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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for February, 1943.

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

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION ✓

British Baluchistan.-

Extension of Weekly Holidays Act, 1943

The Governor General has gazetted a notification that the Weekly Holidays Act, 1942, has been extended to British Baluchistan.

(Notification No. 14 F. dated 2-2-1943,
The Gazette of India, Part I, Section 1,
dated 6-2-1943, page 174.)-

Madras.-

Notification of Accidents under Factories Act.

The Government of Madras has gazetted an amendment to the Madras Factories Rules in order to add a section (No. 25A) which stipulates that the manager of a factory shall notify the Inspector of Factories as soon as possible or within fifteen days from the date of discharge of the worker of all accidents causing any of the following injuries to workers, namely: (a) Poisoning due to handling chemical products; (b) injuries caused by the inhalation of dust, gas or fumes; (c) ulceration due to chrome or injuries consequent on such ulceration; (d) ulceration due to X-rays or other sources of radiant energy or to welding operations; (e) anthrax infection; and (f) glass-workers' cataract.

(Fort St. George Gazette Supplement to
Part I, dated 9-2-1943, page 3.) ✓

Industrial Disputes in British India during the Quarter ending
31-3-1942. ✓

According to the statistics published by the Labour Department, Government of India, regarding industrial disputes in British India during the quarter ending 31-3-1942, the total number of disputes during the period was 184 involving 233,694 workers and entailing a loss of 1,941,372 working days.

Provincial Distribution.- During the period under review, there were 68 disputes in Bengal involving 107,491 workers and entailing a loss of 927,739 working days. Next come Bombay with 65 disputes involving 39,645 workers and entailing a loss of 382,065 working days; C.P. and Berar with 18 disputes involving 29,701 workers and entailing a loss of 66,710 working days; Madras with 10 disputes involving 28,927 workers and entailing a loss of 284,611 working days; the Punjab with 8 disputes involving 270 workers and entailing a loss of 602 working days; the United Provinces with 7 disputes involving 9,181 workers and entailing a loss of 56,530 working days; Assam and Delhi with 3 disputes each involving 1,744 and 16,540 workers and entailing losses of 5,876 and 216,269 working days respectively; and Bihar and Sind with 1 dispute each involving 115 and 80 workers and entailing losses of 690 and 280 working days respectively.

Classification by Industries.- Classified according to industries, there were 76 disputes in ~~cotton~~ cotton, woollen and silk mills involving 107,461 workers and entailing 705,207 working days; 23 in jute mills involving 82,198 workers and entailing a loss of 811,460 working days; 14 in engineering workshops involving 8,864 workers and entailing 83,192 working days; 3 in railways, including railway workshops, involving 6,058 workers and entailing a loss of 12,638 working days; and 1 in mines involving 128 workers and entailing a loss of 200 working days. In all other industries together, there were 68 disputes involving 28,985 workers and entailing a loss of 328,675 working days.

Causes and results of Strikes.- Of the 184 strikes, 96 were due to questions of wages, 44 to those of bonus, 22 to those of personnel, 2 to those of leave and hours and 20 to other causes. In 35 of the disputes the workers were completely successful, in 48 partially successful and in 89 unsuccessful. 12 disputes were in progress on 31-3-1942. ✓

Conditions of Work of Railwaymen: Dearness Allowance, Service Condition
Extensions of Service, Communal Unions; Cut Motions in Central
Assembly. ✓

(1) Mr. N.M. Joshi's Motion re. Dearness Allowance.- In the course of voting on railway demands in the Central Assembly, several cut motions were moved to discuss the grievances of railwaymen. Mr. N.M. Joshi moved a cut motion on 23-2-1943 to discuss the grievances of railwaymen in respect of dearness allowance. He objected to the scheme of dearness allowance under which railwaymen are classified according to localities and scale of pay. He wanted abolition of these categories and urged a uniform flat-rate of dearness allowance to be paid to workers with pay up to Rs. 250. Mr. Joshi further complained that there was no relation between the rate of dearness allowance and cost of living and suggested the creation of a machinery such as suggested by the Rau Committee, by which dearness allowance could be increased automatically with an increase in the cost of living. As for the proposal to pay dearness allowance in kind and not in cash in order to prevent inflation of currency, Mr. Joshi said that inflation was due to a wrong currency policy and not because dearness allowance was paid in cash. Industrial workers were small in number as compared to the total population of India and their payments would not affect the currency position appreciably.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai complained about the irregular supply of food grains and the irregular payments of wages made to railway employees.

Mr. Frank Anthony urged that benefits of dearness allowance should be extended to railwaymen drawing salaries up to Rs. 500 per month. He also drew the attention of the Government to the lack of educational subsidy to railwaymen on the South Indian and on M.S.M. Railways.

Sir Edward Benthall's Reply.- Replying to the motion, Sir Edward Benthall, War Transport Member, Government of India, said that certain modifications in the scale of dearness allowance in a favourable direction were under discussion, but he was not in a position to announce them on that day. Government's proposals would shortly be discussed with representatives of railwaymen and a decision would be announced. His department, he emphasized, was always anxious to meet the legitimate demands of workers.

Mr. Joshi withdrew his motion.

(2) Mr. Frank Anthony's Motion re. Service Conditions.- Complaint against the manner in which appeals of railway employees in the matter of service, emoluments, etc., were dealt with was made by Mr. Frank Anthony on a cut motion. Sir Edward Benthall considered the motion as an attack on the impartiality of the Senior Railway Staff and said that from his examination of the situation he was convinced that the existing system was sound and he did not believe that the provision of officers with judicial experience was desirable in the railway administration. The proper way was to make adequate regulations and trust the officers to carry them out.

Mr. Anthony withdrew his motion.

(3) Mr. Nauman's Motion re. Recognition of Muslim Unions.- The Central Assembly rejected by 42 votes to 12 Mr. Nauman's cut motion to urge the recognition of railway Muslim employees' unions and associations. Mr. Nauman argued that in the peculiar conditions of India the establishment and development of communal unions were not only desirable but necessary in the interests of labour and the administration. He complained that existing non-Muslim unions were influenced by the Congress and manned by Hindus.

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Sir Hugh Raper, Transportation Member, Railway Board, explaining the Government's attitude, said that under the rules the Government servants' unions should, firstly, consist of a distinct class of Government employees and secondly, all Government employees of the same class must be eligible for membership. The question of recognition of associations of Government servants formed on a communal basis had been under consideration many times, but the second rule referred to above definitely ruled out a communal union. Government felt there was an excellent case only for unions being organized of a particular class of workers.

Mr. N.M. Joshi challenged the statement that existing trade unions were dominated by the Congress, and declared that it was untrue. There were no Hindu or Christian interests to be served in the Trade Union Movement. Muslim workers themselves had not shown a desire to have a separate organisation. If members of the Muslim League Party took more interest in Muslim workers, they would find that the economic interests of Muslim and Hindu workers were identical.

Sir Edward Benthall replying said that he recognised that the demand made in the cut motion was a natural consequence of the present policy of the Muslim League, and he realized that they felt very strongly in this matter. The question of communal unions, he went on, had been considered as lately as 1941, and it was a decision of the Government not to change the policy of non-recognition of communal unions. He declared that he was not satisfied by the speeches from the Muslim League benches. As regards promotion, Mr. De Souza had investigated complaints of Muslims having been wrongly passed over and had given his findings. Sir Edward reiterated the Government's policy of opposition to communal unions, whether they be of Hindus, Muslims or Europeans.

(4) Mr. Yusuf Abdulla Haroon's Motion re. Extensions of service. -
Mr. Yusuf Abdulla Haroon moved a cut motion to discuss the extensions given to the employees in the railway services, and said that they adversely affected the promotion of junior officers, especially Muslims. As things were going, the Muslims in junior scale would never get a chance even after the war when those on active service would return.

Mr. N.M. Joshi supported the motion on the ground that superannuated employees should not be given extensions, but juniors should be promoted. Mr. Nauman said that the question should be examined from a non-communal point of view as it affected all.

Sir Hugh Raper, Member, Railway Board, said that the number of these officers granted extensions was very small and the number of additional officers required was larger, and therefore the extensions did not really affect promotions. The House was under the erroneous impression that officers in junior scale had actually suffered or their claims to promotion had been ignored. He further repudiated the charge that any discrimination was made against the Muslims.

The motion was lost without a division.

(The Hindustan Times, 24 and 25-2-43) ✓
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Tea Plantation Industry to be brought under Factories Act:
Proposal Contemplated by Government of India. ✓

Conditions of work in tea plantations are being examined by the Hon. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, on whom a deputation of the tea planting industry waited, towards the close of January, 1943. The proposals being considered are understood to include the application of the Payment of Wages Act and the Factories Act to the tea industry, fixing of minimum wages and securing of freedom of speech and association to plantation labour.

The tea industry is one of the industries receiving certain statutory advantages from the Government of India and Government therefore has the right to lay down fair conditions of labour in it as in protected industries

(The Times of India, dated 1-2-1943).

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

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Meeting of the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research: 4 Research Laboratories and 25 new Research Schemes sanctioned. ✓+

A meeting of the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research was held at Bombay on 3-2-1943, the Commerce Member, the Hon. Mr. N.R. Sarker, presiding. The meeting decided to establish four new industrial research laboratories and considered plans and estimates for them, and a committee was appointed to go into the details. The laboratories are: A National Chemical Laboratory, a National Physical Laboratory, a Fuel Research Laboratory and a Metallurgical Research Laboratory.

Increase in Government Grant to Council.- It is understood that, in view of the fact that the Council's research programme has considerably expanded, the Government of India grant has been raised to about Rs. 2.5 million from Rs. 1 million.

Sanction of New Research Schemes.- The Governing Body considered 61 existing research schemes for their continuation in the next financial year; it also sanctioned about 25 new research schemes for the next year. Among the new schemes are: production of industrial enzymes; determination of the constitution of some commercial dyes and the amount of the ~~parent~~ parent dyes therein; scheme on briquetting of coals; manufacturing of sulphur black from benzene and naphthalene; utilisation of sewage and trade wastes of Ahmedabad; cold hydrogenation of soap; preparation of ~~chloro-benzene~~ ~~chloro-benzene~~; production of rubber-lined equipment for chemical industries; and preparation of butadiene by the action of acetylene and ethylene for synthetic rubber. Another research scheme sanctioned by the Governing Body is stated to be a scheme relating to the special manufacture of radio valves in India.

It is also understood that the Governing Body is laying aside about Rs. 350,000 for the continuation of its existing research schemes, and about Rs. 200,000 for starting new research schemes.

Provident Fund for Research Staff.- The Governing Body intends establishing a contributory provident fund for the employees of the Council.

(The Times of India, 5-2-1943.) ✓+

3rd Session of All-India Manufacturers' Conference, Baroda, 13 and 14-2-1943. ✓

The 3rd session of the All-India Manufacturers' Conference was held at Baroda on 13 and 14-2-1943, Sir M. Visvesvaraya presiding.

In his presidential address, Sir M. Visvesvaraya outlined the following industrialisation plan: (1) Making of arrangements for establishing at least two heavy industries in the eleven Indian provinces; (2) the preparation of plans of an intensive character to develop minor and subsistence industries in every district; and (3) the promotion of all classes of industries, including the above, by means of a "Five-Year" Plan. Referring to post-war reconstruction, he said that it needed special attention in the best interests of both the administration and the general public. He stressed the need to equip the country adequately for future economic progress and said: "For this the establishment of an economic council or a development board composed of representative business men and citizens is an immediate necessity."

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The following are some of the more important resolutions adopted by the Conference:-

(1) Industrial Finance.- The resolution on industrial finance stated that the unfortunate position so far as industrial finance is concerned is not so much due to the inadequacy of capital resources in the country as to the absence of a sympathetic policy on the part of the Government and to the lack of proper organisation and co-ordination amongst principal credit and financing institutions engaged in the financing of industries. It urged the Government to adopt a favourable and encouraging monetary and fiscal policy and to amend the Indian Insurance Act, 1928, with a view to allowing adequate freedom of investment to insurance companies by relaxing the present rigid and conservative restrictions placed upon their investments.

(2) Post-War Reconstruction.- The resolution on post-war reconstruction urged the setting up of a central post-war reconstruction board consisting of representative industrialists, business men, economists and scientists to work out "a post-war economic reconstruction which would not lead the country back to pre-war conditions but would ensure a better standard of living and economic security to the people". The establishment of at least 2 heavy or key industries in each province and at least one in each major Indian State in keeping with the economic conditions and resources of the area and provision of adequate tariff protection to industries in post-war India were also suggested.

(3) Labour Welfare.- A resolution moved by Dr. J.M. Kumarappa requested industrialists to introduce labour welfare schemes.

(4) Price Control.- The resolution on price control suggested that the various economic controls instituted by the Government should be reconstituted on a scientific basis and that "instead of mere fixation of price ceilings for a few commodities, which exposes the civilian population to great hardships and industries to the risk of having to close down, controls should be made comprehensive enough to include all essential commodities and exhaustive enough to envelop all possible stages of production and distribution.

(The Statesman, 8 and 15-2-1943.) ✓

Cotton Textile Mill Industry in India during 1941-42. ✓

The Millowners' Association, Bombay, has recently issued its annual statement regarding the progress of the Indian textile industry during the year ended 31-8-1942. The salient features of the Statement are summarised below:

Number of Mills.- The total number of equipped mills in India (excluding Burma) on 31-8-1942 was 396 (excluding 23 mills in course of erection or recently registered) as against 390 on 31-8-1941. The number of mills in Bombay City and Island increased from 64 in the previous year to 66 during the year under review. The number of mills in Ahmedabad decreased by 1 to 74. There was no change in the number of mills in Rajputana, Berar, the Central Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Hyderabad State, Bengal, Delhi, Travancore, Mysore and Pondicherry. The number of mills increased in the U.P. by one to 27, in the Bombay province exclusive of Ahmedabad and Bombay City and Island by one to 63, in Central India by one to 17, in the Punjab by 1 to 8 and the Madras Province by 1 to 64. Of the 396 mills in the country, 9 were partially or completely idle; of these 9 mills, 2 were in the Bombay Province exclusive of Ahmedabad and Bombay City and Island, 2 in Ahmedabad, 2 in Bengal, 1 in Delhi and 2 in Madras.

