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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Industrial and Labour Developments in November, 1944.

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Government of India:

The Factories (Second Amendment) Bill, 1944,
Referred to Select Committee: Debate in
Central Assembly.

The Central Assembly on 7-11-1944 accepted the Labour Member's motion to refer the Factories (Second Amendment) Bill, 1944, (vide page 1 of our report for April, 1944) to a select committee. The Bill seeks to extend to workers in perennial factories the benefit after a year's service of at least seven consecutive days' holidays, of which at least six would be paid for.

The Debate.- Mr. N.M. Joshi, speaking on the Bill, said that ~~his~~ he welcomed the measure although it was limited in scope. He wanted that application of the Bill be extended to all workers. His complaint was that the Government of India was moving very slowly in this matter and that piecemeal legislation would take a number of years to ameliorate the conditions of the workers. He said that even in Government offices, where work was by no means hard, the employees were entitled to one month's leave in a year and added that according to the International Labour convention regarding holidays with pay, the number of holidays should be proportionate to the service put in. He suggested that the railways should give those concessions to the labourers proceeding on leave which they were already doing in the case of cricket teams and other touring parties.

Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, president, Millowners' Association, Bombay, opposed the Bill. He accused the Government "of running amuck" and of forcing legislation on the employers. While not formally opposing its reference to a select committee, he demanded that the principle of granting the holidays at the employers' convenience should be accepted. He opposed the suggestion of Mr. Joshi that facilities enjoyed by the ~~same~~ people in Government offices be extended to the workers. He gave instances of the benefits conferred already by factory owners on labourers ~~but~~ he did not want the discretion of the owners to be limited by such measures as the present one. He was not in agreement with the suggestion that the labourers should be given half pay when they proceed on leave.

Prof. Ranga did not think the Bill was for the benefit of the worker. It was a quasi-political measure. He said that the Government was anxious to bribe the labourers to keep them at the post of duty during war time. He, however, wanted the facilities under this bill to be extended to plantations also.

Dr. Ambedkar in his reply claimed that the Bill represented a compromise between compulsion and voluntary effort, and in answer to Mr. Joshi he explained that ^{absenteeism in India} precluded the grant of more than seven days' holidays with pay. So far as non-perennial factories were concerned, ~~therefore~~ there was nothing in the Bill which ruled out voluntary agreements regarding holidays with pay between workers and employers.

(The National Call, 8-11-1944 and
the Times of India, 9-11-1944).

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The Indian Trade Unions (Amendment)
Bill, 1943.

The Indian Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 1943 (vide pages 1 to 2 of our report for November, 1943), which was due to be moved with the Central Assembly for first reading on 14-11-1944, was not moved owing, it is stated, to the fact that the Labour Member found the Opposition too strong to face. ~~although for varying reasons.~~ The Congress party did not favour reference of the Bill to a joint select committee of the two Houses since that would give majority to government supporters on the select committee. The Muslim League was opposed to the Bill because ~~communal~~ communal unions are not recognised and the European Group is constituted mostly of employers. Dr. Ambedkar, however, is expected to review the provisions of the Bill and bring it up next session in a form more acceptable to the Opposition.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
15-11-1944).

The Draft Payment of Wages Amendment
Bill, 1944, Circulated.

The Central Assembly on 16-11-1944 ^{circulated} referred, for eliciting public opinion, ~~in the~~ the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 1944 (vide pages 1 to 2 of our report for October, 1944) introduced in the Central Assembly by Dr. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, on 1-11-1944.

(The ~~Hindustan~~ Statesman, 17-11-1944).

Bombay:

Bombay Draft Rules regarding Exemptions
From Hours of Work and Rest Provisions
of Factories Act, 1934.

In exercise of powers conferred by Sec. 43(2) of the Factories Act, 1934, the Government of Bombay has gazetted on 20-10-1944 the draft of certain rules by which it proposes to exempt certain classes of adult workers in specified industries from the provisions in the Factories Act, 1934, pertaining to hours of work and rest. The workers exempted include those engaged in urgent repairs, engine drivers, electricians, engine room workers, boiler attendants, fire pumpmen, oilers, and certain classes of workers in distilleries, sugar, chemicals and ice factories, gas factories, oil and flour mills, cement, tiles and glass factories etc.

(Notification No. 352/34 dated
20-10-1944, The Bombay Government
Gazette, dated 26-10-1944, part IV-A,
pages 151 to 164).

Factory Buildings of more than One Storey to be provided with two sets of Stairs: Bombay Government's Draft Rule.

The Government of Bombay has gazetted on 27-10-1944 a draft rule amending the Bombay Factories Rules, 1934, to the effect that every factory building of more than one storey shall be provided with at least two sets of stairs or steps permanently fixed either inside or outside the building, so as to afford direct and unimpeded access from every part of the factory to the ground level. Each set of stairs shall be provided with a suitable and sufficient hand-rail or other convenient support. In factories employing less than forty persons, the Inspector may accept, in lieu of a second set of stairs or steps, such other means of escape in case of fire as can reasonably be required in the circumstances of each case.

(Notification No. 5707/34, dated 27-10-1944; The Bombay Government Gazette, dated 2-11-1944, Part IV-A, page 165).

Travancore State:

The Travancore Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1944.

The Government of Travancore State gazetted on 19-9-1944 the Travancore Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, amending sec.5 of the original Act with a view to include, within the meaning of term "workman" workers employed on wages payable otherwise than by the month or on a monthly basis, for the purposes of the Act. The enactment ~~and~~ closely follows the British Indian Act (No. XIII of 1939) passed for similar purposes.

(Indian Labour Gazette, October, 1944).

4

SOCIAL POLICY.

Expansion of Labour Conciliation Machinery: Government of India's Decision. +

It is learnt that the Government of India has decided to extend labour conciliation machinery as far as Central undertakings are concerned. There is already a Labour Conciliation Commissioner for Railways with headquarters at Calcutta. It is proposed to appoint Commissioners in charge of all the other Central undertakings also. India will be divided into a number of zones, with a Labour Commissioner in charge of each zone. There will be another Labour Commissioner at the Centre to co-ordinate the work of zonal Labour Commissioners. In addition to these, there will be Labour Welfare Officers for each Central undertaking.

(The Vanguard, 9-11-1944).

Proposed Labour Legislation in Hyderabad State. +

Nawab Khusru Jung Bahadur, Army and Labour Member, Government of Hyderabad, announced at a meeting of the Statutory Labour Advisory Committee held at Hyderabad recently that the Government was considering the creation of a ~~separate~~ separate Labour Department. He also announced that the Government was considering the passing of an Industrial Disputes Act, a Trade Unions Act and an Employment of Children Act.

(The Hindu, dated 30-10-1944).

Large-Scale Labour Welfare Schemes for U.P. +

The Government of the United Provinces expects to spend Rs. 23 million annually on labour welfare schemes at the end of a ten-year reconstruction scheme which will be introduced in 1945-46, should the war against Japan end by that time. The schemes include various heads such as conciliation machinery, development of trade unions, expansion of existing labour welfare scheme, wage boards and employment exchange.

(The Vanguard, 9-11-1944).

Conditions of Work.

Industrial Disputes.

Industrial Disputes in British India during 1943.+

According to the statistics published by the Government of India of industrial disputes in British India during the year 1943, the total number of disputes (including 5 in progress at the close of the year) was 716 and the number of workers involved, 525,088 as compared with 694 disputes and 772,653 workers during 1942. The total number of man-days lost was 2,342,287 as compared with 5,779,965 in 1942. But, it is stated, the statistics of 1942 cannot be regarded as normal in view of the stoppages due to political causes. There were 13 stoppages involving 5,000 or more but less than 10,000 workers and 3 involving more than 10,000 workers. There were 3 stoppages each resulting in a loss of man-days exceeding 100,000 of which only one involved more than 10,000 workers.

Provincial Distribution.- The largest number of disputes occurred in Bombay where 244 disputes involving 127,564 workers were responsible for the loss of 581,867 working days. In Bengal there were 198 disputes involving 157,328 workers and resulting in the loss of 633,171 working days; in Central Provinces and Berar there were 110 disputes involving 160,729 workers and resulting in the loss of 515,019 working days; in Madras there were 51 disputes involving 15,322 workers and resulting in the loss of 88,000 working days; in Delhi there were 45 disputes involving 17,941 workers and resulting in the loss of 246,227 working days; in the United Provinces there were 38 disputes involving 28,150 workers and resulting in the loss of 75,395 working days; in the Punjab there were 12 disputes involving 3,851 workers and resulting in the loss of 40,038 working days; in Bihar there were 11 disputes involving 8,628 workers and resulting in the loss of 35,901 working days; in Assam, Orissa and Sind there were 2 disputes each involving respectively 2,164, 1,035 and 59 workers and resulting in the loss of 2,761, 3,833 and 65 working days; and in Ajmer Merwara there was 1 dispute involving 5,317 workers and resulting in the loss of 112,851 working days.

Classification by Industries.- The largest number of disputes occurred in the textile industries (cotton, silk and woollen mills) which there were 224 disputes involving 275,256 workers and resulting in a loss of 1,344,150 working days; followed by engineering workshops with 104 disputes involving 32,092 workers and resulting in a loss of 195,914 working days. There were 38 disputes in Jute mills involving 96,980 workers and entailing a loss of 332,301 working days; 10 disputes in railways, including railway workshops, involving 20,378 workers and entailing a loss of 33,600 working days; 8 disputes in mines involving 3,186 workers and entailing a loss of 35,736 working days; and 332 disputes in other industries involving 97,196 workers and entailing a loss of 400,578 working days.

Causes and Results of the Disputes. Textile (cotton, silk, woollen and jute) mills accounted for 37 per cent of the stoppages, 71 per cent of the workers involved and 72 per cent of the loss in man-days. In 397 disputes or 55 per cent the demands related mainly to wages or bonus. 53 related to questions of personnel, 14 to leave and hours of work and rest, and 252 to other causes. In 138 disputes the workers were wholly successful, in 210 partially successful, and in 314 they were unsuccessful while in 49 cases the results were

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indefinite. 5 disputes were in progress at the close of the year.

(Communique issued by the Department
of Labour, Government of India, on
11-11-1944). ✓

7

General.

Ahmedabad Textile Labour Associations
Welfare Schemes.

It is learnt that the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association which has from the beginning considered social work to be as important as ordinary trade union work, has embarked upon a comprehensive plan of social work to canalise the increased earnings of workers for their betterment. Membership of the Association has now reached a record figure of 60,000 and the monthly income has risen to Rs. 20,000.

To begin with, it has started a training class for workers where lectures on economics, politics, trade unionism and other subjects are given. Batches of 50 workers are to be trained for social work in the labour areas, which have been divided into 20 zones. Each zone will have its committee of 17 elected members, including three women. The committees will open reading rooms, libraries, gymnasias, dispensaries, maternity huts, adult classes, etc., for which fees will be charged. A scheme for a labour co-operative bank, with an authorised capital of Rs. 2,000,000, has been prepared to finance the various co-operative activities among workers, such as co-operative housing, co-operative stores, etc.

It may be noted that, as a result of the agreement reached between the Textile Labour Association and the Millowners' Association, Ahmedabad, on the outbreak of the war, textiles workers in the city ^{have} been earning a gradually increasing dearness allowance which amounted to Rs. 68-12-0 during October, 1944.

(The Times of India, 10-11-1944).

Labour Conditions in the Brassware Industry
of Moradabad (U.P.).

An inquiry was recently conducted into the conditions of labour in the brassware industry of Moradabad (U.P.), by Mr. R.D. Pant, an investigator in the Labour Department, United Provinces. Some of the more important of his findings are summarised below.

Moradabad is an important brassware manufacturing centre in India, manufacturing domestic and artistic vessels. The industry employs thousands of workers, men, women and children. During the war there has been a substantial increase in the demand for the articles; their prices have gone up, and so also the wages of the workers. The amount of brass imported into Moradabad during 1942-43 was 29,860 maunds (lmd-82lbs. nearly), as against 17,880 maunds in 1938-39, ^{an increase of} about 67 per cent.

Wages. There are 24 categories of skilled workers and artisans employed in the various manufacturing processes, besides several kinds of unskilled workers. Wages are almost uniform for the same class of work in the different factories; standardisation of wages exists to an appreciable extent. This is quite an old feature of the industry. Wages are paid weekly in all the workshops except in electroplating

works where they are paid monthly. Artisans working independently get a part of their wages in advance and the balance on the completion of work. Loss of raw material when the moulds are being heated in the oven, defects in casting and such damages during the course of manufacture as are beyond the control ~~of the worker~~ of the worker are borne by the employer. However, in case of articles manufactured by the artisan such risks are entirely borne by him alone and not the dealers. There is no system of bonus in the industry.

