

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH
- - - - -

Industrial and Labour Developments in July, 1947.

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

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATIONS

Second Session of Permanent Agricultural Committee, Geneva,
August 1947: India to urge greater attention to Asian Problems.

An unofficial note dated 4-8-1947 issued by the Press Information Bureau of the Government of India announced that Mr. V. Narayanan of the Labour Department in the Government of India would be attending the second session of the Permanent Agricultural Committee of the International Labour Organisation scheduled to begin at Geneva on 4-8-1947, and indicated the attitude the Indian member was likely to take on the main subjects on the agenda.

Need for urgent attention to Asian Agricultural problems.- The Indian member, the note declared, would bring home to the Committee the urgent necessity on the part of the I.L.O. to make amends for its past neglect of agricultural labour, particularly in Asian countries, by emphasising the sense of disappointment in India as well as in other Asian countries arising from a feeling that whatever the Organisation had so far done for agricultural workers was related more to conditions prevalent in the western countries than in the undeveloped areas of the East. He would, therefore, urge that the study of Asian agricultural labour problems should be speedily taken up by the I.L.O. so that appropriate national and international policies could be formulated to bring about a rapid improvement in the living standards of these workers.

Fixation of Agricultural Wages.- On the question of the fixation of minimum wages for agricultural workers the Government of India believed that the evolution of a satisfactory system of wage fixation in Asian countries could only be achieved by a method of experimentation. Also, the Government of India was of the opinion that it would be better for the agricultural workers in Asia if international arrangements related to wage fixation rather than solely to the fixation of minimum wages. The wage fixing authority would then be able to fix reasonable wages from time to time taking into account relevant factors of the national or regional economy. As productivity increased, the wages could be raised, and the machinery utilised to obtain for the workers the highest practicable standard of living.

Extension of Protection to Tenants.- Another suggestion likely to be put forward on behalf of the Government of India was that the measure of protection, devised for agricultural wage-earners, should also extend to tenants-at-will or share-tenants, who cultivated nearly 20 to 25 per cent of the total sown area in India.

2

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Bombay:

X

Draft of Bombay Industrial Disputes Rules, 1947,
gazetted: Procedure for setting up Industrial
Tribunal.

The Government of Bombay has published this month the draft of certain rules it proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred by section 38 of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947. The rules prescribe the procedure to be followed in referring an industrial dispute to a Tribunal and lay down the powers, procedure and duties of such Tribunals. The draft will be taken into consideration on or after 10-7-1947.

(The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary, dated 28-5-1947, Part IV-A, pages 112-115).

Central Provinces and Berar:

K

C.P. and Berar Industrial Disputes Rules, 1947.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 38 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar has gazetted this month the C.P. and Berar Industrial Disputes Rules, 1947. The Rules prescribe the procedure to be followed in referring industrial disputes to a Court of Enquiry or Industrial Tribunal constituted under the Act. The Rules further lay down the procedure to be followed by such Courts or Tribunals and define their powers and duties.

(Labour Department, Notification No.56-1334-XXVI, dated 22-7-1947, The Central Provinces and Berar Gazette, 25-7-1947, Part III, page 407).

Madras :

Sugar Industry declared Public Utility Service
under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2(n)(VI) of the ~~Industrial~~ Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Government of Madras has declared the sugar industry in the province to be a public utility service under the provisions of the Act, for a period of six months from 29-7-1947.

(G.O. MS. No. 3200, Development, dated 22-7-1947, published in the Fort St. George Gazette, 29-7-1947, Part I, page 632).

Draft Amendment to Payment of Wages Rules, 1937.

Reference was made at pages 6 and 7 of the report of this Office for February 1947, to the extension of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, to plantations, tramways and motor omnibus services, in Madras. The Government of Madras has now published the draft of certain consequential amendments it proposes to make in the Madras Payment of Wages Rules, 1937.

By the amendments, the provisions of the said Rules are, mutatis mutandis made applicable to all the industrial establishments to which the provisions of the Act have been extended. The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 30-11-1947.

(G.O. MS No. 5169, dated 21-7-1947, Rules Supplement to Part I of the Fort St. George Gazette, 29-7-1947, pages 157-158).

~~Madras Non-Power Factories Bill, 1947~~

Madras Non-Power Factories Bill, 1947: Select Committee
liberalises Provisions for Holidays with Pay.

The Select Committee of the Madras Legislative Assembly appointed to consider the Madras Non-Power Factories Bill, 1947 (vide pages 3-4 of the report of this Office for January, 1947), at its meeting on 23-7-1947, is understood to have amended the clause in the Bill relating to the provision of holidays with pay. The Bill, as introduced, provided for not less than ten holidays being given in a year to a worker who had put in a continuous service for twelve months. The amendment which was carried by a majority of the Committee seeks to provide "for 15 days as privilege leave, 15 days as casual leave and 15 days as sick leave with pay of which at least ten days privilege leave shall be consecutive". It is further reported that the amendment is not acceptable to the Government of Madras.

(The Hindu, dated 24-7-1947).

4

Madras Shops and Establishment, Bill, 1947:
Modifications proposed by Select Committee.

The Select Committee of the Madras Legislative Assembly, appointed to consider the Madras Shops and Establishment, Bill 1947 (vide page 3 of the report of this office for January, 1947), at a meeting held on 21-7-1947 is understood to have decided to modify the clause relating to leave for employees so as to provide for ten days' privilege leave and ten days' sickness leave in a year. Another change made in the Bill is that it is to apply to all municipalities and major panchayats.

(The Hindu, dated 22-7-1947).

Madras Weekly Holidays Rules, 1947, gazetted.

The draft of the Madras Weekly Holidays Rules published during in January 1946 (vide page 3 of the report of this office for January 1946), has now been approved and the Rules, as finally framed, were gazetted on 1-7-1947. R

(G.O. No. 2733, Development 23-6-1947,
Rules Supplement to Part I of the Fort St.
George Gazette, dated 1-7-1947, pages
139-141).

Sind:

Sind Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Rules, 1947, gazetted.

R

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 15 of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, the Government of Sind has now finally framed and gazetted the Sind Industrial (Standing Orders) Rules, 1947.

The Rules prescribe the form in which owners or managers of industrial establishments shall submit for certification copies of the draft standing orders framed by them and the procedure to be followed by the certifying officer before he certifies such ~~and~~ drafts, ~~and~~ also include a copy of Model Standing Orders framed by the Sind Government for the purposes of the Act.

(The Sind Government Gazette, dated 24-7-1947, Part IV-A, pages 491-498).

Burma:

Burma Trade Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1947:
Provision for Compulsory Arbitration by
Court of Industrial Arbitration.

X R

The Government of Burma gazetted on 16-6-1947 the Trade Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1947. The Act received the assent of the Governor of Burma on 9-7-1947 and is to come into force on a date to be notified later.

Provision for Compulsory Arbitration.— The new amending Act empowers the Government of Burma, inter alia, to refer a trade dispute to the arbitration of the Industrial Court if it is satisfied that (a) by reason of the continuance of the dispute—(i) a serious outbreak of disorder or a breach of the public peace is likely to occur, or (ii) serious or prolonged hardship to a large section of the ~~community~~ community is likely to be ~~caused~~ caused, or (iii) ~~serious~~ the industry concerned is likely to be seriously affected or the prospects and scope of employment curtailed; or (b) the dispute is not likely to be settled by other means; or (c) ~~the~~ it is necessary in the public interest to do so. The award of the Court will come into ~~force~~ operation on the date specified in the award or, when no such date has been specified therein, on the date on which it is published by the Government and will be binding on all parties to the trade dispute who appeared or were represented before the Court and all parties who were summoned to appear as parties to the dispute whether they appeared or not, unless the Industrial Court is of opinion that they were improperly made parties. It is further provided that if any party or person on whom the award is binding fails to carry out the terms of any award of the Industrial Court he shall, on conviction, be ~~punishable~~ punishable with fine which may extend to Rs. 1,000 for every day on which the terms of the award are not carried out.

6

Composition of Court of Industrial Arbitration.- In pursuance of the above object the amending Act empowers the Governor of Burma to constitute a Court of Industrial Arbitration which shall consist of three or more members, one of whom shall be its Chairman. The Chairman it is provided should be a barrister or an advocate of not less than five years' standing. Every member of the Industrial Court should be a person who is not connected with any industry, but in respect of any particular reference, the Governor is empowered to appoint a person who possesses expert knowledge of industrial matters to advise the Industrial Court matters connected with or arising out of the dispute under reference.

Other important changes introduced by the amending Act are the power given to Government to appoint conciliation officers and ~~amending with the definition of public~~ a widening of the definition of public utility service.

Conciliation Officers.- Under the provisions of the amending Act the Government may ~~by~~ by notification in the official gazette, appoint Conciliation Officers, charged with the duty of mediating in or promoting the settlement of trade disputes. Such Conciliation Officers may be appointed for a specified area or for specified businesses, industries or undertakings in a specified area or for one or more specified businesses, industries, or undertakings and either permanently or for a limited period.

Public Utility Services.- The Act as at present amended also authorises the Government of Burma to declare any water transport service carrying passengers, to whose vessels any of the provisions of the Inland Steam Vessels Act apply, or any port service, to be a public utility service for the purposes of the Act.

(Burma Act No. XXXV of 1947, The Burma Gazette Extraordinary, dated 16-7-1947, pages 1-3).

7

SOCIAL POLICY.

Committee to revise Labour Legislation:
Burma Government's Move.

The Government of Burma has had under active consideration the question of bringing labour legislation up-to-date by amending the existing enactments and introducing such fresh legislation as may be necessary, with a view to ensuring that both the employer and the employed get a fair deal and the task of rehabilitation proceeds smoothly (vide page 9 of the report of this Office for June 1947). It is now announced that the Government has decided to set up a small Committee, with Mr. M.A. Rasheed, B.Sc., B.L., as Chairman, to advise Government on the matter. The other members of the Committee are: Mr. A.C. Baker, Director of Labour; U Kun Zaw, Deputy Director of Labour; U Ba Swe, General Secretary, A.F.P.F.L.; and U Win, B.A., B.Ed., President, Trade Union Congress (Burma).

Terms of Reference.— The resolution announcing the appointment of the committee requires it to examine all existing labour legislation and recommend to the Government such amendments thereto and such new legislation as may be necessary in order to secure amicable relations between employer and employed. In particular, the Committee is required to recommend measures to ensure to labour (a) fair and reasonable terms and conditions of work and employment; (b) adequate protection against accidents and other hazards ~~incidental~~ incidental to employment, and fair compensation in case of death or injury resulting from accidents occurring in the course of employment; (c) housing and other amenities; and (d) provision against old age and unemployment.

The Committee is also to make recommendations in regard to legislation for setting up machinery for the conciliation and settlement of industrial disputes.

(The Burma Gazette, dated 19-7-1947,
Supplement, pages 360-361).

Meeting of Bengal Labour Advisory Board:
Employment in Inland Waterways Service
to be regulated.

Reference was made at page 8 of the report of this Office for March 1947, to the proposal by the Government of Bengal to set up a Labour Advisory Board for the Province. The Board has since been constituted and at a meeting held recently at Calcutta the Board decided to appoint a sub-committee to consider legislation for regulating employment in the Inland Waterways Service. The Committee will be under the chairmanship of the Labour Commissioner, Government of Bengal, and will be composed of four representatives from labour unions, four from employers' organisations and two Government representatives.

8

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, Minister for Commerce, Labour and Industries, Government of Bengal, appealed for the co-operation of workers and employers to make the Board a useful instrument for ameliorating the condition of the working classes of the province and promoting harmony between capital and labour. The Minister emphasised that there had been few opportunities so far for employers and employees for exchange of views and accommodation of each other's wishes. Referring to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, he pointed out that as it was in nobody's interests that disputes should be prolonged, a stage might be reached necessitating reference by Government to an industrial Tribunal for compulsory arbitration.

(The Indian Textile Journal, June, 1947).

Bihar Government to set up Standing Labour
Advisory Board.

X

At a tripartite conference of representatives of the Bihar Government, employers and labour held at Patna on 18-5-1947 on the initiative of Mr. A.N. Sinha, Finance Minister, Government of Bihar, it was decided to set up organization to be known as the "Bihar Standing Labour Advisory Board" consisting of representatives of the Government, Labour and Industry.

Addressing the Conference, Mr. Sinha stressed the importance of co-operation among the Government, employers and workers.

(The Indian Textile Journal, June, 1947).

9

Compulsory Arbitration in Agrarian Disputes:
Madras considering Proposals.

It is understood that Government of Madras is considering the question whether it may not be desirable for the Government to arm itself with statutory powers to intervene in agrarian disputes in the province, refer them for conciliation or arbitration and in the event of a settlement, enforce it on the parties. Such powers, it is considered, may be necessary for the Government to possess in view of the landlord-kisan trouble in many districts and the apprehension that it may intensify during the coming transplantation season in some of the delta tracts.

