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CHAPTER 1. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

INDIA - APRIL 1950.

11. Political Situation and Administrative Action.

Punjab: Meeting of Labour Advisory Board:
Seven Regional Boards set up to promote
better Relations between Workers and Employers.

A meeting of the Punjab Tripartite Labour Advisory Board was held at Ambala on 21 and 22 April 1950, Mr. Prithvi Singh Azad, Labour Minister of the Punjab, presiding. Among other things, the meeting decided to constitute seven regional tripartite boards consisting of representatives of Government, employers and workers, to promote better relations between the workers and employers in their respective regions.

The Board decided to request the State Government to have the question of standardization of wages in the textile industry investigated by the Board of Economic Inquiry. Regarding labour welfare activities the Board requested the Government to ~~expedite~~ expedite construction of buildings in industrial towns for setting up labour welfare centres. It was suggested that employers should meet the recurring expenditure of these centres. It was also decided to request the State Government to survey the tea industry in Kangra district and devise ways and means to secure its development including adequate safeguards for labour employed in the plantations. The Board observed that the tea industry in Kangra district had not received sufficient attention for consolidation or development as compared with the tea industry in Assam.

(The Tribune, 24-4-1950;
The Statesman, 24-4-1950)

13. Conventions and Recommendations.

India - April 1950.

India ratifies Night Work (Women) Convention (Revised) 1948 and Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention (Revised), 1948.

The Government of India has ratified the Night Work (Women) Convention (Revised), 1948, (No.89) and the Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention (Revised), 1948, (No.90). The ratifications were registered by the International Labour Office on 17 February, 1950.

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CHAPTER 2. INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND
NON-PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

INDIA - APRIL 1950.

22. Regional Institutions.

Second Session of the ECAFE Sub-Committee on
Iron and Steel, Calcutta, 10-13 April 1950 :
Member Countries urged to utilise U.N. Technical
Assistance.

The second session of the the Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel of the E.C.A.F.E. was held at Calcutta from 10 to 13 April 1950. The session was attended by delegates from 14 countries - Australia, Burma, France, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Netherlands, Philippines, Pakistan, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vietnam. Mr. M.K. Powvala, the Indian delegate was re-elected chairman of the Committee. The Sub-Committee discussed the programmes and projects for expansion and development of iron and steel industries of the individual countries of the region. In examining and assessing the individual projects of the countries, the Sub-Committee arrived at certain conclusions regarding the efficient use of existing facilities, expansion of existing capacity, and development of new capacity.

Economic aspects of development plans.- The Sub-Committee considered it necessary that study be made of the economic aspects of the development plans, with particular reference to estimated production costs, relationship between production costs and import prices, and possible methods of reducing production costs. The Sub-Committee further felt that, instead of establishing iron and steel plants where these would appear to be of an uneconomic character, countries might still consider economic methods of obtaining assured supplies of necessary products at assured prices, including such methods as long-term import agreements and stockpiling.

Trade in iron and steel.- The Sub-Committee recommended a detailed analysis of present and potential intra and inter-regional trade in raw materials, semi-finished, and finished products of the iron and steel industry, indicating possibilities of obtaining certain essential materials such as billets, refractories, scrap etc., shortages of which handicap full and efficient utilization of existing capacities, and examining the possibilities of long-term contractual arrangements between the countries, and cooperative production arrangements of a bilateral or multilateral character, with a view to ensuring regular supplies of raw and auxiliary materials and finished products at steady and reasonable prices.

Power.- The Sub-Committee emphasised the importance of power, especially hydro-electric power - to the plans for the development of the iron and steel industry and was of the opinion that this aspect of the development of the iron and steel industry should be closely examined by the E.C.A.F.E. Secretariat. It also recommended that the Commission, or the Committee on Industry and Trade, should consider the desirability of establishing a Power Committee of the Commission or a Power Sub-Committee of the Committee on Industry and Trade.

Technical assistance.- The Sub-Committee felt that the countries of the region should present specific requests to utilize the Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Considerable benefits may also be derived by the countries through circulation of technical assistance in the form of bibliographies, technical data and other literature related to specific aspects of the production on iron and steel, and the Sub-Committee therefore requested that such assistance be granted. It was also felt that technical assistance, particularly in these fields where knowledge of the most recent developments in the manufacture of iron and steel is essential, may be provided through the machinery of seminars or conferences on specific subjects ~~or~~ for technical personnel.

The Sub-Committee was also of the opinion that a complete list of the geological and metallurgical laboratories and research institutions within the region with annotated notes on their activities and the results of their work, together with a list of leading institutions outside the region, be compiled and published for wide distribution.

The Sub-Committee noted that certain governments had made specific requests for the services of the E.C.A.F.E. Secretariat and its technical consultant. It was therefore, felt that the work should be continued and intensified.

Re-rolling facilities.- The Sub-Committee felt that Governments, in cases where development of iron and steel producing plants did not appear feasible, should consider the technical and economic possibilities of developing or expanding re-rolling facilities.

Programme of work approved.- A programme of work by the E.C.A.F.E. Secretariat based on the discussions at the session was laid down by the Sub-Committee. This included, among others, study of the economic aspects of development of the iron and steel industry of ECAFE countries, intra-regional and inter-regional trade agreements, obstacles of trade and requirements in raw materials. The Secretariat will also undertake a survey and provide advisory services for existing plant.

(E/CN.11/1 and T/18 and
E/C.N.11/1 and S/16, dated
17 April 1950)

23. Non-Governmental International Organisations.

India - April 1950.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations
Inaugurated.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, inaugurated on 9 April 1950, the plenary session of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations; Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Education Minister presided. The session was attended, among others, by heads of diplomatic missions and members of Parliament. The Council, which aims at establishing, reviving and strengthening cultural relations between India and other countries, was formed at an informal meeting of Ambassadors of Asian countries, members of the Indian Constituent Assembly and several prominent non-officials held in New Delhi in August, 1949 (vide page 4 of the report of this Office for August 1949).

Constitution of the Council.- According to the Constitution of the Council, the council will consist of two representatives each of the Indian universities, two representatives each of the countries constituting the regional sections of the Council and a representative each of the various cultural and educational organisations in India. So far about 30 members have been nominated to the Council by Indian universities, 37 by cultural and educational organizations, 28 by the President, Maulana Azad. The diplomatic representatives in India of Egypt, Turkey, Iraq, Persia and Afghanistan have nominated one or two members each. The constitution provides for the establishment of sub-sections for each country. To begin with, it will have only two sections - one for western Asia, Egypt and Turkey and another for South-East Asia. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad has been nominated by the Government of India as the first President of the Council for three years.

Work of the Council: Mr. Azad's address.- Addressing the session Mr. Azad said that its new constitution had removed all territorial and geographical limitations on its activities. Its work, however, would be confined for the present to Turkey and the Middle East, and the South-East Asian countries. He said that Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Persia, Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon and Indonesia had welcomed the setting up of the Council and

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expressed willingness to improve cultural relations with India. A separate sub-section had been set up for promoting cultural relations with Persia. Referring to the activities of the Council, he said it had already sent a professor of Sanskrit to Anjuman-e-Iran-Shinasi, in Teheran while Prof. Nafisi, a Iranian scholar, had delivered lectures at some of the Indian universities.

The first general meeting of the Council was also held on the same day.

(The Statesman, 9 and 10-4-1950).

CHAPTER 3. PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

INDIA - APRIL 1950.

31. Workers' Trade Union Movements.

Sugar Industry Labour Census in U.P.:
United U.P. and Bihar Chini Mill Mazdoor
Federation recognised as most
representative.

The Uttar Pradesh Government conducted during March 1950 a census to determine the relative strength of the various sugar mill workers' organisations in the State, in which the United Uttar Pradesh and Bihar Chini Mill Mazdoor Federation, ^{affiliated to the Hind Mazdoor Sabha} secured the majority of votes, ~~affiliated to the Hind Mazdoor Sabha~~. Out of the 82,999 workers entitled to participate in the voting, 68,140 exercised their right. Of these 47,691 voted for the United Uttar Pradesh and Bihar Chini Mill Mazdoor Federation and the remaining 20,449 for the Indian National Sugar Mill Workers' Federation, which is affiliated to the Indian National Trade Union Congress. The census covered 66 sugar factories, the remaining five having closed completely.

As a consequence of the census, the Uttar Pradesh Government issued a notification on 30 March 1950 under section 3 of the Uttar Pradesh Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, recognising the United Uttar Pradesh and Bihar Chini Mill Mazdoor Federation for purposes of representation in Works Committees, in place of the Indian National Sugar Mills Workers' Federation.

(National Herald, 20-3-1950;
Janata, dated 26-3-1950 ;
Government Gazette of the
Uttar Pradesh, Extraordinary,
dated 30 March 1950)

Ninth Annual Conference of Ceylon Indian Congress Labour Union: Name changed to Ceylon Workers' Congress.

The ninth annual general conference of the Ceylon Indian Congress Labour Union was held at Matale during the last week of April 1950. Among others, the session adopted a resolution changing the name of the union to the Ceylon Workers' Congress.

By another resolution the conference requested the Minister for Labour and Social Services to remedy the situation arising from the action of the planters in bringing ~~in~~ cheap outside labour while retrenched labourers were still unemployed. It was pointed out that there was an understanding that retrenched labourers should be first absorbed before outside labour was recruited. The meeting also passed a resolution reiterating its demand for immediate implementation by the Government and employers of its 15-point demand, made at the 1949 annual session of the Union.

Office-bearers.- The conference elected Mr. K. Rajalingam as president, and Mr. S. Somasundram as secretary.

(The 1949 annual conference of the Ceylon Indian Congress Labour Union was reported at pages 12-13 of the report of this Office for May 1949).

(The Times of ~~India~~ Ceylon, 24-4-1950; The Hindu, dated 26-4-1950).

The Trade Unions Bill, referred to Select
Committee.

On 6 April 1950, the Indian Parliament took up consideration of the Trade Unions Bill, 1950 (vide pages 8-10 of the report of this Office for February 1950), and after a brief discussion agreed to the motion of the Labour Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, to refer it to a Select Committee.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram, commending his motion, said that one of the important provisions of the Bill was that civil servants would have their own unions which would not be affiliated to the unions of others. There was a provision for compulsory recognition of trade unions as well as for reduction of ~~transferees~~ the number of outsiders in the executive of trade unions so that the working class movement in the country may really belong to the workers.

Mr. Hariharnath Shastri (Uttar Pradesh), General Secretary of the Indian National Trade Union Congress said that the Bill was a substantial improvement on the Trade Union Act of 1926, and he was in agreement with the principle of the Bill. He urged that the definition clause of the Bill should be identical with that of the Labour Relations Bill. Speaking about the provisions, he said that the I.N.T.U.C. favoured the idea that as far as possible, workmen should be in charge of trade union organisations. But they felt that the drastic departure from the existing practice as suggested in the Bill would operate as a serious handicap to trade union organisations in the present conditions. He also said that the provision for withdrawal of recognition of trade unions on the ground of participation in irregular strike was drastic.

The House rejected a motion moved by Mr. Sarangdhar Das, (Orissa) for circulation of the Bill and adopted the motion of the Minister for referring the Bill to a Select Committee.

(The Hindustan Times, 6-4-1950).

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CHAPTER 4. ECONOMIC QUESTIONS.

INDIA - APRIL 1950.

41. Industrial and Mining Production.

Better Marketing Facilities for Tea:
Government accepts Enquiry Committee's
Interim Report.