Number of Spindles and Looms.- The total number of spindles in the equipped mills of the country stood in the year ended 31-8-1942 at 10,026,425 as against 9,961,178 in the previous year. The total number of looms was 200,170 as against 198,574. In Bombay City and Island the numbers of spindles and looms increased from 2,789,080 and 65,292 in 1940-41 to 2,819,832 and 66,120 during the year under report. In Ahmedabad the number of spindles increased from 1,782,968 to 1,791,789 but looms decreased from 43,513 to 43,424. In the Bombay Province exclusive of Bombay City and Island and Ahmedabad, the numbers of spindles and looms increased from 1,248,888 and 26,094 to 1,250,182 and 26,513 respectively. In Madras the numbers decreased from 1,451,684 and 6,892 to 1,449,696 and 6,163 respectively. ~~and~~ In Bengal the numbers of spindles and looms increased from 458,816 and 10,615 to 472,284 and 10,712 respectively. In U.P. the number of spindles decreased from 749,570 to 745,556 but the number of looms increased from 12,273 to 12,526. In Central India, the numbers of spindles and looms increased from 384,636 and 10,911 to 385,284 and 11,028 respectively. In the Punjab, the numbers of spindles and looms were 105,760 and 2,707 as against 105,208 and 2,598 respectively in the previous year; in Mysore 162,448 spindles and 2,907 looms as against 162,028 and 2,762 respectively; in the Central Provinces, 302,906 spindles and 5,299 looms as against 302,846 and 5,300 respectively; in Rajputana, 113,748 spindles and 2,715 looms as against 98,446 and 2,301 respectively; in Delhi, 113,324 spindles and 3,172 looms as against 113,032 and 3,149 respectively; in Hyderabad State, 120,888 spindles and 2,454 looms as against 120,460 and 2,389 respectively; in Berar 69,048 spindles and 1,484 looms as against 69,048 and 1,454 respectively; in Pondicherry, 84,960 spindles and 1,932 looms as against 87,748 and 2,057 respectively; in Bihar and Orissa, 27,040 spindles and 744 looms as against 25,040 and 674 respectively; and in Travancore 11,680 spindles and 300 looms as against in the previous year.

Number of Operatives.- The average number of operatives employed daily on day-shift work was, in 1941-42, approximately 480,447 as against 459,509 in 1940-41. Particulars of the numbers employed in night-shift work are not available.

Capital Invested.- The total paid-up capital of the industry on 31-8-1942 amounted to Rs. 464,893,238 as against ~~Rs. 447,796,708~~ Rs. 447,796,708 on 31-8-1941.

Activity of Mills.- During the year under review the industry consumed 2,370,361 candies (of 784 lbs.) of cotton against 2,125,511 candies in the previous year. The average number of spindles working daily during the year was 9,165,812 out of a total of 10,026,425 erected. In the previous year the corresponding figures were 9,083,046 and 9,961,178 respectively. Of the 200,170 looms installed, an average of 184,665 were at work daily during the year as against 198,574 and 184,258 respectively in the previous year. The above quoted figures of spindles and loom activity do not include night-shift working. The figure of cotton consumed, however, includes night and day consumption. (Summarised from Statement relating to the progress of cotton textile mill industry in India for 1941-42 forwarded to this Office by the Millowners' Association, Bombay.) ✓

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Railway Budget for 1943-44. ✓

The Railway Budget for 1943-44 was presented in the Central Assembly on 15-2-1943 by Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, Government of India. The results of the financial working of railways for 1942-43 are indicated below:-

	<u>1942-43</u>		<u>1943-44</u>
	Original Estimates Rs. in millions	Revised Estimates Rs. in millions	Estimates Rs. in millions
Receipts	1302.7	1492.5	1500.0
Expenditure	766.8	865.2	881.4
Expected surplus	279.5	362.8	360.4
Payment to Govt. Revenues.		201.3	271.0
Railway Depreciation Fund.		821.9	840.0

Sir E. Benthall's Speech:- Railway Labour.- In the course of his speech, Sir Edward paid a tribute to the hard work and loyalty of the staff, numbering 758,000, and referred to certain changes in their conditions of work brought about by the war. About 126,000 railway employees in the danger areas have voluntarily enrolled in the Defence of India Railway Force. Everything necessary for their security has been provided by the A.R.P. Organisation of the railways.

Workers and Increased Cost of Living.- Dealing with the steps taken by Railway Management to help workers to meet the increased cost of living, he said: "In addition to a dearness allowance, numerous other arrangements have been made to assist the railway workers, such as family evacuation concessions and allotments, emergency allowances, educational concessions, war injury relief, etc. Increased money payments help, but what is of importance to staff today is not so much money but what money can buy, and, above all, the necessaries of life such as foodstuffs, clothing, kerosene and fuel, which, mainly on account of sheer hoarding or profiteering, have become so costly and difficult to obtain. The grant of additional dearness allowance will be of no avail if the articles are not forthcoming. There are two ways of dealing with this problem, either to continue to give the lower-paid staff increased dearness allowance to meet the rising cost of living, or to see that the rise in the cost of living of the railwayman is, as far as possible, stabilized by ensuring that the necessaries of life are made available to him at reasonable prices. On the railways we are combining the two courses. We have given a dearness allowance, and we have opened grain shops. It is our policy to supply through these shops, on an increasing scale, not only food-grains, but also other necessaries of life at prices which will go far to stabilize the cost of living of the workers, the difference between these prices and the actual cost being borne by railways. This will not only afford some relief to the class of workers to whom dearness allowance does not apply but - and this is a matter of supreme importance - by creating a check on the rising spiral of wages and prices in one important sphere, will tend to retard the process of inflation in the country as a whole. The organisation necessary cannot, of course, be conjured up in a night, but all railway administrations have been asked to treat this matter as one of urgency. On some railways a good beginning has already been made, and it is hoped that the effects will make themselves felt

shortly over a wide area. In the meantime, special arrangements have been made to secure priority for the necessary supplies of food-grains."

Locomotive Manufacture.- A large programme of wagon construction in India is in hand. The augmentation of the broad gauge stock is a matter of increasing urgency. So far, India has placed orders for 9,973 broad gauge wagons, of which 265 have been received and about 6,207 are expected by the end of 1943-44. Of metre gauge wagons 736 have been ordered all of which are expected soon. Pressure has been maintained on the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States for the supply of broad gauge locomotives and, although some of the outstanding orders on England have been suspended, arrangements have now been made for the supply of 40 heavy goods engines from America. Deliveries of these are expected to commence in June, 1943. Indian railways are also to receive 12 metre gauge heavy goods engines from England and 80 from America. It is hoped that the 40 heavy goods engines for the broad gauge will be followed by 145 more goods engines but the date when these may be expected, has yet to be settled. It has been requested that arrangements be made for the supply of a further 150 broad gauge locomotives during 1944. Plans are already actively being prepared to set up a locomotive construction shop in India during the war, if physically possible, although this is unlikely owing to the difficulty of securing plant and raw material, and, if not, as part of the immediate post-war reconstruction plan. Special attention is being given to locomotive repair, in order to secure that the maximum number of locomotives are at work on the line at any given time.

Transport of Food.- At the moment, the question of ~~food~~ food supply is uppermost in the public mind. But India is not facing any new situation. The railways and the departments of Government concerned with food had ~~precisely the same problem to face~~ precisely the same problem to face during and after the last war, with this difference that in 1918-19 there was a failure of the harvests to the extent of 20 million tons. This time the actual shortage of foodstuffs in the country is not of large dimensions, but the effect of the comparatively small shortage which exists, combined with serious maldistribution, raises a serious problem. In the first six months of the current year the railway transported approximately the same tonnage of grains and pulse as in the previous year, over 5 million tons. Movements of sugar and salt by rail were in considerable excess of the previous year. The Railway Board has been alive to the urgency of the problem of transport of essential food supplies for civil population and, in close consultation with the Priorities Organisation of the War Transport Department, has for the last six months been giving special priority to the movement of foodstuffs. Particular attention has for some time been given to the expediting of special consignments to deficiency areas and this will continue. So long as the need arises, foodstuffs will be moved in high priority.

(The Hindustan Times, 16-2-1943.) ✓+

Development of Industries: Commercial Exploitation of Surplus Raw Materials and Waste Products: Scientific and Industrial Research Council's Schemes. ✓+

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India (vide pages 14-15 of our September 1942 report) has been able to make available, as a result of its research during the last two and half years, about 25 completed schemes for commercial exploitation. This is besides the large number of schemes which it has made available for direct war purposes which cannot be revealed for obvious reasons. These schemes have given an impetus to industrial development in various directions.

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The industries mainly benefited are the vegetable oil, plastic, chemical, paints and varnish, ~~and~~ sulphur and lubricants industries.

New Industrial Products.- The industrial processes and products now under exploitation comprise anti-gas ~~like~~ cloth, vegetable oils as fuels and lubricants, laminated paper board, air-foam solution, Philwan stoving enamel and allied products, luminous paints and pigments, substitute for glass, silver and glossy transparent paper, solid fuel, steam-proof plastic powder composition, oil silks, water-proof painting for Indianite roofing slabs, jute boards, cloth and jute containers, substitute for cork, sulphur, identity discs, graphite crucibles, oleic and stearic acid, potassium chlorate, urea and seaming varnish. Plastic tooth-paste and collapsible tubes in general, oil plastics, Dettol type of disinfectants, ionone, atoxyl and carbarsone are shortly to be developed.

The 14 non-technical pamphlets already published describe processes under exploitation. The following new non-technical notes are ready and offers have been invited: (1) Dye extracts and dyed shades on wool and cotton from the barks of Terminalia Arjuna and Butea Frondosa. (2) Dye extracts and dyed shades on wool from tamarind seed testa. (3) Extracts of Annatto dye for colouring vegetable ghee, milk, ice-cream, aerated waters and food products in general.

Oil and Lubricants Industries.- Some of the products are of direct use for war or civil defence purposes such as anti-gas cloth, air-foam solution, seaming varnish, solid fuel, identity discs, water-resistant non-inflammable cloth, coloured smokes, vesicants, anti-gas tapes, etc. Most of them are useful as substitute for articles the imports of which have become partly or wholly eliminated as a result of the war. Particular mention may be made of the substitutes for cork and window glass. An important aspect of the new products is that many of them utilise raw materials available in the country or materials which are considered waste products.

As a result of the war, export markets for Indian oil-seeds became scarce or non-existent and the problem was what to do with surplus production. Further, due to war developments and requirements, mineral oils were not available to the extent needed as lubricants or fuels for civilian consumption. The researches of the Council on the uses of vegetable oils for these purposes, given to all the oil companies for exploitation, have shown a way to the profitable use of surplus oil-seeds and to the conservation of mineral oils for essential war purposes. Various grades of combined vegetable and mineral oils, in proportion ranging from 20 to 88 per cent. have been evolved which can be utilised as lubricants or fuels. Most of the blends have a vegetable oil content of 40 to 50 per cent. which has yielded satisfactory results. One oil company is manufacturing more than 8,000 tons of one blend of the new oils per year. Another has promised a grant to the Council's Industrial Research Fund after it utilises these oils on a commercial scale.

Substitutes for Glass, etc.- Approximately 100,000 gallons of air-foam solution have been produced by a Calcutta and Delhi firm and the production has been purchased by the Government and by the public. The product will soon be manufactured by certain oil firms also.

Philwan stoving enamel and allied products are being produced by a firm at the rate of nearly 200 gallons a day. Another firm has manufactured 280,000 square feet of glass substitute, part of which has been sold to the public. An order for 1,600,000 square feet of this material is still pending manufacture by this firm.

Thousands of tins of solid fuels have been manufactured. Nearly 15 millions of identity discs have already been manufactured by one Calcutta firm on formulae ~~xxxxxx~~ evolved in the Director's laboratory

and another firm will soon be in production.

The Government of Mysore is manufacturing urea, a product of utmost importance in the plastic industry. Formaldehyde and phosphorus have been manufactured at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and pilot plants for making titanium dioxide are in operation.

Numerous products useful for the R.A.F. and the American Air Force have been developed and even utilised on a large scale.

("Indian Information", New Delhi, dated
15-1-1943.) ✓

India's Latent Mineral Resources: Dr. C.S. Fox's Plea
for Intensive Exploitation. ✓

In his address at the annual meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal at Calcutta on 1-2-1943, Dr. C.S. Fox, President of the Society, sketching "the background of industrialisation for the utilisation of India's minerals", pointed out, inter alia, that India had never possessed organisations like the Bureau of Mines in the United States or Canada, whose essential duties were mineral research to show the way for mineral development. Only about 500,000 square miles of India could have been examined in any detail during the 97 years of its work by the Geological Survey of India, and there remained over a million square miles still to scrutinise. There was a great deal to do and the personnel and equipment required must be on lines similar to those adopted in Soviet Russia. Dr. Fox was of opinion that there was every hope for a profitable return for State expenditure on mineral development, as was shown by figures. About 1902, the total value of the annual production of minerals, ores, etc., in India was estimated at roughly Rs. 50 millions, while in 1940 the figure was computed at nearly Rs. 400 millions - that is eight times more. Another factor for consideration was that imports into India were such that approximately half the goods were made from minerals, ores and related substances, and that a great proportion of such materials could be obtained in this country.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 5-2-1943.) ✓

Budget of Government of India for 1943-44 ✓

The Budget of the Government of India for 1943-44, excluding the railways, was presented to the Central Assembly on 27-2-1943 by Sir Jeremy Raisman, the Finance Member. The budget disclosed a revenue deficit of Rs. 946.6 millions for 1942-43 and a prospective deficit of Rs. 602.8 millions next year on the basis of existing taxation. The fiscal proposals include a rise in income tax and super-tax for incomes over Rs. 5,000 per annum, increase in Corporation tax, excise duties on tobacco and vegetable products - vanaspati ghee, a rise in postage on letters above 1 tola and on parcels and a doubling of the existing surcharge on telephones.