(The Hindu, dated 11-7-1947).

U.P. Labour Enquiry Committee: Mr. Nimbkar
appointed Chairman.

Reference was made at page 9 of the report of this Office for December 1946 to the appointment by the Government of the United Provinces of a Labour Inquiry Committee with Mr. R.R. Bakhale as Chairman. The United Provinces Government has now announced that Mr. R.S. Nimbkar has been appointed Chairman of the Committee in place of Mr. Bakhale who has resigned for reasons of ill-health.

(The Hindustan Times, 4-7-1947).

Women's Work.

Working Conditions of Women in Services:
All-India Women's Conference to Investigate.

At a meeting of the Standing Committee of the All-India Women's Conference, held at Jubbulpore in the last week of July, Miss Kapila Khandwala was authorised by the Committee to investigate the working conditions of women in services and other professions. She will submit her report by November 1947.

(The Hindustan Times, 31-7-1947).

11

Wages.

Ahmedabad Textile Workers to get one-fifth of 1946
Earnings as Bonus: Bombay Industrial Court's Award.

The Bombay Industrial Court gave its award on 16-7-1947 in a dispute between the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, and the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association over the question of the grant of a bonus to the workers for the year 1946.

According to the award all employees earning 250 rupees or less per month will be given one-fifth of their earnings in 1946 as bonus. Those who ~~worked~~ worked for less than 75 but more than 32 days during the year will get 50 per cent of the bonus sanctioned while those who worked for less than 32 days will not be eligible for the bonus.

The bonus is to be paid in a lump sum on or before 8-8-1947 to all existing employees. Employees who are not working at present but are entitled to the bonus will get it on 11-9-1947 provided the claims are submitted in time.

(The Times of India, 17-7-1947).

Increased Wages for U.P. Textile Workers:
Employers' Associations' Decision.

At a meeting of the United Provinces Labour Inquiry Committee (vide page 9 of the report of this Office for December 1946), held on 24-7-1947, the employers' representative, announced that all the textile mills in the province which were members of the Employers' Association of Northern India had decided to grant a 12½ per cent increase in basic wages as they stood on 1-9-1939, ~~including~~ including in all categories, including clerical and ~~Wathband~~ Watch and Ward staff, with effect from 1-7-1947.

Basic wages of the textile workers in the province had remained unaltered since 1939, but to neutralize the rise in the cost of living, employers had been granting dearness allowances. The Committee, it is understood, will shortly submit an interim report to the Government on the question of basic wage, bonus, dearness allowances, etc.

(The Statesman, dated 26-7-1947).

19

Contractors' Labour Eligible for Bonus:
Adjudicator's award in Meerut Sugar Mill
Dispute.

In a dispute in the Diwar Sugar Mills, Meerut, the adjudicator in his award has, among other things, recommended that bonus is payable to the contractor's labour under the same terms and conditions as for the mill employees.

(Indian News Chronicle, 1-7-1947).

Textile Workers in C.P. to get One-Fourth of
1946-47 Earnings as Bonus: Industrial Tribunal's
Award.

In a dispute relating to the grant of bonus to the workers in the textile mills in the Central Provinces and Berar the Industrial Tribunal set up by the Provincial Government has ruled that one-fourth of their total earnings during the year ~~ended~~ should be paid to the workers of all the ten textile mills in the province as bonus for the year 1946-47. The total earnings include overtime earnings, ~~and~~ basic wage paid for holidays with pay and maternity allowances drawn by women workers, but not the existing dearness allowance, regularity bonus or war bonus. As the bonus is to be paid in the year of Indian Independence it is to be called ~~the~~ "Independence Bonus" and is to be paid on or before 14-8-1947.

The main point of contention was whether the grant of bonus to workers was an ex-gratia payment. On this point the Tribunal was in full agreement with the judgement recently awarded by the Bombay Industrial Court that when wages fell short of the living wage standard and the industry made huge profits, the demand for a bonus was justified and was an "industrial matter" (vide pages 13-14 of the report of this Office for June 1947).

The following table gives the comparative figures as to the amounts of bonus paid by the Central Provinces and Berar Textile Industry and the Bombay Textile Industry during the years 1941 to 1946.

C.P. and Berar.

Bombay.

| <u>year</u> | <u>Quantum</u> |
|-----------------|---|
| 1941-42 | 1/5th of the year's basic earnings. |
| 1942-43 | 1/4th of the year's basic earnings. |
| 1943-44 | 1/4th of the year's basic earnings. |
| 1944-45 | 1/4th of the year's basic earnings. |
| 1945 | |
| 1945-46 | 1/4th of the year's basic earnings with certain conditions. |
| 1946-47 | |

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Quantum</u> |
|-------------|--|
| 1941 | 1/8th of the year's basic earnings. |
| 1942 | 1/6th of the year's basic earnings. |
| 1943 | 1/6th of the year's basic earnings. |
| 1944 | 1/4th of the year's basic earnings, including Victory Bonus. |
| 1945 | 1/6th of the year's basic earnings. |
| 1946 | 1/5th of the year's basic earnings. |

(C.P. and Berar Gazette Extraordinary, dated 30-7-1947, pages 221-222).

14

Forced labour.

Labour Levies on Tenants abolished in
Hazara District in North-west Frontier
Province.

Following certain amendments to the Punjab Tenancy Act, the Government of the North-West Frontier Province is understood to have abolished from 1-6-1947, forced labour and all other similar services traditionally rendered by tenants to the landlords in the Hazara district of the Province. All customary ~~levies~~ known as "habu Bat", ~~whether in kind or in cash~~, have also been abolished. Landlords who ~~wish to do so~~ have, however, been given the right to submit applications to revenue courts for the commutation of the traditional services hitherto rendered by the tenants to a fixed cash payment. The court would issue a notice to the tenant to the purpose. If the tenant opposes the applications, he shall have to render the services; otherwise, the court will fix the amount which would be payable along with land revenue.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 13-7-1947).

Strikes by land-less serfs in Bombay Province:
Higher Wages demanded.

Widespread strikes by 'halis' (अग्रज agricultural labourers attached to land owners) occurred in various villages of Surat district in Bombay Province during the first half of July, 1947. Reports of incidents involving injuries to halis have also been published in the Press.

According to the Secretary of the Gujrat District Kisan Sabha, halis numbering about 150,000, form nearly 70 per cent of the ~~agricultural~~ agriculture labour in the district of Surat. They have been demanding a minimum wage of one rupee per day. They are paid at present four annas per head per day or three pounds of jowar (millet) ~~per~~ on days when they are employed.

(The Hindu, dated 20-7-1947).

15

Industrial Disputes.

Industrial Stoppages in British India during April, 1947.

According to statistics published in the June, 1947, issue of the Indian Labour Gazette, the number of industrial disputes in British India during April 1947 was 120 (including 52 disputes in progress at the beginning of the month); the number of workers involved and the number of man-days lost were 141,408 and 1,656,164 respectively. Of the total disputes, 78 ended during the month and 42 were in progress at the end.

Classification by Industries and Provinces.- Classified by industries, 50 of the 120 disputes occurred in cotton, woollen and silk group, 14 in engineering, 5 each in the collieries and plantations, 4 in jute and 2 each in transport and railways (including railway workshops). 58 disputes occurred in the "miscellaneous" group. Classified according to provinces 8 strikes were reported from Ajmer-Merwara, 4 from Assam, 48 from Bengal, 14 from Bihar, 12 from the Central Provinces and Berar, 2 from Delhi, 10 from Madras, 6 from Sind and 16 from the United Provinces.

Causes and Results of Disputes.- Wages, allowances, and bonuses, formed the main cause in 51.4 per cent of the disputes for which causes are known, representing 66.1 per cent of the workers involved; while 14.7 per cent of the disputes representing 4.3 per cent of the workers involved related to grievances about personnel. Out of the disputes which ended during the month, and of which results are known, 51.6 per cent representing 70.9 per cent of the workers involved resulted in complete or partial success for the workers, while in 25 per cent of the disputes representing 11 per cent of the workers involved, the workers were wholly unsuccessful.

Note:- The statistics are incomplete as no return was received from Bombay Province.

(Indian Labour Gazette, June, 1947).

Industrial Disputes in British India during 1946: Big Increase over 1945 Figures.

Number of Stoppages and Man-days Lost.- The total number of industrial disputes in British India, excluding the Punjab, in 1946 was 1,629 as against 820 in 1945 and 406 in 1939, implying an increase of 98.7 per cent over the 1945 figures and 301.2 per cent over the 1939 figures. The number of workers involved rose from 747,530 in 1945 to 1,91,948 in 1946, i.e. by 162.5 per cent; the total loss to industry as measured by man-days lost increased from 4,054,499 to 12,717,762, i.e. by 213.7 per cent.

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Effect of disputes on Industries.- Cotton, woollen and silk mills accounted for 38.7 per cent of the disputes, 53.6 per cent of the workers involved and 41.7 per cent of the man-days lost. Next came the Engineering industry accounting for 8.2 per cent of the disputes, 5.2 per cent of the workers involved and 19.9 per cent of the total man-days lost. The overall loss to industry due to industrial disputes in 1946 measured in man-days lost, was about 3.1 times the loss in 1945. This, however, was not uniformly distributed over the several industries. Man-days lost per worker in mines was 10.1 while in other industries, it was round about the average figure of 6.5, being 5.0 in cotton, woollen and silk mills, 6.0 in jute mills and 6.6 in the miscellaneous group.

Causes and Results.- During the year under review there was a substantial decrease in the proportion of disputes relating to wages and bonus as compared to 1945 with a corresponding increase in the proportion of 'other' causes. While the over-all percentage of disputes over wages in 1946, was 37.1, the percentage was only about 24 in cotton, woollen and silk mills, 27 in the jute mills and 10 in Railways. In the miscellaneous group, the percentage was, however, about 54, while in the Engineering group it was about average. Grievances about personnel were proportionately about the highest in jute mills being over 28 per cent, compared to the over-all average of 17.2.

Unsuccessful disputes formed a higher percentage than the average in cotton, woollen and silk mills, being about 55 per cent while in railways, they formed only about 21 per cent. 50 per cent of the disputes in Railways were classified as 'indefinite'. The proportion of successful and partially successful disputes in the cotton, woollen and silk mills was comparatively much less being only about 14 and 12 per cent respectively. Unsuccessful disputes were proportionally higher in Bombay and Bengal which are the more organised centres of the textile industries. A significant downward trend had been observed in man-days lost per worker involved over the period 1939 to 1945. But in 1946, man-days lost per worker involved showed a slight increase over the 1945 level, the figures being 5.4 in 1945 and 6.5 in 1946. But, as compared to the 1939 figure of 12.2, the 1946 figure was much less. A further analysis for 1946 showed that the ratio stood at 4.3 in Bombay, 5.9 in Madras and 9.9 the highest, in Bengal. The latter was mostly due to prolonged strikes in the Engineering industry, which accounted for 25.1 per cent of the total man-days lost in the year.

Classification by Provinces.- Classified according to provinces there were 542 strikes in Bombay involving 778, 113 workers, and 369 in Bengal involving 475,005 workers. The total number of man-days lost however, was greater in Bengal, being nearly 4,700,000 as compared to about 3,300,000 in Bombay, Bengal and Bombay together accounted for nearly two-thirds of the total loss to industry on this account.

The strike wave in 1946 rose in intensity and scope in March, reached peak heights in July and remained at a high level upto August. Then it declined.

(The Statesman, dated 25-7-1947;
Unofficial Note dated 22-7-1947, issued by
the Press Information Bureau, Government of
India).

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Holidays.

Dispute relating to "Compulsory Leave" in Sugar
Factories in U.P.: Terms of Settlement.

A dispute between certain sugar factories in the United Provinces and their employees relating to the right of the factories to insist on the grant of "compulsory leave" to their employees during the slack season was referred to a Conciliation Board on 8-4-1947 by the United Provinces Government. The Board has succeeded in bringing ~~maximal~~ ~~maximal~~ about a settlement of the dispute and the settlement is binding on all the sugar factories in U.P. and the workmen employed in them.

The dispute: 'Compulsory Leave' in sugar factories. - There are today 55 sugar factories working in the United Provinces and these together employ about 70,000 workmen. The workers in the sugar factories fall into two categories - seasonal or temporary workers, who are employed either for the ~~seasonal~~ crushing season or for some temporary work and permanent workers who work not only during the crushing season, but also in the off season for work like repair and overhauling. The great majority of the workers fall in the first category, e.g., in April 1947, in 38 factories, out of a total number of 43,053 employees of all categories only 7,881 were permanent. Even the permanent workers, however, have no guarantee of employment all the year round as in most factories they are compelled to take "compulsory leave" during the slack period following the crushing season. In respect of this leave, the employee has no option either as to its time or its period or the allowance payable for the ~~paid~~ period and enquiries undertaken by the Conciliation Board have revealed the period of 'compulsory leave' ranges from one to four months.