The Government of India has considered the interim report of the Ad Hoc Committee appointed in February 1949, to examine problems confronting the tea industry and the marketing of tea (vide page 28 of the report of this Office for February 1949) and has taken decisions on the main recommendations and initiated action where necessary. In its report issued recently, the Committee points out that there has been a strengthening of the market for tea since devaluation and there is reason to believe that this favourable condition will continue for some time.

More storage accommodation.- The Committee has recommended that increased quantities of tea should be placed in the Calcutta auctions from 1950-51 and that, for storing this additional quantity, the construction of 20,000 square feet of transit accommodation (for reception of teas prior to their onward movement to warehouses) and of an additional 140,000 square feet of proper tea warehouse accommodation should be undertaken immediately. The Commissioners of the Port of Calcutta, at the instance of the Government, have undertaken to construct a four-storeyed tea warehouse to provide additional storing accommodation suitable for both rail and river-borne teas. The Port Commissioners have also agreed to provide immediately additional temporary accommodation for storing increased quantities of tea in the port.

Marketing facilities.- In the matter of marketing of teas in Calcutta including broking facilities such as auctioning, testing, valuing and buyers' technical staff, the Committee considers the present services sufficiently elastic to permit of the expansion necessary to deal with the additional quantity. Certain internal readjustments relating to procedure and personnel would be necessary.

The Committee also stresses the need for "100 percent inspection" at warehouses as against the present practice of inspection of an average of only 10 per cent.

Training of tea brokers.- Training of tea brokers is an integral part of any scheme for expansion of the Indian tea market. The Government has accepted the scheme worked out by the Committee in consultation with the principal firms of tea brokers, for the training of Indians in tea broking work, including testing, valuation and inspection, and has advised the Chairman of the Central Tea Board to proceed to implement the scheme.

Supply of machinery to tea gardens.- The Committee has urged the need for maintenance of a regular and adequate supply of stores, fertilizers, building materials and machinery to the tea gardens, and the Government has requested the Ministries *concerned* and the Chief Controller of Imports to give priority to requests from the tea industry for stores and other materials.

(The Statesman, dated 10-4-1950).

43. Foreign Trade and Exchanges.

India - April 1950.

Revival of Trade between India and Pakistan:
Short-term Agreement concluded.

The Governments of India and Pakistan signed a short-term trade agreement for revival of trade between the two countries at Karachi on 21 April 1950. The agreement among other things, provides for a limited deal in which Pakistan will sell four million maunds of raw jute to India and will, with the sale proceeds, buy in India jute goods, fine and superfine cloth, mustard oil, tobacco, timber and woollen manufactures. The two Governments will also remove all impediments to the free flow of a number of specified commodities such as perishable goods, cotton seeds, soda ash, leather, soaps, silk goods etc., leaving it to the trade to buy and sell. For this purpose the sale proceeds of exports should be utilized for financing imports so that a balanced trade may be achieved without Governmental interference. Trade in miscellaneous commodities will not entail any obligation on the part of either Government to provide foreign exchange.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Government of Pakistan has also agreed to supply India 150,000 tons of wheat, at a price to be settled through negotiations to be opened shortly.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-4-1950;
The Statesman, dated 26-4-1950).

The Indian Tariff (Second Amendment) Act,
1950 (No. XXI of 1950): Protection continued
for 20 Industries.

The Indian Tariff (Second Amendment) Bill, 1950, (vide pages 39-40 of the report of this Office for March 1950) as passed by the Parliament was assented to by the President on 18 March and has been gazetted as the Indian Tariff (Second Amendment) Act, 1950 (Act No. XXI of 1950). The Act provides, among other things, for the continuance of protection for 20 industries.

(The Gazette of India, Part IV, dated 18 March 1950, pages 60-62).

45. Economic Development and Control.

India - April 1950.

Programme for Economic Development of India:
Congress Economic Planning Sub-Committee's
Memorandum: Better Working Conditions for
Labour suggested.

The Economic Planning Sub-Committee of the Congress appointed during February 1950 (vide page 25 of the report of this Office for February 1950) has submitted a memorandum laying down a detailed programme for the economic development of India. The programme suggests, among other things (1) intensification of efforts to grow more food and essential raw materials and consumers' goods in a manner yielding quick results and offering productive employment to a large section of unemployed and under-employed population; (2) mopping up of surplus purchasing power specially in sectors least habituated to capital formation through a scheme of voluntary and nationwide austerity; (3) increasing of efficiency of labour, agricultural and industrial, through provision of better conditions of life and by stimulating production through the removal of restrictive unplanned and outmoded controls; (4) rationalising control of capital issue on a positive basis of priority-rating; (5) gearing of ~~our~~ export and import control to the demands of ^{Indian} national economy in investment production and consumption; and (6) imposing of more stringent control on unhealthy speculation.

Immediate programme.- The memorandum urges that the immediate programme should aim at the restoration of the level of production and employment and repairing the damage to the economy. Emphasis should also be laid on the creation of such institutions as co-operatives in agriculture and industries, and panchayats, ^{the} training of local leadership to man these institutions and creation of mass enthusiasm and consciousness which alone can make the programme of the Congress and the National Planning Commission a people's programme. ~~xxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~
The successful implementation of the immediate programme will create conditions for more comprehensive planning to be governed by fresh objectives

namely, (a) promotion of a balanced economy in agriculture, large-scale basic industries, village industries and social services; (b) rationalization of production in agriculture and industry and taking steps for the establishment and administration of a just and decentralized co-operative economy; and (c) a definite rise in the standard of planned economy which ~~guar~~ guarantees a fair remuneration to those who participate in the creation of wealth.

Rural Development: Intensification of "grow more food" plan.- In regard to intensification of the "grow more food" plan, the memorandum states that the area that can be reclaimed and added to the existing cultivated area can but be an infinitesimal fraction of the whole. Much better results can be achieved by making even a small increase in the yield of the area already under cultivation. If food production can be raised from the existing cultivated area by ten per cent the deficit will be made good. The yield per acre in India is very low. A little improvement in the methods of cultivation, full use of farmyard waste composted into manure, provision of irrigation wherever possible by extension of canal channels and sinking of wells can help in increasing food production. The memorandum also suggests use of better seeds, use of dead animals and bone meal for manuring, intensification of ~~campaigns for the protection of crops from wild animals, pests and insects and planned development of fuel, fodder and horticultural reserves.~~ campaigns for the protection of crops from wild animals, pests and insects and planned development of fuel, fodder and horticultural reserves. The memorandum also emphasises the need to extend mixed farming and to develop cattle wealth by the supply of pedigree bulls, artificial insemination of cattle etc.

Steps to improve working conditions of agricultural labour.- Special attention should be given to the organisation of agricultural labour for bettering their conditions. There should be strict enforcement of legislation banning forced labour. Agrarian serfdom should be made a cognizable offence and the president of the union board or the village panchayat might be empowered to enforce the law. Debts of agricultural labourers should be scaled down and wherever found inequitable wiped out. High priority should be given to provision of house-sites to agricultural workers and to the removal of disabilities attached to the present house-sites. An immediate programme for deploying a section of the surplus agricultural labour to non-agricultural operations in certain regions should be taken up.

Development of cottage industries.- The memorandum makes a number of suggestions for the development of cottage industries. While cottage industries in general should be developed on the basis of regional potentialities, provision should be made for inter-regional training centres so that the peculiar efficiency of the artisans of a particular region such as in making locks, cutlery, ceramics, bell-metal industry etc., may be transmitted to the artisans of other regions. Greater emphasis should also be laid on research in design and pattern and improvement of technical implements. Facilities should be given for training batches of artisans for different industries from each State in the centres run by Japanese technicians. Provisions for finance should be made under State Industrial trade corporation and schemes for standardization, and quality control of cottage industry products must receive high priority. Workshops should be organized for training village artisans in making improved varieties of agricultural implements and tools required for cottage industries. Small machines on Japanese models should be produced on a mass scale and distributed through industrial co-operatives to specially trained artisans.

It is also necessary to consider the policy regarding co-ordination between large scale industries and small-scale village industries. In a properly co-ordinated plan the former can to a great extent contribute to the expansion of the latter. A small cess on the large-scale industry may be levied to be utilized for a subsidy to a small-scale industry affected by the competition from the former. Much may be achieved by a more sympathetic policy of Government purchase. The immediate task should be to make a rapid survey of the requirements at home and abroad which can be met by these industries and of the regional resources suitable for their development. Such survey can be carried out by a co-ordinated effort of the State Governments in complete liaison with the National ~~and~~ Planning Commission. Every State Government must have a target plan for the organization of industrial co-operatives which should as far as possible look after the supply of raw materials and marketing of the products of the village and small-scale industries. Arrangements on a priority basis, both under the Centre and the State Governments, should be made for the supply of essential materials. Exhibition of India's cottage industry products and literature in foreign countries and special measures to improve handloom textile products are also suggested.

Referring to the working conditions in cottage and small-scale industries, the memorandum states that by and large the cottage industries today present a spectacle of low technical efficiency, antiquated method of work and organization, extreme exploitation by sahukars and sub-human conditions of life and labour. It is, therefore, essential to evolve a system in which the village artisans work for regular hours in establishments run and supervised on modern methods of business and produce designs and patterns suited to indigenous and foreign markets.

Reform in land-ownership.- The memorandum is of the opinion that agriculture will remain in a state of flux so long as the structure and pattern of rural economy does not become clear and definite. It is of extreme importance and urgency that zamindari and malguzari systems are abolished expeditiously. During the period of transition, protection should be given to tenants-at-will in the matter of tenure and level of rent. Introduction of co-operative farming in a planned manner with fixed targets in every region should be undertaken. A definite decision should be taken in regard to fixing a ceiling to land holdings.

Rural credit.- For financing agriculture and small-scale industries, the memorandum suggests the provision of institutional credit machinery, the financial assistance flowing through multi-purposes and industrial co-operatives. Institutions like the Central Industrial Finance Corporation and State Corporation should be established, for the financing of agriculture and rural industries. It suggests that under the auspices of the rural development machinery there should be an intensive drive for diverting the flow of investible surplus of the country to the institutions for agricultural and industrial finance. Public workers and officers of the Government may follow the lead and then alone ~~like a snow-ball~~ this programme for regionalizing capital formation may gather weight and volume and common peasants and industrial workers, who are consuming today their surplus income, may be effectively induced to invest a portion of their income in the programme of building decentralized co-operative economy.

Side by side with the development of agriculture and village handicrafts the memorandum lays down a programme for rural education, sanitation and other social services. Special emphasis is laid on providing public health facilities in villages and control of epidemics such as malaria and cholera.

Organisation of rural development machinery.-

The memorandum, ~~lays~~ down the details of the machinery to carry out the rural development programme. At the basic level the village panchayat should look after general administration, social functions and land management; multi-purpose co-operatives for financing and development of agriculture and industrial co-operatives for small-scale industries should operate. At the district and provincial level there should be rural development boards. A special cadre of workers should be trained from local artisans and sons of ~~trained~~ farmers and self-sacrificing young men and women. After receiving general education up to a certain standard they may be trained in a special course of constructive work and the duties connected with rural development.

Development of large-scale industries: Promotion of workers' welfare suggested.-

The memorandum makes far-reaching recommendations in regard to the development of large-scale industries and promotion of the welfare of industrial workers. In the sector for large-scale industries, the remarkable feature is that all the basic and essential industries are producing below their capacity. The Government of India are conscious of the need for a scheme of rationalization which would harmonize the interests of labour and capital on the one hand and the maintenance of the equilibrium of the social economy. The following suggestions are made in the memorandum in this connection: (1) working parties should be appointed for various industries; (2) steps should be taken for building a cadre specially trained for managing industries taken over by the State. Provision of gratuity to the retrenched employees; (3) nationalization of life and transport insurance; (4) promotion of industrial housing. The conventional method of building houses may be substituted ~~for~~ by a method of utilizing less costly materials; and (5) provision of hygienic conditions in factories and labour areas.