Budget figures. - The following table gives the budget figures at a glance:-

Revised Estimates for 1942-43

Revenue	1787.6 millions
Expenditure	2734.2 millions
Deficit	946.6 millions

Budget Estimates for ~~1943-44~~ 1943-44

Revenue	1993.0 millions
Expenditure	2595.9 millions
Deficit	602.9 millions
Fresh Taxation	201.0 millions
Net Deficit	401.9 millions

Defence Expenditure - 1943-44

Revised Estimates for 1942-43:	Revenue portion	1897.5 millions
	Capital portion	491.4 millions
Budget Estimates for 1943-44:	Revenue Portion	1828.1 millions
	Capital portion	168.5 millions

New Taxation Measures.- The new taxation measures taken, by which Rs. 201 millions of the total deficit of Rs. 602.9 millions will be covered, include:

(1) Increase in income and super-tax; there will be no change in regard to incomes up to Rs. 5,000. On the next slab of income from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 the central surcharge will be increased from 9 pies to 10 pies in the rupee, and on the slab from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 it will be raised from 14 to 16 pies in the rupee; on the balance above Rs. 15,000 the surcharge will be increased from 15 to 20 pies in the rupee. The effect of these changes will be to impose a surcharge amounting uniformly to 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. over the basic rates of income-tax. At the same time there will be an increase in the super-tax on the slabs of income between Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 350,000: here the surcharge will be raised uniformly by half an anna in the rupee. The resultant aggregate rates of super-tax, including surcharge, will thus run from two annas in the rupee on the lowest slab to ten and a half annas on the top slab. Corporation tax will also be raised by half an anna, to a rate of two annas in the rupee. The Excess Profits Tax will be extended to cover the profits of a further period of one year, but the rate of 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. will remain unchanged. The additional revenue from these changes in direct taxation is estimated at Rs. 70 millions in the coming year.

(2) Excise duty on tobacco - to ~~yield~~ yield Rs. 105 millions.

(3) Excise duty on vegetable products, vanaspati ghee, of Rs. 7 per cwt.- to yield Rs. 14 millions.

(4) Changes in Postal rates. The changes are an increase in the inland letter rate for each tola after the first from half an anna to one anna; an increase in the inland parcel rate for the first 40 tolas from 4 annas to 6 annas and an increase in the existing surcharge on telephone rentals from 1/6th to 1/3rd. These changes are estimated to yield Rs. 12 millions.

Economic Background.- In his speech introducing the budget, the Finance Member dealt, inter alia, with the assimilation of economic conditions in India, through the coming of the war closer to India, to those prevailing in other countries. Looking back on the first two years of the war, one can now see more clearly than was then possible how largely the favourable effects of India's economy outweighed the unfavourable ones. The war was far from Indian shores and yet it

exerted a marked expansionist influence on production, employment and trade without any very serious disadvantages accompanying the transition from peace to war. It is true that India lost some overseas markets, but she gained others. Her external resources mounted rapidly and the repayment of the external debt began, a process which will have a permanent effect upon India's international situation. Employment improved and higher earnings compensated the rise of agricultural prices, which in its turn improved the buying power of the ryot, and the mounting demand was met by a fuller utilisation of the margin of productive power still available. In the last twelve months the unfavourable factors also have gained relatively to the favourable. Occupation by the enemy of neighbouring territory has robbed India of part of her food supplies and increased the strain on communications. The war-demands are eating deeply into the manufacturing capacity, expanded though that has been. The drastic cutting off of imports has reduced supplies and helped the profiteer to exploit the consumer. At a time when food supplies were reduced by the cutting off of imports, India has had to come to the assistance of Ceylon. Civil disturbances have added to difficulties of transport and at the same time have encouraged individuals to hold stocks of food on a larger scale than usual. Prices have risen and, as in other parts of the world, an increased money income is being expended on a smaller stream of immediately available goods.

Even if rising agricultural prices have done nothing else, they have obviously diminished the real burden of agricultural indebtedness, a source to which so many of the major evils which beset the Indian cultivator have so often been traced. The industrial worker is enjoying full employment at rising wages and if he can be induced to exercise sufficient self-control and abstain from the immediate purchase of superfluities, he can build up a useful fund against the contingencies of the future. India's external debt is on the point of disappearance and she has large funds in hand with which to finance the improvement of industrial equipment in the future.

Repatriation of Sterling Debt. - Dealing with ways and means operations of the Government, the Finance Member observed that the fact that "some £300 million of sterling debt has been repatriated since the outbreak of war with so little disturbance to the money market is a consummation for which the country may well feel gratified."

Currency Expansion. - On the question of currency expansion, Sir Jeremy said: "We need not allow ourselves to take too pessimistic a view of the currency expansion that has taken place so far and that may be expected in the future." He deprecated loose talk and wild exaggerations which he said are the parents of panic buying and hoarding, benefiting only the profiteer and the speculator. The Finance Member appealed for economy in personal expenditure and for diversion of savings into Government loans and remarked that "the sheet-anchor in the present emergency must be more and more borrowing."

Reconstruction Fund. - The Finance Member revealed that the Government of India are considering a proposal to constitute out of the substantial surplus of sterling balances now accruing a Reconstruction Fund to provide for the financing of a programme of post-war reconstruction, including the rehabilitation and re-equipment of industry. Elaborating this point, he said: "It is clear that in the post-war period India will have demands for imported machinery and plant to equip her greatly expanded industrial system, to re-equip her railways and to enable Provincial and State Governments to carry out schemes of electrification, irrigation and the like, which have had to remain in abeyance during the war. It may be taken for granted that it will be found necessary even after the end of the war to proceed on some orderly programme for the

purchase of these capital goods from the producing countries. In this respect the position may well be found to be not greatly dissimilar from the present situation in regard to the procurement from overseas sources of the plant and equipment necessary for war production. The first essential would probably be a careful and comprehensive survey of India's requirements and the establishment of some order of priority upon which a programme could be drawn up. In so far as this programme depended on the ability of producing countries to release certain types of goods for export, it would clearly involve international co-operation, and in particular the assistance and co-operation of His Majesty's Government. The existence of such a Reconstruction Fund coupled with a concerted programme of requirements would place India in a favourable position to endeavour to secure the early fulfilment of her post-war needs and so enable her to go ahead with post-war reconstruction with the minimum of delay."

(The Budget of the Government of India for 1942-43 was reviewed at pages 12 to 14 of our February 1942 report.)

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 27-2-1943.) +

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Need for Central Co-ordination and Rationalisation of Technical Education
Mr. L.P. Misra's Plea at Annual Meeting of Indian Institute of Engineers

In his presidential speech at the annual meeting of the Institution of Engineers (India), held at Lucknow on 24-2-1943, Mr. L.P. Misra (General Manager, Bengal and Assam Railway) urged the early establishment in India of a central regulating authority for rationalising technical education in British India by co-ordinating the facilities for such education already provided by the central and provincial Governments and industries established in the country.

Explaining the functions of the central regulating authority, Mr. Misra said that it would reorganise the course of studies in the existing institutions with a view to obtaining the maximum out of the funds and equipment provided, and would enlist active association of the industries with the existing or new institutions built for serving them, and secure therein a type of training suited to actual requirements. How the central regulating authority was to exercise its functions, what machinery was to be set up and what statutory powers were to be given to it to enable it to function satisfactorily, were all points of detail which would have to be closely studied by the Central Government in consultation with the provinces and the various industries for whose growth the development of suitable technical education had become a vital necessity. What was required, Mr. Misra said, was a preliminary survey to collect the data in regard to the funds spent, the number of students trained and annually absorbed, the accommodation and equipment available in the technical schools in the country, how far they could be expanded to embrace other activities and the requirements of the new industries to be served. Once this information had been collected, it would be time for the Central Government to consider the statutory powers to be given to the proposed central regulating authority.

Mr. Misra also emphasized the need for a thorough overhaul of the whole system of engineering training in the country. He pointed out that the curricula prescribed, the training given and the general atmosphere in the old established institutions in the country, though excellent from the point of view of the requirements of Government service, were different from what might be expected of technical institutions whose existence depended on their satisfactorily meeting the growing needs of the profession or the industry they were supposed to be training their students for.

(The Leader, 28-2-1943.) ✓

MIGRATION

17

Indian Labour for Ceylon Rubber Estates: Lack of Agreement between Ceylon and India on Conditions. ✓

Reference was made at page 14 of our January 1943 report to the progress of negotiations between the Ceylon Government and the Government of India for the emigration of about 30,000 Indians to Ceylon rubber plantations. The subsequent developments are summarised below:-

Ceylon State Council's Ban on Indian Recruitment.- On 28-1-1943, the Ceylon State Council passed the following resolution by 21 votes to 7: "As the questions arising from Indian immigration are all unsettled and as the Governor has said that there are undertakings which must be considered binding on us and as there is insufficiency of food in this country, no further immigration should be allowed." In the course of the debate on the motion, Mr. D.S. Senanayake, Leader of the House, said that the Ministers ~~at that time~~ had not given instructions to Sir Baron Jayatilaka to recruit labour in India. The resolution passed by the Ceylon State Council occasioned considerable surprise in Indian circles and was interpreted as an indirect rejection of the Government of India's suggestion for an agreement on fundamental principles governing future relations between the two countries and that apparently Ceylon politicians consider that the demand for Indian labour for the Island's rubber estates and for defence works is a matter for the Colonial Office to settle with the India Office.

Origin of Negotiations: Ceylon Governor's Telegram.- Full details regarding the origin of the negotiations for Indian labour were published in the course of February. On 8-12-1942 the Governor of Ceylon sent a telegram to the Government of India stating that "the adequacy of the supply of estate labour is under urgent consideration by the Board of Ministers with special reference to the production of rubber of which Ceylon's basic quota represents 85 per cent. of the production left in the control of the Allied Nations. In these circumstances, Ceylon must resort to the most intensive tapping possible in order to increase the production to at least 30 per cent. above the basic quota. This will entail the employment of additional labour during the war and less than the normal amount of labour after the war when the areas have been exhausted. The estates are also required by law for the period of the war to produce foodstuffs in addition to plantation crops and this also requires abnormal 'ad hoc' increase in the labour force. The demands on local labour for military units, defence works, essential services and rural food production have been and are very heavy, and consequently there is no surplus available for diversion to the estates. The production of tea must not be allowed to decrease below the present necessary level. It will be realised now that the Indian ban on emigration has been relaxed in respect of labourers now in the Island there is likely to be the usual exodus on holiday to India during the early months of next year. In these circumstances, the Board of Ministers has asked me to ascertain whether the Government of India, notwithstanding their ban on emigration to Ceylon of unskilled labour other than labourers already in the island, would consider special recruitment of labour to meet the present war emergency on the following terms: (a) pay and conditions of employment identical with those of other Indian labour and (b) repatriation to India at the end of the war or other period stipulated by agreement. The Board of Ministers consider an arrangement on these lines to be the right one to meet the position with which they are confronted, which is that (a) the demand for extra estate labour is abnormal and only temporary, although essential for the prosecution of the war and (b) the status of

Indians in Ceylon is one of the questions which, at the request of the Government of India, has been postponed for consideration at a future undetermined date."

Government of India's Reply.- On 22-2-1943, the Government of India placed before the Central Assembly the correspondence on the Ceylon request which shows that, before discussing the Ceylon Government's demand made in December last year for 20,000 Indian labourers for rubber estates, the Government of India suggested that the principles for a settlement of the immigration and status problems should be determined and agreed upon. In reply to the Ceylon Government's request the Government of India sent a letter to Sir Baron Jayatilaka in which reference was made to discussions in Mr. Aney's house during which Mr. Aney suggested "that before reaching a decision on the supply of additional labour now required by Ceylon for rubber estates, we should attempt to determine the main principles in accordance with which a settlement of immigration and status problems should be negotiated."

Government of India's Conditions.- Sir Baron Jayatilaka having asked for concrete proposals, the Government enunciated them as follow:

"owing to Japan's entry into the war the Government of India informed the Ceylon Government that in their opinion the proposals contained in the Indo-Ceylon Joint Report, presented in September, 1941, should not be further considered during the war and that the problems of immigration into Ceylon from India and of the status of Indians in Ceylon should be re-examined in the light of post-war conditions. Subsequent developments have made it clear that Ceylon cannot herself provide sufficient labour for the maximum utilization of her natural resources and for her fullest contribution to the war effort. She has therefore asked India to permit the emigration of additional unskilled labour. In these altered circumstances the Government of India have proposed and the Ceylon Government have agreed that the broad principles which govern a detailed settlement should now be determined. These principles are as follows: (1) It is agreed that Ceylon has the right to determine the future composition of her population by the imposition of such restrictions as she may deem necessary upon the entry of newcomers; (2) That all Indians who have entered or may enter Ceylon without infringing any existing statute before a future post-war date to be prescribed, will be eligible to qualify for all the rights of citizenship now accruing to persons possessing a Ceylon domicile of origin; (3) That the qualification for such citizenship shall be such as can be determined by a simple administrative process without recourse, except for the legalization of documents or by way of appeal, to a court of law; (4) That Indians admitted to such citizenship shall have no right to any special protection by the Government of India, but that in the case of unskilled labour there shall be no detraction from the conditions of work, wages, medical attention and housing agreed between the two Governments; (5) That the existing agreements between the two Governments regarding conditions of work, wages, medical attention and housing for unskilled labour shall be maintained in respect of any new immigrant labour or any unskilled labourers who are not admitted to full citizenship, subject only to such modifications as may become necessary by reason of restrictions being placed upon the entry of newcomers; and (6) That any restrictions that may be placed upon the entry of newcomers shall not be such as (a) to prevent Indians already in Ceylon introducing upon equal terms wives, children and recognized dependents; (b) to interfere with normal commercial practice between the two countries or to prevent the continuation of Indian business already legitimately established in Ceylon or (c) to impose upon newcomers of Indian nationality any greater restrictions than may be imposed upon newcomers of other nationalities."