Main features of settlement: Compulsory leave limited two months on half pay. - The settlement between the ~~sugar~~ sugar factories and their employees which has now been negotiated by the Conciliation Board lays down that normally there should be no occasion for compulsory leave to permanent employees. When, however, the crushing season in any factory is less than 90 days, ~~maximum~~ compulsory leave not exceeding two months, in addition to the privilege leave admissible under the rules of the factory, may be granted to permanent workers. Also in exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the factories, e.g., breakage of machinery, disease in sugarcane, or an abnormally short season, compulsory leave for a period longer than two months, may be granted by a factory but only with the express approval of the Indian Sugar Syndicate Ltd., after consultation with the United Provinces and Bihar Sugar Mills Workers' Federation. During such periods of compulsory leave the ~~worker~~ workers shall not be asked to vacate the quarters or deposit the ~~material~~ materials supplied to them by the factory for private use. In cases where house rent was paid to any workers in lieu of quarters, the worker will continue to receive it even during the period of compulsory leave. Every employee sent on compulsory leave, again, will have the right to re-employment on the termination of the leave. Finally, the settlement stipulates that during the period of the compulsory leave, all permanent employees shall be entitled to fifty per cent of their consolidated wages. In addition, every employee living beyond ten miles of the factory and travelling by rail will be entitled from the factory to single fare both ways. (The Government Gazette of the United Provinces, Extraordinary, dated 18-6-1947).

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Welfare.

Welfare Activities in Factories in Madras
during 1945.

The following ~~informa~~ information regarding the progress of welfare measures among factory workers in Madras is taken from a memorandum published by the Government of Madras reviewing the administration of the Factories Act, 1934, in the province during 1945. According to the memorandum there was during the year a general improvement in welfare work. The health of the workers was generally good and ~~respirators~~ respirators and facemasks were issued to persons employed in dust-laden rooms.

Provision of Housing and Other Amenities.— As regards particular welfare measures, following table shows the details of housing accommodation and other facilities provided up to the end of 1944, during 1945 and the total up to the end of 1945:—

| | Number of ^{existing} factories up to the end of 1944. | During 1945 | Total up to the end of 1945. |
|--|--|-------------|------------------------------|
| Housing accommodation.... | 88 | 12 | 100 |
| Schools..... | 24 | 4 | 28 |
| Co-operative societies and stores..... | 56 | 10 | 66 |
| Canteens..... | 69 | 31 | 100 |
| Pantries..... | - | 35 | - |
| Savings schemes..... | 53 | 1 | 54 |
| Medical facilities..... | 108 | 10 | 118 |
| Creches..... | 17 | - | 17 |
| Recreation clubs..... | 22 | 1 | 25 |

The housing accommodation was in some cases free of rent. In one case the children of workers were given one free meal daily. 5 factories distributed foodgrains at cheap or concessional rates or fair prices to their workers. A radio set was installed in one factory for the entertainment of the workers. Another factory contributed 12,000 rupees towards the educational facilities for the workers' children and 10,000 rupees to the co-operative store to enable it to sell cloth at 12½ per cent less than the cost price during religious festivals, such as Dipavali, Christmas, etc. Contributions to co-operative stores were also made by various other factories.

(Madras Government G.O. No. 1987, dated
5-5-1947, Report on the Working of the
Factories Act in the Province of Madras
for the year 1945).

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Municipal Labour Welfare Centre opened in
Hyderabad.

On 19-7-1947, a Municipal Labour Welfare Centre, the first of its kind in Hyderabad State, was opened at Doralgooda by the State's Labour Minister, Mr. Abdur Rahim.

The Centre has nursery classes and looks after the children of working women when ~~short~~ their mothers are at work. It conducts lessons in sewing and needle work, hygiene and dietetics. It also provides in-door and out-door games and adult educational facilities.

Three more such centres in different localities are expected to be opened shortly.

(The Hindu, dated 22-7-1947).

Welfare of Madras Corporation labourers:
labour enquiry officer appointed.

The Finance Committee of the Madras Corporation has agreed to the appointment of an officer to attend to the welfare of labourers employed by the Corporation.

There are about 8,500 permanent and 2,500 casual labourers employed by the Madras Corporation and since 1943 the Government has been stressing the desirability of having a Welfare Officer. The Corporation while agreeing with the Government had pointed out that a whole time officer was necessary to devote full attention to the welfare of the workers and to keep the administration informed of their grievances and to devise ways and means to redress them from time to time. The Committee has now sanctioned the proposal and has also recommended that the designation of the Officer might be changed from Labour Welfare Officer to Labour Enquiry Officer.

(The Hindu, dated 25-7-1947).

General.

Jute Workers in Bengal: Trade Union Congress demands better working conditions.

Reference was made at page 65 of the report of this office for June 1947, to the various grievances of the jute workers of Bengal and to the formation of a Federation of Jute Mill Workers under the aegis of the Indian National Trade Union Congress.

Representatives of jute workers' unions affiliated to the All-India Trade Union Congress, met in their turn, at a Conference held at Gondolpara (Hooghly) on 31-5-1947 and unanimously decided to "resort to direct action at their earliest convenience" if their basic demands were not met within a month".

The main demands of the workers were: a minimum living wage of 40 rupees per month and dearness allowance 45 rupees; three months' wages as profit-sharing bonus; provision of adequate housing, pending such provision, a house allowance of 10 rupees; 40-hour weekend 8-hour day; reopening of requisitioned mills, and stopping of night shifts; service rules, including provision for adequate leave facilities, gratuities, etc.; medical and educational facilities; and recognition of trade unions. The one month's ultimatum served on Government and the employers declared that pending final settlement of the above basic demands, the workers were prepared to accept, as an interim measure of relief, wages and allowances on the basis of the Pay Commission's recommendations.

Justifying the demands of the workers, "People's Age", the official journal of the Communist Party in India, points out that the Rego Committee had admitted that the jute workers were considerably worse off than workers of any other comparable major Indian industry. The following figures relating to the wages, allowances, etc., earned by the workers in the jute industry and the profits made by the owners during the war years are summarised for from a box published in the "People's Age" dated 29-6-1947.

Monthly Basic Wage:-

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Coolies, sweepers, receivers, feeders, etc. | between 15-15 to 15 rupees. |
| Dyers, shifters, rovers, etc. | " 16-10 to 20 " |
| Spinners, Beamers (starting) | " 22 to 25 " |
| Weavers. | " 32 to 60 " |
| Weavers (average) | about 48 rupees. |

Dearness Allowance:-

Till 31-5-1947-----Rs. 12 per month, plus Rs.5 cheap grains.

Owners' Profits:-

| | Rupees in Millions |
|--|--------------------|
| <u>54 Mills:</u> | |
| Total paid-up Capital in 1946 | 186.4 |
| Reserve Fund | 175.0 |
| Cash and Securities in hand | 10.0 |
| <u>77 Companies:</u> | |
| Yearly average net profits (1935-39) | 15.7 |
| Yearly average net profits (1940-44) | 41.0 |
| Half-yearly yearly average net profits (Jan-June 1945) | 29.7 |
| Total net profits (five war years) | 210.0 |

(Amritabazar Patrika, 10-7-1947; People's Age, 29-6-1947).

21

Bombay Government Scheme for decasualising
Textile Labour: Millowners' Opposition.

The Government of Bombay has recently formulated a scheme for the decasualisation of textile labour in the province. The main features of the scheme are:- (a) The employment of badli (substitute) labour in individual mills will be regulated through the Exchange. Every mill will be bound to accept the badli workers allotted to it by the Exchange and no badli can be employed by a mill except through the Exchange. (b) Mills will be expected to accept legal and financial responsibilities for training labour according to methods approved by Government and no mill will be expected to work any training scheme which has not been previously approved by Government. (c) The whole ~~extra~~ cost of the Exchange and the training of labour will be recovered from the mills.

Millowners' opposition to Scheme.- The Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association has, however, opposed the scheme mainly on the following grounds:- (i) It is unnecessary, as several mills in Bombay have their own schemes for regulating the employment of badli labour. The strength of "badli" labour in each mill is adjusted according to its own requirements. (ii) The Association is unable to recommend members to accept any commitment regarding trainees and the method of training. Facilities are already available at the Textile Technical School of the Social Service League and the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute. (iii) The Association is also unable to accept any financial responsibility for either the introduction or working of the Exchange or the training of labour. (iv) In Bombay, a new worker becomes attached to a mill as a badli, temporary or permanent employee under the following, among other, circumstances:- (a) Proximity of the mill to the worker's place of residence. (b) Friends and relations working in the mill, and other similar reasons. In the circumstances, the Committee of the Association has grave doubts whether the workers themselves will like to have the scheme, proposed by Government, under which they may have to go and work wherever the Exchange asks them to go.

In conclusion the Committee has complained that the Government is seeking to interfere in a matter which is after all the domestic concern of the industry, imposing incidentally an unnecessary financial burden on the Industry.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the
Committee during the month of June, 1947;
the Millowners' Association Bombay).

22

Recommendations of Court of Enquiry on Tobacco and
Tanning Industries in Madras: Further Details.

Reference was made at page 33 of the report of this office for June 1947 to the report of the Court of Enquiry on labour conditions in the tobacco curing and allied industries and the tanning industry in Madras Province. Further details of the Court's suggestions for the improvement of working conditions in these industries, published in the 'Madras Information' of 12-7-1947, are given below.

Setting up of trade boards.- To ensure future industrial peace in these industries the Court has recommended early constitution of Trade Boards for every trade and in every district consisting of two representatives each of workers and employers. A Government nominee will preside over a Board thus constituted and all matters relating to working conditions, wages, welfare activities and interpretation of existing agreements and contracts may be referred to it by the workers' or employers' representatives. The decision of the Board will be final and binding on both parties; and till the Board's award is given the status quo in the trade is to be maintained. The Court has maintained that the establishment of these Trade Boards would in no way deprive the Government of its right to appoint adjudicators or arbitration tribunals. Until these industries can develop their organisations, Trade Boards vested with powers to give final and binding decisions are, in the opinion of the Court, urgently required.

Wages for Apprentices.- In all these industries much of the work to be done is semi-skilled and a considerable number of workers are employed as apprentices. To prevent exploitation, the Court has suggested that in the case of inexperienced workers and apprentices just learning the trade a period of three to six months should be fixed in all the five industries during which wage-rates lower than those for experienced workers might be paid. This would prevent the employment of workers at lower rates after they had gained adequate experience. In the periods so fixed, the rate of wage paid to the inexperienced should not fall below half of the minimum wage of an adult worker.

Seasonal Industries.- In most of these industries, again, work is seasonal, and the Court has emphasised the need for stabilisation of employment conditions in seasonal factories. It has, therefore, recommended that seasonal factories must be made responsible for the maintenance of prescribed minimum standards of comfort for their workers in the off-season. The labour employed should also be made regular and non-migratory.

Housing, Education, Medical facilities, etc.- Stressing the need for early provision of housing, educational and medical facilities on a liberal scale to workers in all the five industries, the Court has suggested that schemes for these purposes should be financed from funds contributed equally by the employers and the Government. The workers' wages are too low at present to enable them to make any contribution of their own. However, eventually they should be made to contribute their share. In all important centres of these industries, the local boards should grant sites for the construction of workers' tenements and provide light, water and educational facilities. Towards the construction of schools, houses, etc., the employers should contribute a certain percentage of the expenditure that would be incurred.

Regulation of industrial home work in beedi industry.- The beedi (indigenous cigarettes) industry employs about 90,000 workers of whom approximately 26,000 are women who work in their homes. The Court feels that, in this sphere, the only effective method of eliminating sweating is to fix the wages and enforce strictly their payment. For this purpose it has suggested that every manufacturer, commission agent or middleman should be required to keep a register containing the name and address of every female worker employed. The rate of wages for making 1,000 beedies should be displayed permanently in the waiting room or the rooms where the raw materials are delivered to workers and the finished beedies are ~~sent~~ received. When a woman worker receives work to be done at home, a coupon or a book with a counterfoil attached should be issued at the same time, stating the nature and quantity of the work, the date on which it ~~is~~ given out, the rate of wages applicable to the given ~~work~~ work. At the time of delivering the finished beedis, an entry should be made on the coupon or in the book, stating the date of delivery, the amount of the remuneration earned by the worker and the various deductions made and also the net amount paid or to be paid to the worker. The particulars entered on the coupon should be copied exactly on the counterfoil and the wages register, which should be kept for not less than a year by the manufacturer and placed by him at the disposal of the inspector at any time. The Court has further recommended that industrial home work should be confined to women workers only.