Review of controls.- The memorandum discusses at length the problem of controls. It is considered that the changed economic condition and the loss of morale due to imperfect administration of controls demand a review of the position. While the demand for and the supply of the commodities decontrolled should be precisely examined, no less important is the assessment of the social consciousness against the antisocial elements and the ability of the Government machinery to take drastic action against those elements.

The memorandum discusses the position of a number of commodities such as salt, cement, cloth sugar, paper, etc., with a view to lifting control over them in a planned manner so that the individual can get as much freely as is consistent with the interests of the community and demand of the planned economy.

Salt.- There is at present a three-fold control-production and prices and distribution-of salt. The memorandum considers that with the Government schemes for expansion of salt production it may be safely recommended to lift all the three controls keeping only the export control which is necessary in view of the great price disparities of ~~the~~ indigenous and world's supply of salt.

Cement.- As regards cement, control over production should continue, but the distribution quota may be lifted.

Coal.- All controls over production and distribution of coal should be removed except the control exercised through allotment of wagons and movement facilities.

Sugar.- So far as sugar is concerned, before announcing decontrol a reserve of one to two lakh tons may be created. Such a measure will restore the confidence of the consumers and act as a deterrent to hoarders. Export control should, however, be retained, for otherwise a large quantity is likely to be exported to Pakistan and other foreign countries.

Paper.- Except distribution control intended to allot State quotas from the total available supply, other controls on paper may be lifted. Research centres for improving the methods of cottage ~~india~~ production of paper should be started.

Cloth.- In regard to lifting control over cloth, the memorandum states that distribution control has been greatly relaxed after January 1949, and it would be advisable to watch for some more time the trend of demand and the effect of intensifying the programme of handloom production out of the yarn spun from indigenous variety of cotton.

Iron and Steel.- As regards iron and steel, control covers production, distribution and price. Every effort should be made to bridge the gap between production and the requirements of the country. Simultaneously the feasibility and the manner of removing the various controls should be examined.

Control of capital issues.- As regards control of capital issues, the memorandum expresses the view that it has lost much of its original purpose with the end of war. It has so far been influenced by a negative outlook inasmuch as it sought to check merely the expansion of development of economic activities in unhealthy and non-essential directions. There is no priority rating in the matter of grant of permission for capital issue and in the absence of any break-up of the amounts permitted index-wise or category-wise it fails to indicate the order to

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priorities even if unconsciously observed. A positive policy for priority rating with interest of planned development should ~~be~~ be observed. It hopes that the Industries Control Bill will to a great extent fill up the lacuna.

Import policy.- As regards import control the memorandum observes that though it is intended to help and adjust the import of such articles as are likely to facilitate the economic rehabilitation and industrial development of the country it, nevertheless, fails to impose any priority rating in general as between one industry and another. The cause of this failure lies in the negative approach and operation of the control system. In view of the initiative for import being very largely in the hands of private persons and past imports being the basis of import quotas, the control system can only operate to perpetuate the existing economy and fails to give any positive lead to the development of a new economy consistent with the needs of the situation. The memorandum emphasises that imports should be restricted to capital goods, industrial raw materials, spare parts, not manufactured here and such other goods as are given priority in the national plan of economic development, and suggests import restrictions on a number of consumer goods and luxury articles.

The memorandum points out that it is necessary to devise ways and means to stimulate the export of manufactured goods even at some sacrifice. The cotton textile industry is facing growing international competition and to maintain the valuable export markets for ^{such} textiles, facilities urgently needed should be explored.

Check on speculation.- To control speculation, the memorandum suggests initiation of a comprehensive legislation incorporating the following provisions:- (1) a single stock-exchange for the same city or town; (2) complete suppression of the outside markets; (3) the president of each stock exchange must be placed in a more independent position; he may be a nominee of the Government; (4) prohibition of blank transfers, of excessive short-selling giving rise to corners, and of margin-trading particularly by brokers with bank advances; and (5) fixation of upper and lower margins to price-movements and obligations placed on the "bulls" and "bears" respectively to deposit a certain percentage (fairly high) of the value of transaction with nominated banks, when prices moved beyond or below the margins so fixed.

The speculative activities are the result of scarcity artificially created by forward ~~pre~~ purchases by a few merchants from the actual growers and holding back of the supply to raise prices. Hence, in addition to measures necessary to curb undue speculation in commodities, the question of affording credit to growers so that they are not forced to sell ~~of~~ their produce in advance has to be solved. In addition to it, the question whether actual producers can be organised on a co-operative basis with opportunities of direct marketing and export have to be examined.

Planning machinery.— Regarding planning machinery the memorandum observes that the appointment of a national planning commission has lent urgency to the appointment of the State planning machinery. The machinery for co-ordinating the different State Governments today differs widely in composition and function. It is, therefore, necessary to have a uniform machinery in all State Governments in the shape of cabinet sub-committees consisting of the Ministers in charge of nation-building departments with the Chief Minister as Chairman and the Chief Secretary as Secretary with a Deputy Secretary specially appointed for this work. After considering the advice tendered by the State development board, the State planning machinery should draw up a comprehensive plan for development making proportionate allocation of available resources in money and material quite well in advance of the budget. The schemes should have a two-way movement. They will go to the National Planning Commission for integration and co-ordination along with similar schemes of other State Governments. They will also move downwards through the provincial development boards to the district development boards to be considered in the light of local resources and needs.

Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Congress Party Leaders on Planning, New Delhi, 25-26 April 1950: Emphasis on popular Approach.

A conference of Chief Ministers of States and the Presidents of the Provincial Congress Committees was held at New Delhi on 25 and 26 April 1950, to consider a co-ordinated scheme for the planned economic development of India on the basis of the memorandum submitted by the Congress Economic Planning Sub-Committee (vide pages 15-22 of this report). Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Congress President, presided. The meeting, which indicated an attempt at a synthesis of the popular and official approaches to the country's problems, adopted a number of resolutions on various aspects of planning, inter alia, proposing the raising of the standard of living of the people as a result of a planned economy which guarantees a fair remuneration to those who participate in the creation of wealth.

Dr. Pattabhi's address.- Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya who inaugurated the proceedings stated that the Conference was a gathering of the members of the Planning Committee and the non-official heads of the Congress whose initiative it was that had led to the establishment of the Planning Commission. The Constitution of India embodied certain fundamental rights and certain directive principles of State policy which were related intimately to the social and economic organisation to be evolved and which must be translated into practical programmes. It was to implement and make effective these declarations and directives of the Congress that a statutory planning commission had been set up. It was possible that ere long complications and even conflicts may ensue as

between the deliberations of the Commission and the concepts of the Congress organisation. He stated that to concert measures to avoid such friction should be one of the objects of this conference and suggested that it may advantageously lay down a procedure to correlate the work of the economic programme of the Congress and the decisions of the National Planning Commission so that the resultant of these may constitute the industrial policy of the Governments - Central and State. He also said that as planning covered the whole range of life, the operations of a Planning Commission could not be the sole care and exclusive concern of the Centre or the State. He suggested the fullest measure of harmony and co-operation between the Centre and the States with popular support.

Popular approach welcomed: Prime Minister's address.- Addressing the meeting Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister and the Chairman of the National Planning Commission, emphasised that a combination of popular and official approach to national problems would lead to a correct appreciation of issues and ensure people's co-operation. He criticized lack of co-ordination among the agencies responsible for planning, and stressed the need for foreseeing a concentrated and overall picture of a problem. He referred to the danger of lifting controls on some commodities ~~without~~ without an understanding of the effects of such an action on other controlled goods. Welcoming the association of the Congress with national planning he said it could attune the minds of the workers and the people to the development programmes and create in them the feeling of joint partnership in national projects.

Discussion on Planning Sub-Committee's Memorandum.- The Conference held a general discussion of the Economic Planning Sub-Committee's report. Suggestions, including the creation of the necessary atmosphere in the country and the stoppage of imports of all non-essential commodities, were made during the discussion that followed. Mr. Hare Krishna Mahatab, Chief Minister of Orissa, felt that if a self-analysis was made it would be found that the party in power had not been able to create the necessary enthusiasm. The party had a confused mind. This point was reinforced by Mr. G. Vijayavargiya, Chief Minister of Madhyabharat, who said that confusion was due to the fact that the people did not work with zeal and that the Services had also no missionary spirit. Lack of a definite scheme of priorities was another reason put forth by Mr. Thimma Reddy (Andhra). He was not against prohibition but the fact remained that the Madras Government had failed in implementing the scheme.

Dr. Gopichand Bhargava, Chief Minister of Punjab, laid stress on food, shelter and clothing on which alone the economy of the country could be stabilized. Mr. Vaikunthbhai Mehta from Bombay suggested the setting up of an Indian Economic Service. The present administrative service was not always suitable for carrying out economic programmes.

Resolutions.- The conference adopted a number of resolutions on various aspects of planning; the more important among them are summarised below:-

Objectives of planning.- The conference adopted a resolution on the general objectives of planning, which stated that while the long-term plan would necessarily have to be well-integrated and all-inclusive and would require a clear demarcation of the phases through which it should be worked by the country and the people, for the purpose of the immediate programme, attention would have to be concentrated on a few major items and priorities would have to be determined to indicate the order in which action for the fulfilment of the programme could most effectively be taken. For the implementation of such a programme emphasis should be laid on the rousing of mass enthusiasm and consciousness, which alone could make it a people's programme. It would also be necessary to create such institutions as co-operatives in agriculture, ^{and} industry and panchayats and to arrange for the training of local leadership to man these institutions. Stating that in the background of limited resources, economic planning presupposed a period of austerity on the part of the people, the resolution suggested that efforts should be made to create a sense of equality of sacrifice among all sections of the community.

Regarding the immediate programme the resolution said that effort has to be made to raise the level of production and employment and to repair the damage to the economy of the country caused by the neglect of the past and the ravages of World War II, the economic consequences of partition as well as devaluation and its aftermath. The successful implementation of the immediate programme would create conditions for the attainment of a stable and fair price level and for a more comprehensive planning with a view to: (a) promoting a balanced economy in agriculture, large-scale and basic industries and social services; (b) rationalizing production in agriculture and industry and taking steps for the establishment and administration of a just and decentralized co-operative economy; and (c) bringing a definite rise in the standard of living of the people as a result of a planned economy which guarantees a fair remuneration to those who participate in the creation of wealth.

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Controls.- The resolution on this subject called for a fresh examination of the question of controls. It was necessary to examine this question dispassionately in its true setting and correct perspective so that controls which were considered to be unnecessary may be lifted at the earliest suitable opportunity, consistently with the interests of the community and the demand of a planned economy. In regard to certain articles such as salt, paper, coal and cement, however, the resolution suggested removal of controls.

Labour and housing.- The resolution on labour and housing welcomed the appointment by the Central Government of working parties for effecting rationalisation on comprehensive lines in certain industries with due safeguards for the interests of labour. Referring to unemployment in certain industries, owing to closure of mills and the retrenchment of a number of ~~excess~~ employees, the resolution suggested that steps should be taken to avoid un-employment as far as possible. Where it became inevitable safeguards should be provided for employees in the shape of suitable gratuity in the case of retrenchment and facilities for reabsorption in other establishments or occupations. A proposal for retrenchment by an employer should, however, when a dispute arose, be subject to the approval of the agency to be set up by the State-Governments.