Most of the workers, artisans and petty employers lead a hand-to-mouth living. Housing conditions and sanitation are unsatisfactory. Increase in wages due to the war which is from 50 per cent to 100 per cent has been in no proportion to the increase in the general level of prices. Before employment a worker gets an advance from his employer, ranging from Rs. 50 to Rs. 400 according to the nature of work and efficiency of the ~~worker~~ worker. This is done by the employer to ensure the services of a worker in his workshop. So long as a sum is outstanding the worker cannot leave the job and join elsewhere. This ~~is~~ practice is ~~very~~ very harmful to the worker, as it encourages indebtedness.

Hours of work.- The average working time is 10 hours a day ranging between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., except in electroplating works, some of which are also registered factories, where the working time is from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. with an hour's rest from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Women in the industry work as part-timers and independent artisans at home for 2 to 4 hours whenever they are free from ~~the~~ domestic duties. The average number of working days in a month is 20 owing chiefly to the frequent absenteeism, ~~and partly to the occasional paucity of work.~~ Friday is observed as a weekly holiday in place of Sunday, as all the workers are Muslims. No holiday or leave is granted with pay. No overtime is paid in any branch of the industry ~~except in the electroplating works where factory laws are applicable.~~

Accommodation of Workshops.- ~~The~~ workshop is generally a portion of the house occupied by the employer for residential purposes. The floor is invariably made of mud and the roof tiled. No latrine or urinal is available for the worker's use and usually there is no water-pipe connection. A provision for drinking water is however made in the workshops. A smaller workshop may either be a small room, or a tiled ~~verandah~~ verandah or even an open space. Hot wind, dust and dirt may find free access to such places of work.

Occupational Risks.- During the process of polishing in the electroplating and polishing works the lustre, peerless polish ~~and the material with which bough is prepared,~~ are inhaled by the polisher. This generally affects his lungs and impairs his health. In plating work the plater seldom uses rubber gloves while dipping his hands into the tank containing acidic substances. Belting, shafting and gearing are left unguarded.

Dismissal of workers is extremely rare. ~~In fact~~ In fact efficient workers are always in demand. Children, when not sufficiently grown up, help their parents in their work at home. Adolescents work as full-fledged workers in different capacities. There is no trade union or association of the workers and welfare work is unknown in the industry. Facilities for systematic industrial education exist in the "S.S. Khatri School of Commerce and Industry" at Moradabad, which imparts free training. The institution is doing fine work, but it has so far failed to attract sufficient number of students from the working class families of Moradabad.

(The U.P. Labour Gazette, April-June, 1944). ✓

9

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Mica Inquiry Committee appointed by Central Government.

Reference was made at pages 6 to 7 of our report for May 1944 to the Central Government's Resolution on the appointment of a Committee to investigate the immediate and long term problems of the mica industry. Government is now understood to have constituted the Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. D.E. Reuben, I.C.S., a Justice of the Patna High Court, and constituting of two members, Mr. Guru Sharan Lal of Bihar and M. Md. Ismail Sahib of Madras. Rai Bahadur Rai Hardatta Prasad will be the Secretary. The Committee will be assisted in its investigation by seven assessors, representing the Governments of Bihar and Madras, the mica trade interests in the two provinces and the miners, and two technical advisers, namely, the Director, Geological Survey of India, and the Director, Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India.

The Committee will enquire into and report on all problems relating to the mica industry and its present and future development, including the following:- (i) Immediate problems relating to the Mica Control Order, 1940 (both in regard to war production and long term policy) and the review of any orders that may have been passed by Government in connection with that Order; (ii) The present system of marketing—both inland and abroad; (iii) Standardisation of quality; (iv) The extent to which alternative sources of supply may have jeopardised or are likely to jeopardise the position of this country as the principal supplier of muscovite mica; (v) The extent to which other materials that may be used as substitutes for mica, may have displaced or are likely to displace mica from its uses in the industry; (vi) Increased utilisation of mica in this country for the manufacture of finished goods; (vii) Methods of development with special reference to the following:- (a) Research; (b) Conservation; (c) Methods of mining; (d) Methods of processing; (e) Methods of Marketing; and (f) Methods of meeting competition; (viii) The desirability of setting up suitable machinery, whether by the appointment of a Central Mica Committee, or, otherwise, to watch the interests of the mica trade and industry; and (ix) Any other matter of importance as may be brought to the notice of the Committee.

The Committee will have its headquarters at Patna, but will tour in such mica mining areas as may be considered necessary and take evidence on the spot. The Committee will assemble early in November, 1944, and report to the Government of India at the earliest possible date.

(Resolution No. MD-55 dated 23-10-1944 of the Department of Labour, Government of India, The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 24-10-1944). ✓

U.P. Government's Scholarships for Economic
Research in Universities.

The U.P. Government has agreed to subsidize economic research at the Universities in the province on subjects approved by it with scholarships not exceeding five in number of Rs. 100/- per month for one year each. This action has been taken by the Government on the recommendation of the Research Advisory Committee of the Provincial Economic Advisory Board. It will draw the Universities in the ~~the~~ province into closer collaboration with the Government in the work of research and survey in subjects relating to economics and statistics.

(The Hindustan Times, 26-11-1944). ✓

Sir P. Thakurdas's Criticism of Cotton
Exports Subsidy Proposal of U.S.A.

In a statement issued at Bombay on 7-11-1944 on the U.S. Government's proposal to subsidize cotton exports, Sir Purshottandas Thakurdas, president, East India Cotton Association, Bombay, points out that the immediate effect of the announcement was rapid decline in the Indian cotton (hedge) contract price from Rs. 425 to Rs. 392, the decline reflecting the grave view taken by Indian trade of the implied threat to their export market. He said that the U.S. policy of heavily subsidized exports was bound to have disastrous effects on the Indian farmer who gets little more than a bare subsistence income from his cotton crops compared with the parity price obtained by the American farmer. It was difficult, he said, to visualize all the consequences and complications which might arise from the use of the financial power of a country in this manner in international trade. India felt that if financial resources were to be the overriding factor in claiming a share of export markets the inevitable result would be a return to the vicious circle of trade barriers and it was hoped that some less disruptive solution will be found.

He declared that he had no doubt that the Government of India must already have drawn the attention of the Secretary of State for India to this potential danger indicated by the U.S. proposals and further that both the Government of India and the Indian legislature would be prepared to consider any suggestion which gave promise of helping cotton growers not only of one country, but of all cotton growing countries in the world. Regarding the large stock held by the USA., Sir Purshottandas suggests that they will have to exercise considerable patience before they can unload this on the world, particularly at a time when the economic factors affecting any such operation may spell unexpected disaster to countries economically less equipped with either monetary resources or with statistical data and economic organization to enforce any particular line of action not fully ~~suitable~~ suitable to their conditions.

(The Statesman, 8-11-1944). ✓

11

Demand for Industrial Commission:
Council of State Rejects Resolution.

On 13-11-1944 the Council of State took up for discussion a resolution introduced by Pandit H.N. Kunzru recommending the Governor-General-in-Council to appoint an industrial commission with a non-official Indian chairman and a majority of non-official members to review the industrial situation, to recommend measures for the full and rapid industrialization of the country with the object of raising the general standard of living of the masses and to indicate the lines along which State ownership and control of industry should be extended. The resolution had been moved during the last budget session of the Council (February-April, 1944).

During the discussion, Sir A.P. Patre said that the present industrial position should be reviewed and adequate steps taken for its further improvement. In regard to the raising of the general standard of living, he said that the wages paid should have relation to the outturn of labour. While he agreed to State supervision of industries, he did not agree that the resolution was practicable at present. He thought that private enterprise should have a large share in the running of industries and pointed out that Government management of certain mills had not proved efficient.

Government's Industrial Policy Criticised.- Mr. M.N. Dalal said that industrial expansion in India did not favourably compare with the progress made in the United States of America, United Kingdom, Australia and other Empire countries during the war. He deplored that the Government of India had turned down the Indian industrialists' suggestion to start heavy industries, such as shipping and aircraft. Indian industries suffered as a result of the Government's policy. In importing consumer goods the Government had ~~apparently~~ not ascertained the views of Indian manufacturers. The Government had appointed an "all-white" commission to inquire into the establishment of a fertilizer industry and more and more foreign experts were being imported. These actions of the Government were looked on with apprehension in the country. Mr. Dalal added that he was not against foreign capital, but such capital should be to some extent under national control. Concessions granted to foreign interests should not uneconomically compete with local industries. He referred to the operation of powerful foreign combines in match manufacture and in the soap industry and said that Indian industrialists would like to be assured that in the post-war period ~~no~~ fresh foreign vested interests would be created in this country so as to hamper Indian industrial expansion.

National Government Essential.- Mr. P.N. Saprú said that planning required ~~such~~ control and regimentation of life and only a Government which had its roots in the country and responsible to the people of the country ~~would~~ be able to carry it out. On ideological grounds he favoured State control and State ownership of industries. However, under the existing conditions and without knowing what the constitutional future of this country would be, he was not prepared to hand over the industries to the present Government, who would be amenable to no other control except that of His Majesty's Government.

Government Member's Assurance: ~~IN~~ Substantial Progress Made.- Sir Ardesir DALAL, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, reiterating the Government's intention to foster industries to the largest extent possible, said that there was no question of the Government not being in sympathy with the resolution. The war had shown up gaps in the industrial structure of the country, such as lack

of certain industries, machinery, machine tools, etc. While he shared the general disappointment that the industrial progress of India had not been on the same scale as that of Canada, Australia and other countries during the war, he had to point out that substantial progress had been made during the war. The Government was in fullest accord with the ~~the~~ demand that measures should be taken for the complete industrialization of the country.

II. State Control of Industries.- As to the part which the State should play in the control of industries, it was an important subject and was engaging the serious attention of the Government. It was not possible as yet for the Government to come to any decision on the subject. The Government might have to take over industries which were beyond the resources of private enterprise, such as essential industries which might not be remunerative. The fertiliser industry was one such. In respect of important basic industries a larger measure of control would have to be exercised by the Government in future.

III. Protection of Industries.- In regard to protection of industries, Sir Ardeshir said that it was the Government's intention to liberalize protection and, in order to avoid delay, to set up a permanent tariff board. He said Government had consulted the industries concerned before importing consumer goods. It was not the Government's intention to hand over the fertilizer industry to the Imperial Chemical Industries. In any scheme of industrialization the nationals of the country would have a full share.

Opposing the industrial commission proposed in the resolution, he said that the government had neither the personnel just now for ~~examining~~ ^{examining} the commission nor could it wait for a long period for the commission's report. What was at present needed was quick and practical recommendations. The government had already appointed the necessary committees and the various provincial Governments had been asked to set up reconstruction committees. The Government had also set up over 20 panels for various industries. The Government's method was more effective and expeditious and therefore he urged Pandit Kunzru to withdraw his resolution.

Pandit Kunzru's Statement: Government too slow.- Pandit Kunzru, replying to the debate, said that his object in moving the resolution was to accelerate the pace of industrialization and to ensure sufficient publicity to the steps taken by the Government in this regard. He was primarily ~~concerned~~ ^{concerned} with the actual achievements of the Government and not with its intentions. He wished Sir Ardeshir were in a position to say that certain plans had ^{already} been completed and their execution would soon start. The first report on planning (vide pages 38-39 ~~of~~ of our report for May, 1944) enunciated general principles, but laid down no definite plan in regard to any aspect of industrialization. The Government did not seem to be proceeding with reasonable ~~dispatch~~ ^{dispatch}. During the last eight months it had not proceeded far beyond the stage reported in the first report on planning.

The ~~so~~ motion was put to the vote and lost.

(The Statesman, 14-11-1944). ✓

Indian Institute of Industrial Art
to be opened.

The Organisers of the Art in Industry Exhibition of India are understood to be planning to open an All India Institute of Art in Industry early in 1945. Membership of the Institute will be open to private individuals. It will undertake educational work and will bring out publications concerned with applied arts, as soon as conditions return to normal.

(The Hindu, dated 11-11-1944).

Working Class Cost of Living Index
for various centres in India during
April and May, 1944.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during April and May, 1944, as compared with March, 1944.

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base=100</u>	<u>March 44.</u>	<u>April 44.</u>	<u>May 44</u>
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	226	231	235
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1927	206	203	203
Sholapur	Year ending January 1928	201	207	195
Nagpur	August 1939	273	271	258
Ludhiana	1931-35	358	353	351
Cawnpore	August 1939	294	316	315
Patna	Average cost of living for five years preceeding 1914.	325	328	320
Jamshedpur	Ditto	315	317	327
Jharia	Ditto	394	379	366
Madras	Year ending June 1936	201	201	202
Madura	Ditto	197	200	207
Coimbatore	Ditto	220	222	224

(Monthly Survey of Business
Conditions in India for April and
May, 1944).