Other recommendations.- Other recommendations of the Court include grant of dearness allowance in all the five industries if the cost of living index goes above 300; a system of bonus payment based on attendance for the workers in the tanning industry to minimise absenteeism; and recognition of registered trade unions.

(Madras Information, 13-7-1947).

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Industrialisation Plans of Hyderabad State:
Ceramic and Vegetable Oil Industries to be
developed.

The Government of the Hyderabad State has recently sanctioned schemes for the development of the ceramic and the vegetable oil industries in the State. The scheme for the development of the ceramic industry envisages the establishment of a ceramic factory for the manufacture of crockery, insulators, sanitary wares, firebricks, fireclay, etc. The daily output of the factory is expected and to be ~~inward~~ five tons of mixed crockery goods and insulators and 20 tons of firebrick and fireclay. The requisite materials are available in abundance in the State. It is stated that India imports annually ~~ceramic~~ ceramic goods valued at about 300 million rupees. The scheme is expected to cost about 1.2 million rupees during the first five years.

For developing the vegetable oil industry the Government proposes to create a separate department which will be responsible for improving the existing factories and for a scientific study of the day-to-day operations of the oil industry including the improvement of existing ~~lay-outs~~ layouts, location and equipment, controlling and planning the production and co-ordinating it with crop forecasts and with consumer and market demands, reducing the cost of production, and providing facilities for technical and other training. The Department will look after Government investments and safeguard Government interest in oil factories and discharge the functions of Managing Agents for which private concerns are being paid heavily.

The proposed department will function at the first instance for five years at a cost of about a million rupees.

(The Hindu, dated 13-7-1947).

C.P. Government to Manage a Coal Mine:
Experiment with Nationalisation.

The Central Provinces Government has, as an experimental measure, decided to invest about 3.5 million rupees for the working of a coal mine in Rampree, 10 miles from Nagpur. If the experiment proves successful, complete nationalization of the coal industry is contemplated.

(The Statesman, 6-7-1947).

25

Self-sufficiency in Chemicals: Industrial
Panel's Recommendations.

chemical industry

The Panel on the set up by the Government of India has declared in its report that India can become self-sufficient in regard to fine chemical drugs and pharmaceuticals within a period of 15 years. It has, however, emphasised that the proper development of the fine chemicals and drugs leading to self-sufficiency would depend very much on working out a well-balanced and ritegrated plan for the production of heavy chemicals, coal distillation products, organic solvents etc.

Recommendations of the Panel.- The most practical way to establish the fine chemicals and drugs industry according to the Panel will be to decide first upon the minimum number of drugs and fine chemicals essential for the country. Moreover, the production of essential drugs should not wait on the production of basic chemicals in the country. The country should, on the other hand, immediately start with the manufacture, utilising the raw materials already available and importing those not available here till national resources are developed.

Turning to the detailed recommendations, the Panel has suggested that among the heavy chemicals, the manufacture of three items, i.e., chloro-sulphonic acid, sodium and chlorides of phosphorus, may be taken up without delay while the production of intermediates from coal distillation products also deserved prompt attention. Among solvents, India produces ethyl alcohol in good quantities at competitive prices. Arrangements should therefore be made for the manufacture of solvents like acetic acid, butyl and amyl alcohols and also ethylene oxide. Finally the panel has recommended that efforts should be made for the manufacture of lactose, thouraea and guanidine nitrate, the first of which is required for the manufacture of pencillin and the second and third for the manufacture of sulpha drugs.

As regards drugs the Panel has recommended that the production of two types of drugs should be taken in hand immediately, viz., those which are essential for ~~guarding~~ guarding the health of the public and warding off infectious diseases and those for which India already has or can easily develop raw materials in abundance. In the manufacture of new and vitally important drugs like pencillin, streptomycin, mepacrine, sulpha drugs, etc., the Panel has suggested that the State should take up the initiative at least in setting up model plants and training personnel.

(The Hindu, dated 23-7-1947).

Working Class Cost of Living Index for various Centres in India during April to December, 1946.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India during the months April to December 1946 registered the following changes as compared with March 1946 :-

| Months 1946. | Bombay (Base: year ending June 1934=100) | Ahmedabad (Base: Year ending July 1927=100) | Sholapur (Base: Year ending January 1928=100) | Nagpur (Base: August 1939=100) |
|--------------|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| March | 247 | 197 | 199 | 279 |
| April | 248 | 199 | 202 | 279 |
| May | 249 | 204 | 202 | 282 |
| June | 259 | 217 | 207 | 287 |
| July | 268 | 225 | 218 | 289 |
| August | 267 | 217 | 220 | 291 |
| September | 270 | 212 | 217 | 291 |
| October | 264 | 219 | 222 | 285 |
| November | 272 | 216 | 221 | 288 |
| December | 279 | | 229 | 292 |

| Months 1946. | Ludhiana (Base: 1931-35=100) | Cawnpore (Base: August 1939=100) | Patna (Base: Average cost of Living for five years preceding 1914=100) | Jamshedpur (Base: Average cost of Living for Five Years preceding 1914=100) |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| March | 292 | 309 | 331 | 329 |
| April | 388 | 308 | 333 | 328 |
| May | 420 | 309 | 340 | 327 |
| June | 391 | 321 | 351 | 368 |
| July | 401 | 351 | 357 | 381 |
| August | 411 | 346 | 363 | 389 |
| September | 455 | 346 | 387 | 387 |
| October | .. | 349 | 403 | 390 |
| November | .. | 350 | 399 | 384 |
| December | .. | 345 | 397 | 372 |

| Months 1946 | Jharia (Base: Average cost of living for five years preceding 1914=100) | Madras (Base: Year ending June 1936=100) | Madura (Base: Year ending June 1936=100) | Coimbatore (Base: Year ending June 1936=100) |
|-------------|--|---|---|---|
| March | 354 | 228 | 258 | 239 |
| April | 360 | 228 | 236 | 240 |
| May | 375 | 232 | 238 | 241 |
| June | 388 | 235 | 240 | 243 |
| July | 413 | 237 | 246 | 244 |
| August | 423 | 237 | 258 | 250 |
| September | 467 | 239 | 267 | 253 |
| October | 448 | 240 | 274 | 264 |
| November | 424 | 243 | 279 | 273 |
| December | 390 | 249 | 285 | 270 |

Textile Industry Plan to develop Textile Industry
in Hyderabad State.

The Government of the Hyderabad State has sanctioned a scheme for the development of the textile industry in the State involving an expenditure of 35 million rupees, ~~at a rate of 7 million rupees during~~ during the first five years' of its operation. It is proposed to convert the present mills which are uneconomic into economic units and set up four new ones with an additional spinning mill, entirely devoted to the production of yarn for the handloom weaving industry. The expansion proposed is 4 per cent of the probable all-India expansion in respect of textiles during the post-war period ~~of~~ for which additional machinery, to the extent of 404,540 spindles and 7,111 looms will be required.

The State Government considers the textile industry as one of the basic industries to be controlled by Government. The structure of organisation proposed for the industry consists of two joint-stock companies to be known as the Deccan Textiles Limited and the Deccan Agencies Limited. The former will be started with a capital of 20 to 30 million rupees with the object of establishing the requisite number ~~of~~ and types of textile mills in the State. The Deccan Agencies, which will be entrusted with the actual management of the mills, is proposed to be established with a capital of 5 million rupees of which the Government will contribute 51 per cent. Technical details are being worked out and the Government of India has been approached for grant of first priority for purchase of the required machinery.

(The Hindu, dated, 11-7-1947).

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SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Government of India's Health Insurance Scheme:
Madras appoints Special Investigation Officer.

Reference was made at pages 1-2, of the report of this Office for November 1946, to the Workmen's State Insurance Bill, introduced in the Central Assembly by the Government of India. The Government of Madras now proposes to appoint a Civil Surgeon as Special Officer to investigate medical and health facilities available at industrial centres and factories with a view to collecting material in connection with arrangements for implementing the scheme of health insurance of industrial workmen proposed by the Central Government.

(The Hindu, dated 16-7-1947).

Bombay Millowners' comments on Workmen's State
Insurance Bill, 1946: Representation to
Government of India.

Solvency of Insurance Fund: Demand for State guarantee.- The Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, in a representation submitted to the Government of India, in connection with the Workmen's State Insurance Bill, 1946 (vide pages 1-2 of the report of this Office for November 1946), has expressed concern over the solvency of the Insurance Fund to be created under the Bill. The Committee points out that there is no guarantee that the whole scheme will be self-supporting and that neither the employers nor the employees will be called upon to make any payment in addition to, and other than, the contributions on the scale laid down in the Bill. To create confidence in the scheme, the Committee urges that the Government should incorporate in the Bill a clause undertaking to guarantee the solvency of the scheme, say, for the first 25 years. Another drawback of the Bill, according to the Committee, is that it is silent about Government's share in the cost of the scheme except for what the Committee calls a half-hearted undertaking to provide medical facilities, the extent of which is vague and uncertain. The Committee strongly urges on Government to categorically lay down that, as proposed by Mr. Stack and Mr. Rao of the I.L.O., two-thirds of the entire cost of administration should be met by the Central Government, and the cost of medical relief by the provinces and the Fund.

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The Committee has also suggested a number of modifications in the detailed provisions of the Bill including the following:- (a) the scope of the Bill should be extended to railways also; (b) in the present Bill the expression "occupational disease" has not been defined; the list of occupational diseases as given in the Workmen's Compensation Act, should be taken en bloc for the purpose of sickness insurance; (c) the Medical Benefit Council the Bill proposes to be establish in addition to its other functions, should also investigate complaints regarding inadequacy of treatment given in hospitals, etc., and take steps to institute or improve such facilities as may be necessary; (d) there should be some provision to enable a workman to bring to the notice of the authorities or his employer any defect or shortcomings in the treatment given to him; (e) the clause in the Bill prohibiting the dismissal, discharge or reduction of a workman when he is under medical treatment goes too far and provides that even a notice previously given to the worker terminating his services which expires during the period of sickness etc., shall be invalid. In the opinion of the Committee the prohibition that should be strictly confined to cases where it can be proved beyond doubt that the employer is trying to get rid of an employee only on account of the latter's absence following the injury.

(Summarised from the Excerpts from the Proceedings of Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during the months of January to March, 1947).

30

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Assistance to Educated Unemployed: Bombay Government's Scheme.

The Government of Bombay has framed rules for the grant of financial assistance to educated persons who are unemployed and are willing to start or develop cottage industries.

Under the scheme, grants will be made by the Joint Registrar for Industrial Co-operatives and Village Industries to educated persons who have been trained in a particular industry to set up in that industry or in business or trade connected therewith, and to those already in the business, industry or trade, with a view to helping them to develop and expand their activities. Grants will be given for the purchase of tools, implements and appliances or machinery, including the cost of erection; for enabling the recipient to tide over the early stages of manufacture on a commercial scale; for helping the recipient to meet losses due to poor production in the beginning; for working capital in special cases; and, for other similar purposes depending on the circumstances of each case. The grant will not ordinarily exceed 1,000 rupees and in no case 2,000 rupees without the special sanction of the Government. If a grant is sanctioned for two or more persons for a joint undertaking, the total sum granted may be equal to what would have been admissible to each of them separately. 50 per cent of the grant will be considered as a subsidy and the remaining 50 per cent will be treated as an interest-free loan repayable in equal monthly instalments, spread over a period not exceeding five years, the first instalment falling due 18 months from the date of the disbursement of the loan.

If the conditions of the grant are not fulfilled, the grantee will have to refund the whole or a portion of the grant as required by the Government.

(People's Raj, 19-7-1947, ~~issued~~
issued by the Directorate of Publicity,
Government of Bombay).

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MIGRATION.

Government of India's Representative in Malaya:
Mr. Thivy replaces Mr. Chettur.

The Government of India has appointed Mr. J.A. Thivy as its Representative in Malaya in succession to Mr. S.K. Chettur, according to a communiqué issued in the third week of July, 1947.

Mr. Thivy was educated in Malaya, Madras and London and was one of the founder-members of the Central Indian Association of Malaya, a political organisation of Malayan Indians formed in 1936. Since then Mr. Thivy has taken active part in the social and political life of the Indian community in Malaya and is at present Chairman of the Malayan Indian Congress.

(The Statesman, 16-7-1947).

Burma's new Immigration Act: Burma Government's
Reply to India's Protest.

Reference was made at pages 46-47 of the report of this office for June 1947 to the enactment by the Government of Burma of the Burma Immigration (Emergency) Provisions Act, 1947, laying down certain restrictions on the entry into Burma of non-Burmans and to the protest lodged by the Government of India against the manner in which the Act had been promulgated and against some of the provisions of the Act itself which were held to discriminate against Indians.