Village and small-scale industries.- A resolution adopted by the conference on village industries and small-scale industries, urged for a planned development of these industries. In the background of ~~Indian~~ India's limited resources in money and capital and the vast manpower, the decentralized co-operative economy had a double virtue of increasing production as well as employment speedily without consuming much capital. Moreover the policy of restricted imports, closure of certain mills, growing unemployment and the recent flow of refugees from East Pakistan had further enhanced the urgency for organization of such industries in a planned manner. In this connection the resolution emphasised the importance of a practical programme of adult education.

Agriculture.- The resolution on agriculture said, the immediate object in agriculture that the country had set before itself was self-sufficiency in food, to be attained by the end of 1951, as well as in cotton and jute; and concerted measures to this end were already under way. These consisted of reclamation of land, offer of incentives and assistance for the diversion of land from other crops to the cultivation of cotton and jute, and

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improvement of the yield and quality of agriculture produce. What was needed for the purposes of the immediate programme, the resolution added, was an intensification of some of these measures, as well as the creation of conditions conducive to better farming. The resolution also stressed the importance of giving the tiller of the soil a sense of security and self-respect and of improving the economic and social condition of the agricultural worker. It was also necessary to shorten the period of transition by ~~expediting~~ expediting the abolition of zamindari and malguzari.

Planned investment of capital.- On the formation and planned investment of capital the conference said it was the paramount duty of every citizen to lay by a portion of his or her income to finance the planned development of the country. Steps had already been taken to introduce compulsory savings for some income groups and to intensify the campaign for small savings, but as the quantum of investible surplus had not been commensurate with the demands of planned economy, some further steps should be taken in this direction. The most important of these was the linking of local projects to local investible surplus. Maximum facilities should be given to multi-purpose co-operatives which were to be started in a planned manner on a nation-wide scale, to canalize the surplus of the countryside. In order to make the cooperative organization a fit instrument for this purpose, it was imperative to reorganize the co-operative movement and to introduce a definite policy of subsidy by the State. There should also be a programme under which persons who ^{were} ~~are~~ well-placed in life might regularly put a certain percentage of their income into the shares of co-operative societies. Establishment of regional industrial finance corporations, extension of the facilities for postal insurance to all Government servants and to lower income groups in non-Governmental occupations, slight increases of the rate of interest on postal savings and increase of the limit to individual deposit in savings banks should go a great way in stimulating capital formation.

Foreign trade.- Giving its views on India's export and import policy the conference in another resolution said that a review of the present policy was called for in order to restrict imports of consumer goods to an austerity level. It was also necessary to devise ways and means to promote exports even at the cost of some privation to the people so that the gap in India's Balance of payments may be bridged.

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Control of speculation.- On this question the conference suggested the enactment of legislation on an all-India basis to provide for the necessary degree of control to be enforced over various forward markets.

Planning machinery.- The Conference suggested a well integrated and all inclusive machinery with a view to associating the people and the Government in their endeavour to formulate and execute the programme of development. At the basic level, said the resolution on the subject, three institutions should operate on a functional basis, namely, the village panchayat, multi-purpose co-operative and industrial co-operative. The villagers should be encouraged to outline their plans for local development in the light of their regional resources. At the district level there should be a rural development board representative of these functional institutions, president of the district board and one representative each from the nation-building departments of the Government, the chairman being the district officer. There should be provision for nomination of the representatives of labour and large-scale industry, wherever necessary, and eminent constructive workers. At the provincial level there should be a provincial board representative of the district development boards with the provision for nomination of representatives of labour and industry, eminent economists, doctors and educationists. At the State level, the resolution suggested that it was essential ~~to~~ to have a uniform co-ordinating machinery in all the States in the shape of a sub-committee of the Cabinet consisting of Ministers in charge of nation-building departments, the Chief Minister being its chairman.

(The Hindustan Times, 26 and
27-4-1950;
The Statesman, 26 and
27-4-1950)

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West Bengal: Inter-departmental Committee
on Planning set up.

The West Bengal Government has set up an Inter-departmental secretaries' committee on planning, to advise and assist in all matters relating to the work of the Planning Commission. The committee consists of the secretary of the Finance Department of the State as chairman and the secretaries of the Departments of Commerce and Industry, Agriculture, Works and Buildings, Education and Public Health as members.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part I,
dated 30 March, 1950, page 490).

The Banking Companies (Amendment) Act, 1950
(No. XX of 1950).

The Banking Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1949 (vide page 25 of the report of this Office for January 1950), as passed by the Parliament, received the assent of the President on 18 March 1950, and has been gazetted as the Banking Companies (Amendment) Act, 1950. The Act, among other things, empowers the Reserve Banks to control the opening of branches by Indian Banks in foreign countries.

(The Gazette of India, Part IV;
dated 18 March 1950, pages 55-60).

The Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Company
(Emergency Provisions) Bill passed by
Parliament.

The Indian Parliament passed on 1 April 1950 a Bill to replace the Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Company (Emergency Provisions) Ordinance, 1949 (vide page 24 of the report of this Office for January 1950).

(The Gazette of India, Part V,
dated 25 March, 1950, pages 186-190;
The Hindustan Times, dated 1-4-1950).

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Measures to increase Production: Working
Parties set up for Cotton Textiles and
Coal Industries.

Government/ In pursuance of the recommendations of the Standing Committee of the Central Advisory Council of Industries (vide pages 31-36 of the report of this Office for November 1949) the Central has set up Working Parties for cotton textiles and coal industries, consisting of representatives of Government, industry and labour.

The terms of reference of the Working Parties will be to examine and to make recommendations within six months on; (a) measures necessary to achieve increase of production in the industry; (b) measures for reducing costs of production; (c) measures for improving the quality of products; (d) measures to improve the efficiency of labour management, and organisation of the industry as a whole; (e) measures to achieve rationalisation of the industry; and (f) measures for better marketing of the products of industry ~~at~~ at home and abroad.

(Notification No. I(4)/WP(1) dated
- 31 March, 1950;
The Gazette of India, Extraordinary,
Part I-Section I, dated 1 April, 1950).

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46. Wages.

India - April 1950.

Government committed to the Principle of
Fair Wages: Prime Minister's Statement
in Parliament.

On 18 April 1950, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, made a statement in the Parliament on the proposed Fair Wages Bill, stating that the Government was committed to the principle of fair wages as recommended unanimously by the Committee on fair wages (vide page 22 of the report of this Office for June 1949) and that the Government intended to proceed with the Fair Wages Bill as speedily as possible.

Explaining the delay in introducing the Bill, the Prime Minister said that although the main principle of the Bill had been agreed to, there were numerous details which required further examination by some of the Ministries concerned. Because of this, it was not possible to introduce the Bill during the current session of the Parliament. He assured labour and the House that as soon as this examination was over and the Bill took final shape, it would be published.

(The Hindustan Times, 19-4-1950).

Delhi: Minimum Wages Act, 1948: Exemptions.

By a notification dated 14 March 1950 under section 26 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Chief Commissioner of Delhi has exempted from the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 the following employments for a period of six months:- (1) employment in local authorities; (2) employment in public motor transport; (3) employment in oil mills; (4) employment in tanning and leathering manufactories; (5) employment in construction or building operations; (6) employment in stone breaking or stone crushing; and (7) employment in flour or dal mills. This exemption has become necessary, as the advisory committee set up in regard to fixing of minimum wages in the employments mentioned above has not been able to complete the necessary enquiries.

(The Gazette of India, Part II-A, dated 25 March, 1950, page 170A).

Ajmer: Minimum Wages Act, 1948: Addition to Schedule: Draft published.

By a notification dated 17 March 1950, the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer, has given notice of a proposal to include employment in textile mills to Part I of the Schedule to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The proposal will be taken into consideration after three months.

(The Gazette of India, Part II-A, dated 25 March, 1950, page 148).

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West Bengal: Fixing of Minimum Wages in
Tea Plantations and Flour Mills: Enquiry
Committees set up under Minimum Wages Act,
1948.

In exercise of powers conferred under section 5 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Government of West Bengal has set up two committees to hold enquiries and advise the Government in fixing minimum wages in respect of employment in tea plantations and flour mills respectively. The enquiry committees consists of equal number of representatives of Government, employers and workers.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part I,
dated 6 April 1950, pages 529-530).

Madhya Pradesh: Minimum Wages Act, 1948:
Exemption.

By a notification dated 25 March 1950 under section 26 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Madhya Pradesh Government has directed that the provisions of section 3(1) ~~of~~ (a) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, shall not apply to the following employments for a period of six months from 15 March 1950: (1) employment in lac manufactories; (2) employment in tanneries and leather manufactories; (3) employment in rice mill, flour mill or dal mill; (4) employment in tobacco (including bidi making) manufactories; (5) employment under local authorities; (6) employment on road construction or in building operations; and (7) employment in ~~in~~ stone breaking or stone crushing.

(Section 3(1)(a) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, relates to the fixing of minimum rates of wages within a period of two years in the case of employments listed in Part I of the schedule to the Act and three years in the case of employment in agriculture).

(The Madhya Pradesh Gazette, Part I,
dated 31 March 1950, page 208)

Bihar: Minimum Wages fixed for 8 Employments.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 5 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Government of Bihar has fixed the minimum rates of wages payable to unskilled employees of the lowest category in 8 employments. The following are the employments and rates of wages fixed:-

Name of Employment.	Minimum rates of Wages:					
	Monthly:			Daily:		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Employment in woollen carpet making or shawl making establishments.....	45	0	0	..	..	..
Employment in rice mills, flour mills or dal mills..	40	0	0	1	6	0
Employment in bidi making manufactories.....	..	..	..	1	8	0
				per day or Rs.2-8-0 per thousand bidis.		
Employment in oil mills....	40	0	0	1	6	0
Employment on road construction or in building operations.....	45	0	0	1	12	0
Employment in stone breaking or stone crushing.....	45	0	0	1	12	0
Employment in public motor transport:-				..	..	..
Driver.....	65	0	0	..	..	..
Conductor	45	0	0	..	..	..
Employment in tanneries and leather manufactory.....	65	0	0	2	6	0

(Mention was made in pages 30-31 of the report of this Office for January 1950, of the draft schedule of minimum rates of wages to be fixed for 11 employments published by the Bihar Government. Minimum wages have now been fixed for 8 out of 11 employments).

(The Bihar Gazette, Extraordinary, dated 14 March, 1950, pages 1-2)

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47. Reconstruction Plans.

India - April 1950.

National Laboratories Scheme: National Fuel
Research Institute opened at Digwadih.

On 22 April 1950, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the President, opened the National Fuel Research Institute, at Digwadih in Bihar. Third in India's chain of 11 national laboratories, the Fuel Research Institute will conduct research on major problems concerning fuel including coal. The Director of the Institute is Dr. J.W. Whittaker.

Work of the Institute.- The Institute, which is the result of a demand that has been persistent for more than 20 years, will conduct research on major problems concerning fuel - solid, liquid and gaseous - and will operate a physical and chemical survey of Indian coals, the object being to provide a reliable assessment of the quality and quantity of the various coal resources of the country in order to ensure that they are utilised to the best advantage. In addition to problems of fundamental and applied research, sampling and analysis of coal will be undertaken and pilot-plants are to be developed for various processes. The Institute's work will be distributed among the following main divisions: Coal Survey and General Analysis; Carbonization and by-products; liquid fuel (including hydrogenation, synthetic fuels, petroleum and substitutes); physics (including X-ray and spectroscopy); gaseous fuels (including gasification); engineering (including preparation of coal for the market, coal-washing, boiler plant and combustion engineering). The new laboratories of the Fuel Research Institute have been provided with some of the most modern services and supplies, sight not being lost, however, of the requirements of local conditions.

