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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
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Industrial and Labour Developments in October 1955.

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

<u>Contents.</u>	<u>Pages.</u>
<u>CHAPTER 1. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.</u>	
<u>11. Political Situation and Administrative Action:</u>	
(a) Andhra; Meeting of Labour Advisory Board; Amendments to Workmen's Compensation Act approved.	1
(b) Report of the States Reorganisation Commission; 16 Units to be set up.	2-3
<u>12. Activities of the External Services:</u>	
(a) Participation in Conferences, Meetings, etc.	4
(b) Articles and Lectures.	4
<u>CHAPTER 2. INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.</u>	
<u>25. Wage-Earners' Organisations:</u>	
Annual General Meeting of the National Union of Railwaymen, New Delhi, 22 and 23 September 1955. Second All-India Federation to be Organised.	5
<u>29. International Co-operation:</u>	
Colombo Plan to be extended till 1961; Singapore Conference's Decision.	6
<u>CHAPTER 3. ECONOMIC QUESTIONS.</u>	
<u>33. Full Employment Policy:</u>	
(a) Planning Commission sets up Study Group on Educated Unemployed with Mr.V.K.R. Menon as Chairman.	7
(b) Survey of Unemployment in Lucknow City: Results published.	8-10
<u>34. Economic Planning, Control and Development:</u>	
(a) Lok Sabha approves Government's Economic Policy with Special Reference to Agriculture; Additional Food Production of 10 Million Tons envisaged during Second Five Year Plan.	-
(b) Encouraging Rise in Production: Reserve Bank Review of Economic Situation during 1954-1955.	11-13
	14-1

<u>Contents.</u>	<u>Pages.</u>
<u>36. Wages:</u>	
(a) Trends in earnings of Factory Workers: Labour Bureau Analysis.	19-21
(b) Travancore-Cochin: Minimum Wages Act extended to Cardamom Plantations.	21
(c) Travancore-Cochin: Minimum Wages Act to be extended to Employment in Salt Pans.	21
(d) Increased Wages for Jute Workers in West Bengal: Industrial Tribunal's Award.	22-23
<u>38. Housing:</u>	
Mysore Housing Board Act, 1955 (No. 20 of 1955).	24
<u>CHAPTER 4. PROBLEMS PECULIAR TO CERTAIN BRANCHES OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.</u>	
<u>41. Agriculture:</u>	
(a) Expansion of Rural Credit: Central Government set up Committee.	25
(b) PEPSU Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1955 (No. 25 of 1955).	25
(c) Hyderabad Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings Bill, 1955.	26
(d) The Jaunsar-Bawar Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Bill, 1955.	27
<u>42. Co-operation:</u>	
(a) Bihar: Annual Report on the Working of the Co-operative Societies for the Year 1952-1953.	28-32
(b) Madras: Annual Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies for the Year 1953-1954.	33-39
<u>43. Handicrafts:</u>	
Freezing of Cotton Mill Production at 5,000 Million Yards: All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board supports Proposal: "Amber Charkha" to be popularised.	40-42
<u>44. Merchant Marine and Fisheries:</u>	
Bipartite Maritime Board set up for Calcutta Port.	43
<u>CHAPTER 5. WORKING CONDITIONS AND LIVING STANDARDS.</u>	
<u>59. Social Research:</u>	
India-wide Prohibition by April 1958: Inquiry Committee's Recommendation.	44-45

<u>Contents.</u>	<u>Pages.</u>
<u>CHAPTER 6. GENERAL RIGHTS OF WORKERS.</u>	
64. <u>Wage Protection and Labour Clauses in Employment Contracts with the Public Authorities:</u>	
Travancore-Cochin; Payment of Wages Act, 1936, to be extended to Employment in Salt Pans.	46
66. <u>Strike and Lockout Rights:</u>	
(a) Mysore: Air Transport Services declared a Public Utility Service.	47
(b) Assam: Air Transport Services declared a Public Utility Service.	48
<u>CHAPTER 7. PROBLEMS PECULIAR TO CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF WORKERS.</u>	
71. <u>Employees and Salaried Intellectual Workers:</u>	
(a) Service Conditions of Journalists: Bill introduced in Parliament.	49-51
(b) Ajmer Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill, 1955.	52
<u>CHAPTER 8. MANPOWER PROBLEMS.</u>	
81. <u>Employment Situation:</u>	
(a) Employment Exchanges: Working during August 1955.	53-56
(b) Mobility of Labour in India: Results of Investigation.	57-58
(c) Planning Commission sets up Study Group on Educated Unemployed with Mr. V.K.R. Menon as Chairman.	59
(d) Survey of Unemployment in Lucknow City: Results published.	60
83. <u>Vocational Training:</u>	
Labour Ministry's Training Scheme: Progress during August 1955.	61-62
84. <u>Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons:</u>	
Employment Units to help the Handicapped: National Advisory Council's Recommendations.	63-64
<u>CHAPTER 9. SOCIAL SECURITY.</u>	
92. <u>Legislation:</u>	
<u>VIII. Maternity Benefits:</u>	
Travancore-Cochin Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1955: Scope of the Act to be enlarged.	65