In a letter dated February 8, in reply to Sir Baron Jayatilaka's inquiries, Mr. Bozman further clarified the position as follows: "The Hon. Mr. Aney informed you specifically that we could not accept the original suggestion from Ceylon that labour should be recruited subject to compulsory repatriation. That being so, he suggested that it might expedite consideration of Ceylon's request for labour if we could first agree upon the main principles which should govern subsequent detailed negotiations regarding the immigration and status of Indians in Ceylon. It was not our intention that the details of such negotiations should be considered now, nor did we envisage the joint report of 1941 being the basis of such negotiations. Should it be possible to reach an agreement upon these principles now the detailed settlement would be a fresh settlement, utilizing, if necessary, only such portions of the draft report as either party to the agreement might find useful in accordance with the agreed principles."

Ceylon's Rejection of Indian Proposals.- Sir Baron Jayatilaka in his letter dated 12-2-1943 communicated the decision that the Board of Ministers Ceylon, were quite unable to consider any counter-proposals on the basis of the Government of India's draft statement. "I am also to add", wrote Sir Baron, "that the Board of Ministers note with surprise that the joint report of 1941 is no longer envisaged by the Government of India as the basis of any future negotiations regarding immigration and status of Indians in Ceylon in spite of the fact that (a) the Government of India by their telegram of February 26, 1942, suggested postponement of consideration of ~~the~~ proposals in that report until after the war, and (b) the Government of Ceylon by a telegram dated March 18, 1942, agreed to the maintenance of the status quo on that understanding."

(The Times of India, 30-1-1943, the Statesman, 5-2-1943, the Hindu, 10-2-1943 and the Statesman, 23-2-1943) ✓

Emergency Restriction on Entry of Indian Women into Ceylon ✓

A Press Note issued by the Government of India on 24-2-1943 points out that as an emergency measure, the Government of Ceylon has promulgated an Order to the effect that no Indian woman, with certain exceptions, may enter Ceylon except under a permit granted by the Chief Secretary to the Government of Ceylon. The exceptions are allowed in the case of women who are relatives (whether by blood or by marriage) of persons resident in Ceylon. By administrative arrangement, Indian women accompanying male relatives will be treated as in the same position as Ceylonese women and allowed entry without ~~permitted~~ permits. Indian women who are not accompanied by male relatives and who have no relations in Ceylon will require permits.

(The Hindustan Times, 25-2-1943.) ✓

Bombay Land Improvement Schemes Act, 1943. ✓+

The Bombay Government has adopted the Bombay Land Improvement Schemes Act, 1943 to provide for the making and execution of schemes relating to the construction of tanks, embankments and other works, the prohibition and control of grazing for the purpose of preservation of soil, prevention of soil erosion, improvement of water supply and other matters in order thereby to protect and improve lands and crops in the Province.

The statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Act points out that, in spite of the work done by agricultural and other departments connected with the improvement of land and its yield, the work of land improvement and increase in the yield of land has been hampered by certain limitations on the activities of these departments. It is known that bunding, construction of embankments, levelling, terracing, prohibition and control of grazing, etc., are the most effective measures for securing the maximum benefit from limited rainfall and that the cultivation of improved high yielding and drought resistant strains of crops in the areas of low or ill-distributed rainfall give excellent results. These improvements cannot, however, be made on isolated survey numbers, but must cover large areas where the holders must not only carry out the necessary work but maintain them, as the neglect of even a few holders may cause serious damage to the interests of the whole community. The planning and execution of these improvements, moreover, require technical advice and supervision which the individual cultivator cannot provide. The Act seeks to remedy this state of affairs by setting up Permanent Divisional Boards for land improvement purposes and, by providing for the preparation of schemes of land development and their sanction by the Board, for execution of the schemes and recovery of cost from those who cannot execute their share of the work. Provision has been made to secure the consent of 66 per cent. of the owners of the lands included in the scheme or, in the alternative, of owners who own 66 per cent. of the total area of the lands included in the schemes but power has been reserved to dispense with this condition in certain cases so that a really good valuable scheme of land improvement may not be held up by local ignorance or factious spirit. Power has, in addition, been reserved to have such schemes prepared for scarcity and famine areas without any such conditions.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV,
dated 25-1-1943, pages 31-44.) ✓+

21

CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

Further Extension of Grant to Cottage Industries:
Standing Finance Committee's Decision. ✓

Proposals for the renewal of grants for the year 1943-44 for the development of the handloom, sericultural and small scale woollen industries were approved by the Standing Finance Committee at its meeting held in New Delhi on 8-2-1943, Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member, for Government of India, presiding. The grants amount to Rs. 500,000 in the case of the handloom industry and Rs. 100,000 each in the case of the sericulture and woollen industry.

As regards the handloom weaving industry, it was explained to the committee that the 5-year scheme of grants-in-aid for its development started in November, 1934, and expired in October 1939. This help was considered necessary since the Indian Tariff (Textile Protection) Amendment Act of 1934 imposed a protective duty on cotton yarns which, it was considered, would hit the handloom weaver by raising the price of the raw material. It was, therefore, proposed to help the handloom weaver by this grant for a period of 5 years. As the protection to the cotton textile industry has since been extended to 31-3-1944, the grant-in-aid to the handloom industry has also been extended.

(The Statesman, 9-2-1943.) ✓

SOCIAL CONDITIONSThe Bengal Vagrancy Bill, 1943 ✓

The Government of Bengal has published the Bengal Vagrancy Bill, 1943, providing for the segregation of beggars in crowded cities like Calcutta. In the statement of objects and reasons, it is pointed out that there has long been a desire in Calcutta that some measures should be taken to deal with the "Beggar Problem", not only out of compassion for the beggars themselves but also for the sake of the health and cleanliness of the city. This desire has recently been accentuated by the conditions arising from the fact that Calcutta is now subject to air raids. Persons collected together in the close and crowded atmosphere of an air raid shelter are exposed to a grave risk of infection through continued proximity to beggars suffering from leprosy or other contagious diseases. Government, therefore, proposes to assume powers to collect all genuine vagrants and place them in homes and in these homes to provide (a) food, shelter and clothing for all; (b) medical treatment for the sick; (c) work for the able-bodied; and (d) education for the children and also for such adults as appear to be likely to benefit by it.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV-A,
dated 18-2-1943, pages 1-10.) ✓

EDUCATIONPre-Primary Education and Adequate Nutrition for Children:
Greater Attention urged by Child Welfare Conference, Bombay.

A resolution expressing the opinion that, pre-primary education being indispensable for the healthy, all-round development of children, Government, municipalities and other local bodies should make such provisions as would benefit children of the pre-primary age was passed by the Child Welfare Conference held at Bombay on 30-1-1943. The Conference was organised by the National Council of Women in India; Miss R. Reuben presided. Supporting the resolution, Miss Reuben stated that pre-primary education was a great need for the country as many mothers did not know their responsibility in this respect. She mentioned the example of Russia in this connection and stated that it was better to spend a few ~~more~~ millions of rupees on pre-primary education than to spend many millions on jails and other institutions.

The Conference unanimously passed another resolution stating that the State in co-operation with public organisations like municipalities and local bodies, should take steps to see that every child receives adequate nutrition for its healthy growth.

(The Times of India, dated 2-2-1943.) ✓

WagesEstablishment of Wage Boards ✓

Addressing the U.P. Statistical Institute at Lucknow on 6-2-1943, Professor Radha Kamal Mukerjee, dealing with dearness allowances in relation to cost of living of industrial workers, stressed the need for establishment of wage boards, as in Great Britain, in all principal industrial centres in India. Reviewing the movement of index numbers, he observed that in Bombay, Ahmedabad, Nagpur and Cawnpore the cost of living had now nearly doubled or more than doubled, while wages increments varied from 12½ to 33 per cent. in different centres. As in England, he said, wage boards should establish a sliding scale of bonus or allowance for the rise of a given number of points in the cost of living index, guaranteeing also a minimum living wage for the lowest grade of workers, estimated at Rs. 30 per family under the old price level. Professor Mukerjee also pointed out that the activity of wage boards should be supplemented by price control measures, especially the establishment of cheap grain and standard cloth shops in all industrial areas, for the maintenance of efficiency, standard of living and morale of all workers in war time. ✓

(The Leader, 10-2-1943.) ✓

Increased Dearness Allowance for Lower-paid Government Employees in Indore State ✓

The Government of Indore State has sanctioned the grant of increased dearness allowance with effect from the 1st January 1943 for whole time government servants (except combatants and non-combatants of the Army Department and village chowkidars - watchmen). All Government employees getting a salary below Rs. 40 per month will from 1-1-1943 get a dearness allowance of Rs. 4 per month in Indore City and Rs. 3-8 per month in the mofussil, while employees getting Rs. 40 per month and up to and including Rs. 60 per month will get a dearness allowance of Rs. 5 per month in Indore City and Rs. 4 per month in the mofussil.

(Federal India and Indian States, 3-2-1943.) ✓

Bonus to Cotton Mill Workers in Indore ✓

The Government of Indore State has issued under the Indore Trade Disputes Act, an order to the effect that cotton mill workers in the State should be granted bonus equivalent to 2½ months' basic wages for the year 1942. No worker who has been discharged for misconduct will be entitled to the bonus.

(Federal India and Indian States,
dated 3-2-1943.) ✓

Views of the A.I.T.U.C. on Organisation of Cheap Grain Shops and Other Items on the Agenda of 2nd Standing Labour Committee Meeting. ✓

Reference was made at pages 4 to 5 of our January 1943 report to the decisions of the second session of the Standing Labour Committee; the views expressed by Mr. N.M. Jashi, General Secretary, All-India Trade Union Congress, on some of the items on the agenda are summarised below:-

The following suggestions have been made on the provision of cheap grain shops: (a) In all industrial areas, a proper rationing system should be introduced; (b) employers' shops should be under the obligation to give grain to their employees during strikes; (c) private shops should be strictly controlled and supervised by Government; (d) shops run by employees themselves should be encouraged and helped; (e) employees should be free to choose ~~whichever~~ kind of shop they find suitable for their needs; (f) both normal and supplementary supplies should be made available by Government to all these kinds of shops to the extent that they cater for industrial workers.

In the matter of supplying these shops with necessary articles, the Government of India, in co-operation with provincial or district authorities, should take up the ultimate responsibility on themselves both for normal and supplementary supplies. This is absolutely necessary, because today the provincial Governments have not sufficient power to deal with the problem effectively. The Government should fix retail prices for each article and the employers' shops should sell the articles at the price fixed by Government. Provision of cheap grain shops should not be made an excuse for reducing dearness allowance.

The family and not the individual should be taken as the unit for introducing rationing. It will be suitable to allow an average for the worker and his family of 3 adult rations until such time as a census is secured. The ration required by an adult per day or week can be determined on the basis of the scale prescribed by Dr. Akroyd, Director, Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor. According to this scale, the average adult daily requirements of food, including milk, vegetables, fats, etc., are calculated to be 40 ounces. But as the industrial workers are not in a position to take milk, vegetables, etc., in the proportion prescribed by Dr. Akroyd, the quantity of cereals and pulses will have to be much more than what is prescribed in this scale. On a modest estimate, he takes it to be 28 ounces (or 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.).

All the workers, as long as they are in industrial employment, should have the right to make purchases from the employers' shops for all the days of the week or a fortnight or a month irrespective of the fact that they attend the place of work the previous week or for only a certain number of days. This is because it may not be possible for every worker to attend all the days in every week on account of various reasons. It is obvious that provision should be made for supply to workers when absent by reason of sickness. It is necessary that employers' grain-shops should be subject to supervision from time to time by Government in cooperation with Workers' Committees to be set up in cooperation with their trade unions wherever trade unions exist, or set up by the workers themselves where trade unions do not exist.

Joint Adjudication of Trade Disputes.- The A.I.T.U.C. does not object in principle to joint adjudication. But the fact that such extension of the adjudication proceedings may cause delay which may be inconvenient from the point of view of the party on whose representation the adjudication was originally undertaken ought to receive full weight. Mr. Joshi, therefore, suggests that the consent of the party on whose behalf the original proposal for adjudication was undertaken should be made obligatory for the extension of the adjudication to any other undertaking. When adjudication is started to consider demands from workers for improved conditions, the employers try to get postponement of the proceedings and the delay caused becomes irritating to the workers and sometimes the patience of the workers becomes exhausted and they begin to think of a strike, which puts them in the wrong. "I, therefore, feel that in order to safeguard the interests of the party for whose sake the original proceedings were undertaken, the consent of that party for

In view of further rise in cost of living, the Government of Bombay has decided to liberalize its existing scheme of dearness allowance by raising the pay-limits up to which the allowance is admissible to its servants, and by increasing the rates of the allowance.