There will be six regional coal survey stations working under the institute. These are essential for the physical and chemical survey of coals and will be located at the Raniganj coalfield, with a laboratory near Disherghar; the Jharia field with its laboratory at the Central Institute at Digwadih; the Bokaro-Hamgarh-Karanpura fields with a laboratory at Ranchi; the Eastern States coalfields (Vindhya Pradesh) with a laboratory at Umaria; Sagra Estate;

the Madhya Pradesh (~~C.P.~~) coalfields, with a proposed laboratory at Kamptee, near Nagpur, and the Assam coalfield, with a proposed laboratory at Dibrugarh. The Raniganj and Jharia survey stations are already in operation. The others are in the planning stage, but are expected to ~~begin~~ work shortly.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, -dated -
23-4-1950)

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48. Public Finance.

India - April 1950.

International Bank's Third Loan for India:
18.5 Million Dollars granted for Damodar
Valley Project Development.

On 18 April 1950, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development announced that it had granted a 18.5 million dollar loan to India for further development of the Damodar ~~ya~~ River valley. This is the third loan given to India by the International Bank. In August 1949 a loan of 34 million dollar was granted for reconstruction and development of Indian railways (vide page 41 of the report of this Office for August 1949) and a 10 million dollar loan was made in September 1949 for improvement of agricultural production (vide pages 27-28 of the report of this Office for October 1949). The third loan is for a term of 20 years and carries an interest of 3 per cent plus commission at 1 per cent. This commission is allocated to the bank's reserve fund. Amortization payments calculated to retire the loan by maturity will start on 15 April 1955.

In a statement the Bank said that the present loan would finance dollar payments from 1 January 1950 in the USA and Canada for power house equipment for the Bokaro thermal plant, construction equipment for the Konar dam, conductors and accessories for the transmission lines, equipment for the substation, and ocean freight and other expenses payable in dollars. The balance of the cost of the project - about 34.5 million dollars - would be financed from India's own resources.

(The Statesman, dated 20-4-1950).

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The Finance Act, 1950 (No. XXV of 1950).

The Finance Bill passed by the Parliament on 30 March 1950 (vide page 47 of the report of this Office for March 1950) received the assent of the President on 31 March 1950 and has been gazetted as the Finance Act, 1950 (Act No. XXV of 1950).

(The Gazette of India, Part II-Section 1,
dated 8 April 1950, pages 1-17).

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Chapter 5. Working Conditions.

56. Labour Administration.

India - April 1950.

Training of Labour Officers in United Kingdom:
Government of India's Scheme.

According to a press note issued by the Government of India, arrangements have been made with the United Kingdom Ministry of Labour and National Service for a six-month course of training in the United Kingdom to be given to Indian labour officers and nominees of recognised employers' and workers' organisations. About 20 officers will be trained at a time. The first course under this scheme will start in July 1950 and the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment, which is in charge of the scheme, expects to send the first batch to London some time in June, 1950.

The training will cover two parts. The first part will provide for elementary theoretical training in various branches of labour administration, including industrial relations, wage-fixing, factory inspection and labour welfare ~~and welfare~~ at the United Kingdom Ministry of Labour and National Service. The second part will provide for special training in the particular branch of work in which each trainee will be employed on his return. The scheme is open to officers of the Union and State Governments who have practical experience of labour administration and also to a small number of persons who are employed in industrial undertakings or are actively connected with the Labour movement in India and are sponsored by recognized employers' and workers' organisations. Women are also eligible. The training will be free and the expenses of the officers, including the cost of passage will be met by the Government or the sponsoring organisations.

(The Statesman, 14-4-1950)

59. General.

India - April 1950.

The Repealing and Amending Bill, 1950.

The Government of India published on 8 April 1950, the Repealing and Amending Bill, 1950, which seeks to remove from the statute book certain Acts and Ordinances, which have either ceased to have effect or ceased to be in force, and to correct errors in certain Acts.

The Bill proposes to repeal the following enactments affecting labour:- (a) The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1946; (b) The Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1946; (c) The Indian Boilers (Amendment) Act, 1947; and (d) The Indian Merchant shipping (Amendment) Act, 1947; and (e) The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 1948; sections relating to repeal of previous enactments are sought to be repealed in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (Section 40) and the Factories Act, 1948 (section 119 and the Table of Enactments repealed).

(The Gazette of India, Part II-Section 2, dated 8 April 1950, pages 182-187).

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CHAPTER 6. GENERAL RIGHTS OF WORKERS.

INDIA - APRIL 1950.

64. Wage Protection.

Bombay: Payment of Wages Act, 1936,
extended to Persons employed in the
Bombay Docks.

By a notification dated 18 March 1950, under section 1 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Government of Bombay has extended the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 to the payment of wages to persons employed in the Bombay Docks, with effect from 1 April 1950.

(Notification No. 979/48, dated 18 March 1950,
The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-A,
dated 6 April, 1950, page 129)

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66. Strike and Lockout Rights.

India - April 1950.

Delhi: Cotton Textile Industry declared
Public Utility Service for Purposes of the
Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

In exercise of the powers conferred under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Chief Commissioner of Delhi has declared the cotton textile industry in the State to be a public utility service for the purposes of the Act, for a period of six months with effect from 4 April 1950.

(The Gazette of India, Part III-Section 3,
dated 8 April, 1950, page 30).

Uttar Pradesh: Cotton Textile Industry
declared Public Utility Service under
U.P. Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

By a notification dated 11 April 1950, under the U.P. Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Uttar Pradesh Government has declared the cotton textile industry and every undertaking connected with it, to be a public utility service for the purposes of the Act, for a period of six months with effect from 22 April 1950.

(Government Gazette of the Uttar Pradesh,
Part I, dated 15 April, 1950, page 225).

Madras: Transport Services and Cotton Textiles
Industry declared Public Utility Services under
Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

By a notification dated 24 March 1950, the Government of Madras has declared electric tramway services, motor transport services and the cotton textiles industry as public utility services for the purposes of the Act for a period of six months with effect from 5 April 1950.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, Part I,
dated 4 April 1950, page 814).

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

By a notification dated 27 March 1950, the West Bengal Government has declared sugar industry in the State to be a public utility service under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for a period of six months with effect from 1 April 1950.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part I,
dated 6 April 1950, page 529)

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67. Conciliation and Arbitration.

India - April 1950.

Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Bill
passed by Parliament: Labour Leaders criticise
Government's Powers to modify Awards.

On 11 April 1950, the Parliament passed the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Bill, 1949 (vide pages 55-58 of the report of this Office for December 1949) which provides for the establishment of an appellate tribunal in relation to industrial disputes.

Debate in the Legislature.- On 9 April 1950, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, moved the Bill, as modified by the Select Committee for the consideration of the House. He said that though the Bill formed part of the comprehensive Labour Relations Bill, 1950, which had been referred to a Select Committee, it was thought desirable to get this Bill passed in view of the fact that the Labour Relations Bill was likely to take some time before it was adopted. The establishment of an appellate tribunal, he said, would enable uniformity in the interpretation of labour laws being achieved throughout the country. Provision had been made that during the pendency of adjudication before a tribunal, discharge or dismissal of workmen should not take place. He hoped that this provision would reduce the incidence of industrial disputes.

Mr. Hariharnath Shastri (Uttar Pradesh) General Secretary, Indian National Trade Union Congress, *said that the bill,* on the whole, add to the hardships that the working class in this country was subjected to. He thought that if the new machinery of appellate tribunal was added to the existing legislation it was bound to be utilised to delay justice, which was already delayed.

Mr. Shastri held that in no country in the ~~world~~ world provision had been made in labour laws for the establishment of an appellate tribunal. The question formed a chapter of the Labour Relations Bill and if it was taken out of context and put on the statute book, it was bound to create the most unfavourable psychological atmosphere in the country. Moreover, he thought that such a tribunal would not achieve uniformity. He saw no reason why the Bill should be passed now. He disagreed with the very concept of

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uniformity, and even in the most developed countries like the United States of America, he said, there was no such thing as uniformity. Uniformity could be achieved without introducing new elements in the labour legislation.

Besides, Mr. Shastri said that although there were some beneficial provisions in the Bill, ~~it~~ ~~would~~ there was neither urgency nor necessity to set up an appellate tribunal. Even if it was to be set up, the scope of the tribunal should not be so wide and powers so unlimited as to lead to a lot of delay and litigation. He thought that such a tribunal was bound to frustrate the very object for which this machinery was being conceived, namely, to have a peaceful industrial relations in the country. Its scope should, therefore, be narrowed down to two or three points, namely, interpretation of agreements or awards of industrial tribunals, interpretation of points of law and disposal of cases referred to it on public grounds by State Governments or by the Central Government. He urged the Minister to withdraw the Bill and if it was not possible, to make it least objectionable.

Mr. R. Venkataraman (Madras) another Indian National Trade Union Congress representative, gave his qualified support to the Bill. He wished the Bill had been postponed pending consideration of the Labour Relations Bill. The whole idea of an industrial appellate tribunal was based on a misconception of the functions of an industrial tribunal. Analysing the provisions of the Bill, Mr. Venkataraman said that under the existing law, the consent of both the parties was necessary for the appointment of assessors of industrial tribunals. For the assessors to appellate tribunals it was now proposed that only consultation of both parties would be necessary and not consent. The right of the working class to give their consent for the appointment of assessors should not be "so lightly" taken away. He regarded as "absolutely unjustified" the provision authorising the Government to reject or modify the awards. He wanted to know which retired judge of a High Court would "ever agree" to serve on a tribunal in which his judgment would be subject to variation by the Government. He held that the confidence that had been created by the industrial tribunals would be very much shaken if such power was given to the Government. He said that ~~the~~ he could envisage several forms of pressure being brought to bear on the Government for the exercise of that power in favour of those who ~~were~~ were well-placed in society.

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Mr. P.D. Himatsingka (West Bengal) said the powers provided for the Government under the Bill were bound to be exercised only in favour of labour and not employers. He opposed the amendment of the Minister prohibiting the dismissal of an employee even for offences not connected with a dispute before the tribunal.

Mr. Ajit Prasad Jain (Uttar Pradesh), said that the Bill was conceived in a healthy spirit, but was "too legalistic". The procedure laid down was not at all suited to labour courts as it had been based on the Civil Procedure Code. The rules for labour courts should be simple.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, replying to the debate said that the Government interference with the awards of industrial appellate tribunals was apparent to those who bore in mind the distinction between judicial and social justice. There was, therefore, no reason whatsoever for saying that eminent men might refuse to sit on the tribunal. The Government would not interfere with the work of the tribunal in any way. He pointed out that even in regard to High Court and Supreme court decisions in criminal cases, the Government today exercised the right to commute sentences. The appellate tribunal could not discharge its work satisfactorily if it went into points of law only, as suggested by Mr. Shastri. It had to go into questions of fact also.

The Labour Minister said that after the experience of the administration of the Industrial Disputes Act, ~~there~~ there had been a very large number of unscrupulous employers who had taken undue advantage of the provisions of the existing Industrial Disputes Act to punish the workers. The Bill sought to remove those defects.

During the course of detailed consideration of the Bill, the House accepted certain amendments moved by Dr. R.U. Singh, Mr. R. Venkataraman and the Labour Minister. Dr. R.U. Singh's amendment provided for the deletion of specific exclusion of ~~which~~ "bonus" from the definition of "wages"; Dr. Singh said that according to the Federal Court decision, wages included bonus also. The Minister said he accepted the amendment in the spirit that it did not make it clear whether bonus was included in wages or not. The amendment moved by Mr. R. Venkataraman provided that where the conditions of service of an employee were disturbed during the pendency of an appeal, he may move the appellate tribunal for redress. The Labour Minister's amendments related to award of costs by the tribunal.