14

First Meeting of Indian Central
Sugarcane Committee, New Delhi,
29-11-1944.

Reference was made at pages 7 to 8 of our report for June, 1944, to the setting up of the Indian Central Sugar-Cane Committee by the Government of India. The first meeting of the Committee was held at New Delhi on 29-11-1944.

Present Position of Industry.- Inaugurating the meeting, Sir Jogendra Singh, ~~Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India,~~ pointed out that the sugar industry now is one of the largest industries in India and second in importance only to cotton textiles. The area under improved cane ranges round $3\frac{1}{2}$ million acres. It gives employment to well over 100,000 workers, 3,000 graduates and technical men and 20 million cultivators. The capital invested is about Rs. 330 million; 1.3 million tons of sugar is produced annually at Rs. 440 a ton; aggregating to about Rs. 570 million. Between 1910 and 1914 the imports of sugar into India averaged 723,915 tons, valued at Rs. 127.1 million. Today India produces all the sugar ~~she~~ she needs, besides 3.9 million tons of molasses per annum.

Scope of Committee.- Explaining the scope of the Sugarcane Committee, ~~Sir Jogendra said it would be a body registered as a society with headquarters in Delhi or such other place as the Committee might decide. The Committee was intended to undertake the improvement and development of the growing, marketing and manufacture of sugarcane and its products. It will initiate agricultural, technological and economic research on sugarcane, sugar and their by-products, the improvement of crop forecast and statistics and adoption of improved cultural practices. The control of the Institute of Sugar Technology, Cawnpore, will vest in the Committee and it will be its responsibility to raise the Institute to the highest possible level. The Committee will also advise the Central and provincial Governments, provided that the subject matter of reference falls within the prescribed functions of the Committee. The Government of India, Sir Jogendra said, has decided to place at the Committee's disposal the entire proceeds of the Sugar ~~Ex~~ Excise Fund, the amount so credited being one anna per cwt of white sugar produced in British India out of the excise duty levied on it.~~

(The Statesman, 30-11-1944).

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Nationalisation of Insurance: Discussion in
Central Assembly.+

Demands for the nationalisation of insurance were raised on ~~14.11.1944~~ 14.11.1944, in the Central Legislative Assembly by Prof. Ranga, Mr. A. ~~Chatterjee~~, Mr. Hoeseinbhoj Laljee, and Mr. Manu Subedar in the course of the debate on Sir Azizul Haque's motion to refer his Insurance (second Amendment) Bill, 1944, to a select committee. The Bill was introduced by the Commerce Member, Government of India, to remove certain flaws and lacunae brought to light in the administration of the Insurance Act, 1938, and also to secure greater financial stability to insurance companies.

Prof. Ranga pointed out that the State even now was running a postal insurance scheme for its employees and was actually running it more efficiently than private insurance companies: its expense ratio was the lowest, about 10 per cent as compared to some 20 per cent for the most efficiently run private insurance company. Prof. Ranga remarked it was true that only a national Government could give entire satisfaction, but even the present Government was preparing schemes in anticipation of the advent of a national Government and he suggested it should give thought to this subject also. He referred to the fact that the various insurance companies were concentrated mainly in the big cities with the result ~~that the large sum collected as premiums from all corners of the country were not used only in these cities, and were denied to the provinces from which they were collected and where they were urgently required for development. This evil, he suggested, could only be cured by making insurance a State enterprise.~~ He referred to Mysore State, where he indicated State insurance was working well.

Mr. Hoeseinbhoj Laljee, pointed out that insurance in many parts of the world, except Great Britain, was a State enterprise and insurance companies were only acting as agents. Why, he asked, should this country follow Great Britain's example and not that of other countries?

Mr. Manu Subedar did not know why the general public should not be admitted to the benefits of the postal insurance scheme, which he said was being conducted so efficiently that the expense ratio was only 7 per cent as against 23 per cent which was the lowest that a private insurance company had been able to achieve. The difference of 16 per cent, ~~as stated he said~~, came in the shape of greater premium or less benefit to the policyholder. Mr. Subedar suggested that in order to find the money for the vast projects of post-war development, life insurance offered the most promising source. As it was, only a small proportion of the population has been brought into insurance schemes: the poorer classes either did not understand insurance or had been cheated by canvassers or had been scared by the scandalously low surrender value of insurance policies.

Mr. L.S. Vaidyanathan said that in the short period of a year during which he had been Superintendent of Insurance, the number of applications received by him for starting new insurance companies had been enormous: and a very undesirable feature was the provision for remuneration for the people at the helm of affairs on a commission basis, which might be as low as five per cent and might look trivial but might actually amount to lakhs when companies expanded and grew rich. The Bill, therefore, provided for the abolition of remuneration on a commission basis. Referring to the Mysore scheme, Mr. Vaidyanathan

explained that under it every employee of the State was obliged to pay 10 per cent of salary. That scheme was, however, similar to the postal insurance scheme in British India; and there was a great difference between a public scheme run by the State and nationalisation of insurance. Sir Azizul Haque, replying, said his objective was quite the same as Prof. Banga's; but he would hesitate to take steps to nationalise insurance till a National Government was established. He agreed that insurance should cover a wider field, and include crops, cattle, sickness, old age, etc., but these were not for the immediate present.

(The Times of India, 16-11-1944).

Administration of the U.P. Maternity Benefit Act, 1938, during 1943.

According to the annual report on the working of the U.P. Maternity Benefit Act, 1938, in the Province during 1943, the number of concerns subject to the Act was 127, employing an average ~~number~~ number of 2,825 women workers. No complaint regarding non-payment of maternity benefit was registered during the year. The maternity benefits paid during the year amounted to Rs. 5,624-13-9. 20 concerns maintained creches and several employers supplied free clothing and milk.

(The U.P. Labour Bulletin, April-June, 1944).

MIGRATION.

Johannesburg City Council's Move to Segregate
Indians.

A proposal to segregate the Indian community ~~the~~ in Johannesburg has been adopted by the City Council at a plenary session recently. The proposal, which was originally sponsored by the post-war development committee of the Council, seeks to establish an Indian township some miles from the centre of the city and transfer the Indian community ~~at~~ there from the slum areas where they are now residing. This move is being vigorously opposed by the Working Committee of the Transvaal Indian Congress. At a special meeting of ~~the~~ Working Committee a resolution was unanimously adopted not to accept the scheme "unless an undertaking is given by the Union Government and the Johannesburg Municipality that all existing Indian rights will be protected". The removal of the ~~the~~ Indian community from these townships will, it is feared, spell its economic ~~ruin~~ ruin as ~~there~~ are no other avenues except trade open to it. Moreover, there is no choice of free movement ~~in~~ other areas because of several restrictive laws.

(The Hindustan Times, 29-11-1944).

AGRICULTURE.

The Indian Rice Committees Bill, 1944.
(Bill No. 24 of 1944).+

The Indian Rice Committees Bill, 1944, to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted for the improvement and development of the cultivation, production and marketing of rice and rice products in India was introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly by Mr. J.D. Tyson, Secretary, Department of Education Health and Lands, Government of India, on 1-11-1944. The statement of objects and reasons, ^{attached to the Bill} points out that in view of the importance of rice as an agricultural crop and as the principal food of a very large proportion of the population in the country, it is considered necessary to put rice research, development and technology on a more permanent basis than it stands at present. Accordingly, it is proposed to set up an Indian Central Rice Committee on lines similar to those of the Indian Central Cotton Committee, the Indian Lac Cess Committee, etc. The Committee which will have on it representatives of all the important interests concerned will devote exclusive attention to all problems connected with the improvement and development of the cultivation and marketing of paddy, the production and marketing of rice, and rice products and all matters incidental thereto. Since it is desirable that the Committee should have an independent source of income, it is proposed that as in the case of other similar Committees, e.g., the Indian Central Cotton Committee, the Indian Lac Cess Committee, etc., funds should be provided by the levy of a small excise duty not exceeding a rate of annas 6 per ton on all paddy which is hulled in power mills.

The Bill was been circulated for eliciting public opinion by 28-2-1945.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 25-11-1944, pages 1473-1478).

Central Government to appoint Committee to examine system of land Tenure.+

The "Vanguard", Delhi, learns

~~It is learnt~~ that the Government of India has decided to appoint a committee to survey and make recommendations on systems of land tenures prevailing in this country. It is stated that Sir Feroze Khan Noon, Defence Member, Government of India, in a memorandum submitted to the Government in this connection has brought out the adverse effect insecurity of tenure was having on production and pointed out that if the cultivator did not get adequate security of tenure, there would naturally be no inducement for him to attempt improvements or increase production. He has also urged that problems of the absentee landlord and landless labourer must be tackled at an early date. Alienation and subdivision of land into uneconomic holdings are two of the other factors referred to by him as retarding production. All these questions, it is expected, will be examined by the proposed committee, which will have a non-official majority.

Delhi
(The Vanguard, dated 9-11-1944).

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Land Improvement Measures for Bombay:
Meeting of Provincial Rural Development
Board, Bombay, 6 and 7-11-1944.

Suggestions for legislation to improve the lot of cultivators were placed before the Bombay Provincial Rural Development Board, which met at Bombay from 6 to 7-11-1944; Sir Henry Knight, Adviser to the Governor, presided.

Professor Gadgil's Suggestions.- Professor D.R. Gadgil opened the discussions with an address in which he urged the need for a deliberately integrated programme of social legislation, to go hand in hand with plans for agricultural development, with the object of ensuring that any increment in the agricultural income of the Province which resulted from improvements carried out at public cost is equitably distributed. Development plans, he urged, must not have the effect of making the rich richer, but must benefit the classes who most needed relief - the cultivators themselves. In a note placed before the Board, Prof. Gadgil urges the need for legislation to compel property owners to co-operate in plans for common improvement and to maintain and exploit any improvements effected. The Government, he considers, should have power to take over maintenance and exploitation itself, in the event of default by the owner of the property. Where the full exploitation of improvements necessitates an increase in the size of holdings, he favours the consolidation of holdings by legislation, with means to prevent the breaking-up of the consolidated production unit in future. Planned improvement, Prof. Gadgil holds, is today obstructed by legal rights. Now that the State is undertaking a large expenditure of public funds in certain areas, Prof. Gadgil thinks that the rights that the State might at present acquire for planning and carrying out common improvements, for their maintenance and proper exploitation, and for giving direction to the latter, should not relate to any particular act or plan of improvement but should be held permanently by the State in all improved tracts. To secure that the increased income resulting from development works is so distributed as to provide relief to the classes who need it most, Prof. Gadgil emphasizes the necessity of ~~prevent~~ preventing property-holders from gaining unearned increment, either in the shape of capital or income, as a result of the expenditure of public funds. To do this it would be necessary to ensure that the existing level of incomes from property of those who are not directly operators are not increased because of the improvements.

Another essential accompaniment to any plan of improvement, urges Prof. Gadgil, is a comprehensive measure of tenancy legislation. The provisions of the existing Tenancy Act relating to resumption by landlords ~~taxes~~ might operate harshly, because improvements might encourage landlords to resume lands from tenants on a large scale. Unless the tenant is assured of continuous and profitable operation of his land, the proper exploitation of improvements can not be expected.

The Board's Decisions.- The Board accepted the two points suggested by Prof. Gadgil in his note; namely, that it is the Government's duty to see that any improvements on land made at the cost of public funds are not allowed to lapse by lack of legislation or lack of watchfulness; and that it is the Government's duty to see that undue amounts of unearned increment do not accrue except to those for whose benefit the schemes are designed. The Board also accepted a draft amendment to the ~~land improvement~~ Land Improvement Schemes Act regarding rents.

The rough draft of a Bill to provide for the consolidation of agricultural holdings was adopted by the Board with the proviso that the Bill would provide for the application of compulsion, where necessary.

Collectivisation of land.- Sir Henry Knight placed before the Board, for discussion, a proposal which had been suggested to the Government that an experiment should be made in a few selected villages in Bombay Province, on collective or co-operative farming. He gave a brief outline of the differences between collective and co-operative farming, and said that co-operative schemes had some time ago been tried in Bombay Province, but had not been successful. While it did not appear, he said, that collectivisation as practised in Russia had increased the productivity of the soil, it had benefited the cultivator, by cutting out indebtedness and improving his position and his efficiency. It had also raised the position of women to one of equality with men and had brought about a great change in the outlook of the younger generation. As far as India was concerned, unless this country could produce more from each acre, it was in for a difficult time within the next 10 or 20 years. So, any step towards that aim would be a benefit, and all avenues leading to such an improvement must be explored. He added that the Bombay Government had not at present prepared any scheme for either collectivisation or co-operative farming.

The Board recorded its opinion that it was not in favour of collective farming at present but did consider that an experiment should be made with co-operative farming, with the encouragement and assistance of the Government. The view was expressed that a considerable degree of Government control would be essential to the success of any experiment of ~~collectivisation~~ collectivisation.