Under existing orders, Government servants serving in Bombay City and drawing pay up to Rs. 100 per mensem are eligible for dearness allowance at a flat rate of Rs. 7-8-0 per mensem. The pay-limit has been raised to Rs. 120. Government servants drawing pay below Rs. 40 per mensem will now receive the allowance at the rate of Rs. 9 per mensem and those receiving Rs. 40 or more will be eligible for the allowance at the rate of Rs. 11 per mensem. The pay-limit for Government employees in the mofussil has, similarly, been raised from Rs. 75 per mensem to Rs. 90 per mensem. Employees receiving pay below Rs. 40 per mensem will be entitled to the allowance at the rate of Rs. 7 per mensem, while those drawing higher pay will be entitled to the allowance at the rate of Rs. 9 per mensem, instead of at the present flat rate of Rs. 6 per mensem. Marginal allowances will be given to persons drawing more than Rs. 120 in Bombay City and Rs. 90 in the mofussil to ensure that they do not receive less pay than Rs. 131 and Rs. 99 per mensem respectively.

The Government of Bombay has decided to give retrospective effect to these orders as from 1-11-1942. The orders will continue to be in force until further notice. All whole-time Government servants are eligible for this allowance and similar increases have also been ordered in the case of whole-time daily rated staff.

(Press Communique dated 5-2-1943, issued by the Director of Information, Bombay.) ✓

Adjournment

~~Censure~~ Motion on Inadequacy of Dearness Allowance granted to Low-Paid Government Servants; Labour Member's Explanation in Central Assembly. ✓

On 12-2-1943, Mr. Jannadas Mehta moved an adjournment motion in the Central Legislative Assembly censuring the Government of India for the inadequacy of the dearness allowance announced on 23-1-1943.

Moving his adjournment motion, Mr. Jannadas Mehta criticized the Government policy with regard to the question of dearness allowance to all low-paid Government servants and said that, whereas the cost of living had risen by 103 per cent., the maximum compensation granted to a low-paid Government servant was only 21 per cent. What should have been done was that the low-paid staff should have been treated as they were in September 1939. He also protested strongly against the conduct of the Government in not consulting the representatives of the various employees most vitally affected by the rise in the cost of living. In any case, he said, those living on the verge of starvation should be fully compensated.

Supporting the motion, Mr. N.M. Joshi said that for a long time when the cost of living was rising Government failed to take notice of this question, and even when it did, it did not follow a generous policy. He pleaded for the grant of dearness allowance at a flat rate and removal of the present discontent.

In his reply to the motion, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, stated that the motion raised two points, namely, the meagerness and inadequacy of the dearness allowance announced on 2-1-1943 and the failure of the Government to consult the representatives of the trade unions. With reference to the first, he pointed out that there was no finality in the decision of the Government and there was no reason to assume that the amount granted could not be altered subsequently. It was a matter for the Government to decide the form of any further dearness allowance in cash or foodstuffs.

With regard to the other point, he explained that there was no difficulty in contacting the representatives of labour. The Government could easily do so in the case of railwaymen, whose Federation existed, but similar contact with other departments could not be established for want of single representative bodies. Even then, he pointed out, the Government made efforts to consult the representatives of the postal employees and the Secretariat staff. The policy of the Government was that it always consulted its workers in such matters as far as possible.

The motion was lost.

(The Hindustan Times, 13-2-1943) ✓

Increased Dearness Allowance for Low-Paid Jamshedpur Employees
of Tisco from 1-10-1942. ✓

On account of a further substantial rise in the cost of living index for Jamshedpur, the Tata Iron and Steel Company has decided to increase the rates of War allowance for its employees at Jamshedpur from 1-10-1942 as per terms and conditions given below:- (The allowance will be purely temporary for the duration of the war.)

Employees of the Steel Company, working at Jamshedpur on wages or salaries, inclusive of bonuses and allowances, not exceeding Rs. 100 per month are to be paid a war allowance of Rs. 9 per month; those getting between Rs. 100 and Rs. 200, Rs. 12 per month; those getting between Rs. 200 and Rs. 300, Rs. 15 per month; and those getting between Rs. 300 and Rs. 315 per month, the difference between salary (inclusive of bonuses and allowances) and Rs. 315 per month.

The allowance will be paid pro rata for the number of days of actual attendance during a month plus the days on leave with pay duly sanctioned. If for three consecutive months the cost of living index for Jamshedpur published by the Bihar Government drops substantially below the present level, the War allowance will be reduced. If for three consecutive months the cost of living index falls below 118, the War allowance will be discontinued. The War allowance will be liable to revision, if, as a result of the recommendations of the Government of Bihar on the Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee's Report, or for any other reason, the basic scale of wages is revised.

(The Tisco Review, December, 1942.) ✓

Production

Rubber Conference, Delhi, 15-2-1943. ✓

A Rubber Conference convened by the Government of India was held at New Delhi on 15-2-1943; Mr. P.J. Kurian, Rubber Commissioner for India, and members of the United Kingdom Rubber Mission in India attended the Conference. The decisions of the Conference are not yet available, but it is understood that, as a result of the Conference, the purchase price of Indian rubber will be fixed at the same level as that of Ceylon rubber (The Statesman, 17-2-1943.)

Dealing with the drive for more intensive rubber production in India and Ceylon for war purposes and the need of Ceylon for a trained labour force of tappers, Mr. George Fellowes, Member, United Kingdom Rubber Mission, said in the course of a press conference at New Delhi on 16-2-1943: The annual rubber crop in Ceylon is 102,000 tons and in India 16,000 tons. By intensive tapping, Ceylon can have an additional 30,000 tons and India an additional 2,500 tons. Ceylon needs 35,000 extra tappers, and as India has trained tappers, she could supply 20,000 labourers to Ceylon. Indian rubber was as good in quality as Ceylon rubber, but Indian rubber estates yielded 50 lbs. less per acre than Ceylon estates. Production committees in both

Ceylon and India have agreed to 20 per cent. of the estates being subjected to slaughter tapping, compensation being given for wastage of assets. With this compensation, planters should be able to replant rubber trees ~~which~~ ^{with} ~~having~~ better seeds ^{which} would produce a 2 1/2 times better yield.

(The Statesman, 17-2-1943 and the Hindustan Times, 19-2-1943.) ✓

Post-War Reconstruction

Reconstruction Committee to be set up in the United Provinces. ✓

The setting up of a Post-war Reconstruction Committee for the United Provinces as soon as possible was foreshadowed by Sir Maurice Hallett, Governor of the United Provinces, in his reply to an address presented to him on 29-1-1943 on behalf of the Allahabad District War Committee. He pointed out that in 1942 a Revenue Reserve Fund to meet expenditure on A.R.P. in the first instance, with residuary purpose of post-war reconstruction, has already been established, and that the U.P. Government proposed to continue to make substantial contributions to the fund for its residuary purpose of post-war reconstruction.

(The Times of India, dated 1-2-1943.) ✓

Meeting of the Reconstruction Committee on Trade and Industry ✓

A meeting of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee on Trade and Industry was held on 16-2-1943, Mr. N.R. Sarker, Commerce Member, ~~to~~ the Government of India, presiding. A statement was made on India's position regarding the requirements of capital goods after the war. It was decided to set up 6 technical sub-committees to consider not only the replacement requirements of the post-war period, but also the volume of capital goods likely to be needed in view of industrial expansion.

(The Statesman, 18-2-1943.) ✓

Welfare of Service Men after Demobilisation: Fund being built up by Government. ✓

In reply to a question asked by Mr. Govind Deshmukh in the Central Legislative Assembly on 17-2-1943, Sir Firoz Khan Noon, Defence Member, Government of India, explained the plans of the Government to guarantee freedom from want to the men who would be demobilized from the Services after the war. He said that the Government recognized that the demobilized soldier would be one of the most powerful agencies in the re-adjustment and development of society after the war. It was therefore ~~the~~ its first objective to secure, as far as possible, that men eventually discharged from the armed forces should be not only supplied with the necessaries of life but equipped to earn a good livelihood. The tentative plans included the creation of a fund which was being built up at the rate of from ^{Rs.} 2.5 to 3 million a month, to be used after the cessation of hostilities on schemes for the permanent benefit of ex-servicemen. A complete card index of the Indian Army had been prepared in which all the necessary details concerning each individual were recorded, including technical qualifications.

Government had also under consideration the creation of a network of employment exchanges throughout the country which would deal with technical personnel and with which employment and welfare bureaux for discharged members of the armed forces would co-operate. It had also been decided that the scheme for training technicians would be continued for a year and a half after the war. This would enable those men who had been called up before

completing their technical training course to complete the course after the war and thus fit themselves for technical employment.

(The Statesman, dated 18-2-1943.) ✓

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Employment

Training of Air Craft Technicians:
Estimate of over Rs. 1.8 millions for 1943-44. ✓

The Standing Finance Committee of the Central Legislature at its meeting held at New Delhi on 8-2-1943 considered financial proposals relating to the reorganization of the scheme for the training of mechanics to meet the expanded needs of the Air Forces. (The Committee's decisions re. grants to cottage industries are reported under the heading 'Co-operation and Cottage Industries' in this report). The training scheme commenced early in 1941 and was carried out in a number of technical institutions, distributed throughout the country. An output of 1,700 trained men for the air forces every five months is now aimed at; as the existing centres had facilities for training only about 1,300, it was proposed to meet the additional requirement by opening a new centre and expanding a few of the existing ones. It was also intended to train about 200 mechanics for the civil aeronautical industry. As the demand of the air forces for mechanics was great, it was proposed to continue the training scheme for the duration of the war, and to keep a few selected centres in existence for a period of 12 months thereafter to complete the training of those who might be undergoing training at that time. Up to the end of December 1942, 2,190 candidates joined the different training centres of whom 926 were trained and enrolled in Indian Air Force, 113 were trained and transferred to civil industry, and the rest, excluding those who had been discharged for one reason or another, were under training. The anticipated output of trainees during the year 1943-44 is 3,600, which is ~~almost double the original yearly target of 2,000.~~ The total gross expenditure of the scheme from the commencement till the end of the next financial year was estimated at Rs. 5,036,000.

(The Hindustan Times, 9-2-1943.) ✓

Progress of All-India Technical Training Scheme.- ✓

A press note issued by the Government of Sind setting forth details regarding the progress of the All-India Technical Training Scheme shows that at the end of November, last year (1942), 34,455 candidates were being trained at 392 training centres all over India, including 4,579 candidates at 55 centres in the Indian States. Of these, Madras contributed 8,202, Bengal 5,571, the Punjab 3,819, U.P. 2,831, Bombay 2,253, Bihar 1,890, Delhi 158, C.P. and Berar 1,221, Orissa 1,000, N.W.F.P. 608, Sind 404, Assam 395 and Ajmer-Merwara 93. Over 27,442 technicians have been supplied to army, navy, ordnance and civil factories. The training centres in India are still not working to full capacity; there are vacancies for 11,007 candidates in all the centres combined.

(The Statesman, 8-2-1943.) ✓

Better Terms for Medical Men:
Government's Alternative for Conscription. ✓

The Government of India has recently been examining the question of further stimulating the recruitment of doctors for the Defence Services. The method of conscription is considered unsuitable, as recruitment on a voluntary basis has been satisfactory. The Government of India is of the opinion that what is needed is the stimulus of better terms, more especially to attract licentiates. These terms may be announced shortly. Those who are in favour of conscription feel that this method is fair to all and would enable those doctors to join up who are in private employ and fear they may not get back their posts at

the end of the war. Opposition to the conscription proposal is based largely on the ground that improved terms would stimulate recruitment without the political reactions of conscription.

(The Statesman dated 5-2-1943.) ✓

Conscription of Doctors:
Opposed by Indian Medical Association.

At a meeting of the Central Council of the Indian Medical Association, held at Lucknow in the second week of February, 1943, a resolution to the effect that any proposal for the conscription of medical men by Government would, in the present political situation in the country, be unwise, was adopted. "If the legitimate grievances of the medical profession, as put forward by the Indian Medical Association from time to time, are remedied," the resolution added, "the promulgation of any scheme of conscription will not be necessary."

(The Hindu, 19-2-1943.)

Drawing the attention of the Government of India to this resolution, the Hindu, dated 20-2-1943, warns the Government, in an editorial note, of the seriousness of the danger to public health that might result from any large-scale absorption of medical men into the army, and adds: "It is quite clear that, if the Government had encouraged the growth of medical schools in the past, the shortage of doctors would not have been as acute as it is. The Government have already drawn a very large number of skilled practitioners into the ranks of the Army and there can be no doubt whatsoever that the needs of the civilian population are in danger of being overlooked or ignored. As things are, the ratio of medical men to the population is low. Even less satisfactory is the hospital accommodation available. Whereas there are 90 beds to every 10,000 of the population in Britain, 84 in Germany and 79 in the U.S.A., there are less than 60,000 beds for the whole of nearly 300 millions in British India. The number of practitioners is also proportionately less. The scheme for conscription should therefore be abandoned and more attention paid to development of medical colleges and schools in the country; but we would also emphasise the unwisdom of relaxing the standards of medical education out of mistaken notions of practical convenience."

(The Hindu, 20-2-1943.).

Control MeasuresRestriiction on Treating in Jodhpur. ✓

The Government of Jodhpur State has, on 15-2-1943, promulgated an Order restricting the number of guests that may be entertained at parties on ceremonial occasions (marriage parties, etc.) by any person within the State. According to the Order, the number of guests to be entertained may, on no occasion, exceed 150.

("Federal India and Indian States",
dated 10-2-1943.) ✓

Restriction on Treating in Bombay ✓

In exercise of the powers conferred under the Defence of India Rules, the Government of Bombay has on 30-1-1943 issued an Order that with effect from 5-2-1943, no person should, unless permitted by the Supply Commissioner, Bombay, distribute or cause to be distributed eatables on any one day at any party or function to more than 49 persons. The Order extends to the City of Bombay and the Bombay suburban District.

(The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary,
Part I, dated 1-2-1943.)

(By notification No. 390-II dated 15-2-1943 in Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary dated 15-2-1943, the above Order has been extended to 19 other towns in the Province with effect from 22-2-1943.) ✓

Regulation of Tea Exports ✓

In order to facilitate, as far as possible, the clearance of stocks of tea held by private exporters against definite out-market ~~extr~~ contracts actually entered into and completed before the commencement of the block purchase scheme, Export Trade Controllers were instructed by the Government of India to issue licences in certain cases until further orders.