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The Labour Minister winding up the debate on the third reading of the Bill stated that the Government had worked out details for the establishment of the appellate tribunal, and that the tribunal would have a special bench at least in three centres periodically to hear cases. It was the intention of the Government to expedite proceedings before the tribunal as far as possible.

(The Hindustan Times, 9 and 12-4-1950)

Labour Relations Bill, 1950, referred to
Select Committee.

On 5 April 1950, the Indian Parliament referred the Labour Relations Bill, 1950 (vide pages 76-84 of the report of this Office for February 1950) to a Select Committee. Moving the Bill for reference to the Select Committee, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, Government of India, stated that the ~~Bill~~ most important provision in the Bill was the great stress laid on the question of negotiation, collective bargaining, conciliation and ~~arbitration~~ settlement of disputes by methods other than cessation of work. The main defect in the existing law in respect of industrial labour disputes was that the Government had not enough power for the enforcement of the implementation of awards given by tribunals. Powers had been taken to see that the awards of the tribunals were implemented. He gave the assurance that the Government ~~of India~~ would consider the suggestions on the Bill made at the tripartite labour conference held during March 1950 (vide pages 1-4 of the report of this Office for March 1950) and would bring them to the notice of the members of the Select Committee.

Mr. Sarangdhar Das (Orissa) moving an amendment for circulation of the Bill for eliciting opinion of individual labour unions by 3 July 1950 said that the Bill in its present form took away major rights such as the right to strike earned by labour after long struggles. Referring to introduction of compulsory arbitration, which replaced the right to strike, Mr. Das said that past experience showed that the Government had failed ~~in many~~ many a time to induce the employers to implement the arbitration awards. Arbitration was a long and cumbersome process and persons appointed on arbitration boards would not do justice to labour, the weaker party.

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Mr. Hariharnath Shastri (Uttar Pradesh), General Secretary of the Indian National Trade Union Congress, supporting the Bill, said that he regarded the Bill as one of the important measures that had been brought before the House during the last two and a half years, and from the point of view of labour capital relationship it was the most important one. So far as structural principle of the Bill was concerned, he was in substantial agreement with the measure. Defending the restrictions on the right to strike, he pointed out that in view of the present day need to increase production workers should have the right to work rather than right to strike.

Criticising certain provisions of the Bill, Mr. Shastri expressed strong opposition in regard to the provision relating to the right of retrenchment. He said that labour would never be prepared to accept it. Large-scale retrenchment was generally resorted to by the industrialists on the ground of rationalization. Mr. Shastri also opposed the provision relating to appellate tribunals.

Labour in the country was not opposed to rationalization. If the process of rationalization was hampered it was due to the unhelpful attitude of the industrialists. It was not due to the surplus labour that industrial expansion was receiving a setback, but it was mainly due to the fact that industrial organization in this country had reached a stage when, unless it was thoroughly overhauled and put on proper footing, there was no future for it. He also criticised the Government's powers to modify or even annul the awards of tribunals.

said Labour Minister's reply: reference to I.L. Convention. Mr. Jagjivan Ram, replying to the debate that nowhere in the Bill has any effort been made to deprive the working class of its right to strike. What was sought to be done was to place certain limitations upon the right. Answering the question whether in a dispute between an employer and employee, the Government should intervene or not, he pointed out that a dispute did not affect only the two parties. It affected the community also and the Government which represented the community had to safeguard the interests of the community as a whole. Besides, he held the Government had to intervene to protect the workers who were the weaker party. So long as conditions in the country were such that Government intervention became necessary, Government would have to intervene and order compulsory adjudication or arbitration. He wanted to give more and more scope to the employers and employees to settle their disputes between themselves without any intervention from Government.

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The objective was to gradually reduce Government intervention and when relations between employers and employees developed on such lines that Government intervention became unnecessary, Government would withdraw itself completely.

Replying criticisms of the provisions in the Bill regarding civil servants, the Labour Minister said that the I.L.O. Convention guaranteed freedom of association in the case of Government servants. The Government has not deprived Government servants of this freedom. Therefore the Bill conformed to the I.L.O. Convention. What had been done was to deprive Government servants of the right to strike. He for one firmly held that no Government can afford to give this right to their civil servants.

The House rejected Mr. Sarangdhar Das's motion for circulation and referred the Bill to a Select Committee consisting of 21 members.

(The Hindustan Times, 6-4-1950)

Hyderabad: Industrial Disputes Act, 1950
promulgated.

The Hyderabad Government has promulgated recently the Hyderabad Industrial Disputes Act, 1950, drafted on the lines of the Government of India's Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Act inter alia, provides for the setting up of works committees in industrial establishments and conciliation boards, courts of enquiries and industrial tribunals for settlement of industrial disputes.

(The Hindu, 12-4-1950)

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CHAPTER 7. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

INDIA - APRIL 1950.

71. Organisation of the Labour Market.

Employment Exchanges and Training Centres
in Part B States: Centre assumes Control
with Effect from April 1950.

With effect from 1 April 1950, the Director-General of Resettlement and Employment, Ministry of Labour, Government of India, has assumed administrative control over the employment exchanges and training centres in Part 'B' States (former princely States). This arrangement, which has been effected in pursuance of the Federal Financial Integration Scheme, will cover the States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin, Rajasthan and Madhyabharat.

There are four employment exchanges in Rajasthan, three in Hyderabad, two in Madhyabharat, two in Travancore-Cochin and one in Mysore. With the exception of Hyderabad, which is running its own training centres, Mysore and the other States are already participating in the training schemes of the Directorate of Resettlement and Employment.

Under the new arrangement, the Regional Directors of Resettlement and Employment in Madras, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi and Ajmer are being given administrative charge of the exchanges in Travancore-Cochin and Mysore, Madhyabharat and Rajasthan, respectively. Hyderabad will be a separate region under the general control of the Central Directorate. The expenditure on the organisation in the States will be shared in the proportion of 40 to 60 between the States and the Central Government.

For the present, the States will run the organisation on behalf of the Government of India. The Regional Directors in charge of these States have been instructed to devise measures in consultation with the State authorities to bring the working of the organisation in line with that of the Employment Exchanges and training centres in the Indian Union.

Working of the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment during March 1950.

Employment situation.- During March 1950, statistics rendered by the employment exchanges suggested that there was room for cautious optimism with regard to the employment situation, according to the Review of work done by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment during the month of March 1950. While regional directors of exchanges continued to feel considerably anxiety because of the contraction of employment under Government projects and in the services, there was a large, nation-wide increase in the number of vacancies notified in the exchanges and in placings in all but one region. The review states that this gives rise to the hope that the upward trend, noticed since November 1949, which has been more than maintained during March, will continue. Private employers were more than compensating for the contraction of Government employment and it was possible that this was due to an increase in confidence in commercial and business circles. On the other hand, serious unemployment still persisted among the middle classes; well educated persons and persons without technical qualifications fresh from schools and colleges were finding it difficult to find employment. A large ~~number~~ number of workers were also dependant upon seasonal occupations.

Acute shortages of engineers, boiler attendants, draughtsmen and overseers was felt by almost all the regions. Difficulty was also experienced in filling vacancies for the posts of typists, stenographers, trained teachers, compounders and nurses. Semi-skilled matriculates and graduates fresh from educational institutions and unskilled office workers continued to be in excess of demand all over the country.

Registrations and Placings.- The total number of registrations for employment assistance and the total number placed in employment during the month are shown below:-

	March 1950	February 1950	March 1949.
Total number of registrations.....	87,072	76,471	92,636
Total number of placed in employment.....	24,976	20,312	22,612

Of these registered during the month 8,573 were ex-Service personnel, 9,958 displaced persons and 4,511 discharged Government employees. Of those placed in employment 1,839 were displaced persons, 1,301 ex-Service personnel and 1,015 discharged Government employees. 3,905 were employed by Union Government establishments, 4,777 by State Governments and 16,294 by private employers. The placement of 737 applicants in posts carrying a basic pay of 101 rupees per month and above was an achievement during the month, the figure being the highest on record so far. The Special Employment Bureau placed 7 applicants in employment during the month. 2,673 women applicants were found employment through the exchanges during March, as against 1,430 in the previous month.

Increase in the number of vacancies notified.- During the month the number of vacancies notified to exchanges rose considerably, being 35,193 as compared with 24,494 in February 1950. Of the vacancies notified, 13,719 were by Union and State Government establishments and 21,474 by private employers. The number of persons submitted to employers during March was 62,279, an increase of 13,002 over February 1950. The number of employers using the exchanges was 4,991 as against 4,256 during February 1950, the figure being the highest since April 1949. Of these, 58 per cent were private employers. This percentage was also the highest so far.

Placings by wage groups.- Figures relating to placings during March 1950, analysed according to wage groups were as follows:-

<u>Wage group: basic monthly pay</u>	<u>Number of placings.</u>
Above 101 rupees	737
61 to 100 rupees	2,760
30 to 60 rupees	18,678
Below 30 rupees	2,801

Employment exchange of displaced persons.- During the month, 9,958 displaced persons were registered as against 8,690 during February. 1,839 were placed in employment during March as against 1,497 in February 1950. Due to the influx of displaced persons from Eastern Pakistan increased registrations of displaced persons was reported by most of the exchanges in West Bengal, Bihar, Delhi and in some parts of Uttar Pradesh. The exchanges in West Bengal were instructed to make an all-out effort to assist displaced persons from East Bengal to find alternative employment. Ways and means were decided

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upon at a conference held at Calcutta which was attended by the Director-General and the Regional Director, West Bengal. In Bihar, the State Government undertook to rehabilitate 50,000 displaced persons and the employment exchanges were assisting the Government in the preparation of an occupation analysis of the displaced persons.

During March 1950, 13 employment exchanges and the Central Clearing House were inspected. The Review states that there is evidence of a general improvement in the quality of service rendered to the public as a result of the inspections.

Assistance in Uttar Pradesh decasualisation scheme.— An important ~~xxx~~ tripartite Labour Conference was convened by the Labour Commissioner of the Uttar Pradesh Government during March. At the conference, the Government of Uttar Pradesh ~~accepted~~ accepted a recommendation that the employment exchanges should maintain a pool of retrenched industrial workers from which all future vacancies arising in local mills and factories were to be filled. The conference further decided that no mill in Kanpur should recruit any worker unless the exchange had declared its inability to supply suitable retrenched or registered workers to fill the vacancies. This important decision was taken to safeguard the interests of retrenched workers and to protect unemployed labour from exploitation. The arrangement had the added advantage of keeping the State Government aware of the actual extent of unemployment among industrial labour in that area. The scheme came into operation immediately in Kanpur, though the scheme was to be inaugurated formally on 16 April 1950.

Employment exchanges in Part B States.— Ten employment exchanges in Part B States had registered 12,265 employment-seekers and placed 596 of them during the three months ending March 1950. In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Financial Integration Scheme, these exchanges were brought under the control of this Directorate-General with effect from the 1 April 1950.

Total number of persons remaining unemployed.— The number of persons known to be still seeking employment assistance through the exchanges on the last day of March was 265,962, an increase of only 667 over the figure at the end of February, despite the heavy increase in registrations. Of these 33,055 were displaced persons, 34,195 were ex-Services personnel and 14,258 were discharged Government employees. Among the discharged Government employees, 10,735 were Union Government and 3,523 State Government employees.