In an official statement dated 9-7-1947, the Government of Burma expressed surprise that the Indian Government should describe the new law as an unfriendly act. The legislation merely enabled the Burma Government to exercise control over the entry of all foreigners, a control which had so far been exercised by the Indian Government in respect of Indians. Refuting the allegation that the Act had been enacted without proper consultation with the Indian Government, the statement claimed that the matter had been under discussion for six months and that the Indian Government had been informed early in April 1947 of the final decision to introduce emergency legislation immediately. Complaining that the Indian Government was in fact demanding that it was the Government of India and not the Government of Burma which should exercise control over immigration into Burma, the statement asserted that this could justly be described as an unfriendly act to ~~xx~~ Burma. Emphasising the readiness of the Government of Burma to enter into negotiations at once to settle permanent arrangements in regard to Indian immigration to Burma, the statement finally declared that, pending the conclusion of a satisfactory agreement, the Government of Burma had no alternative but to continue to apply the Act against Indians seeking entry into Burma.

(The Times of India, 12-7-1947).

32

AGRICULTURE.

Madras Government Proposals regarding Agricultural Labour: Landholders' criticisms.

Reference was made at page 48 of the report of this Office for June 1947 to certain draft proposals put forward by the Government of Madras relating to the wages of agricultural labour and forms of tenancy. A conference of the landowners of Tanjore District held at Kumbakonam on 20-7-1947, condemned most of these proposals as revolutionary and detrimental to agricultural operations in the district. The views expressed by the conference on the main proposals put forward by the Government are summarised below.

Minimum price of paddy too low.- The conference, while welcoming the principle underlying the proposal of the Government to guarantee a minimum price for paddy, expressed the opinion that the minimum price suggested for 1947 was very low. It was stated that the cost of production and 40 per cent thereof, to cover the increase in the cost of living and other charges, should be taken as the basis for fixing the minimum price. This year, the conference held, the minimum price should be fixed at 5 rupees and 9 annas per kalam (1 kalam about 78 lbs) and for the better quality paddy.

Cancellation of Debts of agricultural labourers opposed.- By another resolution the conference held that there was no justification for wiping out the debts of lessees and tenants. As regards pannayals (i.e. permanent farm workers) the loans given to them served as an advance to them for retaining their services and it was not right or proper to ask the landlords to forego those amounts and as such the Government's proposal was expropriatory.

Proposal regarding minimum agricultural wage recommended condemned.- The conference held that compulsory employment of a pannayal family was impracticable and unworkable and should not be insisted on. The proposal of Government to fix wages for pannayals on a monthly basis and on the basis of 12 months' work was unsuitable to the actual state of things and the existing daily wages system should continue to prevail. The Government should not hurry up any new legislation for at least two years and leave the mirasdars and pannayals or lessees and waramdars to settle their wages and claims amicably by mutual adjustment. The conference, however, suggested that if necessary Wage Boards might be formed, including representatives of mirasdars and labourers for each taluk, to fix minimum wages.

Plea for retention of Share-Tenancy.- As regards systems of tenancy, the conference recommended that the waram system i.e. share-tenancy ought not to be legally abolished, but the system of cultivation should be left to the option of the landlords. On the expiry of a lease, the land should automatically revert to the landlord and the tenant should be considered definitely to have ceased to have any sort of possession and should be considered a trespasser for the purpose of all legal proceedings, civil and criminal, if he continued to have any hold on the land.

(The Hindu, dated 9-7-1947).

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NAVIGATION.

London Shipping Conference breaks down.

The Conference between Indian and British shipping interests to which reference was made at page 52 of the report of this office for June 1947 broke down abruptly barely three hours after it had met in London in the third week of July.

The reasons for the breakdown are reported to have been the refusal of the British shipowners to accept the Indian delegation's claim that it represented Indian shipping as a whole and not individual companies, as also the unwillingness of the British shipping interests to agree to any carrying up of seaborne carrying trade into specific pre-arranged rigid shares.

(The Times of India, 23-7-1947).

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

New Rates of pay for Armed Forces sanctioned from 1-7-1947.

The Government of India has announced this month new rates of pay for the Indian armed forces. The new rates which apply to officers and men in the three services on 1-7-1947, are designed to provide a level of remuneration comparable, in so far as the widely differing circumstances permit, with those granted to the civil services of the Government. In the case of both officers and other ranks, the pay rates have been fixed with regard to the orders passed on the recommendations of the Central pay Commission. The rates are related exclusively to Indian conditions and requirements and they represent a very substantial simplification of the old pay structure.

The main features of the new pay Code in regard to Indian commissioned officers are: the introduction of dearness allowance, the abolition of ~~admittis~~ corps pay; the abolition of all forms of additional pay and allowances other than parachute pay and specialist pay; the introduction of pay scales which are dependent not only on the rank but also, in the case of Lieutenant-Colonels and below, on the total service as an officer. Lodging allowance will be discontinued under the new code. The new scales are entirely "all in" which means that provision in kind made by the Government must always be paid or except in the case of the married officer who is posted to a station where, for military reasons, his family is not permitted to reside. Certain miscellaneous allowances such as disturbance allowance, interpreter's allowance and language awards, outfit allowance and funeral allowance, however, will be continued pending their review.

The new minimum and maximum rates of pay for the various ranks of officers are: Second Lieutenant 350 rupees; Lieutenant 400-450 rupees; Captain 450-700 rupees; Major 750-1,050 rupees; Lieutenant Colonel 1,100-1,400 rupees; Colonel 1,450-50-1,550 rupees; Brigadier 1,680-100-1,800 rupees; Major-General 2,250 rupees; Lieutenant-General 2,750 rupees; General 3,000 rupees.

The main features of the new pay code in regard to the other ranks are: the introduction of dearness allowance; the introduction of increments of pay for length of service for Indian other ranks; the abolition of all forms of extra duty, pay, etc., other than parachute pay, and all allowances which are in the nature of extra-duty pay; abolition of trade corps grade pay as separate items and their consolidation in basic rates of pay; the abolition of proficiency pay as a separate item and the placing of non-tradesman on the same footing as the tradesman; the superimposition of rank appointment pay on basic pay (I.O.R.'s). The pay of a trained Indian soldier will vary between 35 rupees and 90 rupees per ~~xxx~~ month according to the category to which he belongs. The salaries of Indian Warrant Officers will vary between 72 rupees per month and ~~xxx~~ 190 rupees and those of the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers between 90 rupees and 250 rupees.

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Sind Government not to accept Central Pay
Commission's Recommendations.

The Sind Government has decided not to accept the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission (vide pages 45-50 ~~of the~~ of the report of this Office for May, 1947). The reason for this decision according to a Press Note issued by the Government of Sind on 9-7-1947, is that the Pay Commission's recommendations are based on a general cost of living index for the whole of India which, can not be taken to represent the increase in living costs in Sind.

(The Statesman, 10-7-1947).

Higher Rates of Pay for Mysore Government Servants:
Pay Committee's Recommendations.

The Pay Committee appointed by the Mysore Government to go into the question of emoluments of non-gazetted officers and subordinates (vide page 39 of the report of this Office for December 1946) submitted its report to the State Government on 6-7-1947.

The main recommendations of the Committee are understood to be that there should be uniform grades for all the Government departments. The revised grade for matriculates recommended is 30 rupees starting the maximum being 80 rupees. For graduates, the starting salary is to be 50 rupees, the maximum being 120 rupees. The maximum salary of managers of all Departments has been raised from 200 rupees to 250 rupees, and that of Superintendents from 250 rupees to 300 rupees. House allowances for employees in urban areas have also been recommended, ranging from 3 rupees to 8 rupees. The Committee has also recommended that in addition to one month's salary already given by Government as interim relief, another month's salary may be given and that the present dearness allowance may continue.

In considering special allowances, the Committee has grouped the Railway and Electricity Departments together, and Government industries and Technological Institutes together. Menials belonging to the Medical and Public Health Departments have been recommended an additional allowance of 5 rupees per month and nurses have also been given a special allowance. The additional expenditure for the year resulting from the Committee's recommendations is estimated at about 9 million rupees.

(The Hindu, dated 7-7-1947).

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Further Interim Relief to Low-paid Government
Employees in Bombay.

Reference was made at page 41 of the report of this Office for January 1947, to the grant of an interim bonus to the low-paid Bombay Government employees, pending a general revision of the pay-scales. A further bonus to this class of employees has now been sanctioned. The bonus in respect of the first half of the calendar year 1947 and is equal to the monthly interim relief multiplied by the number of months of continuous service put in during this period.

Thus, a person in continuous service from 1-1-1947, or an earlier date will be eligible for a bonus of 30 rupees if his pay is below 40 rupees, or of 60 rupees if his pay is from 40 to 250 rupees, inclusive. The revised pay scales, when sanctioned, will have retrospective effect from 1-1-1947, and all interim payments will be taken into account in computing the amount due to be paid when retrospective effect is eventually given to the revised pay-scales and allowances.

(The Times of India, 16-7-1947).

Pay of Government Servants in Bengal:
Ad Interim Increase sanctioned.

An ad interim increase of pay operative with effect from 1-1-1947 in respect of Government servants drawing pay up to a limit of 500 rupees has been sanctioned by the Bengal Government. Government servants whose ~~basic~~ basic pay both in the ~~unrevised~~ unrevised and revised scales does not exceed 80 rupees per month will get an increase of 20 per cent of the total of the basic pay and the previous ~~and~~ interim increase (vide page 30 of the report of this Office for May 1946). Government servants whose basic pay in the unrevised scales exceeds 80 rupees per month but does not exceed 485 rupees per month will get 10 per cent of the total of the basic pay and the previous ad interim increase, if any, subject to a maximum of 15 rupees per month; Government servants whose basic pay in the revised scales exceeds 80 rupees per month but does not exceed 470 rupees per month will get 20 per cent of the total of the basic pay and the previous ad interim increase, if any, subject to a maximum of 80 rupees per month; Government servants whose basic pay exceeds ~~Rs~~ 485 rupees per month in the unrevised scales or ~~Rs~~ 470 rupees per month in the revised scales will get such amount as together with the basic pay will equal 500 rupees per month. It is also stated that persons who have been discharged between the months of January and June 1947 shall be paid the allowance provided that they actually ~~are~~ claim it.

The question of a substantive revision of the pay-scales is to be considered separately by the two new Governments of Bengal (vide page 77 of the report of this office for June, 1947) at a later date.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 17-7-1947).

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Pay Commission appointed in Rewa State.

It is understood that the Government of Rewa State has appointed a Pay Commission to make suggestions for an increase in the pay of all grades of State officials.

(The Hindustan Times, 17-7-1947).

Delhi Domestic Workers' demand for Protective
Labour Legislation.

No maltreatment, abuse or beating, reduction of working hours and an increase in wages were some of the demands made at a public meeting of some 600 domestic servants held at Delhi on 3-7-1947. Another meeting held at Delhi during the same month and attended by about 5,000 domestic servants adopted a resolution demanding that the Trade Employees Act should be applied to the domestic servants also and that they should have nine hours work a day and a weekly holiday.

(The Statesman, 4-7-1947;
Indian News Chronicle, 22-7-1947).

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Bombay Government Staff Federation Dispute
regarding Recognition settled.

Staff Federation's demand for Government recognition of Union and Whitley Councils.- In accordance with a resolution passed at a conference of its co-ordination committee held on the 6-7-1947, the Working Committee of the Bombay Government Staff Federation decided to observe a stay-out strike for a day on 6-8-1947 in support of certain demands put forward by the Federation on behalf of the employees of the Bombay Government. The Federation's demands were: immediate declaration of revised pay-scales; recognition of the Federation and its connected bodies; establishment of Whitley Councils and alternative employment for retrenched personnel.

Government's Reply: Conditions for Recognition.- In a statement issued early in August the Government of Bombay outlined its attitude to the demands put forward by the Federation. In regard to the first demand pertaining to the revision of pay-scales the Government emphasized that it intended generally to follow the Central Pay Commission's recommendations in respect of the basic pay structure, dearness allowance and house rent and compensatory allowances, as modified by the orders of the Government of India on those recommendations and subject to such further alterations as may be dictated by the special conditions obtaining in Bombay. With regard to the second and third demands, the Government declared its willingness to recognise the Federation subject to two conditions: the first was that the Federation should consult the Director of Publicity regarding statements intended for the press, and should not publish, without Government's consent, any statement which the Director considered unsuitable. The second was that the Federation should forego resort to strikes as a means of enforcing its demands. In this connection the Government emphasised that Government employees were servants of the public and Government would not agree that those servants who were members of the Federation were entitled to go on strike against their colleagues. In all other respects, Government would accord to the Federation the status of an approved union as provided in Section 23 of the Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946.

Joint Councils to be set up in offices.- The Government also agreed to establish joint councils and committees in the various offices and departments under it on the lines of the Whitley Councils in the United Kingdom. On this point, the only difference outstanding between Government and the Federation was that Government desired that these councils and committees should confine their attention to general questions affecting the conditions of service. Government considered that individual cases should be dealt with according to the Bombay Civil Services Rules, though, in cases of alleged victimisation, complaints might be referred to the Public Service Commission.