The Government of India reviewed the position of the stocks of tea actually acquired before September 15, 1942, against such firm out-market contracts and arrived at the following decisions:-

(a) Persia, Iraq and Egypt: No new licences to be granted, but validity of licences already issued for exports of tea to Persia, Iraq and Egypt was extended up to December 15, 1942, if exporters were able to obtain shipping space before that date.

(b) Other destinations: Licences were permitted to be issued for shipment before December 15, 1942, of stocks held by exporters against firm contracts entered into before September 15, 1942.

All private exports of tea thus ceased after December 15, 1942, and exporters might offer their frustrated shipments to the Ministry of Food through the Tea Controller for India.

("Indian Information", New Delhi, dated
15-1-1943.) ✓

The Bombay Rationing Inquiry Order, 1943. ✓

The Government of Bombay has, on 5-2-1943, issued under the Defence of India Rules the Bombay Rationing Inquiry Order 1943, which provides that managers of hotels, restaurants and other catering establishments, persons in charge of institutions like hospitals, nursing homes, workhouses, asylums and boarding schools, and owners of

mills (flour mills and other provender mills) and manufacturing establishments (bakeries, confectionaries and similar establishments) should, for purposes of being supplied with their quota of the following foodstuffs - rice, wheat and wheat products, jowar and bajra - for use or consumption furnish correct information in respect of the establishments under them to the Controller of Rationing, Bombay. In the City of Bombay the Order comes into force on 6-2-1943.

(The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary, Part I, dated 6-1-1943, pages 290-292.) ✓

The Madras Yarn (Dealers) Control Order, 1943 ✓

The Government of Madras has issued under the Defence of India Rules the Madras Yarn (Dealers) Control Order, 1943, which prohibits any person in the Province from carrying on business in cotton yarn (selling, storing, etc.) unless licensed by the Provincial Yarn Commissioner. No licence is required for a person selling, storing or carrying on business in cotton yarn spun by himself or the members of his family.

(Rules Supplement to Part I, Fort St. George Gazette dated 16-2-1943.) ✓

The Bombay Building (Control of Construction) Order, 1943. ✓

With a view to conserve the supply of building materials, the Government of Bombay has issued, under the Defence of India Rules, the Building (Control of Construction) Order, 1943, which provides that no person in Bombay City, ^{and} the Bombay Suburban Districts is to erect, re-erect, construct or alter any building unless permitted by the Brick Controller, Government of Bombay.

(Order No. 388-C dated 11-2-1943, The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 13-2-1943, page 23.) ✓

The Iron and Steel (Scrap Control) Order, 1943 ✓

Iron and steel scrap has hitherto been controlled under the Iron and Steel (Control of Distribution) Order, 1941. Facilities for the use of melting scrap by the Indian steel industry having been expanded, it has now been necessary to regulate more strictly the distribution of scrap so that the best possible flow to steel producers is maintained, says a press note issued by the Government of India on 27-2-1943. The Government, therefore, has decided to make separate provision for the control of scrap and with this view has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued, on 25-2-1943, the Iron and Steel (Scrap Control) Order, 1943. The Order provides for controlling scrap in the possession of iron and steel producers, and railway administrations, and of such factories, local authorities, scrap merchants and other persons as may be declared by the Iron and Steel Controller to be 'controlled sources' of scrap. Producers requiring scrap must obtain a written order from the Controller before they acquire it; and other users must obtain a written order before they acquire scrap from a 'controlled source'. Controlled sources are prohibited from selling or otherwise disposing of their stock without a written order of the Controller. No restriction is placed on purchases (except by producers) from sources other than controlled sources.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Section 1, dated 27-2-1943, pages 250-251 and the Leader 1-3-1943.) ✓

As impure milk and milk products are being imported and sold in Quetta to the detriment of the health of His Majesty's Forces and therefore to the efficient prosecution of the war, the District Magistrate, Quetta, has, on 8-2-43, issued under the Defence of India Rules the Quetta Milk and Milk Products Control Order, 1943, which is to come into force from 1-3-1943 in the Municipal, Cantonment and Railway areas of Quetta. The Order is to the effect that no person should engage in any undertaking which involves the sale of milk or milk products except under and in accordance with a license issued by a Medical Officer of Health.

(Notification No. 351-S dated 8-2-1943; The Gazette of India, Part II-A dated 20-2-1943, pages 78-79.)

The Madras Yarn (Spinning Mills) Returns of Production, Stocks and Sales Order, 1943.

The Government of Madras has, under the Defence of India Rules, promulgated the Madras Yarn (Spinning Mills) Returns of Production, Stocks and Sales Order, 1943, on 13-2-1943. The Order requires the owner of every cotton spinning mill in the Province to submit to the Provincial Yarn Commissioner correct and complete monthly returns of his business and the details regarding stocks and sales in his yarn depots, and also to maintain accurate accounts on specified lines of his day-to-day sales, prices and stocks of yarn.

(Rules Supplement to Part I of the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 16-2-1943, pp. 1-3):

Increase of Food Crop Acreage in Bengal: Curtailment of Jute Acreage.

According to a press communiqué issued by the Government of Bengal in the second week of February, 1943, the local Government has, with a view to increase the acreage under food crops, decided that the area licensed for jute cultivation in the province in 1943 should be reduced to half the area registered for jute in 1940. The yield from the reduced acreage in Bengal is expected to total up to 8.5 million bales, and the world requirement of raw jute in the near future is also expected to be in the neighbourhood of 8.5 million bales.

The Government has also decided to give the growers all information it can secure as to the prospects of the demand for jute and for food crops, specially paddy, and their prices, and the relative desirability of planting one or the other.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 16-2-1943.)

The Orissa Rice and Kunda Control Order, 1943.

The Government of Orissa has, under the Defence of India Rules, promulgated the Orissa Rice and Kunda Control Order, 1943, under which every dealer should comply with such directions regarding the purchase, sale, distribution or disposal of rice or kunda (paddy husk) as may be given to him by the Controller of Supply and Transport, Orissa.

(Notification No. 1666-S.T. dated 2-3-1943, The Orissa Gazette Extraordinary, dated 2-3-1943.)

The United Provinces Food Control Scheme: Controlled Purchase and Equitable Distribution. 36

The Government of the U.P. has published on 15-2-1943 a memorandum on a scheme for the controlled purchase and equitable distribution of staple food grains, the main purpose of which is to secure the provision of food for towns in proper quantities and at proper prices. This object can only be achieved, says the memorandum, if (1) hoarding by the wealthier consumers is prevented, (2) the grain available is strictly and equitably distributed, and (3) adequate stocks are built up in towns against temporary shortages of transport. Government does not consider it possible to create these conditions unless as much grain as possible is brought under its control and unless at the same time special measures are taken to prevent hoarding and to ensure equitable distribution.

The scheme will have as its ultimate sanction a Food Control Order and a system of licences prescribed by the Order laying down conditions under which trading will be carried on. The scheme will ultimately extend to the retail distribution of the stocks of food grains which it is primarily designed to provide.

(The Statesman, 17-2-1943.)

Increased Penalty for Hoarding and Contravening Price Control Measures.

A few amendments have been published in the Gazette of India relating to the Defence of India Rules and the Food Grains Control Order. The importance of these changes is that for the first time confiscation has been added to imprisonment and fines as a deterrent penalty for hoarding. ~~The new penalty of confiscation is specially directed against wholesale and retail dealers.~~ Wholesale dealers who have not acquired a licence to carry on their business as required by law and licensed wholesale dealers who make false monthly returns of the stocks they hold and the transactions they have carried out are both in danger of confiscation of stocks without any payment whatsoever. The licensed dealer who falsifies his transactions and stocks is no less in danger. As regards the retail dealer, the penalty of confiscation is in danger of being visited upon him should he, having stocks, refuse to sell them to the public, or, having stocks, sells at above such controlled price as may have been imposed in different places. Although the law is primarily directed against anti-social activities of wholesale and retail dealers, the consumer-hoarder will himself not escape if the quantity of his hoarding brings him within the normal scope of the activities of either class of dealers.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 5-2-1943, page 142 and Times of India, 12-2-1943.)

The Bleaching Powder and Chlorine Control Order, 1943.

The Government of India has, on 4-2-1943, issued under the Defence of India Rules, the Bleaching Powder and Chlorine Control Order, 1943, according to which no manufacturer or importer should sell or otherwise transfer bleaching powder or chlorine except on the authority of and in accordance with a permit issued under the order. The Order requires all manufacturers and importers of these two articles to submit, before the 7th of every month, returns of stocks held, produced or disposed of in the previous month. Government has also assumed powers for fixing their prices from time to time.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 5-2-1943, pages 139-141.)

In order to provide for the equitable distribution of the supplies of paddy and rice produced within Madras Province among the deficit districts of the Province, the Government of Madras has adopted a control and distribution scheme drawn up by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, says a press communiqué issued on 23-2-1943 by the Madras Government. Under the scheme, monthly quotas have been fixed for each of the deficit districts of the Province for the nine months, February 1943 to October 1943, and also the source from which they should be supplied. These quotas are tentative and may be revised later in the light of subsequent experience. Although a monthly quota has been fixed, Grain Purchase Officers will purchase advance quotas within the limits of practicability and the availability of transport facilities. Collectors have been made responsible for the equitable distribution of the district quotas within their respective districts. They are to "freeze" the stocks on arrival and fix the quantities to be released each month. Distribution is to be done through reliable merchants selected by the Collector. These merchants will buy the quotas in advance and distribute the stocks to various localities according to the instructions of the Collector. Big shops attached to industrial concerns or firms will also be recognized as wholesale dealers if they wish to buy direct from the producing areas through the Grain Purchase Officers. Collectors of deficit districts are to see that no rice, paddy, dry grains or pulses is exported from their districts except under permits issued by them.

(Press communiqué dated 23-2-1943 issued by the Government of Madras (Development Department)). ✓

The Surgical Ligature Control Order, 1943. ✓

The Government of India has, on 23-2-1943, issued under the Defence of India Rules, the Surgical Ligature Control Order, 1943. The Order is to the effect that no person should manufacture for sale sterilised surgical ligature or suture except under, and in accordance with the conditions of, a licence issued by the Director-General, Indian Medical Service.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Section 1, dated 27-2-1943, pages 242-243). ✓

Compensation for War Injuries

Employers' Liability to pay Compensation to Workmen: Labour Member Introducing Bill in Central Legislature.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, has drawn up a bill to impose on employers a liability to pay compensation to workmen sustaining war injuries and to provide for the insurance of employers against such liability. It will be introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly ~~on the middle of~~ March, 1943.

(Agenda Papers of the Central Legislative Assembly for 11, 12, 15, 17 and 18-3-1943) +

Food Policy

2nd Session of Central Food Advisory Council, New Delhi,
8 and 9-2-1943. ✓

The second session of the Central Food Advisory Council was held at New Delhi on 8 and 9-2-1943, Mr. N.R. Sarker, Member in charge of Food Department, presiding.

In the course of his opening speech, Mr. Sarker declared that the statistical position of food crops this year, though not quite satisfactory, was not such as to justify alarm or panic. The actual position in the market however was more difficult, primarily because of large-scale hoarding, which he attributed to lack of public confidence. After explaining the Government of India's scheme, aimed at the restoration of confidence, securing available surpluses in the producing regions and their distribution to the deficit areas, Mr. Sarker invited the co-operation of the public in carrying out the scheme. It was on the production side, he declared, that the Council could give most valuable advice, particularly in the direction of intensifying the "grow more food and fodder campaign."

Present Position.- Explaining the statistical position, Mr. Sarker said that the 1942 ~~kharif~~ rice crop is estimated to be 25,500,000 tons as against the average of three pre-war years production of 26,500,000 tons. Some improvement may be noticeable in the rice position when the final forecast figures are available by the end of February 1943. As regards bajra and jowar, the production is estimated to be 9,264,000 ~~tons as against the pre-war average of 9,187,000 tons~~, leaving a small surplus. No estimates of rabi crops like wheat and gram are available. The first wheat acreage forecast shows an increase of nearly 1,400,000 ~~acres under wheat over the corresponding figures of the previous year~~. The monsoons have been reported to be favourable and the condition of the crop is also so far good. It is therefore hoped that the rabi crops will be much above the normal. Taking into account the deficit in rice production mentioned above, the loss of Burma rice imports of nearly 1,400,000 tons per year and the requirements of certain neighbouring countries and the Defence forces, there may be a deficit of nearly 2,800,000 tons in respect of the kharif crops which, if the improvement anticipated materializes, may fall to about 2,500,000 tons.

Even if the rabi crops do not exceed the normal and no wheat is imported from abroad during the next year, the shortage under this head will not be more than 300,000 tons of wheat. There is however good reason to hope that the increased acreage and present satisfactory crop conditions may wipe out this potential deficit even without assistance from overseas. Considerable quantities of grain are also carried over from year to year but no statistics in respect of these are maintained. ~~The statistical position of this year therefore although not quite satisfactory,~~

Government Scheme.- The broad principles of the Government of India's scheme are:-

- (1) That the Central Government will make themselves responsible for the procurement of surplus, including imports from overseas, and their distribution to two classes of consignees, the deficit provinces and the Defence Services - and that all matters should be co-ordinated so as to have an all-India application. The provincial Governments in the surplus regions will be the agents of the Central Government for the procurement of surpluses, though it will be ^{the} responsibility of the Provincial Governments of deficit areas to distribute such supplies

as are made available to them equitably among the various sections of the consuming public.

(2) Every step will be taken for the restoration of public confidence and confidence in normal trading. With this view all normal instruments of trading will be utilized to the greatest possible extent and will be re-established where necessary. In the procurement of surpluses, commercial methods will be followed to the greatest possible extent.