(Communiqués dated 6 and 7-11-1944 issued by the Director of Information, Bombay).

Manufacture of Artificial Fertilisers in India: Recommendation of Technical Mission.

Reference was made at page 14 of our report for June, 1944, to the inquiry started by a mission of British experts appointed by the Government of India on the manufacture of artificial fertilisers in India. It is understood that the mission has submitted its report to the Government recommending the manufacture of sulphate of ammonia and has discussed in it several schemes of production involving a number of factories in different parts of India. It has, however, strongly recommended the centralisation of production in a single factory at Harduaganj in the United Provinces. The approximate capital cost of this factory is estimated at Rs. 101 million and the approximate factory cost of the finished product will be Rs. 114 per ton. The allocation of capital expenditure between India and abroad is Rs. 60 million and Rs. 41 million respectively. In estimating this, the mission has taken into account that the fullest use will be made of raw materials and labour available in India.

Economic Production Method.- Considering the raw materials and power available in India, the most economic method of manufacture recommended is the production of ammonia by using water gas made from coke and then converting it to sulphate. Not only does this recommendation ensure that all the raw materials are wholly and abundantly available from Indian sources but it has the further advantage of utilising

processes which have been perfected over a long period of years, during which time many standardised items of equipment have been evolved. By the adoption of this method the delays in carrying out design and development work on items of equipment, which might be required for other methods, will be entirely eliminated. The report further says that no fertilisers other than sulphate of ammonia should be considered for the present purpose. The capital and operating cost of alternative nitrogenous fertilisers has, therefore, not been estimated. It is, however, recommended that work should be instituted to determine the suitability of ammonium nitrate as a fertiliser for Indian conditions, in order to take advantage, for future nitrogenous fertiliser requirements, of a material which should be cheaper to produce.

Training of Technicians.- It is urged that it will be necessary for a majority of the required technical staff for the scheme to receive training in a factory of the type proposed in the report. This can be best carried out by sending a number of carefully selected Indians to undergo a course of training overseas. As soon as the contract for the erection of the factory has been negotiated, a number of Indian chemists and engineers with good university qualifications and sound industrial experience in some of the ~~works~~ chemical works or ordnance factories in India should be sent overseas for training. The best method of training Indian nationals for taking over entire responsibility from specialists is that the majority of the technical staff should be on the site to watch the erection of the plant. They will thus acquire a firsthand knowledge of the ~~special~~ special types of plant and machinery installed and be ready to take an active part under the supervision of specialists in the starting operations.

It is estimated that food production in the country will be helped to the extent of 500,000 to 800,000 tons of additional rice every year by using the 350,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia. India's total requirements in fertilisers are 10 million tons but the achievement of this target is a post-war problem. It may also be pointed out that, considering the cost of sulphate of ammonia imported during the war, which is Rs. 240 per ton, the present scheme will be yielding a saving of about Rs. 42.5 million every year.

(The Hindu, dated 13-11-1944 and the Hindustan Times, dated 15-11-1944). ✓

The Bengal Agricultural Crops Inquiries Order, 1944. ✓

The Bengal Government has gazetted on 19-10-1944 the Bengal Agricultural Crops Inquiries Order under which Recording Officers appointed by the Government are entitled to be furnished with any information they may demand of a cultivator regarding the area of land under cultivation owned by him, the nature of the crops and yield per acre.

(The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary, dated 21-10-1944, Part I, pages 227-228). ✓

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NAVIGATION.

Seamen's Welfare in Ports: Central Government
sets up two Committees.+

The Central Government has decided to set up a welfare committee in Bombay for the purpose of improving the welfare and amenities for Indian seamen in that port. The committee, which is under the Chairmanship of Sir B. Rama Rau, will be known as the Welfare Committee for Indian Seamen in Bombay. Among its non-official members are Sir Ness Wadia, Mr. M.A. Master, Khan Sahib M.E. Serang, Mr. Nurmohamed N. Chinoy and Mr. Dinkar Desai.

The Government have also set up a Welfare Committee for British and Allied Seamen at Bombay.

(The Times of India, 28-11-1944).

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES
AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Revised Scale of Pay for Primary School Teachers in
Baroda State.+

In furtherance of the free and compulsory education system, the Government of Baroda has now revised the grades of pay of its primary school teachers at an annual additional cost of Rs. 289,700 and has brought them almost on the model of the grades suggested in the Sargent Report, on educational reconstruction, (vide pages 36 to 37 of our report for October, 1943). Under the new scheme, all primary teachers, who at present number 6,746, will be put in four different grades, the maximum salary of the first grade being Rs. 75 and that of the last grade Rs. 40.

This is the first step towards educational reconstruction in Baroda in the post-war period.

(The Times of India, 14-11-1944). ✓

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CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

First Meeting of Bombay Provincial Co-Operative
Marketing Conference, Bombay, 24 and 25-10-1944.

The first meeting of the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Marketing Conference was held at Bombay on 24 and 25-10-1944, Dewan Bahadur H.L. Kaji presiding.

Sir Henry Knight, Adviser to the Governor of Bombay, who opened the Conference, in his address stressed the importance of the co-operative movement to agriculture, and said that measures to give the agriculturist a greater return for his work than formerly must be taken after the war. It was essential that the cultivator should have at his disposal a business organisation, from which he could have expect a fair deal. In any planning for the future of India, the planned marketing of agricultural products was essential. The need for having a network of co-operative marketing organisations in rural areas, he observed, would be felt even more keenly when the Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act was extended to larger areas of the province. Under the Act, a debtor might not sell his standing crops or the produce of his land, except with the permission of the society, or the authorised person, from whom he had obtained any necessary loans to finance the crop. As Government hoped that the bulk of the loans would be supplied by co-operative credit societies, arrangements for the sale of farm produce would have to be made with the approval of those societies. Government would prefer that the sales be through co-operative sale societies. In its scheme of distribution of foodgrains in rural areas, Government's policy was that, as far as possible, preference should be given to well-managed co-operative organisations.

Dewan Bahadur H.L. Kaji, presiding, said that co-operative credit had no chance in the reconstruction of rural economy in India, unless it is strongly supported by co-operatives and marketing. Active State help for the vigorous development of co-operatives in Bombay was necessary. He stressed the need for the linking of credit with marketing which would secure the loyalty of the members of sale organisations and reduce the overdues in credit societies. He also advocated the introduction of legislation for the purpose.

Resolutions.- The Conference strongly urged on Government and non-official co-operative workers the need for earnest and strenuous efforts for the organisation and development of co-operative marketing institutions, and exhorted all marketing organisations to link themselves up with the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Marketing Society, so as to evolve a well co-ordinated co-operative marketing structure for the province. For effectively linking up co-operative credit and sale, it recommended that credit institutions should simplify their procedure for granting loans and make finance available only on the condition of the borrower selling the whole of his saleable produce through a co-operative sale agency and should correlate the amount of future finance to the value of the produce thus sold. It also urged on the Government the necessity for providing sufficient storage and transport facilities for marketing societies.

(Communique issued by the Director of Information, Bombay on 24-10-1944 and the Bombay Chronicle, dated 27-10-1944).

Development of Co-operative Societies
in Sind. +

Surveying the progress of co-operative movement in Sind at a meeting held in connection with the All India Co-operators' Day organised by the Sind Co-operative Institute, Hyderabad (Sind), on 4-11-1944, Mr. Yarmohamad Memon, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Sind, said ~~but~~ that agricultural credit societies in the province totalled 769, out of a total of 1,060 co-operative societies. He stated that the ~~co-operative~~ co-operative department had striven to consolidate rather than expand the movement. No new credit societies had been registered. Substantial recoveries had been made in the last three years to liquidate frozen debts, in view of the agricultural prosperity resulting from the war. He added that existing societies were being amalgamated in central places to secure better management and supervision. Taluka agricultural banks were being formed on a limited liability basis. He stated that zamindari-ban was being organised in each district separately, while a beginning had been made with the first taluka bank at Tando Alahyar. Sir Ghulam Hussein Hidayatallah, Premier of Sind, who presided, expressed the view that the salvation of the province, which was mainly agricultural, lay in co-operation, as all trades and professions depended on the peasants' prosperity, which co-operation endeavoured to achieve. He exhorted the institute to spread the movement and promised that Government would give a special grant of Rs. 2,500 annually if ~~some~~ a satisfactory scheme was put up for co-operative education propaganda.

(The Times of India, 7-11-1944).

Resolutions of the Madras Provincial Co-operative
Conference, Madras, 29-10-1944. +

A number of resolutions ^{bearing on} ~~concerning~~ post-war planning in relation to the development of cottage industries and suggesting ways and means of improving the efficiency of the co-operative movement in the province, were adopted by the Madras Provincial Co-operative Conference held at Madras on 29-10-1944. Sir V.T. Krishnamachari presided.

Imperial Council of Co-operation.- In view of the fact that co-operation has been universally recognised in every country as having a very important place in post-war reconstruction and that in India, co-operation has a greater service to render to the rural population, the Conference appealed to the Government of India and the Madras Government to constitute an Imperial Council of Co-operation and a Provincial Council of Co-operation respectively on the lines of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, co-ordinating the two bodies as primarily inter-related in aims and objects.

As collective farming on co-operative lines was an ideal not capable of practical application in Madras province taking into consideration various factors such as average ^{size of} holdings and the number of people employed in agriculture, the Conference requested the Government and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to devise ways and means for intensive cultivation and better out-turn by adopting co-operative methods and to formulate a long-range policy of economic utilisation of land.

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Cottage Industries.- The Conference, by other resolutions, requested the Government to sanction the appointment of a Deputy Registrar for the purpose of study, preliminary investigation, ~~preparation~~ planning and starting of cottage industries on a co-operative basis and urged the Provincial Co-operative Union to prepare a scheme for the development of such industries after the war.

Food and Consumer Goods Distribution.- To prevent black marketing and to improve the efficiency of stores societies for ensuring ~~the~~ an equitable distribution of all controlled and other commodities, the Conference suggested the adoption of a number of measures. Among the steps recommended were that the stores societies should be recognised as approved wholesalers and retailers for consumer goods under the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order; that licences should be granted to them under the Drugs Control Order for selling medical goods; that the Government should provide ^{a permanent} ~~the~~ administrative staff for the direction and supervision of stores, ~~permanent~~, in as much as the ~~provision~~ stores movement had come to stay in the province; that stores and village societies used for distribution of foodstuffs should be helped to procure and distribute them as well as cattle food, manures and other requirements of the agriculturists; that the agency of the loan and sale societies should be utilised for the procurement and distribution of controlled commodities especially foodstuffs where stores competent to undertake the work were not available; and that representatives of co-operative institutions should be appointed to all Food Councils, rationing ~~advisory~~ and price control committees.

The Conference also reiterated its previous resolutions relating to concessions in respect of ~~an~~ audit and registration fees. It requested the Government to reduce the rate of interest on Government loans to building societies ~~now~~ from $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and also urged the lowering of the rate of interest on loans to primary land ~~mortgage~~ mortgage banks in view of the prevailing money market conditions. The need for bringing all existing and future land colonisation and all co-operative schemes in the province under the administrative control of the Co-operative instead of the Revenue Department, was also urged by the Conference.

(The Hindu, 30-10-1944). ✓

The Indian Rural Peoples' Society Formed.

The Indian Rural Peoples' Society—an organization for the promotion and protection of the interests of rural masses—has been formed with Delhi as its headquarters. Prof. N.G. Ranga, M.L.A. (Central) is the president and Mr. C.L. Patel is the office secretary.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-11-1944).

Living Conditions

Nutrition.

New Farm for Dry Cattle to be opened by Bombay Government. +

Extending the drive to increase Bombay City's milk supply, the Bombay Government has sanctioned the establishment of a new farm (the second of this kind in the province) for the maintenance of dry cattle. It will accommodate 1000 heads of cattle and will cost the Government Rs. 517,000. Cattle fit for breeding will be bought by the Government, maintained at the farm until they come into milk, and then disposed of in the Bombay market. Owners willing to keep their dry cattle at the farm will be permitted to do so if they pay maintenance charges at a flat rate of Rs. 22 a month for each animal. Efforts will be made to obtain as many as possible of the 1,000 cattle to be maintained at the farm from owners in Bombay City.

Besides this, the Government has sanctioned a scheme for the grant of subsidies for the export of dry cattle to breeding areas from the City of Bombay and the Bombay Suburban district. The subsidy is equal to half the cost of transport of a dry animal to the breeding area, and will only be granted in those cases where the owner has, during the same month, imported cattle in milk, at least equal to the number of dry cattle exported.

(Bombay Information, 14-10-1944).