As regards the fourth demand the Government maintained that the establishments swollen by the war conditions and the economic controls necessitated thereby would not be maintained at the same level when normal times returned. The Government had no right to ask the tax-payer to pay the cost of an unnecessarily large staff, merely to avoid the retrenchment of temporary personnel. The Government would do what it could to provide employment for the temporary staff who had rendered approved service during and after the war, if and when such staff had to be retrenched. As regards those employed in the Secretariat, it had

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already been decided that clerks who had worked satisfactorily and continuously for a year or more prior to a date to be determined should not be displaced, provided they possessed the necessary qualifications and could satisfy the usual tests imposed by the Public Service Commission. In other cases, the Regional Employment Exchanges had opened special registers for retrenched Government servants and would give them all possible help in finding alternative employment.

Federation's acceptance of Government Proposals.- Meeting on 4-8-1947, the General Council of the Federation, passed a resolution withdrawing the strike notice in view of the assurances given by the Government, ~~to implement them with all possible speed~~ and called upon upon the Government to implement them with all possible speed. The General Secretary of the Federation, told the Council that the Government had assured them that it was taking steps to work out, without delay, new pay scales for the Government staff. The Government had agreed to the establishment of joint Councils and Committees in each office, and to try to provide employment for the members of the temporary staff when they are retrenched. Earlier the Council rejected a resolution moved by Mr. Rajan Patel, President of one of the Federating Unions, requesting the Federation not to give up its right to strike.

(The Times of India, 4 and 5-8-1947).

Central Civil Service (Revision of Pay) Rules, 1947,
gazetted.

The Government of India has published on 2-8-1947, the Central Civil Service (Revision of Pay) Rules, 1947, giving effect to the main recommendations of the Central Pay Commission (vide pages 45-50 of the report of this Office for May, 1947) relating to the scales of pay of Government employees.

Formal orders sanctioning dearness, house rent and compensatory allowances on the scales prescribed by the Commission and accepted by the Government of India, have also been issued.

(No. F 11(1)Est(Spl)/47 dated 29-7-1947, published in the Gazette of India, dated 2-8-1947, Part I-Section 1, pages 1057-1109; The Statesman, dated 31-7-1947).

40

Local Governments' Employees of the United Provinces:
Pay Committee appointed.

It is understood that the Government of ^{the} United Provinces has decided to appoint a Pay Committee to recommend scales of pay for the employees of municipalities and district boards etc., in the Province. The Committee will include the chairman of various municipalities and district boards and representatives of employers and workers' unions.

(Indian News Chronicle, 25-7-1947).

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NATIVE AND COLONIAL LABOUR.

Enquiry into Conditions of Aborigines: Madras
Government dissolves Committee.

Reference was made at page 29 of the report of this office for November, 1946, to the appointment of a Committee by the Government of Madras to enquire into the conditions of the aboriginal tribes living in the province. The Government has now decided to dissolve the Committee and has asked it to submit a report from the date it has collected so far.

(The Hindu, dated 11-7-1947).

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CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Co-ordination of Co-operative Schemes: Advisory Council
appointed by Madras Government.

The Government of Madras has constituted a Council to ~~advise~~ advise the Government on matters concerning co-operative societies or schemes referred to it by the Registrar or the Government. The Council will be under the chairmanship of the Minister in charge of Co-operation and will include both official and non-official members. It will meet at least once a quarter, and have its headquarters at Madras. It has been empowered to invite Heads of Departments and other officers, and office-bearers or representatives of the co-operative institutions to attend its meetings, whenever required.

(The Hindu, dated 25-7-1947).

Housing.

Bombay Government's Industrial Housing Scheme:
Provincial Housing Advisory Committee's Suggestions.

A number of important decisions relating to Bombay's housing programme (vide pages 59-61 of the report of this Office for June 1947) were taken at the ~~xxxx~~ fourth meeting of the Bombay Provincial Housing Advisory Committee held on 10-8-1947 under the chairmanship of Mr. Gulzarilal Kanda, the Minister for Labour and Housing in Bombay.

Overall target of 125,000 tenements.- The Committee fixed the target for all the industrial towns in the Province at 125,000 tenements to be completed in five years. This target will include tenements constructed by all agencies—Government, Government-aided and private enterprise. The Committee also endorsed the proposal of the Government to undertake direct the construction of 15,000 workers' tenements and to raise part of the cost by a ~~xxxx~~ levy on the employers in the main industrial centres of the Province.

Preferential treatment for co-operative housing societies.- As regards construction by non-Governmental agencies, the Committee decided that the utmost help should be given to co-operative housing and divided co-operative housing societies into three categories for the purpose of State-aid. Co-operative housing societies constructing tenements of two living rooms and a kitchen each (with other amenities) or of a lesser size, should in the opinion of the Committee be granted loans at 3 per cent or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent less than the Government borrowing rate. These loans should be to the extent of 75 per cent of the value of the land and buildings in the case of tenant co-partnership societies, and to the extent of 60 per cent in the case of other types of societies. Co-operative housing societies, constructing tenements of larger size should, according to the Committee, be given loans to the extent of 50 per cent of the value of the land and buildings, at a rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent above the Bank rate, provided the Bank rate was not lower than the rate at which the Government had itself borrowed on the last occasion, before giving the loans.

The recommendations of the Committee are to be placed before the Government of Bombay for final decision.

(People's Raj, 28-6-1947, Issued by the
Director of Publicity, Government of Bombay).

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Five-Year Target of 30,000 New Tenements in
Ahmedabad City: Bombay Post-War Reconstruction
Committee's Proposals.

The Post-War Reconstruction Committee set up by the Government of Bombay, in its report submitted to the Government on housing in Ahmedabad, has estimated that 85,000 new tenements are needed to relieve the present acute housing shortage in the city. For providing immediate relief, 30,000 tenements to be constructed in the course of the next five years, have been recommended.

Between 1824 and 1941, the Committee has calculated, the population of the city increased by about 640 per cent while the increase in the number of houses was only 77 per cent. Between 1941 and 1947, there was a further rise of 150,000 in the population, with little addition to the number of buildings. Even in the less congested localities, there are, according to the Committee, many single room tenements, where 2 to 16 people stay in a room. To remove congestion in these single room tenements, about 100,000 persons will have to be shifted. Thus, there will be about 75,000 families (at the rate of four persons per family), needing new tenements. Added to this, there are about 7,000 tenements and houses which are unfit for human habitation. Keeping four per cent vacant houses as a reserve to meet further demands, the Post-War Reconstruction Committee has recommended 85,000 new tenements.

Government's and Employers' responsibility for housing low-paid Employees.— About 95 per cent of the total families which need houses, however, according to the Committee, are not likely to be provided with the houses by private builders as the rent paying capacity of these families is below the level of economic rent and the return from the investment will fall below the level of the return from gilt-edged ~~and~~ securities. The Committee, therefore, suggests that it is the responsibility of Government, the ~~employers and the~~ employers of labour and the local authorities to solve the problem of housing for the families belonging to the lower income group. It has recommended to Government the need for introducing housing legislation on the lines of English Housing Acts, so that Government will derive powers to give subsidies to housing societies, building guilds and corporations and individuals.

Short-term Plan.— For the short-term plan, the Committee suggests the construction of 6,000 tenements every year. The responsibility for implementing this programme has been recommended to be fixed as under: Government to put up 1,500 by direct construction; employers of labour to put up 3,000 tenements; local authorities to put up 750 tenements; Government ~~input~~ should also assist construction by co-operative societies, building guilds, etc.

(The Times of India, 15-7-1947).

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U.P. Government's Housing Scheme: 10,000 Unit
Houses to be constructed in Three Years.

An Inter-Department Committee appointed by the Government of the United Provinces to draw up a plan for urban, rural and industrial housing in the province, is reported to have recommended the building of 10,000 unit houses within the next three years in the bigger cities of the province. These will provide accommodation for about 25,000 middle-class families. A unit house is defined as a house fetching a monthly rent of about 50 rupees.

The Committee's recommendations will cost nearly 150 million rupees. The bulk of the expenditure on the urban part of the programme will be recoverable from the sale proceeds of houses. It is understood that owing to the scarcity of building materials the Government proposes to ~~impose~~ impose more stringent control on their sale for the success of the housing programme.

(The Times of India, 5-7-1947).

Co-operative Housing Societies in Urban Areas:
Madras Government's Plans.

At a Press Conference held in Madras on 4-7-1947, Mr. K. Chandramouli, Minister in charge of Co-operation, Government of Madras, stated that with a view to relieving the shortage of housing accommodation in the Province, the Government had launched a province-wide co-operative housing scheme. A co-operative house construction society had already been started in Madras City. It was now proposed to start similar societies in all urban areas where there was a shortage of housing accommodation. With this object, the Government had directed the constitution of local committees in each Municipality and major Panchayat area where there was a shortage of housing accommodation, to report on the availability of sites for starting co-operative housing schemes. It was proposed to start a colony of 100 houses in each urban area. The Provincial Housing Committee constituted by the Government would consider the numerous problems confronting the provision of housing to relieve the shortage both in urban and rural areas.

Mr. Chandramouli further disclosed that the following measures were under consideration by the Government: (i) reduction of the lending rate in Government loans to building societies from 4 to 3½ per cent; (ii) ways and means of speeding up land acquisition proceedings; (iii) the desirability of controlling values of buildings sites; (iv) the provision of adequate quantities of timber, iron, steel, cement and bricks on a priority basis for the schemes; and (v) ~~the~~ special concessions needed for poorer classes (including labour), Government servants etc.

(The Hindu, dated 5-7-1947).

Workers' Organisations.

1st All India Textile Workers' Conference, Cawnpore,
4, 5 and 6-7-1947.

An all India Textile Workers' Conference sponsored by the All India Trade Union Congress (A.I.T.U.C.) met at Cawnpore on 4-7-1947. The main business before the Conference which lasted till 6-7-1947 was the formation of a federation of textile workers' unions. ~~xxxxx~~ Mr. B.T. Ranadive presided.

Presidential Address: Demand for Nationalisation of textile industry and a fair deal to workers.— Asserting that the choice before Indian leaders today was either to rise against vested interests on behalf of the people or betray the people and ally with capitalists, Mr. Ranadive maintained that if the textile industry were nationalised there would be no cloth scarcity in India. It was inexplicable how while the actual consumption in mills had increased by 29 per cent and labour by 22 per cent, production had increased only by 9 per cent. Referring to the recent labour legislation of the Bombay and the Central Governments, he emphasised that the workers would not agree to any legislation which took away from them their most powerful weapon—right to strike. Their quarrel was not against the principle of conciliation, arbitration and peaceful settlement but against cheating people by these slogans. The Congress Ministries should frame rules to enable workers to get a minimum living wage. ~~The workers had been told, he said, that if they expressed their dislike for such a leadership of such a party, they would be expelled from the party.~~

Resolutions.— The Conference adopted a number of resolutions including one demanding the nationalisation of the textile industry. The last named resolution maintained that unless the textile industry was moved from the management of the present employers and the industry was either nationalized or nationally managed the cloth famine and sabotage of production through enforced strikes would not stop. It therefore, urged upon the Interim Government and the popular Ministries the need for the nationalization of textile industry or in the alternative Government management of the industry run as a public utility concern with no profit motive. Suggesting methods to end cloth scarcity, the resolution demanded fixation of minimum living wages, recognition of trade unions, co-operation by workers in the management, joint supervision over movement of cloth and effective steps against black-marketing.

I.N.T.U.C. condemned.— By another resolution the Conference condemned the setting up of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (I.N.T.U.C.) as an attempt to create an official governmental trade union movement incapable of defending the rights of workers. The resolution, therefore, called upon the Textile ~~xxx~~ Workers Federation to start rival unions against the I.N.T.U.C.

Among the other resolutions adopted by the Conference were one demanding the fixation of a minimum basic wage for the workers and another urging extra facilities for women workers in factories.

All India Textile Workers Federation: Office bearers for 1947-48.-
Before dispersing, the Conference elected the following as office-bearers of the All-India Textile Workers' Federation for 1947-48: Mr. H.M. Joshi, M.L.A. (Central), President; Messrs. Jagan Khan, Ramamurthi and Nepal Mang, Vice-Presidents; Mr. P.B. Vaidya, General Secretary.

(The Indian News Chronicle, 5, 6, and 8-7-1947;
The Hindu, dated 7-7-1947;
The Hindustan Times, dated 8-7-1947;
The Statesman, dated 7-7-1947).

Meeting between Railway Board and Negotiating Committee
of All-India Railwaymen's Federation, New Delhi, 1-7-1947.