(3) Major emphasis is placed on control and distribution. There is control on the inter-provincial movements of grain and the distribution of surplus. Imports and exports into the province must, therefore, be on Government account.

(4) Central controls governing the maximum prices have been removed in respect of wheat and reliance will be placed on other measures for keeping prices steady at reasonable levels. In respect of stocks that continue to be hoarded after the introduction of the scheme, confiscation as a mode of punishment will be resorted to, but this will not apply to the cultivators on the one hand nor to the consumers on the other. Closest liaison will be maintained with the provincial Governments in the day-to-day working of the scheme by appointing provincial officers, as ex-officio Central Government officers. Where necessary, the Food Department will locate certain branch offices in the provinces for liaison and co-ordination on behalf of the Centre with the several adjoining Governments and will pay particular attention to the matter of collecting advance information on all-India railway movement programmes, and in particular large dispatches that may involve special transport facilities to be planned at the Centre.

Recommendations of the Council.- The Council reviewed the present food situation and came to the conclusion that statistically the position was such as not to justify any alarm or panic. The main subjects discussed by the Council were the drawing up of "Production Targets" in respect of the principal kharif crops and the ways and means of implementing these, the desirability of curtailing the area under short staple cotton and its substitution by food-grains, the necessity of clarifying the Government of India's policy about entering the market with a view to maintaining agricultural prices at a pre-determined level and the present system of Food Control.

(i) Increased Manure Production.- The Council recommended that the Government of India should bear the cost of training a suitable number of persons in the "Bangalore Process" of converting town refuse into manure and that, after training, such persons should be placed at the disposal of the provincial and major States' Governments on a 50:50 cost basis for demonstrating the process, and introducing it in the major municipalities in the provinces and States.

(ii) Need for All-India Food Plan.- The Council considered the present food situation as revealed by the latest available statistics and were of opinion that statistically the position was such as not to warrant undue apprehension. It was of the opinion that the problem of procurement and equitable distribution of foodgrains was essentially an all-India problem and that it was imperative that for its proper solution a highly centralized control through the Government of India on the basis of an all-India plan should be put into operation without any delay.

then

(iii) 1943 Production Targets.- The Council considered the action taken by the Government of India in urging the provinces to intensify their "Grow More Food" campaign and of drawing up specific production targets in respect of the principal kharif crops for consideration and adoption by the provincial Governments. It also noted with satisfaction

that the Government of India was prepared, wherever necessary, to render financial assistance to approved measures to achieve these production targets. The Council made the following recommendations: Firstly, that where it is necessary in furtherance of the provincial or State plan to ensure the restriction of any non-food crop or crops as means of ensuring that more food crops are sown, suitable legislation should be enacted by the province or State; secondly, that the proposed Director of Production should be requested to consult non-official public opinion in the provinces and States when considering and determining the suitability of the schemes submitted by provincial and State Governments for assistance from the Centre. In view of the importance of the "Grow More Food" campaign, the Council strongly advocated; (a) the clarification of the Government of India's intention regarding the level at which it would enter market and make purchases, if necessary, to support prices at certain pre-determined levels and (b) the announcement of the pre-determined levels shortly. The Council considered the desirability of curtailing the area of short staple cotton and endorsed the resolution passed by the Indian Central Cotton Committee on the subject (vide page 41 of this report.).

(iv) Increased Acreage under Food.- The Council noted the appointment by the Government of India of 2 statisticians, as an experimental measure to investigate, in the first instance in the C.P. and the Punjab, how far the classification of a large area of land as "culturable but not cultivated" was accurate with a view to finding out the extent of such land which could be brought under cultivation. It recommended that the provincial and States Governments should be requested to give all the available "culturable waste" land owned by the Governments for cultivation free of rent and also was of the opinion that as an inducement, the provincial and State Administrations might be requested to offer rewards for bringing under cultivation such lands under food and fodder crops. The Council recommended that provincial and State Governments should be requested to utilize all uncultivated land on the sides of roads, railways, canals (including distributaries), compounds of Government bungalows, prisoners-of-war camps, jails and military camps for growing vegetables and foodgrains or maintaining small dairy-poultry units. The Council endorsed and supported the policy followed by the Government of India in planning vegetable production through the guarantee of purchasing stipulated quantities at pre-determined minimum prices.

(v) Food Control.- The Council considered the present system of Food Control and made the following recommendations; (1) That to the extent and degree necessary the Central Government should exercise control and co-ordination to effect the greatest measures of uniformity in principles and methods. (2) That in regard to food control generally, the Central Government should be the sole authority in the country to exercise the statutory powers necessary to ensure a common plan for the solution of India's food problem. (3) That all measures be taken by the Central Government that would operate to restore public confidence and, in particular, the true facts concerning Army consumption of food stocks, the amount of reserves and the degree of deterioration should be made known.

The Council approved the Food Department's Policy to utilize commercial methods and means to the greatest extent.

(vi) Statistics.- The Council examined the question of improving the machinery of collecting agricultural statistics and recommended that the provincial Governments in Bengal, Bihar and other permanently settled areas should be requested to make provision for the collection of primary statistics of the crops and areas and the necessary financial help should be given to them from the Centre.

(The Statesman, 9 and 10-2-1943.) ✓

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Diversion of Cotton Acreage to Food Crops:
Indian Central Cotton Committee's Recommendations. ✓

The Indian Central Cotton Committee, at its meeting held at Bombay on 29 and 30-1-1943, considered the advisability of restricting the acreage under cotton for two reasons: first, the need for diversion of acreage under commercial crops because of the growing food scarcity and, secondly, to ensure, in the ~~interests~~ interests of the cotton grower, that the prices of cotton do not again fall to unremunerative levels as a result of over-production. The Committee noted with satisfaction the decrease of four million acres in the current year's cotton crop, but apprehended that, in view of the relatively high prices for short and fair staple cotton prevailing in the current year as compared with last year, there will be a tendency to grow more cotton of that type in the coming season at the expense of food crops, despite propaganda to the contrary. The Committee, therefore, made the following recommendations:-

- (1) Measures should be taken forthwith to restrict, compulsorily if feasible, the acreage under cotton in the coming season so that it does not exceed the present season's acreage. It should be ensured at the same time that the existing proportion of short to long staple cotton is not exceeded.
- (2) Suitable fair price for food grains should be guaranteed and widely notified well before sowing-time so that the grower may be encouraged to expand his acreage under food crops.
- (3) Suitable concessions should be given as may be most effective according to local conditions in each province or State, such as the supply of seed and manure at cheap rates, reduction of land revenue and rent, etc., to encourage the production of food crops.
- (4) The advisability of removing or adjusting the existing maximum prices for food grains should be examined by Government.
- (5) A Central Crop Planning Board should be established together with Provincial Crop Planning Boards as early as possible to ensure planned production on an all-India basis. This Board should work in close co-operation with the Central Food Advisory Council.

(Summarised from a communication forwarded to this Office by the Secretary, Indian Central Cotton Committee.) ✓

Progress of All India Technical Training Scheme.

A press note issued by the Government of Sind setting forth details regarding the progress of the All-India Technical Training Scheme shows that at the end of November last year (1942)

Food Committees Set Up in Baroda. ✓

The Government of Baroda has ordered the setting up of non-official food committees to assist the Government in the problems connected with the growing and supply of food grains in the State, says a Press note. It adds that the committee will act as a link between the people and the Government in all matters relating to supplies. Baroda City will have 12 committees with 5 members each. Similarly for all the towns of the State and rural areas there will be a separate food committee and a number of sub-committees which will suggest means for increasing the acreage under cultivation and the growing of more food crops and advise

Government on the equitable distribution of food grains, sugar and kerosene.

(The Statesman, dated 9-2-1943.) ✓

Position of Food, Fuel, Drug and Cloth in India:
Three-Day Debate in the Central Assembly. ✓

The Central Assembly held a debate on 15, 17 and 22-2-1943 on the present shortages in food, fuel, drugs and cloth in the country as a result of a motion introduced in the Assembly on 15-2-1943 by Mr. N.R. Sarker, the Commerce Member, Government of India.

Mr. Sarker's Speech.- Moving that the situation in India as regards food, fuel, drugs and the production and distribution of standard cloth be taken into consideration, Mr. Sarker pointed out that the net gap in India's ~~foodgrains~~ total supply of food grains during 1943, after taking into account the increase in her requirements, will not exceed 2,000,000 tons, representing a deficit of not more than 4 per cent. in the total annual production of the principal food grains. In some of the years immediately preceding the war India pulled through equal or bigger shortages without feeling much strain. The carryover from previous years might no doubt have stood in good stead, but even after allowing for this, the estimated deficit as such is certainly not of an order that would warrant any panic or alarm. The scarcity of which they heard so much at present was confined almost entirely to the urban centres of the country. There was no suggestion of a famine in the country but a stringency which it was hoped would be temporary in the urban centres of the non-agricultural population. Explaining the effect of the measures taken by the Government, he said that Government agents operating in the Punjab had been able to purchase over 60,000 tons of wheat as against the 8,000 odd tons which was all that they could purchase during the month previous to the lifting of the price control. These purchases had no doubt been effected at a price considerably above that fixed by the recent control measures. It was encouraging, however, that the price, despite the heavy purchases of the last few days, was still falling, and there was good reason to hope that it would fall still further. The Government, he assured the House, did not propose to relax all control over the trade in grain. While their policy was to free the primary wholesale markets from price control, they contemplated that the retail prices for grains would continue to be controlled on the basis of the free prices prevailing in the primary wholesale markets. Summarizing the present position, Mr. Sarker referred to the steps taken to improve the supply position, and said that in addition to the "grow more food and fodder" campaign, the arrangement for imports of wheat from abroad and the scaling down of export to neighbouring countries there would soon be a drive to cut down all internal wastage of food consumption.

Mr. Sarker referred to standard cloth and said it would reach the market by April, 1943.

Sir Henry Richardson.- Several speakers criticised the utterly inadequate measures taken by the Government to meet the situation. Sir Henry Richardson, Leader of the European Group, took the Government to task for neglecting the problem even though a warning was given in March, 1942, and was repeated during the September 1942 session. The situation was allowed to go from bad to worse and had it not been for the initiative of the commercial community which organised supplies of food-stuffs at their own expense at reasonable prices, there was grave danger of labour leaving mills and factories. He condemned the hoarder, for whom he demanded deterrent punishment. "The imposition of petty fines in the cases which were brought before the courts made Government a

laughing stock", he said. He also referred to press reports that certain unresolved conflicts with provincial Governments have seriously handicapped the Central Government and he remarked that "provinces which, because they happen to have surpluses, take up an attitude of isolation and regard their favourable position as a heaven-sent moneymaking opportunity can ~~not~~ seriously interfere with the position in other provinces and can, by such action, assist and encourage black market dealers". He demanded the assurance that "the new Food Department has the ability to do its job, to convince the provincial Governments of their responsibility to all India, to bring the States and their secret reserves into co-operation, and to see to it that the people of India will not starve."

Other Speakers.- Points were made by other speakers, some of which are summarised below:

Mr. Azhar Ali suggested stopping exports and setting up a committee of officials and non-officials to advise the Government. He also said that there should be no more taxation of the necessities of life. Mr. Hossainbhai Laljee, after referring to acute transport difficulties which had made the movement of foodstuffs impossible, declared that the Central Government should have more authority than the provincial Governments in dealing with the situation. Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi criticized the Government's price control policy which "gave rise to corruption and bribery" and said that while prices of wheat and certain other commodities were fixed by the Government and Government agents bought freely at higher prices and thus nullified their own price control, bringing about its complete break-up. He considered that "complete chaos" prevailed in the relations between the Central and the provincial Governments and held that this was responsible for the "chaotic situation" regarding foodstuffs and other necessities of life.

Sir Edward Benthall.- Sir Edward Benthall, the War Transport Member, made a statement on the fuel situation in the country and gave details of the Government's coal provision scheme recently put into operation. He said that a Controller of Coal Distribution had been appointed with headquarters at Calcutta who looked to the dispatch of coal to different parts of India according to a priority list with him regarding Government, military and public needs. He said that a few months ago 13 per cent. or 14 per cent. of the available wagons at collieries in Bihar and Bengal were allotted for the public, but as a shortage of wagons had occurred this percentage had now been reduced to 5, but he thought it was sufficient for public needs. He said the provincial coal schemes were put into operation to ensure equitable distribution, make possible the control of coal prices and maintain distribution trade. According to these, each provincial controller would directly place orders with the collieries in accordance with fixed quotas. The working of the schemes, Sir Edward considered, was dependent on an adequate supply of wagons which was one of the Government's major preoccupations and he hoped there would be a general improvement shortly. After giving details of the coal and soft coke situation in Delhi and Calcutta, the War Transport Member made a reference to charcoal and fire wood supplies and said that the best thing would be that they should be locally organized by the provincial or local Governments but railways would assist in the matter of transport where it was urgently required. Sir Edward also said that the movement of people's food was a matter of the highest importance for the Government and he would gladly receive complaints or suggestions for improvement in this matter.

Mr. J.D. Tyson.- Mr. J.D. Tyson, Secretary, Education, Health and Lands Department, ~~referred~~ referring to the production aspect of food and drugs, assured the House that there had been a remarkable increase in the number of essential drugs produced in India since the outbreak of the war.

Many of these drugs were obtained by Government departments entirely from Indian sources. In some cases, the supply was not at present sufficient either owing to absence of basic raw materials or of plant, or chemicals required for the treatment of raw materials. Turning to the production of food, Mr. Tyson said that as a result of the "Grow More Food" campaign for the kharif season alone 8,100,000 acres of land had been newly brought under food crops, about half of this area by transfer from cotton, and 3 million more tons of food had been produced than in the previous year. The provinces had now been asked to undertake all-out production and to ensure that no desirable scheme was omitted merely for lack of funds the Central Government had offered financial assistance for approved schemes. A Director of Agricultural Production had been appointed who would advise the provinces about their schemes.