Subsidised Milk Supply to Children in Bombay City. +

Reference was made at page 19 of our report for July 1944 to the scheme adopted by the Government of Bombay for the supply of cheap milk to children under two years in the city of Bombay. Mr. D.S. Bakhle, Director of Civil Supplies, Bombay, revealed at a press conference held at Bombay recently that under the scheme milk is being distributed to 27,000 children in the City every day. The scheme will shortly be extended to children up to the age of five, and to expectant and nursing mothers. Later, children up to the age of 10 years will also be given the benefit of the scheme.

(Bombay Information, 11-11-1944).

Housing.Civic Problems
Cawnpore Inquiry Committee Appointed. +

The U.P. Government has appointed a committee to inquire into the civic problems of Cawnpore and to make recommendations regarding the improvement of housing conditions. Besides the chairman, Sir Edward Souter, former chairman of Cawnpore Improvement Trust, the Committee consists of three members and a secretary. The committee is expected to submit its report in the first week of December, 1944.

(The Statesman, dated 11-11-1944). ✓

Workers' Organisations.

Special Convention of All-India Railway Men's Federation, Moghal Sarai, 24 and 25-11-1944.

A special convention of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation was held at Moghal Sarai ~~from~~ on 24 and 25-11-1944 with Mr. Jammadas Mehta, President of the Federation, in the chair. The convention passed a resolution denouncing the Railway Board's decision of sanctioning dearness allowance only to those railway servants drawing above Rs. 40 and extending it to the officers drawing up to Rs. 1,000 per month (vide page 43 of our report for October, 1944). In the opinion of the Federation, the exclusion of the railway servants getting below Rs. 40 deprived more than 75 per cent of the railwaymen of this benefit. The Federation demanded dearness allowance at a flat rate of Rs. 45 on the basis of the sliding scale to all railway servants drawing up to Rs. 250 per month, without any zones, and the appointment of an adjudicator, in case ~~these~~ demands were not accepted.

The convention further resolved that in the event of the failure of the Government of India to concede the above demands of the railwaymen, the Federation would be compelled to recommend to the affiliated unions all necessary and appropriate actions, including a ballot for a general strike. The convention in another resolution decided to approach the Railway Board with a revised version of the demand presented in September 1944, regarding basic wages and dearness allowances, (vide page 45 of our report for September 1944) and to request the Board to join in an application to the Government for the appointment of a board of conciliation or a court of inquiry, in the event of its being unable to comply with their demands.

In the course of his address in the open session of the Convention, Mr. Mehta criticised strongly the Indian Federation of Labour and Mr. M.N. Roy for having accepted Rs. 13,000 monthly from the Government of India and appealed to Railway Unions to withdraw their membership of the Indian Federation of Labour. Mr S.C. Joshi was elected President of the All-India Rly. men's Federation in succession to Mr. Jammadas Mehta. (The Hindustan Times, 29-11-1944).

Resignation of Mr. Jammadas Mehtas as
Presidentship of Indian Federation of
Labour.

On his appointment as Government of India's Agent General to the Government of Burma, Mr. Jammadas Mehta resigned his presidentship of the Indian Federation of Labour.

Miss Maniben Kara has succeeded Mr. Mehta as president.

(The Hindustan Times, 3-11-1944).

Mr. Aftab Ali Resigns Vice-Presidentship
of I.F.L.+

Mr. Aftab Ali, President, Indian Seamen's Union, ^{Calcutta,} has tendered his resignation of the Vice-Presidentship of the Indian Federation of Labour recently. In a statement giving reasons for his resignation, Mr. Aftab Ali says that he objects to the Federation receiving monthly grant of Rs. 13,000 from the Government of India.

(The ~~xxxx~~ Hindu, 26-11-1944). ✓

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Association of Physicians in India inaugurated, Madras, 11 and 12-11-1944.+

A conference of physicians from all over India was held at Madras on 11 and 12-11-1944 to inaugurate the new organisation called the Association of Physicians in India. Dr. Jivaraj Mehta presided and outlined the functions of the Association in his presidential address.

Dr. Mehta's Address: Importance of Medical Research.- Dr. Mehta in his inaugural address pointed out how such an organisation of physicians has long been overdue in order to facilitate the pooling and exchange of knowledge and experience, to give a fillip to research and to collect and preserve the considerable volume of data now available for the study of the science in future. Referring to the provision of funds he said that it would be the urgent duty of the Governments, the physicians themselves and the public to contribute liberally so that India could keep pace with foreign countries in this respect.

Simpler Curriculum.- One of the glaring problems facing medical education, graduate and post-graduate, is the vastness of the curriculum. At present the students are made to learn a lot for their graduate degree, which they soon forget, the knowledge so forgotten not being necessary for the prosecution of general medical practice. The courses must be simplified. The curricula in most cases should be shortened and a much larger time should be devoted to the study of medicine proper than is being done now. It would thus be the duty of the Association to prevail upon the Universities and the Medical Council of India to make the necessary alteration in the existing system. Another essential change that has to be introduced in medical colleges is the appointment of a larger number of well-paid, full-time professors in medicine and surgery in the place of the ~~simaxand~~ part-time and honorary teaching staff of to-day.

Dr. Mehta also dealt with the importance of medical men paying greater attention to the study of dietetics, promotion of the pharmaceutical industry and the encouragement of Ayurveda, (the indigenous system of medicine).

(The Hindu, dated 12 and 13-11-1944).

Expansion of Medical Education facilities in Madras.+

According to a press communiqué dated 17-11-1944 issued by the Government of Madras, the Government has generally approved the recommendations of the Provincial Medical Education Committee and of the Surgeon-General, Madras, that for purposes of the immediate expansion of medical education to meet war requirements and immediate post-war requirements, steps should be taken, as early as possible, for the training of a larger number of medical students than at present by increasing the number of ~~xxx~~ seats in the Madras Medical College by 30 and in the Andhra Medical College by 45 and also by opening a new Medical College at Madura for training 75 students. These proposals are roughly estimated to cost Rs. 940,000 recurring and Rs. 7.374 million non-recurring.

(~~xxxx~~ Press Communiqué Dated 17-11-1944 issue by the Government of Madras).

EDUCATION.

New Technical Schools for U.P. +

It is learnt that the U.P. Government is contemplating the establishment in the United Provinces of a number of technical schools and colleges, as recommended by the Central Advisory Board ^{of post-war} Education. (Vide pages 32 to 34 of our report for January, 1944). This is being done to separate literary from technical education at an early stage. It is proposed to establish 10 such schools in the province. The Director of Industries, U.P., who is stated to have consulted the Director of Public Instruction and the Board of High School and Intermediate Education, is evolving necessary plans and syllabus.

(The Leader, dated 19-11-1944).

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME.

Wages.

War Allowance for Higher Officers in Bombay & Bihar Government Services. +

References were made at page 44 of our report for September 1944 and page 42 of our report for October 1944 to the grant of war allowances to certain grades of Higher Officers in the Central and certain Provincial Governments. Similar allowances have recently been granted also to Higher officers in the Bombay Government Service & the Bihar Govt. Service.

(Bombay Information, 11-11-1944),
in The Hindu, 20-11-1944.

Pension Scales for Central Government Pensioners liberalised. +

A war allowance for lower paid civil pensioners of the Central Government excluding Railway pensioners, was sanctioned in November, 1943; the rates then granted were: Rs. 3 per mensem in pensions not exceeding Rs. 20 per mensem and Rs. 4 per mensem in pensions exceeding Rs. 20 per mensem but not exceeding Rs. 40 per mensem. In view of the rising cost of living, the Government, on 9-11-1944, sanctioned, until further orders, a temporary increase of Rs. 5 per mensem in pensions exceeding Rs. 40 per mensem but not exceeding Rs. 75 per mensem with effect from 1-11-1944, i.e., beginning with pensions payable on 1-12-1944. Pensions exceeding Rs. 75 per mensem but not exceeding Rs. 80 per mensem shall receive such increase as will bring the total pension to Rs. 80 per mensem.

(Notification No. F.2(56)-W/44, dated 9-11-1944; the Gazette of India, dated 11-11-1944, Part I, Section 1, page 1421).

Wages of Coal Labour: Discussions at Meeting of Coal Committee. +

Increase in coal production and the allied questions of wages of Bihar miners in comparison with the imported Gorakhpur labour and the basis of wage payment (whether it was to be on attendance or output) were among the various subjects discussed at a meeting of the Coal Committee of the Government of India, held at New Delhi on 5-11-1944. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, was in the chair.

The Government of India has promised, it is understood, to consider the various proposals made at the meeting. It is said that the Gorakhpur labour, recently imported into Bihar coal fields, gets wages on attendance basis, whereas the local labour is paid on output. This, in practice, works out to the disadvantage of the local labour by about 30 to 40 per cent.

(The Vanguard, 6-11-1944).

Committee to Inquire into Grievances of
Bombay Postal Staff.†

Following the notice served by the Bombay Postmen's Union and the Bombay Post Office Lower Grade Staff Union under the Trade Disputes Act to the Post Master General, Bombay, of their intention to go on strike within 15 days if their grievances are not redressed, a committee has been appointed by the Central Government to inquire into the grievances of the postal staff in Bombay. Mr. Krishna Prasada, Postmaster-General, Bombay, is chairman and the members are Mr. R.S. Nimbkar, Labour ~~Department~~ Welfare Adviser, Labour Department, Government of India, and Mr. Qadir, Deputy Financial Adviser, Communications.

The Committee is expected to start work almost immediately. One of the main demands of the employees is the grant of increased dearness allowance with retrospective effect.

(The Bombay Chronicle, dated
23 and 27-11-1944). ✓

Employment.

Expansion of Employment Exchanges: Central Government's Move.

The government of India is understood to be proposing to undertake a large-scale expansion of employment exchanges throughout the country. The number of exchanges, which at present is 10, one in each province, is to be trebled by April, 1945, and increased to 70 by July, 1945.

It is stated that the experience gained of the exchanges, particularly in Bombay, Calcutta and Cawnpore, has encouraged Government to expand the scheme. In spite of initial difficulties such as lack of suitable accommodation, newness of the scheme and inexperienced staff, it has made a promising start. The Government of India will, therefore, shortly open at Bombay and Calcutta training centres for the staff needed for the new exchanges. These centres will impart six weeks' training with an in-take of about 40 for each term. The staff so trained will be posted to the various exchanges as managers and assistant managers. Government hopes to establish exchanges as a permanent channel for regular employment. When the exchanges develop fully in each province it would be possible to keep check of both surplus and deficit in labour force in each area and rationalize its employment. The intention is to extend the system to cover all kinds of work and make them work in such a way as to inspire confidence among both employers and workers.

It is proposed to set up committees including representatives of Government, employers and workers, to watch and supervise the working of each exchange and thus help develop its usefulness and create confidence in its integrity. When the exchanges become popular, Government may tackle the largest labour force which is at present not counted among workers, namely domestic servants, who number a few millions.

Expenditure incurred on the employment exchanges is at present shared almost equally between the Central and Provincial Governments. Since these exchanges are doing useful war work and will, when peace comes, help to find employment for demobilized men and those released from war factories, a major part of their cost may legitimately be borne by the Government of India for, say, the next five years.

(The Hindustan Times, 31-10-1944).

Trends of Factory Employment in India,
during 1943.

Certain aspects relating to the trends of industrial employment in India during the years 1939-42 were dealt with at pages 34-36 of our report for February 1944. The following analysis of the changes during 1943 is based on a note on the subject published in the October, 1944, issue of the Indian Labour Gazette. The table below gives the figures of the grand total of average daily number of workers in all factories in India.

Table I
Number of workers employed
(In thousands)

	1939	1942	1943	Increased in		Percentage increase	
				1943	over	in 1943	over
				1942	1939	1942	1939
Government and Local Fund Factories							
A-Perennial	131	299	355	56	224	18.7	171.0
B-Seasonal	1.4	0.6	0.5	-0.1	-0.9	-16.7	-64.3
All other Factories							
A-Perennial	1,329	1,681	1,783	102	454	6.1	34.2
B-Seasonal	289	300	298	-2	9	-0.7	3.1
Grand Total..	1,751	2,282	2,436	164	685	7.2	39.1

It is found that the old trends noticed during the previous four years are continued during 1943 also. Employment in Government and Local Fund perennial factories increased by 56 thousand (15.7 per cent) over 1942 and 224 thousand (171 per cent) over 1939. The employment in all other perennial factories increased by 102 thousand (8.1 per cent) over 1942 and 454 thousand (34.2 per cent) over 1939. The slight downward trend of employment in seasonal factories (both Government and others) persisted in 1943 also. The percentage increase in the combined figure of employment for 1943 was 39.1 and 7.2 over the corresponding figures for 1939 and 1942 respectively. The large increase in 1943 indicates gearing up of the industrial production for war purposes in that year.

