordinated scheme of healthy development which might afford the millions of India ever increasing facilities for free movement in maximum comfort. In this connection he urged that all forms and means of transport should be brought within the same focus and shaped altogether by a uniform policy based on the principle of economic and strategic indivisibility and integrity of the whole country. Turning to the financial position of the railways the Transport Member pointed out that during the war period railway rates in India did not run parallel to the general rise of inflationary prices. The trend of the budget figures showed that in the future there could be no escape ~~from~~ from an increase in fares and rates or perhaps both. The question of railway rates was being investigated by the Railway Board and the Government of India had appointed a high power committee to examine the possibilities of effecting prudent economies in all branches of railway administration and suggesting ways and means of increasing earnings (vide page 2/ of this report). In conclusion Mr. Asaf Ali referred to the need for greater research in transport services and held that the establishment of a central scientific research institute of railways was an urgent desideratum, in India.

(The Statesman, 26-11-1946).

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Five-Year Plan for Madras: Original Expenditure to be  
brought down to Rs. 800 Million.

According to a press note, issued in November, 1946, the Government of Madras has decided to revise its five-year plan of post-war development (vide pages 59-63 of the report of this Office for April, 1945), so as to bring down the total expenditure from the originally fixed sum of over Rs. 1,350 million to Rs. 800 million, in view of the reduction of allotment necessitated by the initiation of a "nation-building" programme recently. In making the revision, priority will be given to "schemes of economic development which will increase income of the people and their taxable capacity" and those providing for social amelioration and consequent heavy recurring expenditure will be comparatively slowed down.

Revised Road Plan.- The Government of India has informed the Government of Madras that the expenditure tentatively approved, on National Highways in the province for the five-year period commencing April 1, 1947 is Rs. 25 million and the Chief Engineer (Highways) has accordingly been asked to revise the proposals for works on National Highways, for the reduced allotment. After examination of the proposals submitted by the Chief Engineer (Highways) for the revision of the programme so far as it related to roads other than National Highways, the Government has decided that in the light of the general principles enunciated above, a five-year programme costing about Rs. 70 million might be drawn up for the present and that the question of increasing the allotment may be considered, say after two years, if more funds become available. The above allotment of Rs. 70 million will be exclusive of an allotment of Rs. 8 million for increased expenditure on maintenance of roads newly formed or improved under the post-war plan and the allotment for tools and plant which is provisionally fixed at Rs. 17.5 million pending receipt of the report due ~~possibility~~ from the Chief Engineer in regard to the possibility of reducing expenditure on tools and plant for the Department. The total allotment for the road plan for the first quinquennium of Post-War Development, excluding National Highways, will thus be Rs. 95.5 million. The available funds should be distributed generally in keeping with the needs of each area in the Province, 60 per cent being allotted for works on Provincial Highways and Major Districts roads and 40 per cent on other District roads and village roads. In view of the curtailment of the programme it may not be possible to adhere to the target of providing road connection to all villages with a population of over 500 each. This target should however be kept in view in drawing up the revised programme.

The Chief Engineer has been requested to draw up a revised five-year plan and a project estimate in accordance with the above instructions and with the instructions issued by the Government from time to time in regard to individual works and to fix priority for the works and submit them for the approval of Government as expeditiously as possible and in any case not later than 31-3-1947.

(The Hindu, dated 14-11-1946).

List of the more important publications received in this Office during  
November, 1946

National Labour Legislation

- 1) The Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 35 of 1946, of Ceylon.
- 2) The Medical Wants (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 36 of 1946, of Ceylon.

Economic Conditions

Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay, 1945. 1946.

Migration

Memorandum on the position of Indians in the Union of South Africa, submitted to the United Nations. (1946). Government of India.

Agriculture

Summary of the Report of the Prices Sub-Committee of the Policy Committee of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Department of Agriculture, Government of India. Printed by the Superintendent at the Government Press, Jaipur. 1946.

Professional Workers, Salaried Employees and Public Servants

Interim Report of Conversion Committee. October 1946. Ceylon Sessional Paper XIX - 1946. Printed at the Ceylon Government Press, Colombo. 1946.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.

Proceedings of the First All-India Textile Conference, held on 9th, 10th and 11th March, 1944. The Textile Association (India), Bombay.

Social Conditions

Census of India 1941, Vol. XXI, H.E.H. the Nizam's Dominions (Hyderabad State). Part I - Report by Mazhar Husain, M.A., B.Sc. Census Commissioner and Director of Statistics. Government Central Press, Hyderabad-Deccan. 1945. Price Rs.7/=.