Reference was made at page 64 of the report of this Office for June 1947 to certain criticisms advanced by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation against the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission and to the appointment by the Federation of a Negotiating Committee to place before the railway authorities the main complaints of the railway workers. A Press communiqué issued on 5-7-1947 give details of the discussions between the Railway Board and the Negotiating Committee of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation which took place at New Delhi on 1-7-1947. The deputation from the Negotiating Committee was led by the President of the Federation, Mr. Jai Prakash Narain, and included Mr. S. Guruswamy, General Secretary, and sixteen representatives from affiliated Unions.

The following were some of the important questions that were discussed at the meeting: (a) the pay structure of class III and class IV employees both in respect of maxima and minima of their scales; (b) rates of increment, length of time scales and the operation of efficiency bars; (c) methods of fixation of pay of employees in the proposed scales; (d) inclusion of interim relief in fixation of pay; (e) scales of pay for artisans and skilled workers; (f) withdrawal of grainshop concessions and the adequacy of house rent, compensatory, travelling and other allowances; (g) suspension of retrenchment pending receipt and consideration of the report of the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee, 1947; (h) confirmation of temporary staff; (i) extension of service conditions on Indian Government railways to other railways in India; and (j) abolition of staff councils.

On behalf of the Board Mr. S. Cambridge, the Chief Commissioner of Railways, urged that although the award of the Pay Commission might fall short of the Federation's demands, the Government considered that it was the best the country could at present afford.

The Committee on its side drew the attention of the Board to the anxiety prevailing in the minds of the railwaymen as a result of the possible effects of partition with regard to the implementation of the decisions relating to the Pay Commission's report. The Chief Commissioner assured the deputation that to the extent that the Government had

already announced their decision of the Pay Commission's report both the future Governments would duly honour them, In regard to other recommendations of the Pay Commission, it was explained that no decisions had yet been reached. The Federation urged the desirability of the Government announcing their decisions on these recommendations also before 'partition' was effected.

The Chief Commissioner explained that the Board was equally anxious to reach decisions and to implement the Pay Commission's recommendations as quickly as possible, but that it was handicapped due to the pressure of high priority work arising out of 'partition'. He, however, gave the assurance that the views of the Federation would be conveyed to the appropriate authority.

(The Statesman, 6-7-1947).

~~Millowners in C.P. and Berar to recognise representative~~

G.P. and Berar Millowners to recognise representative labour unions.

Millowners in the Central Provinces and Berar have decided to grant recognition to the most representative union at each centre in the province, initially for a period of one year. A statement issued by the millowners announcing this decision explains that this has been done with a view to promoting amicable relations between the workers and the managements for bringing about an atmosphere of mutual trust and good-will for (and) the maintenance of discipline in the industry with the fullest possible co-operation from both the parties. The statement emphasises that the question of continuance of the voluntary recognition will depend on the success with which the principle of collective bargaining on sound trade union lines works during the period of recognition.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 11-7-1947).

Post and Telegraph Unions Amalgamated: Position to be reviewed after Six Months.

A meeting of the representatives of a number of unions of workers in the Posts and Telegraph Department, held in Calcutta during the second week of July, 1947, decided that all the unions of Posts and Telegraph employees, namely, the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff (including R.M.S.) Union, the All-India Union of the Posts, Telegraph and R.M.S., the All-India Telegraph Union and the Indian Telegraph Association should be merged into one organisation. The unions listed above are to work together for a period of six months when the merger decision will be reviewed.

(The Hindustan Times, 11-7-1947).

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication)
Bill, 1947, gazetted.

The Government of Madras has published this month the text of a Bill it proposes to enact to prevent the dedication of women, known as "devadasis", to Hindu ~~deities~~ deities, objects of worship, temples and other religious institutions, on the ground that the practice leads many of the women so dedicated to a life of prostitution. The Bill is entitled the Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Bill, 1947.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons, appended to the Bill points out that public opinion in the province is emphatically against the practice of dedicating women to Hindu deities, etc., as many of the women so dedicated are forced to lead a life of prostitution. The last Congress Ministry in the province had introduced a similar Bill in 1938 but owing to the resignation of the Ministry in 1939, the Bill could not be proceeded with. The present Bill is largely based on the previous Bill as amended by the Select Committee.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, dated
22-7-1947, Part IV-A, pages 129-131).

Recruitment to U.P. Government Services:
Social Service Diploma to be insisted on.

Reference was made at page 55 of the report of this Office for ~~the~~ September, 1946, to the proposal of the United Province's Government for employing the youth of the province for social services. A press communiqué issued by the Education Department of the U.P. Government this month says that with effect from 2-1-1949, no male graduate who has not obtained a diploma in social service awarded by the Government will ordinarily be eligible for recruitment to service under Government, local bodies or aided or recognised institutions; or, for admission to technical or training institutions recognised by the Government, the educational qualification for recruitment or admission to which is a Bachelor's degree or any other degree recognised by the Government as equivalent thereto.

The diploma will be granted to those undertaking successfully the course of training under the social service scheme. It is proposed that the period of service under the scheme should be approximately one year. During this period, boarding, lodging and other incidental expenses of trainees will be borne by the Government. Training will fall broadly into two divisions, practical and cultural. The practical training will consist entirely of manual labour. It may also include useful training in agriculture, and in adult literacy work to ~~be~~ be undertaken in collaboration with the education expansion scheme of the Government. It is proposed to set up one or more camps for the accommodation of the trainees. ~~For the accommodation~~ Details of the scheme are to be announced later.

(The Hindu, dated 18-7-1947).

Bombay Welfare Centres to provide Training in Citizenship
and Trade ~~Unionism~~ Unionism.

In pursuance of the Bombay Government's policy of assisting the growth among workers of a sense of responsibility towards industry and the community, the Government has felt the need for the establishment of centres for training workers in trade unionism and citizenship, according to Press note issued by the Government of Bombay. The Government has, therefore, accorded approval for starting training classes in citizenship and in trade unionism for selected workers which will be conducted for a period of one year in the first instance, at each of the 'A' and 'B' type of labour welfare centres in Bombay, Ahmedabad and Solapur, as part of the post-war reconstruction programme.

(The Times of India, 9-7-1947).

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Nursery Schools to be opened in Hyderabad State.

The Government of the Hyderabad State has sanctioned a scheme for starting nursery and infant schools in the State for which teachers will be trained. It is proposed to train 140 teachers in the first seven years who will be able to handle 4,200 children in model schools which will be established at suitable centres. In the fourteenth year, 560 women teachers will be available to teach 16,300 children. The scheme will cost 176,000 rupees at the end of seven years, and 680,000 rupees at the end of 14 years.

(The Hindu, dated 14-7-1947).

The U.P. Removal of Social Disabilities Act, 1947
gazetted.

The United Provinces Removal of Social Disabilities Bill, 1947 (vide page 54 of the report of this Office for January 1947), received the assent of the Governor on 28-5-1947, and has been gazetted as U.P. Act No. XIV of 1947.

(Government Gazette of the United Provinces dated 12-7-1947, part VII-A, pages 17-21).

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Public Health in Madras during 1945: Health Officers resume inspection of factories.

Improvement of environmental hygiene, and more particularly of soil sanitation in the rural areas, received special attention in Madras in 1945, according to the Report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India for that year. A strong drive for the construction of septic tank latrines in both the rural and urban areas was made. A Rural Sanitation Unit worked in Salem District, where considerable progress in providing sanitary conveniences was made.

Measures to protect health of industrial workers.- Inspection of factories by Health Officers, which was held in abeyance as a war economy measure, was resumed in 1945. The Government order for shifting objectionable factories from residential to industrial areas however could not be enforced in all cases because of the high cost of materials and shortage of labour. Some municipal committees had not yet demarcated the industrial area in their respective towns. Sanitary conditions also improved to some extent during the year in most of the mica mines in Nellore district, and the report emphasises that in the post-war plan the Government has accepted a scheme providing for a public health service, both preventive and curative, for workers and their families.

Post-War Plans.- As regards the post-war plans the Government accepted during the year, a scheme for the expansion of the public health services. It provides for the establishment of primary health centres for groups of villages with a population of 10,000 to 15,000. Each centre is to have a dispensary with a Medical Officer, one Health Inspector, one Health Visitor, two midwives, a maternity home of four beds, an infectious diseases ward of two beds and an emergency ward of two beds. 10 to 15 such centres are to be linked up to a taluk or a group centre having an Assistant Health Officer and a Woman Medical Officer on the public health side. The group centres will be co-ordinated with a well-staffed and well-equipped district centre. A scheme for training 100 Health Inspectors and 180 Midwives each year to provide the requisite personnel for the expansion was also accepted during the year.

(The Hindu, dated 19-7-1947).

EDUCATION.

Progress of Basic Education in Madras Province: Six new Basic Training Schools to be set up in 1946-47.

Basic education on the lines outlined in the Wardha Scheme of Education (vide pages 33-34 of the report of this Office for January 1938) has made steady progress in Madras province since 1945.

Non-official efforts. - The first centre for the training of Basic Teachers was organised by the Tamil Mad Basic Education Society in 1945 at Tiruchengodu. Ten Basic Schools under the teachers trained at this centre have already completed one year of their work. The second Training Centre was conducted in 1946 at a centre in the Guntur district and seven Basic Schools were opened in Andhradesa early in 1947. The third Training Centre for the Karnatak area was organised at Kengeri in the Mysore State and first with the 21 teachers trained there the first group of 10 basic schools is now being started in and outside Mysore. These three Training Centres were however non-official efforts under the direction of the Hindustani Talimi Sangh.

Government Schemes: Programme for 1947-48. - In 1946-47 the Madras Government conducted two Basic Teachers' Training Centres in two different districts in the Province and about 140 teachers were given one more year of Basic Training. These teachers will now work on the basic lines in 41 schools in the Tamil and Andhra areas of the province. During 1947-48, the Government proposes to provide a two years' course of training of basic teachers at different centres and about 500 new teachers will be trained. On the completion of their training the candidates are to be assigned for work in compact areas of Basic Schools around the Training Centres. Candidates, men and women, who have passed the third form or the eighth standard are eligible for admission; all those admitted will be given a stipend of 18 rupees per month.

(The Hindu, dated 21-7-1947;
The Fort St. George Gazette, dated
24-6-1947, Part I-B, page 318).

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Adult education and literacy drive in Bihar:
One Million persons to be made literate every
year.

2000 adult literacy centres to be opened.- About 1,000,000 people are expected to be made literate every year when the Bihar Government's literacy and adult education programme is put into effect. About 2,000 adult literacy centres are to be opened throughout the province in co-operation with public associations such as the Harijan Sewak Sangh and the Adibasi Sewak Sangh. ~~These~~ Centres will also be opened in different central and ~~in~~ district jails.

Schools to run literacy Centres in rural areas.- The task of opening literacy centres in the rural areas is to be entrusted mainly to the existing high and middle school authorities. Each centre will have two sections. There will be one class for teaching Nagari or Urdu script and another for ~~the~~ illiterate adults. The script class will be conducted by teachers and senior students and the adult literacy class by school students in rotation.

During the current year literacy centres will be opened in 360 rural high and middle schools, each undertaking to make 80 persons literate in a year. 100 centres will be opened for intensive work each of which will be expected to make 80 persons literate every year. 200 literacy centres ~~are~~ are to be opened under the auspices of public organizations. Centres in the provincial jails and in reserved areas such as sugar mills are estimated to make 16,000 people literate per year.

Literacy centres for women in industrial concerns.- Special centres are to be set up for women in industrial concerns which will make 16,000 women literate every year.

Volunteer Workers.- In addition to the literacy centres, ~~about~~ 1,000 volunteers from high and middle schools are to be ~~enrolled~~ enrolled separately, each of them undertaking to make at least 4 of his neighbours literate every year.

Adult education.- For adult education work there will be 3,000 village libraries, and cinema shows; radio broadcasts and similar other means of publicity will also be used. The libraries, which will serve as centres for adult education, will be attached to the literacy centres wherever possible. The publications branch of the Mass Literacy Movement will arrange for the supply of suitable books to the libraries. The adult education plan will cover 750,000 people every year.

Both programmes will be co-ordinated to enable the people to derive the greatest ~~benefit~~ benefit.

(The Hindustan Times, 20-7-1947).

Textile Industry.

Review of Cloth Production: Conference of
Provincial and States Delegates, New Delhi,
31-7-1947.

Representatives of provincial and States governments met in a conference in New Delhi, on 31-7-1947, to review the cloth position in India and to consider the report of the Ad Hoc Committee set up by the Government to recommend ways and means for stepping-up and standardization of production (vide page 57 of the report of this Office for February, 1947). Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Member for Industries and Supplies, Central Government, presided. It is believed that the consensus of opinion at the conference was against any increase in the present price structure of cloth and yarn and that the Commodities Prices Board, to whom the Government had referred the report for comments, was also of opinion that there should be no increase in prices. The main features of the Ad Hoc Committee's report which was discussed at the conference were: appointment of a technical advisory committee; expected total cloth production (mill and handloom); and an extra quantity of 155 million pounds of yarn or over 40 per cent of the present supply of yarn to handlooms. It is understood that the provincial Ministers and representatives of the States were in favour of adopting these recommendations.