Technical and Vocational training.- During March 1950, there were 70 technical training and 66 vocational training centres functioning with 2060 and 770 ex-servicemen trainees respectively under training. 877 displaced persons were undergoing training at the training centres in Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Ajmer, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. 741 trainees (both ex-servicemen and displaced persons) passed the trade tests in technical trades, bringing the total of trainees passed to 20,929. In vocational trades 220 trainees passed the trade tests, bringing the total of trainees passed to 5,102. 159 displaced women were undergoing training at the New Delhi centre run by the Ministry of Labour. 93 trainees passed the prescribed test during March. The total passed upto 31 March 1950 was 405. The apprenticeship training scheme was withdrawn from 33 firms. The total number of apprenticeship training centres was thus reduced to 105. 181 ex-servicemen and 174 displaced persons were undergoing training at these centres. ~~116~~ 116 ~~supervisors~~ supervisors and instructors continued their training at the Central Institute for the training of Instructors during the month. 161 Adult Civilians were undergoing training on 31 March 1950 at the Combined Training Centre, Koni, Bilaspur (Uttar Pradesh) under the arrangements made with the Government of Madhya Pradesh. In addition, 12 civilians were undergoing training in Bombay under the training scheme for adult civilians run by the Ministry of Labour. Selection of candidates for training under the new scheme for adult civilians was carried out all over India during the month under review and necessary posting orders were issued.

The review mentions the visit of Mr. Svend Pederson, Chief of the I.L.O. Asian Field Office on Technical Training, to the Central Institute for training Instructors, Koni-Bilaspur during ~~the~~ March 1950.

(Report on the Work of the Directorate of Employment Exchanges during the month of March 1950; and Review of Work done by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment during the Month of March 1950, issued by the Government of India)

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73. Migration and Colonisation.

India - April 1950.

Tenth Annual Session of the Ceylon Indian
Congress, Matale, 21-23 April 1950:
Demand for Equal Status for Domicile Indians.

The tenth annual session of the Ceylon Indian Congress was held at Matale from 21 to 23 April 1950. The session was inaugurated by Mr. V.T. Nanayakkara and presided over by Mr. K. Rajalingam. The meeting, among other things, adopted a resolution reaffirming its demand that Indians domiciled in Ceylon should enjoy the same status as Ceylon nationals on their becoming citizens under the Indian and Pakistan (Residents) Citizenship Act, 1949.

Presidential address.- Mr. K. Rajalingam during the course of his presidential address criticised the action of the Government of Ceylon in amending the Parliamentary Elections Order-in-Council resulting in the disenfranchisement of Ceylon Indians mainly, as "undemocratic" and said that this had reduced Indians to a "state of slavery in both political and economic fields". He also alleged that the exchange control regulations were being converted by the Ceylon Government to a political weapon for driving away Indians, by making life more and more difficult for them.

Mr. Rajalingam thanked the delegates for their steadfast adherence to the resolution passed at the the last session to boycott the Indian and Pakistan Residents' (Citizenship) Act, (vide page 96 of the report of this Office for May 1949) and reaffirmed the Congress demand for equality of status between citizenship by registration and ~~that~~ by descent. However, he said, it must also be borne in mind that there was a section of Ceylon Indians sincerely anxious to work the Indian and Pakistan (Residents) Citizenship Act and, besides, there would also seem to be a weighty section of Ceylonese opinion that it was ungracious and unfair to reject the Act out of court without giving it a fair trial. He therefore, appealed for serious consideration of the matter.

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Resolutions.- The Congress adopted among others, three resolutions dealing with restrictive citizenship legislation against Indians in Ceylon. By the first resolution the Congress reiterated its ~~view that~~ view that qualifications for citizenship were too rigorous and the procedure too complicated, and reaffirmed its demand for equality of status between citizens by registration and citizens by descent. It also directed the working committee of the Ceylon Indian Congress to persist in its efforts to assure modification of unsatisfactory provisions of the Act and authorised the Ceylon Indian Congress Committee to review the position from time to time and take such decisions as may be necessary.

By another resolution the Congress urged the Government of Ceylon to amend the provisions of the Immigration and Emigration Act, 1948 (vide page 61 of the report of this Office for October 1948) and exchange control regulations so as to remove hardships caused to Indians in Ceylon.

A third resolution condemned the Parliamentary Elections Amendment Bill recently adopted by the Ceylonese Parliament and said that it would result in disenfranchisement of Indian workers who were the backbone of the island's industries. By this amendment, the resolution observed, the Government was seeking to muzzle the working classes and "consign the estate workers and their posterity to perpetual serfdom".

(The Hindu, dated 22-4-1950;
The Hindustan Times, 23 and 24-4-1950).

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CHAPTER 8. SOCIAL SECURITY.

INDIA - APRIL 1950.

81. Social Insurance.

Employers' State Insurance Act, 1948:
Certain other Provisions brought into
Force.

By a notification dated 3 April 1950 under ~~the~~ section 1 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the Central Government has appointed 1 April 1950 as the date on which the provisions of sections 44 and 45 and Chapter VII of the Act shall come into force in all Part A States, Ajmer, Coorg, Delhi and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(Sections 44 and 45 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, related to the submission of returns by the employers and the functions and duties of the inspectors to be appointed under the Act, respectively. Chapter VII of the Act relates to penalties).

(Notification No. SS 121(32) dated 3 April, 1950 The Gazette of India, Part I- Section 1, dated 15 April, 1950, page 64).

U.P.: Draft Employees' State Insurance
(Medical Benefit) Rules and Employees'
State Insurance Courts Rules published.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 96 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 the Uttar Pradesh Government has published the draft of the Employees' State Insurance (Medical Benefit) Rules, 1950 and the Employees' State Insurance (Courts) Rules, 1950. The former prescribes the procedure relating to, among others, provision of medical facilities, mobile dispensaries and separate hospitals or beds, allotment of insured persons, obtaining medical benefit and scale of medical benefit and prescribes conditions of service of full-time insurance medical officers. This draft rule will be taken into consideration after 7 May 1950. The draft Employees' State Insurance Courts Rules, 1950, inter alia relate to the

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constitution of the employees' insurance courts to be set up under section 74 of the Act, conditions of service of judges, administrative control, procedure and execution of orders, and costs and decrees. The draft rules will be taken into consideration after 5 May 1950.

(Government of Gazette of the Uttar Pradesh, Part I-A, dated 15 April 1950, pages 147-158).

Punjab: Draft Employees' State Insurance
(Medical Benefit) Rules, 1950.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 96 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the Punjab Government has published the draft of the Employees' State Insurance (Medical Benefit) Rules, 1950. The rules relate, inter alia to the provision of medical facilities, arrangements for mobile dispensaries and separate hospitals or beds, allotment of insured persons, procedure for obtaining medical benefit, scale of medical benefit, conditions of service of full-time insurance medical officers and administrative control. The draft will be taken into consideration after 14 May 1950.

(Punjab Government Gazette, Part I, dated 14 April 1950, pages 274-278).

85. Benefits Organised or paid by Employers.

India - April 1950.

West Bengal: The West Bengal Maternity Benefit
(Tea Estates) Amendment Act, 1950 (XII of 1950).

The West Bengal Maternity Benefit (Tea Estates) Amendment Bill, 1950 (vide page 62 of the report of this Office for January 1950) as passed by the legislature has received the assent of the Governor and has been gazetted as the West Bengal Maternity Benefit (Tea Estates) Amendment Act, 1950 (XII of 1950). The Act increases to six weeks the postnatal period during which a woman worker receiving maternity benefit is prohibited from accepting any employment.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part III,
dated 30 March, 1950, page 1)

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CHAPTER 9. LIVING STANDARDS.

INDIA - APRIL 1950.

94. Education.

Meeting of the Central Advisory Board of
Education, New Delhi, 22-23 April 1950 :
University Commission's Recommendations
accepted.

A special session of the Central Advisory Board of Education was held in New Delhi on 22 and 23 April 1950 to consider the report of the University Education Commission (vide pages 81-82 of the report of this Office for August 1949). Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Education Minister, Government of India, presided. The Board accepted most of the recommendations of the Commission, including one prescribing higher scales of pay for University teachers.

Mr. Azad's address.- During the course of his address Mr. Abul Kalam Azad analysed the recommendations of the University Commission and stated that the recommendations could be divided into two categories. Firstly, there were recommendations which involved finance, and secondly, there were those recommendations which required mainly administrative action in the universities. He felt that the Board should give their opinion on all the recommendations though in view of the general financial conditions prevailing in the country, it would be generally agreed that it might be sometime before the recommendations involving further expenditure could be implemented. Dealing with the question of ways and means to be adopted to popularise Hindi in the non-Hindi States of the Union, he pointed out that in the Constitution it was laid down that in 15 years or earlier Hindi should become the language of administration at the Centre. In order that this might be done as soon as possible, steps would have to be taken from now on, specially in the non-Hindi States, to popularise Hindi.

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The Board, discussed all aspects of university education in India including working conditions of teaching staff in universities and colleges, courses of study, post-graduate teaching and research, professional education, medium of instruction, examinations, students, their activities and welfare and women's education, and accepted most of the recommendations of the University Commission. The more important among the decisions taken by the Council are given below:-

Development of Hindi as national language.- The Board decided that the national language, that is, Hindi should be developed as laid down in the Constitution. It also discussed ways and means to be adopted to popularise Hindi in the non-Hindi States and in this connection approved of certain suggestions such as the bringing out of cheap and attractive publications in Hindi on a variety of subjects, Hindi lessons through broadcast and gramophone records and Hindi tests for Government employees. The Board asked the Central Education Ministry to examine these suggestions and implement them as soon as possible.

Medium of instruction in higher education.- The Board accepted the Commission's recommendation that the medium of instruction for higher education should be an Indian language instead of English, English being replaced as early as practicable. The Commission has further recommended that at the secondary and university stages pupils should be made conversant with the regional language, the federal language and English. Higher education should be imparted through the regional language with the option to use the federal language as the medium of instruction either for some subjects or for all subjects. For the federal language one script, Devanagari should be employed and some of its defects should be removed.

Scientific terms in Indian languages.- The Board also accepted the Commission's recommendations for the appointment of a board consisting of scientists and linguists to prepare a scientific vocabulary of words which will be common to all Indian languages and also to arrange for the preparation of books in different sciences to be rendered into all Indian languages.

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Higher pay scales of university staff.- Regarding teaching staff in universities and colleges, the Board accepted the recommendations of the Commission that the importance of the teacher and his responsibilities should be recognized and that conditions of service in universities which were suffering from lack of finance and consequent demoralisation should be greatly improved. To this end the Board accepted the scales of salaries for university teachers as recommended by the Commission, viz., Professors, Rs 900-50-1350 rupees; Readers 600-30-900 rupees; Lecturers 300-25-600 rupees; instructors or fellows who would be in the university for not more than five years a fixed scale of 250 rupees; and research fellows who may be expected to do research for a much longer period 250-500 rupees.

Regarding scales of salaries for affiliated colleges without post-graduate classes the scales of salaries recommended were: lecturers 200-400 rupees; senior posts 400-25-600 rupees; principal 600-40-800 ~~rupees~~ rupees. For colleges which had post-graduate classes, the grades recommended were: lecturers 200-500 rupees; senior posts 500-25-800 rupees and principal 800-40-1200 rupees. These grades would be applied after proper selection from among the existing incumbents. The age of retirement in universities and colleges would be ordinarily 60 but extensions may be allowed up to 64 in certain cases. This would, however, not apply to teachers who were Government servants.