Table II
Increase in the number of workers employed in 1943
over 1942 in different Provinces
(In thousands)

	Madras	Bombay	Sind	Bengal	U.P.	Punjab	Bihar	C.P.	Delhi
Government and Local Fund Factories.	3.6	13.4	-0.1	19.3	13.6	-0.1	1.6	4.7	-3.2
All Other Factories..	12.2	51.1	3.9	4.9	6.9	10.0	7.9	-0.7	1.2
Total..	15.8	64.5	3.8	24.2	20.5	9.9	9.5	4.0	-2.0
Percentage increase.	7.3	10.8	29.7	3.8	11.2	8.9	9.8	7.4	-6.6

Table II given above shows the increase in employment (both absolute and relative) in 1943 over 1942 in the major industrial provinces. As before, absolute increase was highest in Bombay, followed by Bengal, U.P. and Madras in order. The absolute increase in the Punjab and Bihar was almost the same while Delhi alone marked a fall in total

employment due to a heavy reduction in employment in Government and Local Fund factories. Sind and the Punjab also marked very slight decreases in this section. Excluding Sind, which is not of great industrial importance, U.P. took the lead in relative increase with 11.2 per cent, and Bombay and Bihar followed with an increase of 10.8 and 9.8 per cent respectively. Punjab occupied the fourth place with 8.9 per cent and Madras followed with 7.3 per cent. In Bengal relative increase was only 3.8 per cent. For the first time in the industrial history of India, Bombay wrested the premier place in factory employment from Bengal, though the difference is slight and partly explained by the inclusion of a large number of small (notified) factories in Bombay unlike in Bengal. During the War the increase in industrial activity was higher in Bombay than in Bengal, and also higher in U.P. than in Madras, these four occupying the first four places throughout.

Table IIIA below gives the figures of employment in 1939, 1942 and 1943 in the main classes of factories belonging to Government and Local Fund; and table IIIB corresponding figures for all other factories :-

Table IIIA
Government and Local Fund Factories

Industries	1939	1942	1943	Increase in 1943 over		Percentage increase in 1943 over	
				1939	1942	1939	1942
Clothing	2	29	29	27	..	1,350.0	..
Dockyards	5	10	13	8	3	160.0	30.0
Engineering (General)	8	16	23	15	7	187.5	43.8
Railways	88	90	93	37	3	66.1	3.3
Miscellaneous .. .	5	9	19	14	10	280.0	111.1
Mints	2	5	7	5	2	250.0	40.0

Table IIIB
All other Factories

Industry	1939	1942	1943	Increase in 1943 over		Percentage increase in 1943 over	
				1939	1942	1939	1942
Textiles	817	965	1,002	185	37	22.6	3.8
Engineering	148	224	254	106	30	71.6	13.4
Minerals and Metals	55	82	93	38	11	69.1	13.4
Food, Drink and Tobacco	97	121	125	28	4	28.9	3.3
Chemicals and Dyes	56	73	83	27	10	48.2	13.7
Paper & Printing etc	44	49	51	7	2	15.9	4.1
Wood, Stone & Glass	52	82	90	38	8	73.1	9.8
Hides and Skins ..	13	30	34	21	4	161.5	13.3
Miscellaneous .. .	20	38	37	17	-1	85.0	-2.6

From table IIIA it is noticed that there was, in Government and Local Fund factories, a high increase in 1943 over 1942 in the miscellaneous, mints and engineering industries and in dockyards. The increase in railways was slight and in clothing, employment remained stationary.

Among other industries, increase was highest in chemicals, followed by minerals and metals, engineering and hides and skins groups, though in all these groups the increase in 1943 over 1942 is surprisingly almost equal, being between 13 and 14 per cent. Next in order follow the wood, stone and glass group, in which the increase was about 10 per cent. The increase in paper and printing, textiles and food, drink and tobacco groups was between 3 and 4 per cent. In the miscellaneous sections alone, there was a slight decrease of about 3 per cent. But the absolute increase was highest in textiles, followed by engineering, with minerals and metals, chemicals, and wood, stone and glass groups occupying the next three places, though far behind. Thus it is found that in all industries which are essential for war effort, the rate of increase in employment was high.

(Indian Labour Gazette, October, 1944).

Women in under-ground work in Coal Mines:
Interpellations in the Central Assembly.

In reply to interpellations in the Central Assembly on 10-11-1944, the following information regarding women working under-ground in Indian mines was elicited from Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India. No accurate figure of the total number of women employed underground could be given as this figure varied from day to day. It was estimated however that about 16,000 women were at present employed in coal mines in Bengal, Bihar, the Central Provinces and Orissa. Women employed underground were entitled to the same wages as men on similar work. The wages of women employed underground, varied from 12 annas to 15 annas a day, exclusive of the free rice concession. Up-to-date information in respect of wages of women in other trades was not available. The Labour Member admitted that their employment was contrary to the Geneva Convention which the Government of India had accepted, but the exigencies of the war situation made this unfortunately necessary. Women workers were not allowed to be employed in coal mine galleries less than five and a half feet high.

Replying to Mrs. Subbaroyan, who inquired whether any provision for creches and other amenities for women coal workers and their children existed, Dr. Ambedkar stated that there was a Coal Mines Welfare Fund, and that the Mines Maternity Benefit Act also ensured certain rights. In answer to Sir Cowasji Jehangir, who asked if there was any restriction on pregnant women working underground, the Labour Member replied that the matter was "under active consideration".

(The Times of India, 13-11-1944
and the Statesman, 11-11-1944).

The Labour Recruitment Control Order,
1944.

The Government of India on 18-11-1944 issued the Labour Recruitment Control Order, 1944, to regulate the recruitment of labour from certain controlled districts in Bengal, Bihar and the Central Provinces and Berar. The order requires contractors and employees of labour to obtain licences for recruiting labour from controlled districts for work outside the controlled districts. All works or employments within the controlled districts are exempted from taking out licences. The order comes into force on 18-12-1944, and is expected to improve the labour supply position in the collieries.

(Notification No. L-MP-14/104 dated 18-11-1944, The Gazette of India, dated 25-11-1944, Part I, Sec.1, pages 1522 to 1523).

Welfare.

Welfare Measures in Government Factories:
Mr. R.S. Nimbkar's Statement.

At a special press interview at New Delhi on 29-11-1944, Mr. R.S. Nimbkar, Labour Welfare Adviser, Government of India, claimed that largely through the influence of the welfare branch of the Department of Labour, Government of India, the Government was adopting a new attitude towards all questions concerning labour. Government has been enabled to keep in touch with the working class movement throughout the country, more particularly in factories concerned with war work. Among the centres where labour welfare officers are stationed are arsenals, war depots, ordnance and food factories, dockyards, railways, mints, Government security presses, mines and number of plantations. The interests of postal and telegraph workers are of special concern. Government's labour branch is not concerned directly with private industries. The branch also functions through a number of assistant labour advisers stationed at seven key points throughout the country. These comprise Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Lahore, Cawnpore, Jamshedpur and Jubbulpore. Plans are under way to open another centre somewhere in Assam. He stated that through this labour welfare machinery, attempts are being made on the one hand to extend amenities for war workers in the way of better housing, transport and cheap grain, while on the other the Government is kept informed of labour grievances and needs. Conditions are slowly improving, and although the basic wages of these workers have not gone up, their earnings have increased, partly through overtime and partly through dearness allowances.

(The Statesman, 30-11-1944).

Balanced Diet for Civil Labour Units.

A number of civil labour units are being raised for work with the army in field service areas. Besides the other amenities made available to labour, these units will be supplied with rations which ensure a balanced and sustaining diet. The rations prescribed include grains, pulses, vegetables, milk, ghee, tea, cocoa, sugar, meat, tinned fish and vitamin tablets.

(Indian Labour Gazette, October, 1944)

Cheap Food for Postal Staff:
Arrangements being made.+

At the recent session of the Central Assembly an assurance was given that the Government of India was considering the supply of foodstuffs at concession rates to the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department wherever practicable. Schemes are already working in some areas and it is learnt that arrangements are well advanced and a start will be made in Bombay at a very early date. Similar arrangements will be made in various other places. The rates to be charged, it is understood, are under consideration and will be decided shortly.

(The Hindustan Times, 27-11-1944).

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Production.

Working of Multiple Shifts in Factories
in India.+

Madras.- Reference was made at page 51 of our report for September 1944 to the working of multiple shifts in factories in Madras, Bombay and the North West Frontier Province during May and June, 1944. During both July and August, 1944, the number of factories working multiple shifts in Madras was 240 and the number of workers involved was 33,099 and 33,066 respectively. During July, 161 rice mills were working multiple shifts instead of 160 during June; the number of workers, however, increased by 25 only. The maximum number of workers doing multiple shifts was engaged in the textile industry, being 18,735. Next came rice mills with 6,512, followed by engineering factories (1,945), tobacco re-drying factories (1,390) and sugar mills (1,381). During August, 1944, the number of these factories remained the same but there was a fall in the number of workers doing multiple shifts due to the number of workers in the textiles group falling by 33 to 18,702. The welfare activities included supply of tea, tiffin sheds, meals etc. and the number of factories providing them was the same as in the previous month.

Bombay.- In the first week of August, 1944, in Bombay 66 mills with 85,102 workers were working night shifts. In Ahmedabad in the beginning of August, 1944, there were 61 mills with 46,033 workers which were working night shifts.

North West Frontier Province.- In the North West Frontier Province 2 factories employing 430 workers and 12 factories employing 1,545 workers were working double and multiple shifts respectively during July, 1944. The figures were the same as for the previous month. The welfare activities were continued as in June 1944.

(Industrial) Indian Labour Gazette,
October, 1944).

Debate in the Council of State on the Coal
Production: Demand for Nationalisation
of Industry.+

In the Council of State on 9-11-1944 Mr. Hossain Imam moved a resolution recommending to the Governor-General-in-Council, "to appoint a committee to inquire into the coal situation and report on the means to increase production, including compulsory amalgamations or nationalization, if necessary". Mr. Imam asked why the Government were not giving any statistics in regard to coal output. Quoting from official reports published before 1937 Mr. Imam said that the number of collieries today had been reduced. Coal output in Raniganj and Jharia was reduced from 18.8 to 16.6 million tons. Only 72 out of 385 collieries had a raising of more than 5,000 tons a month. If this was compared with the position in other countries, one would be surprised to see the number of collieries which were engaged in uneconomic production in India.

Mr. P.N. Saprú said he was in favour of State ownership of the industry. He was against compulsory amalgamations which would lead

to the establishment of monopolistic concerns. Deploring conditions of labour in coalmines, he said that the inadequate wages paid was one of the reasons ~~for the~~ the employment of women underground. As a member of the Health Survey Committee he had occasion to visit some coalmines. Housing conditions of labour were ~~very~~ extremely bad.

Mr. K.W. Mealing thought it inadvisable to set up a committee to consider nationalization of coalmines at the present juncture. There was nationalization of such industries in many parts of the world and it might come to India also. He thought that the industry might take advantage of the war conditions and offer unfair terms to the country. The shortcomings of the industry at present was due to several factors connected with the war, the most important of which was that considerable mining labour had left to take up more important functions elsewhere. The position, however, would improve as the war situation improved and there would be plenty of coal available. It would then be not the inability of the industry to supply coal; the bottle-neck would be that of transport.

Pandit H.N. Kanzru supporting the resolution said that one of the main factors for the low production of coal was labour. Miners were paid inadequate wages and their increased earnings in 1943 were not commensurate with the increased cost of living. Miners worked only four or five days a week and ~~as~~ their monthly earnings could not be calculated on their daily earnings. Housing conditions were bad and medical relief was inadequate. He urged that mine labour should be treated as skilled labour. Another reason for the low production of coal was that some ~~employers were unwilling to raise more coal because of the Excess Profits Tax which, they considered, was a waste on capital. They felt it would be better to exploit the mines after the war. The Government should make itself responsible for the proper consumption, conservation and production of coal. That could be done by the Government only by taking over the management of coalmines.~~

Sir A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, Supply Member, Government of India, agreed that there was room for improvement of labour conditions in collieries. He wanted, however, to ask the House to consider the prices which coal fetched a few years ago and today. The Government had now fixed the rates for certain qualities of coal at Rs. 9-8-0 to Rs. 10 per ton as against the average price until 1942 of about Rs. 3 a ton. The needs of the war had brought about a rationalization of the coal industry and he hoped it would continue even after the war. Referring to the argument of high prices which colliery shares fetched, the Supply Member said that in the present days it was not an indication of the relative prosperity of the trade. ~~People~~ People had more money and the share values went up. In regard to the allegation that production had been slowed down to evade EPT he said that he had inquired into the matter and found no truth in it. On the contrary, production of coal had gone up. The Government had given certain inducements by way of bonus etc., to step up coal production. One of the foremost causes for the low production of coal was lack of essential equipments. Until recently the purchases of cutters and other equipment were matters of private negotiations between colliery owners and their agents in the United Kingdom. The government gave them import licences, but ~~they~~ they did not know if colliery owners' agents in England were able to get the necessary priority required for the manufacture of equipments needed and for their shipment. In December 1943 the Government made ~~themselves~~ themselves responsible for the import and supply of machinery. Just as fragmentation of agricultural lands, fragmentation of collieries also had become a serious problem. Plans were being considered for the prevention of fragmentation. About publication of the amount of coal output he said

that the defence authorities thought such publication should be stopped for security reasons.