The conference also discussed certain suggestions by the Industries Committee of the Textile Control Board for securing effective control over production. Representatives of most of the provinces and States preferred continuance of textile control. Representatives of some areas pointed out from their experience that while control was inevitable in a deficit economy it could at the same time be made to work on an equitable and democratic basis. The defect at present lay, they stressed, in there being too inadequate supplies and not in the inherent principle of the present distribution machinery.

While the discussions were consultative in character, the Member for Industries and Supplies assured the conference that the different points of view taken by the representatives and their various suggestions would be taken into consideration before the Central Government arrived at any final decision on the issues discussed at the conference. He emphasised that the main objects of any revision of the textile policy of the Government would be to increase production and make greater amounts of cloth available to the public.

(The Statesman, ^{30 and} ~~dated~~ 31-7-1947).

Indian again facing Grave Food Shortage:
Informal Food Conference in Delhi.

Grave Food Shortage feared during July-September 1947.-- Early in July it was announced that India was again faced with a grave food shortage, and will have less than one month's supplies in stock on 1-9-1947. Owing to widespread unrest in that province the Punjab had contributed almost nothing to the Central Food Grains Pool and in both Bengal and Madras procurement had lagged behind the targets fixed. Total imports expected in September and October were 123,750 and 142,500 tons of food grains respectively, as against the monthly minimum requirements of 350,000 tons in order to maintain the 12 ounce ration scale. The shortage was stated to be most acute in Madras where the scale of rice ration had had to be cut from 10 ounces to 8 ounces per adult per day as from 15-7-1947; other badly affected areas were Bihar, Bengal, Bombay, the Deccan and some of the South Indian States.

Food Conference in Delhi, 15-7-1947.-- Measures to tide over the crisis were ~~examined~~ considered at an informal conference convened at Delhi on 15-7-1947 by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food Member in the Interim Government, and attended by the Premiers of Assam, Bihar, Bombay and the United Provinces, and Food Ministers from Bombay, Central Provinces and Madras. The Food Member referred to the conference, for advice and guidance, the following three questions: the procurement policy of the Government, both within India and in foreign countries; the prices ~~paid~~ paid to the producers for their grain; and the present system of distribution which applied control on the movement, prices and consumption of foodgrains.

Conference Decisions: Expert Committee to review food policy.-- The Conference was unanimously of opinion that a ~~policy~~ policy of decontrol at this juncture would be disastrous. It felt, however, that in view of the chronic deficits and administrative difficulties of continuing these controls, an Expert Committee should review the whole long-term food policy at an early date.

On the question of prices, the Conference was of opinion that any increase in the prices of foodgrains would lead to a dangerous upward spiral of prices, which would disrupt the entire economy of the country and recommended that this pressure should be resisted. Suggestions were made at the conference that the responsibility of the Government with regard to the distribution of foodgrains should be curtailed and rationing restricted to the larger towns or to certain classes only. Complaints were also voiced that India was not getting a fair deal in international food allocations and was being forced to buy her needs in uncertain and difficult markets.

An Ad Hoc Committee consisting of the Food Ministers from Bombay and Madras and the Food Secretary to the Government of India was appointed to make recommendations on meeting the immediate difficult situation in these two Provinces.

On behalf of the Government of India Dr. Rajendra Prasad accepted the recommendations of the conference for the appointment of ~~an~~ an Expert Committee to review the food policy of the Government, including increase of production. The personnel and the terms of the Committee are to be announced later. (The Statesman, 8 and 14-7-1947).

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Demobilisation and Resettlement.

Employment Exchange Returns, April to June 1947.

Number of Registrations and Placings.- The following table gives the details of the number of registrations and placings in the Employment Exchanges established by the Labour Department of the Government of India during the months of April and June, 1947.

| | April 1947 | June 1947 |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| No. of applicants for employment assistance on the register at the end of the previous month..... | 352,464 | 351,790 |
| Fresh registration during the month..... | 46,753 | 46,654 |
| Re-registrations during the month..... | 5,040 | 6,793 |
| Number placed in employment..... | 12,415 | 14,861 |
| No. found work or registrations lapsed..... | 32,819 | 41,903 |
| No. of applicants requiring assistance at end of the month..... | 358,843 | 348,473 |
| No. of vacancies outstanding at the end of the month:- | | |
| | <u>April</u> | <u>June</u> |
| (a) *Reserved Railway | 56,117 | 57,486 |
| (b) Central or Provincial Governments..... | 24,658 | 23,758 |
| (c) All others..... | 13,590 | 13,282 |
| Total..... | 94,345 | 94,526 |

* Filling of these vacancies will be spread over the entire phase of demobilisation and a period thereafter.

Placings by wage groups.- The following figures give an analysis of placings during June by wage groups:

| Wage Group. | Number Placed |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Rs. 35/- and below | 7,758 |
| Rs. 36/- and to Rs. 50/- | 5,695 |
| Rs. 51/- to Rs. 100/- | 1,160 |
| Rs. 101/- and above..... | 268 |
| Total | 14,861 |

Placings during May.- Complete figures relating to the work done by the Employment Exchanges during May, 1947, are not yet available. According to a Press note, dated 20-6-1947, issued by the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment, the number of applicants placed in employment during the May was 15,761, of whom 8,615 were ex-Service-men. During the month, 1,628 ex-Service personnel were selected and posted to 241 training centres, bringing the total number selected and

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posted upto the end of May 1947 to 52,886. The postings during May 1947 include 1,275 ex-Servicemen posted to vocational and technical training centres, 243 disabled persons posted to training centres for the war disabled and 112 ex-Service women to training centres for women. The total number of persons under training at the end of the month was 10,287.

(Progress Report for the month of June, 1947,
Approved by the Directorate-General of Resettlement
and Employment, Government of India; Indian
Labour Gazette, June 1947).

Workers' Cooperatives for Ex-Servicemen: N.W.F.P.
Scheme.

The Government of the North-West Frontier Province is understood to have allocated over 4 million rupees from the Services Post-war Reconstruction Fund, to be spent during a period of 25 years, on measures which will facilitate the resettlement of ex-Servicemen, particularly through the agency of cooperative societies.

The Committee formed to administer the Services Post-war Reconstruction Fund had decided to give first priority to the organisation of district cooperative societies for the employment of ex-Servicemen for a period of two years in the first instance. The object of these societies is to provide ex-Servicemen employment at a proper living wage according to their capabilities and also improved conditions of work. As regards the necessary share capital, the Post-war Services Reconstruction Fund will make a contribution in the ratio of three shares to every two subscribed by the members, and the total capital thus accruing will provide the cost of the sites, tools, equipment, etc. Members of the societies will be paid 40 rupees per month as basic wage and a dividend from profits according to the share contributed. All payments will be made monthly, money being advanced in the first instance from the Post-war Services Reconstruction Fund. These advances will be recouped when payment is received for completed contracts.

The Governor of the North-West Frontier Province who is Chairman of the Post-war Services Reconstruction Fund, has already sanctioned the formation of a press Co-operative Society to publish a weekly journal called "Jamir-i-nau" devoted to promoting the interests of the ex-Services personnel in the Province.

(Resettlement News issued by the
Directorate-General of Resettlement and
Employment, Government of India, May, 1947).

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Post-War Reconstruction.

Rs. 360 Million Five-Year Development Plan for
Sind.

Reference was made at page 68 of the report of this Office for July 1945 to certain plans for post-war reconstruction drawn up by the Government Departments in Sind. The plans would now appear to have been finalised and the Sind Government's 'Five-Year Master Plan for Post-war Development' of the province is estimated to cost about 360 million rupees and is made up of 88 schemes to be implemented during the next five years. The plans fall into two categories—those that are directly productive and remunerative, e.g., irrigation and hydro-electric projects, and those that are not directly remunerative, e.g., education and public ~~health~~ health.

Irrigation.— For irrigation, due to the vagaries of the Indus and its uncertain water supply, the provincial Government has decided to construct two more barrages, one in Lower and the other in Upper Sind. The two barrages, when completed, will irrigate a total area of 2,575,000 acres of fallow land. The work on the lower barrage, which has begun, will give employment to about 15,000 persons, skilled and unskilled.

Development of Electric Power.— The electrification plan contemplates the installation of a 10,000 kilo-watt capacity hydro-electric generating plant to supply electric power to the three districts of Jacobabad, Sukkur and Larkana, and to Khairpur State.

Agriculture.— Twenty-six schemes estimated to cost 40 million rupees have been drawn up and approved for agricultural development of the province.

The execution of the plan is expected to involve a large demand for trained personnel and it is emphasised that experience has proved that where the training of staff has been rushed through, not only the success of the plan has been jeopardized but there has been a colossal wastage of capital and equipment. Besides sending abroad batches of students for technical training the Sind Government is, therefore, enlarging existing training institutions and setting up new ones to cope with the increased demand for trained and specialised staff.

(The Statesman, 15-7-1947).

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Motor Transport to be Nationalised in Madras:
Details of Five-Year Plan.

A Press note issued by the Government of Madras in the second week of July announced that the Madras Government had sanctioned a five-year plan for the nationalisation of Motor Transport in the province. Reference was made at page 25 of the report of this Office for March 1947 to the setting up of a Cabinet Sub-Committee to draw up a scheme for the nationalisation of motor transport in the province. In April 1947, consequent upon a change in Ministry, a new Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister with the Minister for Transport and two other Ministers as members and the Government's decisions outlined below are based on the recommendations of the Committee.

Capitalisation: Government to contribute 51 per cent of Share Capital.- The primary object of nationalisation, according to the Government, is to provide an efficient and cheap transport service for the travelling public and to utilise the profits for the benefit of the community as a whole. It has, therefore, been decided that the provincial Government should be the dominant partner in any scheme of nationalisation. After careful consideration the Government has decided that the different interested agencies shall contribute to the share capital in the following proportions: Provincial Government 51 per cent; Local Bodies 20 per cent; Railways 15 per cent; Private operators 14 per cent. The shares of the operators will not be transferable but will be sold only to the provincial Government or according to instructions which might be issued by them in this regard. If any money remains after payment of such dividend as may be fixed, not exceeding $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent to the financial parties, the provincial Government will be free to utilise it in such manner as it thinks fit. If the parties concerned do not take up shares upto the proportion mentioned above, the balance will be taken up by the provincial Government.

Statutory Transport Board to work Scheme.- The day-to-day administration of the service is to be entrusted to a statutory Transport Board. The exact composition of this Board is still under consideration. It has further been decided that actual administration in each district should be vested in a single officer, viz., the District Transport Officer.

The Government has also decided that the passenger bus services in the province should be nationalised first and later on the lorry services. The consideration of the question whether taxi services should also be nationalized has been deferred.

Passenger Transport Services to be taken over 1-10-1947: Nationalisation to be achieved by stages.- In pursuance of the above plan the passenger transport services in Madras City are to be taken over by October 1, 1947 or as soon after as possible. In respect of the mofussil areas Government has under consideration the possibility of commencing its programme of nationalization from next year and completing it in a period of five years.

The capital outlay in respect of nationalisation in Madras City is estimated at 6.7 million rupees. The cost of the entire scheme for the province is to run to 100 million rupees. The nationalisation is expected to yield a net revenue of 1.5 million rupees to the Government annually.

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List of the more important publications received in this office during July 1947.

National Labour Legislation

We have
The Bombay Industrial Relations Act, by P.B. Patwari, B.A., LL.B., Advocate of the Bombay High Court. Bharti Sahitya Sangh Ltd., Bombay 2. 1947.

Conditions of Work

- (1) Report on the working of the Factories Act in the province of Madras for the year 1945. The Superintendent, Government Press, Madras. 1947. Price Rs. 3-12-0.
- (2) Indian Labour Problems, edited by A.N. Agarwala, University of Allahabad. With a foreword by the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Member, Government of India. Kitabistan, Allahabad, and Arthur Probsthain, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1. Price Rs. 16 or 35s. pp. xxii + 406.

Social Insurance

Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1946. Government of Madras, Department: G.O. No. 2419, 31st May 1947.

Employment, Unemployment and Vocational Training

Annual Report of the David Sassoon Industrial Unemployment Survey, 1944-45. Printed at the Government Central Press, Bombay. Price annas 2

Living Conditions

X Annual Report on the Administration of the Industrial Unemployment Scheme for the year 1941-42, 1942-43 and 1943-44. Bombay: Printed by the Government Central Press. Obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Bombay.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.

We have
All India Trade Union Congress - Report: Twenty Second Session, Calcutta 1947. R.L. Trust Building, 55, Girgaon Road, Bombay 4. Price Rs. 3. pp. 183.