University education.- The Board decided that the standards of admission to the degree classes should correspond to that of the present intermediate examination. It was decided that the determination of the pre-degree course should be postponed until after the proposed Secondary Education Commission had examined the matter. The other recommendations of the Commission on this subject include the establishment of a large number of occupational institutions, organization of refresher courses for high school and intermediate college teachers; fixation of the maximum number in the arts and science faculties and a teaching university at 3,000 and in an affiliated college at 1,500 and increase of ~~year~~ working days to a minimum of 180 in a year excluding ~~of~~ examination days. The other recommendations of the Board on this subject were: a) that no text books should be prescribed for any course of study, b) experiment should be made with the evening colleges for working people and c) that tutorial instructions should be developed in all institutions.

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The Commission's recommendations regarding courses of study for arts and sciences were accepted by the Board. In this connection, the Commission has recommended: (1) that students be admitted to the colleges and universities in the faculties of arts and science and to such professional schools as did not require more advanced preparation after successful completion of 12 years of schooling or its equivalent, that is, after they had passed the qualifying test which would correspond to the present intermediate standard; (2) the master's degree should be given to honours students after one year of study beyond the bachelor's degree and (3) the principles and practice of general education should be introduced without delay so as to correct extreme specialisation.

Research work in universities.- The Board accepted the recommendations of the Commission regarding post-graduate teaching and research with special emphasis on the desirability of Ph.D. students being internal students of the university concerned. It also decided that the Ph.D. students should not become narrow specialists, but their grasp of the subject should be characterised both by breadth and depth. The examination for Ph.D. should include a thesis and a test for the candidates' general knowledge of the whole field of the subject.

The Commission have also recommended that the ample resources available in the country for research in language and literature - classical and modern - also in philosophy, religion, history and fine arts should be properly utilised. In view of the acute shortage of scientific man-power the Commission had emphasised the desirability of training a large number of scientists in order that the country may get few men of outstanding calibre. They had also recommended the institution of a large number of scholarships and free places for really good students at the M.Sc. and Ph.D. stage for this purpose. It was also recommended that fundamental research should be the primary concern of the universities and universities should not be ~~precluded~~ precluded from taking up special applied problems concerning their own regions.

Professional education.- As regards professional education, the Commission's recommendations about the teaching of agriculture, commerce, education, engineering and technology, law and medicine were accepted by the Board with very few modifications. The Board also agreed to the Commission's suggestions for courses of study in certain new subjects such as business administration, public administration and industrial relations with added provision for training in social service.

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System of objective examinations approved.-
Regarding the Commission's recommendations about objective examinations the Board adopted a resolution generally approving the recommendations and calling upon universities to implement these as far as possible. The Commission had recommended that a thorough study of the scientific methods of educational testing and appraisal should be undertaken by the Ministry of Education and at the universities with a view to applying the results of this study in Indian educational practice.

The Board also approved the Commission's recommendations relating to students welfare, women's education, control of university and university finance.

(The Hindu, 23-4-1950;
The Statesman, 23 and 24-4-1950).

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95. Social Conditions.

India - April 1950.

Bombay: Total Prohibition inaugurated.

On 6 April 1950, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of the Indian Union, inaugurated total prohibition in the Bombay State. The enforcement of total prohibition is in pursuance of the graduated scheme announced by the Government of Bombay in December 1946 (vide page 59 of the report of this Office for December 1946).

(People's Raj, issued by the Government of Bombay, 13 April 1950;
The Hindustan Times, 8-4-1950).

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CHAPTER 11. PROBLEMS PECULIAR TO CERTAIN
OCCUPATIONS OR CATEGORIES OF OCCUPATIONS.

INDIA - APRIL 1950.

111. Agriculture.

The Madhya Pradesh Agricultural Raiyats and
Tenants (Acquisition of Privileges) Bill, 1950.

The Madhya Pradesh Government published on 1 April 1950, the Madhya Pradesh Agricultural Raiyats and Tenants (Acquisition of Privileges) Bill, 1950, providing for payments by raiyats and tenants with a view to facilitate the abolition of proprietary rights in estates, mahals and alienated lands and protection from ejection.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill points out that the reform of the land revenue system as envisaged in the Central Provinces and Berar Abolition of Proprietary Rights (Estates, Mahals, Alienated Lands) Bill, 1949 (vide pages 56-59 of the report of this Office for October 1949), contemplates the abolition of intermediaries on payment of compensation and the conferral of plot-proprietorship on tenants subject to the payment of at a prescribed rate of premium on a voluntary basis. It is now considered expedient to accelerate the process for the conferral of plot-proprietorship upon tenancy land so as to bring together the scattered surplus purchasing power of the tenantry and raiyats into a pool to be utilised for payment of compensation to the intermediaries on the enactment of the Bill into law. The present Bill has accordingly been designed to pave the way without any loss of time for the conferral of malik-makbuza rights in Central Provinces and in the merged territories in favour of tenants and raiyats and the conferral of the right of occupant on tenants in Berar. The main provisions of the Bill have been based upon the corresponding provisions of the Bill providing for the abolition of intermediaries. Until the formal conferral of malik-makbuza or occupant's rights consequent upon the abolition of intermediaries, a safeguard has been introduced in the present Bill to protect the tenants or raiyats, who come forward to contribute premiums on a voluntary basis, from ejection from their holdings,

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except for arrears of rents.

(The Madhya Pradesh Gazette, Extraordinary,
dated 1 April 1950, pages 711-716).

Abolition of Jagirs in Rajasthan and Madhya
Bharat: Enquiry Committee's Recommendations.

The Rajasthan - Madhyabharat Jagir Enquiry Committee appointed in August 1949 to enquire into the jagirdari and zamindari system in the States of Rajasthan and Madhyabharat has submitted its report recently, recommending the abolition of the jagirdari and the zamindari systems. The Committee, in this connection, has suggested a 12-year scheme of assistance to jagirdars and zamindars. During this period the jagirdars would be paid, on a slab system, a progressively decreasing proportion of the revenue collected from jagir lands. A similar 12-year period is proposed for payment of compensation to the zamindars. During this period, rents from the zamindari villages would be collected at the same rates as are being paid now to the zamindars. The difference between the zamindari rents and ryotwari rates would go to provide the amount needed for compensation.

The jagir areas in Rajasthan and Madhyabharat consist of 16,780 villages (77,110 sq.miles) and 4,249 villages (8,449 sq.miles), respectively.

In regard to jagirs of assignments endowed in favour of temples and institutions, a statutory Religious and Charitable Endowments Board is recommended to be set up. The Board would take up the management of all temples and institutions and receive an amount equal to the income derived from their endowments at present. In other respects the endowments and ~~assignments~~ assignments would be treated in the same manner as the rest of the jagirs.

Land Reform.- The report states that with the abolition of jagirs and zamindaris, an opportunity will be provided, to the Governments of Rajasthan and Madhyabharat to evolve a simple and logical system of land tenure. The Committee is of the view that a uniform class of tenure should be laid down, embracing all cultivators including the jagirdari and zamindari khudkash (lands cultivated by the proprietor himself). The system suggested

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resembles the ryotwari tenure with certain modifications. Heritable rights would be guaranteed to the ryot but rights of transfer would be subject to certain restrictions. Inheritance rights would not follow personal law but have to be laid down in tenancy Acts. Similarly the right to transfer or subject would also be restricted.

The Report lays emphasis on the need to carry out survey and settlement operations, particularly in Rajasthan, within a period of 10 years. When settlement rates are evolved the tenants in certain tracts now paying rent and revenue in kind should be given the option to pay in cash. Patwaris should be appointed to all the villages and should maintain public records.

Protection to tenants in Rajasthan.- Certain interim recommendations are laid down in the Report relating to Rajasthan. These are intended to ensure protection to the tenant by lightening the present high incidence of rents and by removing the causes of dispute and friction between the landlord and the tenant. It is proposed by the Committee that the maximum rent should be $1/4$ th of the crop in the case of irrigated land and $1/3$ rd in other cases. Pending assessment of cash rent by settlement officers, provisional cash rents should be evolved. A simple machinery for the settlement of disputes arising out of the division of crops should be statutorily provided. Ejectment of tenants should be prohibited except under prescribed conditions. When the jagirdar unreasonably refuses to let out unoccupied land for cultivation, the Committee suggests Government intervention.

(The Hindustan Times, 7-4-1950)

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114. Officials.

India - April 1950.

New Scheme of Retirement Benefits for Central Government Employees: Provision for Payment of Gratuity.

The Government of India has sanctioned with immediate effect a new scheme of retirement benefits for pensionable Central Government servants; providing pension on a reduced scale, a death-cum-retirement gratuity and family pension. The scheme which is a composite one, has been drawn up on the basis of the various recommendations of the Central Pay Commission accepted by Government. Apart from rationalising and liberalising in certain directions the existing pension system, it seeks to remove a major defect in that system by providing for certain benefits for the dependants of pensionable employees who may die while in service or soon after retirement. The main features of the scheme are the following:-

Pension benefits.- ~~Under the new scheme, the~~ ~~scheme~~ provides for superannuation, invalid and compensation gratuities and pensions. A retiring pension for 30 years' qualifying service has been provided for. An employee will be free to retire from service after 30 years' qualifying service. Similarly Government can require an employee who has completed 30 years' ~~xxx~~ qualifying service to retire. In either case the party which seeks retirement will have to give at least 3 months' notice in writing to the other party. There will be no additional or special additional pensions under this scheme.

Payment of gratuity.- On completion of five years' qualifying service, an employee becomes eligible for an additional benefit in the form of a gratuity at the rate of 9/20ths of his emoluments for each year of service subject to a maximum of 15 months' emoluments. The gratuity is payable to the employee at the time of retirement in addition to a gratuity or pension. In the event of his death while in service it is payable to his nominees or legal heirs, and in that case it will also be subject to a minimum of 12 months' emoluments. Emoluments for this purpose have been defined as in the existing pension rules and have been limited to a maximum of 1,500 rupees per mensem.

Family pension.- The Scheme also provides for a further benefit in the shape of a pension for families of employees who die after putting in 25 years' qualifying service. This pension is payable for five years from the date of death if the employee dies while in service, or for the unexpired portion of five years from the date of retirement, if he dies after retirement. The pension will be subject to a maximum of 150 rupees per mensem. If an employee has commuted a portion of his pension before death, the family pension is to be reduced by that amount.

In the case of Class IV (lower grade) employees who may attain pensionable status the minimum age above which service counts for pension has been raised from 16 to 18 years.

Commutation of pensions.- The Central Pay Commission had recommended abolition of the facility for commutation of pensions in view of the lump sum payable at the time of retirement by way of death-cum-retirement gratuity. In the opinion of the Government, withdrawal of these facilities in the present conditions might cause hardship and embarrass the employees in settling down to retired life. The new scheme, therefore, provides for commutation under the present rules restricted to 1/3 of the pension.

Application of the scheme.- The new scheme automatically applies to employees in service on 17 April 1950, including those on leave preparatory to retirement on that date. Persons governed by the pre-1938 pension rules can, however, opt out of the new scheme and elect to be governed by the existing rules, as a whole, within one year or before retirement whichever is earlier.

(The Hindustan Times, 19-4-1950).

Living Standards

- (a) Proceedings of the All-India Conference of Social Work, November 6-10, 1947; Published by Dr. J.F. Bulsara, Honorary Secretary, Indian Conference of Social Work, Byculla, Bombay 8; Price Rs.5, pp.128.
- (b) Proceedings of the Indian Conference of Social Work (Second Session), December 18-22, 1948; Published by Messrs. Gulestan R.B. Billimoria, Honorary General Secretary, Indian Conference of Social Work, Byculla, Bombay 8; Price Rs.3-8, pp.120.

Problems Peculiar to Certain Occupations or Categories of Occupations

Bombay Port Trust: Administration Report, 1948-49; pp.xviii x 82.