The Government of India ~~were~~ considering the various aspects of the coal industry. ~~They~~ had already fixed the price of coal at pitheads. Other control measures, which had been taken, would doubtless improve labour conditions; If a colliery was not playing fair, the Government had power to take over the management of the colliery.

The resolution was lost.

(The Statesman, dated 10-11-1944). ✓

U.S. Mission to set up open-cut Coal Mining
Project in Bihar.

It is understood that a U.S. Mission is being sent to India to set up the first bigscale open-cut mining project with modern equipments in Bihar. The mission will be headed by Mr. Daniel Young, Superintendent Engineer for Foley Brothers Inc. of Pleasantville (New York). The project will be financed entirely by the Government of India.

(The Hindustan Times, 16-11-1944). ✓

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Food.

Food Procurement Sub-committee Appointed
by Government of India.+

In pursuance of the recommendation of the Central Food Advisory Council, (vide pages 40 to 41 of our report for July, 1944), the Government of India has appointed a sub-committee from amongst members of the Council to consider the question of food grains procurement. The sub-committee includes Sir Datar Singh, Sir N. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar, Sir Parshotamdas Thakurdas, and Mr. D.P. Khaitan. Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao will act as secretary. The first meeting of the sub-committee is likely to be held at New Delhi on December 12, 13 and 14 under the chairmanship of Sir J.P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India. The agenda includes consideration of Mr. Somerset Butler's report on the working of Government grain monopolies in certain provinces, which is now under examination by the Food Department. It is also ~~it~~ likely that the committee will suggest measures to enlist the co-operation of landlords, if it is decided to extend monopoly purchase to other areas in India.

(The Statesman, dated 29-11-1944). ✓

Restrictions on Slaughter of Cattle.+

Instructions regarding measures to be considered for restricting the slaughter of cattle were recently issued by the Government of India to the Provincial Governments. The instructions were sent in the interest of preserving cattle for agriculture and for milk supply which is very short. It is now understood that those instructions have been carried out in seven provinces, while the others, namely, Bengal, Punjab, Sind and the North Western Frontier Province are reported to be still having the matter under consideration.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-11-1944). ✓

The Punjab Foodgrains Control Order, 1944.+

The Punjab Government has gazetted, on 27-10-1944, the Punjab Foodgrains Control Order, 1944, under which no person shall engage in any undertaking which involved the purchase, sale or storage for sale, in wholesale quantities of any foodgrains except under and in accordance with a licence issued in that behalf by the District Magistrate.

(The Punjab Gazette, dated
3-11-1944, Part I, Pages
604 to 606). ✓

Control Measures. +

The Brass Utensils (Control) Order, 1944. +

The Government of India on 11-11-1944 gazetted the Brass Utensils (Control) order, 1944, for controlling the manufacture and sale of utensils made from brass sheets released under an approved scheme by the Central Government. This is in supersession of similar Order issued in June, 1944.

(Notification No. 90(53)-c/44, dated 11-11-1944; the Gazette of India, dated 11-11-1944, Part I, section 1, pages 1424-1443). ✓

Relaxation of Control of Newsprint Consumption:
Central Government's Press Note. +

A press note was issued by the Government of India on 23-11-1944 allotting an extra quota of newsprint for newspapers from 1-1-1945. It also specifies a lower ceiling price than the ruling prices for daily papers and restricts advertising space to 45 per cent of the total space so as to give further reading matter to the public.

(The Hindustan Times, 24-11-1944). ✓

Maximum Tailoring Charges for Suits Fixed. +

The Government of India on 18-11-1944 gazetted a notification under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1944, fixing the maximum rates that may be charged by tailors for making suits.

(The Gazette of India, dated 18-11-1944, Part I, Sec.1, pages 1484 to 1485). ✓

The Sind Hotel Rates and Lodging
House Rates (Control) Order, 1944.

The Sind Government, on 27-10-1944, issued the Sind Hotel Rates and Lodging House Rates (Control) Order, 1944, under which a controller appointed by the Government may, on application by a tenant, inquire into and settle the rates chargeable by any hotel or lodging house in the province.

(The Sind Government Gazette, dated 2-11-1944, Part I, pages 1028-1029). ✓

Post-War Reconstructions .

Central Technical Power Board to be set up.

Reference was made at page 63 of our report for September, 1944, to the proposal to set up a Central Technical Power Board. It is now understood that the Central Government has decided to constitute the Board which will act as a central planning organisation and will advise the Central, Provincial and State Governments as regards encouraging planning and pressing forward the widespread development of public electricity supply throughout the country.

The basic functions of the Board will be to collect material relating to power resources and study and plan schemes for power utilisation so as to bring about improvement in the national economy, particularly in those zones where the scope for development of electric supply seems to be promising, but where no active planning appears to be on hand. Thus, in consultation with the Provincial or State Governments, it will undertake investigations, conduct surveys, prepare "technical schemes" and supply an appreciation of the effect of the scheme on the general economy of the region. The results of the surveys, planning, and ~~status~~ estimates will form a "project report".

The Board will also assist the Provincial Governments and States in regard to rural electrification and encourage the development of power irrigation and rural electrical development where such schemes can be expected to assist the economic conditions of the agriculturists and rural communities. It is intended that the Board should become the central authority responsible for the lead direction and collation of hydrographic surveys throughout India on a recognised standard basis. In carrying out this work the Board will encourage Provincial and State Governments to develop their own hydro-graphic surveys and will assist them by supervising their survey methods. Other functions of the Board will be : to review and lay down for the whole of India standard voltage and practices for generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, to initiate the broad lines of research programmes desirable for the requirements of the special conditions of electric power development in India; to initiate propaganda for the education of the public in the uses of electricity; and to initiate and devise schemes for the training of Indian engineers in the specialised field of public electricity supply.

The Board's organisation will be divided into four sections: power system planning; power utilisation; public relations and propaganda; and secretariat. The power system planning section will cover subjects relating to hydro-power station sites, hydro-electric surveys, power transmission, and thermal power station investigations. Similarly, the power utilisation section will deal with power requirements of and supplies to electro-chemical and metallurgical industries, industrial power and mining, rural electrification and power irrigation, research, and the development of electrical manufactures.

The Board will consist of a chairman, two full-time members, three part-time members and number of ex-officio members. The chairman will be the Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India. The headquarters of the Board will be in Calcutta.

(Industrial Bulletin of the Employers' Federation of India, 13-11-1944).

Post-War Reconstructions.

Sir William Stampe's Plan for 'Electrical Federation of India'. +

A plan for an "Electrical Federation of India" has been worked out by Sir William Stampe, Irrigation Adviser to the Government of India. The basic idea of the ~~the~~ plan, which was explained by him at a press conference held at New Delhi on 20-11-1944, is the harnessing of river water to produce electric power ~~in~~ and using that power to pump more river water to irrigate areas which would not otherwise be irrigated. The electric power thus produced would be used not only for pumping water but for supplying cheap energy to villages which otherwise would not get cheap water. The idea of electrifying the villages and village industries in India is, in Sir William's view, impracticable except in combination with large-scale schemes of pumping water for irrigation. Village industries are not likely to work more than five or six hours a day, but electrically operated pumps or tube wells, such as have been successfully installed in the United Provinces making use of the Ganges Canal water, will work practically the whole day and provide a basic lead on which the whole scheme can rest. If India were to adopt a policy of big pumping schemes, he said, it would be possible to make power available to villages at a maximum rate of one anna per unit.

~~The scheme is to be tried in the Punjab in combination with a project intended to overcome one of the biggest engineering problems in the whole of India, namely, water-logging. Water-logging has developed in the Punjab mainly because the rocky ridge which runs through the province prevents the natural seepage of subsoil water to the south and south-west. If not quickly checked several million acres of land would go out of cultivation. The technique suggested is to drain the water-logged areas by pumping the water into the river so that more land further down could be utilised. To obtain power for pumping, it is proposed to harness a big fall on the Upper Jhelum Canal and generate about 22,000 kw. The power is to be used to energise about 2,000 tube wells to pump water into the rivers and will incidentally be available for village industries in the area.~~

The irrigation projects now under construction, ^{in British India} with the help of the Centre cover 572,000 acres and the projects under examination will bring another 1,234,000 acres under irrigation. The total cost of these schemes is Rs. 58.8 million, the Centre subsidizing to the extent of Rs. 4.4 million. The additional crop expected is roughly 400,000 tons. A number of projects have been undertaken by provinces on their own initiative and these represent capital expenditure of Rs. 31.1 million. The area expected to be irrigated is over 2 million acres, and the additional yield of food grains to be obtained over 400,000 tons. Most of these projects are expected to be completed by the end of 1945. Among the long-term hydro-electric projects proposed to be taken up immediately after the war are the Sone Valley scheme for United Provinces, Central Provinces, and Bihar where it is proposed that some 100,000 kw can be made available for agricultural and industrial development at economical rates; ~~xx~~ a large storage and hydro-electric dam on the Nayar tributary of the Ganges, which will secure several hundred thousands of acres ^{also} of the ~~upper~~ upper and lower Ganges canals, and the joint Punjab-U.P. Juma valley scheme whereby additional irrigation and hydro-electric supplies from the

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Tens tributary of the Jumna River, will be developed on a large scale.

(The Statesman, dated 21-11-1944 and
the Vanguard, dated 22-11-1944). ✓

Hyderabad Labour Investigation
Committee's Questionnaire to
Employers and Workers. +

Reference was made at pages 40 to 41 of our report for May, 1944, to the setting up of a Labour Investigation Committee in Hyderabad State. The Committee has recently issued a questionnaire for collecting data from employers and workers on subjects such as existing labour legislation, employment conditions, wages and earnings and labour welfare activities.

(The Hindu, dated 30-10-1944). ✓

Proposal to open permanent Indian
Scientific Office in London. +

A permanent Indian scientific office in London, which will cement and maintain the relations established during their present visit to Britain, is being planned by the party of Indian scientists who are now touring Britain and the U.S.A. to study advanced methods of scientific research (vide pages 64-65 of our report of October, 1944). This may be a nucleus from which may grow a complete organization acting in liaison with India for the purpose of collaboration and mutual assistance in British-Indian trade and scientific problems. The organization, in the first instance, is likely to consist of a director and a small executive staff. It would be one of the duties of the office to cooperate with official and other quarters in Britain in making arrangements for graduate students in scientific, medical and other professions when they come to England for training.

(The Statesman, 12-11-1944). ✓

Rs. 300 Million Road Plan for Bihar. +

A plan for the development of communications in Bihar at a cost of Rs. 300 million is being prepared by the post-war reconstruction section of the Bihar Public Works Department. A network of tar-macadam roads will link ~~all~~ all parts of the province, converging at Patna, capital of the province. Metalled roads will keep easy communication between all sub-divisions, while all the villages will be linked with the sub-divisions and districts by metalled or ~~un~~metalled roads, according as the importance of a village demanded it. North Bihar under the plan will have the largest number of roads, where even the smallest village will have a connecting feeder road. A ~~very~~ survey of routes has already started. Besides many other bridges and culverts, a bridge, at a cost of Rs. 50 million will be built on the Ganges, which will link North Bihar with the rest of the Province.

(The Statesman, 20-11-1944). ✓

India's Post-War Export Trade:
Government's Plan for Publicity..+

It is understood that the question of making adequate publicity arrangements in countries outside India in the interests of India's post-war export trade is engaging the attention of the Government of India. In a communication addressed to various commercial organisations, the Government states that in the matter of commercial publicity abroad India's achievements, both in the realm of art and industry, have not secured the attention that they deserve. As the war draws to a close, no time should be lost in seizing the export markets which India's expanded production will need, and which are at present clear of the Axis trade. Therefore Government ~~thinks~~ thinks that a real effort should now be made to see that the goods and raw materials which India produces for markets abroad are displayed to their best advantage, particularly in new fields like Persia, having regard to the keen competition which Indian goods will be forced to encounter in the post-war world.