Mr. N.M. Joshi.- Mr. N.M. Joshi criticized the Government for its "failure to realize the importance of the food supply problem and for not making plans at the proper time". He thought that greater efforts should have been made to increase the production of foodstuffs and other necessities of life, and not to have launched such campaigns only after the fall of Burma. Moreover, exports to the Middle East should have been stopped long ago. Regarding cloth, Mr. Joshi wondered why textiles were still being exported. He said the Government ought to give priority in imports of medicinal drugs over whisky and other liquors. He pleaded for the enforcement of proper price control throughout India, together with control of supplies, and felt that rationing could solve part of the problem. Finally he urged the creation of a machinery whereby the co-operation and confidence of the people could be secured.

Mr. T.S. Pillay.- Mr. T.S. Pillay, Joint Secretary, Commerce Department, explaining the Commerce Department's viewpoint regarding kerosene and standard cloth, stated that India had never been self-sufficient in the matter of kerosene and had imported the bulk of her requirements from Burma. Kerosene prices were fixed by periodical agreement with oil interests in a manner which eliminated speculation. As for standard cloth, he said that till recently 70 per cent. of the provinces were indifferent to the scheme. After describing the various stages of negotiations with the textile industry, he said that notwithstanding the attitude of the provincial Governments, the Central Government in November, 1942, booked orders for the supply of a certain quantity of standard cloth, and in January 1943 they reached a settlement with the millowners under which the latter had agreed to allot 50 per cent. of their manufacturing capacity for the production of this cloth and to meet the needs of the Supply Department. The prices of standard cloth would be fixed by the Government and not by the industry. Their aim was to produce durable though not very attractive cloth to meet the requirements of the poorer classes. The Government would allocate quotas and supply standard cloth to the provinces participating in the scheme. A Standard Cloth Commissioner with headquarters at Bombay had ~~xxxx~~ already been appointed. It was expected that 50 million yards of standard cloth would be made available during the next 3 months.

Mr. Lawson.- Mr. Lawson felt that agricultural statistics were mere "conjectures" and required better organization. He emphasized the imperative need of Government cutting out dealers where there was shortage on account of manipulation by the latter. He also stressed the need of publicity to eliminate uneconomic crops and methods of production. Lastly, he urged the co-ordination of central and provincial activities for the ~~xxx~~ food drive in all its aspects.

Major-General E. Wood.- Major-General E. Wood, Joint Secretary, Food Department, replying on behalf of the Government gave in comprehensive

detail the Government's scheme to solve the food problem as it related to the procurement and distribution of food in different parts of India. In the matter of procuring normal surpluses, the Government considers that there should be the minimum of impediment and obstacle to the farmer bringing his produce to the market where he can hope to get a reasonable price. It is at this point that the Central Government proposes to acquire surpluses and intend that there should be both control over the price and control over both the movement and distribution. Referring to the exports of food-grains, he said they were substantially lower than they were in past years, and they were being further cut down. He repudiated the charge that the military were hoarding and said that the stocks held by the Defence authorities could be counted in terms of weeks. The total annual defence requirements today plus the diminishing civil exports of today were comparable in terms with the average of exports for the 3 years before the war. Coming to the question of punishment for hoarders, he expressed the hope that the new penalty of confiscation, in conjunction with the existing penalties and of imprisonment and fine, would be used in a salutary and effective manner. As regards the consumer-hoarders, whose panic buying results in the disappearance of working margins and working balances from retail shops, and whose nervousness gives opportunity to unscrupulous traders, he said that every one of them should be made to realize that it was he who was grinding the faces of the poor. Major-General Wood reminded the House of the results achieved by the abolition of price control on wheat and said that not only had black market prices of wheat broken but the prices of bajra and jowar had subsided and conditions in the retail market had become easier. He claimed that certain stocks were progressively coming into circulation and that the prices of different foodgrains were being brought into line with the normal relationships. Referring to the comments made on the apparent lack of co-operation between the provinces and the Centre, he assured the House that there was very marked anxiety on the part of all provincial Governments to play their part in solving this all-India problem. He said he was hopeful of bringing the divergencies of method into line and very shortly replacing extemporized arrangements with permanent machinery that would fulfil, ~~he declared,~~ the purposes the Central Government had in view. For this purpose, a conference was being held with the provinces very soon.

(The Statesman, 17, 18 and 23-2-1943.) ✓

Food Expert for India Appointed. ✓

The Government of India has arranged with the British Government for the temporary loan of the services of an expert from the Ministry of Food to study the situation in India and advise them as to the lines on which Government action may best be taken to remove the existing difficulties. The Government of India with the assistance of the various Provincial Governments and, it is hoped, of the States also, intend to set up Government agencies to buy up major food grains in the markets for the purpose of meeting the needs of deficit areas. It is considered that the advice of an expert with a wide experience of the system of Government control of foodstuffs in Great Britain would be invaluable to the Government of India in perfecting the projected control in this country. For this purpose the British Government has loaned the services of Mr. H.D. Vigor, O. B. E.

(The Hindu, 16-2-1943.) ✓

All-India Food Conference, New Delhi, 24, 25 and 26-2-1943
Central Government's Plan to Stock huge Feed Reserves.

An All-India Conference of the Central and Provincial Governments representatives for considering problems connected with the food position in the country and to discuss a plan that has recently been drawn up by the Central Government, was held at New Delhi on 24, 25 and 26-2-1943. Details of the discussions are not available, as the Conference was not open to the Press.

The Special Representative of the Statesman at New Delhi has, however, reported that at the opening session, presided over by Major General Wood, the Central Government outlined a plan for purchasing from surplus areas large stocks of all major feed grains. The keypoint of the plan was the creation of a large mass of Government reserves as a means of ensuring equity of distribution. The magnitude of the contemplated operations could be gauged from the fact that of the marketable surpluses the annual figure for rice was 10 million tons, and for wheat 4 million tons. While the Government did not propose securing the whole of these surpluses, a substantial portion of them would be purchased. Emphasis was laid by General Wood on the stabilizing influence of such a huge reserve in the hands of the Government on both the all-India price position and the supply position. The reserve would be collected soon after the harvest and would be used for equalizing operations during the period up to the next harvest.

Provincial representatives were given free scope to ^{express} their views from their different angles, and discussion centred on the need for a high degree of ~~executive and administrative control from the Centre.~~ The deficit areas favoured highly centralized control as a guarantee of their minimum requirements being met. These provinces which have not yet decontrolled wholesale prices wanted an assurance that Central control would be effective before they fell into line with an all-India plan.

On the second day all operative and financial details of the scheme were discussed and examined by two sub-committees of the Conference and agreement was reached on all matters. The recommendations of the two sub-committees were accepted at the plenary session of the conference on the third day.

(The Statesman, dated 26-2-1943, and
 (the Hindustan Times, dated 27-2-1943).+

stimulating Country Craft Traffic on West Coast of India:
Sorley Committee's Report and Government Action Thereon. ✓

References were made at pages 37-38 of our August and page 41 of our November 1942 reports to the appointment of the Sorley Committee to enquire into the possibilities of developing and organising on a more efficient basis the greater use of sea-going country craft on the West Coast of India. Below is given a summary of the Committee's Report and the action taken by the Government of India on it:

Committee's Report: (1) Existing Situation.- Rationalisation of country craft traffic mainly by raising their coefficient of carrying capacity, the establishment of a Country Craft Intelligence Organisation, the improvement of facilities to country craft at ports, and the construction of 20,000 tons of additional craft are the main recommendations of the Sorley Committee. The Committee estimates that existing country craft are transporting on the West Coast ~~from~~ between Karachi and Cochin about 1½ million tons of cargo per season. This trade is not, however, organised, being carried on by a large number of small owners carrying on their business independently. There is no association of country craft owners, nor any individual owning more than a few craft except that in Cochin, Calicut and Mangalore there are certain firms who own and employ a considerable number of boats in traffic in inland waters or for lighterage in ports. There are no agencies through which country craft can be organised and there is no uniform system under which traders can book ~~their cargoes~~ or store them in warehouses. In many cases traders owning ~~their own boats~~ send them to distant places in ballast as they do not know whether any cargo is available at intermediate ports. In certain areas traffic by country craft is extremely ill-balanced resulting in empty ~~return~~ voyages in one direction. For these reasons, country craft only carry about seven tons a season per ton of registered tonnage. The Committee considers that they could carry at least 9 tons by proper organisation.

The Committee estimates the number of coastal craft plying on the West Coast at 4,800 with a total tonnage of 200,000 giving an average tonnage per craft of 42. This fleet is transporting up and down the West Coast between Karachi and Cochin about 1½ million tons of cargo per season. By the improved organisation proposed, the capacity of the fleet can be raised to 1,900,000 tons, that is, it can be made to carry 400,000 tons more than it is now doing. If the tonnage to be eventually transferred from railways is to be 680,000 tons, there will be a balance of 280,000 tons for which there is no capacity and which can only be carried by the building of new craft. The Committee recommends that 20,000 tons of new craft should be built.

(2) Recommendation regarding Organisation.- The Committee considers that organisation can be effected in one of two ways, namely, (1) by balancing traffic in areas where imports and exports are now unbalanced; and (2) by cutting out delays in ports. To implement its main recommendations, the Committee suggests the setting up of a Country Craft Organisation Office, with headquarters at Bombay, under the charge of a Country Craft Organisation Officer. A number of Intelligence Officers, stationed at the chief ports and supplying data regarding craft and cargo available, will assist the Officer in his work. Besides organising country craft on a more efficient basis, the Officer will maintain a liaison with other authorities interested in the employment of country craft. The whole organisation is expected to cost Rs. 42,000 a year. Increased facilities to country craft by providing better arrangements for them at Bombay and

Karachi and by improved customs procedure at all ports are recommended.

(3) Diversion of Railway Traffic.- The question of diverting railway traffic to country craft was discussed by the Committee with a number of Railway Administrations concerned. The Committee comes to the conclusion that 681,000 tons of traffic a year (exclusive of Sind) could possibly be so diverted. It recommends that traffic should be released from railways by stopping goods booking in particular areas for all goods capable of being transported satisfactorily by country craft. This diversion should be undertaken in accordance with public need and, as far as possible, in consonance with public convenience. The mechanism of diversion should be by co-ordination between the Controller of Railway Priorities and the Country Craft Organisation Officer.

(4) Insurance and other Problems.- The Committee has not recommended that Government should assume any direct control over country craft. It has recognised that public co-operation will be essential if the scheme is to succeed. For example, the Committee recommends that brokers at ports should be registered on a voluntary basis so that they might assist Intelligence Officers in organising traffic. It expresses the view that marine risk insurance should be left to private companies as at present, but the difficulties now facing the insurance companies should be examined to see if any improvement in the system is possible. As regards war risks insurance, it says that this should be left optional with consignors and consignees and not undertaken by the Government of India. It is not recommended that freights of country craft should be controlled compulsorily; the Committee thinks that various devices might be employed to influence the movement of freight rates equitably.

Government Action on the Report.- The Government of India has accepted these recommendations and is setting up an Intelligence Organisation, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee. The new organisation will consist of a Country Craft Organisation Officer, with headquarters at Bombay, three whole-time Intelligence Officers to be stationed at Bombay, Karachi and Calicut and Intelligence Officers at all Customs ports between Karachi and Cochin. Rao Bahadur Maneklal Mallubhai has already been appointed Country Craft Organisation Officer.

("Indian Information", New Delhi,
dated 15-1-1943.) ✓+

GENERAL.Resignation of three Members of the Viceroy's
Executive Council.

Three members - Sir H.P. Medy, Member for Supplies, Mr. N.R. Sarkar, Member for ~~Indians Overseas~~ Commerce and Food, and Mr. M.S. Aney, Member for Indians Overseas, - tendered their resignation from the Viceroy's Executive Council on 17-2-1943. In a joint statement issued to the Press on 18-2-1943, they point out: "All that we desire to do is to say by way of explanation that certain differences arose on what we regarded as a fundamental issue (the issue of the action to be taken on Mahatma Gandhi's fast) and we felt we could no longer retain our offices. We wish to place on record our warm appreciation of the courtesy and consideration his Excellency the Viceroy extended to us throughout the period during which we had the privilege of being associated with him in the government of the country".

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary,
dated 20-2-1943, and the Hindustan Times,
dated 19-2-1943).+

Social Policy.-

- (1) Department of Labour, Government of India. Standing Labour Committee: First meeting (held at New Delhi on the 30th November and 1st December 1942). Summary of Proceedings. December 1942.
- (2) Department of Labour, Government of India. Standing Labour Committee: Second meeting (held at New Delhi on the 25th January, 1943). Summary of Proceedings. February 1943.

Economic Conditions.-

The Millowners' Association, Bombay. Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills working and in the course of erection in India on 31-8-1942 (three ~~charts~~ ~~statements~~ *Tabulated statements*).

Employment, Unemployment and Vocational Training.-

"Bengal's Trade and Bengalis" by D.K. Sanyal, Calcutta University. (price 4 annas.)

Social Policy in War Time.-

Government of India, Department of Labour (Office of the Chief Adviser, Factory A.R.P.):

- (1) A Summary of Air Raid Precautions applied to Factories (price Re. 1-4-0 or 2s.);
- (2) Supplement to the above: "Notes on A.R.P. Planning and Construction of New Factories or Extensions" (price 3 annas or 4d.);
- (3) Appendix I to the Summary (price annas 2 or 3d.);
- (4) Appendix II to the Summary (price annas 2 or 3d.).

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Miscellaneous.-

Administration Report of the Municipal Commissioner of the City of Bombay for the year 1941-42. Bombay: Municipal Printing Press, 1942. +