It is suggested that the publicity may be of different kinds, as for example, by a display of samples of goods by holding exhibitions, by advertisement, display of posters, pictures and films and by distribution of literature, catalogues, etc. It is also pointed out that the present publicity organisation of the Government of India can be converted into a powerful weapon for publicising India's culture and commerce, as the need for publicising her war effort declines. Views and detailed suggestions have been invited by the Government from commercial organisations, and a conference with representatives of trade and industry may, if ~~it~~ necessary, be held in the near future to facilitate consideration of the matter.

(The Times of India, 20-11-1944). ✓

Bombay Government sets up Re-Construction
Department..+

A new department in the Bombay Government Secretariat has been created to deal with post-war reconstruction, according to a press note recently issued. The Reconstruction Department, as it is known, will deal with a number of subjects formerly allotted to the Revenue Department, such as land improvement, co-operative societies, agriculture, village improvement, rural industries, water supplies, water power, forests, post-war reconstruction and the resettlement of soldiers. The Reconstruction Commissioner with the Government of Bombay, Mr. E.W. Perry, I.C.S., will be ex-officio Secretary to the Government ~~of~~ in the new department.

(The Times of India, 25-11-1944). ✓

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Tentative Reconstruction Plan for
U.P.+

A comprehensive but tentative picture of the U.P.'s ^{Rs.} 1,200 million, five-year post-war plan is now available. The schemes outlined in the plan are reported to represent only the first phase in planning. They are ~~only tentative and~~ subject to modification and revision in the light of closer examination. The estimates of costs likewise indicated in the schemes are only rough estimates which, it is made clear, should not imply any definite commitments on the part of Government. They are likely to be recast and revised. Though ultimately a 20-year programme of reconstruction is envisaged, a beginning it is reported, will be made with a five-year plan. Since limitations of finance, organization and lack of trained personnel forbid simultaneous execution of all schemes or parts of some schemes, it is reported, the five-year plan schemes are going to be arranged in an order of priority. The order cannot be precisely determined till the schemes take final shape. But, broadly, it is possible to indicate that revenue producing schemes will be given precedence over revenue spending schemes. Since agricultural schemes are indirectly productive, they will be fairly high in the priority list, while the pride of place will be given to schemes pertaining to the welfare of ex-soldiers so that they might be absorbed by them immediately on demobilization.

New Roads. The scheme for public works estimated to cost about Rs. 770 million includes a road building programme costing about Rs. 405 million, which is reported to have as its long-term target a total road mileage of 60,291, comprising national highways, national trails, provincial highways, major district roads and village roads.

Irrigation and power. Besides road building, the Public Works Department's five-year plan is also reported to contain four important irrigation and hydro-electric schemes the total cost of which is roughly estimated at about Rs. 245 million. 180,000 acres are likely to receive intensified irrigation by the five-year irrigation schemes while the new area likely to come under canal irrigation through them will be 1,773,000 acres. As regards hydro-electric schemes, while the generating capacity of present hydel grid is 48,000 kilowatts, the likely peak capacity of the five-year hydel schemes is 296,250 kilowatts.

Agricultural Development. Agricultural development costing about Rs. 150 million comes next in the schedule of estimated expenditure. The long-term object of the agricultural plan is said to be to increase food production by about 50 per cent within a decade of the termination of the war. There are reported to be 12 schemes for organizing new agricultural research activities and for intensifying existing ones which will be taken either by the Provincial Government or possibly by the Central Government. There are reported to be eight schemes for propagation of their results. The main features of the plan are said to be multiplication and distribution of improved seeds to the tune of about 1,500,000 maunds (1md=about 82 lbs.) every year, utilization and fertilization of oil-cakes to the extent of 1,800,000 and 1,000,000 maunds respectively, introduction of better implements and power-driven machinery and modern technique in agricultural practice, development of fruit and vegetable production and gradual reclamation of waste lands, which constitute 25 per cent of the total area of the province, by anti-erosion measures and other land management schemes. A scheme is also reported to have been drawn up for providing cheaper credit to cultivators and marketing of their produce on co-operative basis. It will probably involve a total recurring expenditure of Rs. 6.8 million.

Special training will be given to soldiers in agriculture and allied subjects.

Education.- The post-war plan of education is reported to envisage both a short-term and a long-term programme, the first for five years, and the second for 20 years. It envisages compulsory primary and secondary education for boys between 6 and 14 years of age. It is estimated that if the scheme is introduced in the whole province simultaneously, it will bring about 9,000,000 boys within the range of compulsion and require about 350,000 teachers to educate them, besides the tremendous problem of buildings to house these schools. Hence the decision is reported to have been taken that the scheme will be introduced in stages from one revenue division to another and spread over 20 years. A beginning will be made in the first five years with five districts which have been the foremost soldier-recruiting districts of the province and, as a result, will bring about 4,000 boys to school. 70 high ~~schools~~ schools, will be provided for girls. The ~~30~~ schemes devoted to the progress of education will probably cost about Rs. 20 million.

Industries.- While the full 20-year programme is estimated to cost about ~~Rs. 1950~~ million, 14 industrial ~~schemes~~ schemes, reported to be part of the plan, are likely to cost Rs. 25 million each. Six of these are specifically devoted to encouraging and fostering small-scale industries, and four seek to provide increased facilities for industrial training both in lower and higher grades by opening six polytechnics and expanding the Harcourt Butler Technological Institute.

Public Health.- The campaign for public health and against disease which forms part of the schemes will ~~be~~ cost about Rs. 150 million. The Medical and Public Health Departments between themselves are reported to have produced 56 schemes. These include a special scheme to combat malaria, extension of maternity and child welfare centres, travelling dispensaries and mobile field hygiene units for control of epidemics. Alongside, prophylactic and preventive measures ^{and} facilities for medical relief both in urban and rural areas, are to be considerably enlarged. Two children's hospitals are projected for Lucknow and Agra, while a tuberculosis clinic is envisaged for every district. A third medical college in the province is contemplated, while expansion of medical relief in rural areas is to be secured by establishing about 500 additional dispensaries and by ~~subsidizing~~ subsidizing 500 medical practitioners willing to settle in rural areas. Indigenous dispensaries will also be encouraged by subsidies.

In drawing up these plans the interests of returned soldiers are reported to have been kept prominently in view. While all development activities are calculated to benefit soldiers' community as part of the general public and while special preference will be given to demobilized military personnel in the recruitment of staff as such, 14 special schemes are reported to be devoted to their special needs. They are said to include five schemes for the colonization, four for placing the demobilized men in civil industries for independent ~~occupations~~ occupations and others for their training in modern methods of agriculture and allied industries.

The schemes are purely tentative, and their final adoption has to be made by the Executive Committee of the Post-war Reconstruction Board.

(The Hindustan Times, 6-11-1944).

Post-war Planning in Indian States:
Decisions of Committee of Ministers
of Indian States.

The Committee of Ministers of Indian States at its meeting at Hyderabad (Dn) on 5-11-1944 considered Questions relating to the Central Government's post-war reconstruction plans as far as they would affect the states, the industrial policy of the Government of India and post-war plans for civil aviation in India. Sir Manubhai Mehta presided.

Statements made by the Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, at recent meetings of Industries and General Policy Committees in Bombay, (vide pages 66-71 of our October 1944 report), were also considered.

The Committee felt that in the interest of States and of the country as a whole, there should be the fullest possible co-operation between British India and the States as regards post-war planning and industrial development. It further emphasised that States must be associated with the formulation and implementation of policies which affected them and in which their co-operation was particularly desired.

(The Vanguard, dated 7-11-1944).

Central Road Board in Post-war India:
Discussions in Standing Committee for
Roads.

The proposed creation of a Central Road Board was among the questions discussed by the Standing Committee for Roads which met in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Sir Edward Benthall on 11-11-1944. A Conference of the Chief Engineers of Provinces and States held in Nagpur in December 1943 had recommended the setting up of a Central Road Board with adequate authority and powers, guided by an Advisory Council, to deal with the detailed policy and day-to-day administration of road planning and programme and to serve impartially the interests of the Central, Provincial and State Governments. The consensus of opinion in the Standing Committee was in favour of the general idea, but the Committee desired that more progress should be made in consultation with the Provincial Governments concerning the scope and nature of the reorganisation before they pronounced an opinion. The matter, it is understood, will also be considered by the Policy Committee for Post-war transport.

(The Vanguard, 14-11-1944).

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Progress of Reconstruction Planning
IN MADRAS.

The progress made in respect of post-war reconstruction plans in the Madras presidency by the various Sub-Committees appointed to deal with agriculture, livestock, transport, communications, women's interests problems of demobilised soldiers, public health and other subjects, is indicated by the proceedings of the Sub-Committees, the minutes of which have been issued by the Government recently. While some of the Sub-Committees have completed their plans, others have further work before them.

Report on Agriculture.- According to the Agricultural Committee, the fundamental question in regard to agriculture was the attainment of selfsufficiency in the matter of foodgrains after the war. The steps to increase production and fix floor economic prices for paddy are also referred to. The question of regulation and control of the area under cultivation between food and commercial crops was also considered.

Report on Communications.- The Communications Committee decided that all trunk roads, portions of the proposed national highways and important roads connecting agricultural and industrial centres should be under the direct control of the Provincial Government, but the new village roads to be built under the Post-war Development Scheme should be constructed by the Government from their own funds. The formation of a 'Highway Department', to carry out the schemes, involving an annual expenditure of Rs. 50 million under a separate head in the budgets, was also recommended. On the question of transport in the post-war period, it was resolved that transport service could be operated efficiently only through large companies owning at least twenty vehicles, on a competitive basis. It was also decided to encourage the formation of railway road companies. The Committee had been informed that very few Army vehicles would be suitable for civil use after the war, and that no quick supply of new vehicles could be expected.

(The Hindu, dated 5-11-1944). ✓

Sir M. Visvesvaraya's 5-Year Plan for
Economic Development.

Sir M. Visvesvaraya, President, All-India Manufacturers Organization, presiding over the third quarterly meeting of the Central Committee of the Organization held at Calcutta on 28-11-1944, suggested a five-year plan to double agricultural and industrial production in the country and asked for an annual Government grant of Rs. 80,000,000 for the purpose. Arrangements, he said, should be made to start at least a dozen heavy industries the moment war is over. Arrangements for ~~development~~ developing agriculture might also be made simultaneously and funds given for it.

He suggested the creation of a separate industries department by the Central Government in charge of a Member, the establishment of an economic council for industries, agriculture, communications and for all developments which had economic advance as their aim, and of an institute of technology. He also suggested that all military works an

factories constructed by the British, American and Indian Governments should receive special investigation and study by a committee, predominantly Indian, with necessary technical element added, with a view to converting them into factories for civilian industries and thereby providing employment to demobilized employees from the Army, Navy and Air Force.

(The Statesman, 29-11-1944). ✓

Road Plan for Madras..+

A 10-year programme of post-war road development in Madras Province, estimated to cost Rs. 700 million, has been drawn up by the Special Road Development Engineer, Government of Madras. Consideration has been given in the plan to the opening up of interior tracts, the need for connecting villages with industrial marketing centres, the provision of facilities for the transport of forest produce and the development of areas where industrial enterprises are springing up.

The scheme contemplates the upgrading of 5,000 miles of the existing trunk roads and second-class roads to the standard of national and provincial highways, about 14,900 miles of second-class and third-class roads to the standard of new major district roads and 7,800 miles of third-class and village roads to the standard of other district roads and improvement of ~~about~~ 9,800 miles of existing village roads. It also provides for the construction of new national highways and other kinds of roads exceeding 19,000 miles, which includes 13,000 miles of village roads.

The total length of roads in the Province, excluding Municipal streets and lanes was 36,670 miles in 1942, of which 35,665 miles were in charge of local bodies. Only 16,000 miles of these roads can be said to be fair or good.

(The ~~State~~ Hindu, 22-11-1944). ✓

GENERAL.

Constitution of United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation accepted by Central Assembly..+

The Central Legislative Assembly on 21-11-1944 voted for the acceptance by India of the constitution of the Food and Agricultural ~~India~~ organisation of the United Nations. The acceptance was, however, subject to the condition that the Central Government would implement the recommendation of the Organisation in regard to all important questions of policy only with the approval of the Legislature.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-11-1944).

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List of the more important publications received in this office
during November, 1944.

Economic Conditions.-

Report on the Staple Length of the Indian Cotton Crop of 1943-44 Season. Price 4 as. The Secretary, Indian Central Cotton Committee, Post Box 1002, Bombay.

Social Insurance.-

Report on the Health Insurance for Industrial Workers, by Professor B.P. Adarkar. Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Simla. 1944.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers. Report of the work done at the 26th session of the International Labour Conference, Philadelphia, April-May, 1944, by Mr. D.G. Mulherkar (Indian Employers' (Substitute) Delegate and Adviser). Price Re. 1-8-0.

Post-War Reconstruction.-

Reconstruction Committee of Council. Second Report on Reconstruction Planning. 1944.