<u>Contents.</u>	<u>Pages.</u>
93. <u>Application:</u>	
Employees' State Insurance Scheme comes into force in Vizagapatam.	66
<u>CHAPTER 11. OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH.</u>	
111. <u>General:</u>	
Industrial Safety Committee to be set up: Bombay Convention's Decision.	67
112. <u>Legislation, Regulations, Official Safety and Health Codes:</u>	
(a) West Bengal Boilers (Testing of Welding Operators) Rules, 1954.	68
(b) Draft Mysore Boiler Rules, 1955.	68
<u>LIST OF PRINCIPAL LAWS PROMULGATED DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1955.</u>	69
<u>BIBLIOGRAPHY - INDIA - OCTOBER 1955.</u>	70-71

CHAPTER 1. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

INDIA - OCTOBER 1955.

11. Political Situation and Administrative Action.

Andhra: Meeting of Labour Advisory Board; Amendments to Workmen's Compensation Act approved.

A meeting of the Andhra Labour Advisory Board was held at Madras on 20 and 21 October 1955, Mr. G. Lakshmana, Minister for Labour presiding.

Workmen's Compensation Act.— The Board considered certain proposals for the amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, and agreed to the proposals for raising the wage-limit of persons coming under the Act from 400 rupees to 500 rupees a month. The Board also expressed the opinion that the suggestion to reduce the waiting period from seven days to two might be accepted. The Labour representative however, insisted on doing away with the waiting period altogether. Regarding the question of payment of compensation at the rates varying from 40 to 50 per cent of the wages, certain practical difficulties were explained and it was thought that the better way would be to make workmen's compensation risk compulsorily insurable. The amendment relating to the payment of interest on compensation when payments had been delayed was accepted and it was agreed to recommend to the Government of India that where the delay had been wilful or result of negligence, the penal compensation might be provided upto 50 per cent. The Board was of the view that the present provision of the one year for the "period of limitation" would be adequate. The proposed amendment enabling factory inspectors, mines inspectors and officials of registered trade unions to claim compensation on behalf of injured workmen or dependents of deceased workmen was also agreed to.

Contract system.— In regard to the suggestion for abolition of "Contract system", the Board accepted it in principle and desired that the conclusions of the Industrial Committee on Cement which dealt with this problem should be circulated in this regard. It was generally agreed that contract work should be prohibited in respect of regular work connected with manufacturing process.

Standing Orders.— The Board agreed that model standing orders framed by the Government under the Industrial Employment Standing Orders Act of 1947 be made automatically applicable for establishments employing 100 or more workmen if the employer failed to submit the draft standing orders for certification within a month from the date of receipt of notice from the certifying officer. The Board also felt that the best way for satisfactory settlement of grievances was by the promotion of collective bargaining and bilateral negotiations. It exhorted both labour and management to first discuss matters of dispute among themselves before seeking the intervention of the Labour Department.

(The Hindu, 28 October 1955).

Report of the States Reorganisation Commission:
16 Units to be set up.

15 NOV 1955

The States Reorganisation Commission, appointed by the Government of India in December 1953 has submitted its report recently, recommending the constitution of 16 States of equal constitutional status and three Centrally-administered territories as against 27 States as at present. The proposals involve changes in territory and adjustments in all existing States except Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

The names of the 16 States proposed and the territories they would cover are shown below:—

States:

1. Madras: The existing State plus the five taluks of Agastheeswaram, Thovala, Kalkulam, Vilavancode and Shencotta, now part of Travancore-Cochin, but minus the present districts of Malabar and South Kanara and the Kollegal taluk of Coimbatore district.

2. Kerala: The existing State of Travancore-Cochin minus the five taluks to be transferred to Madras but plus Malabar district (including Fort Cochin and Laccadive Islands), the Kasaragod taluk of South Kanara district and the Amindive Islands.

3. Karnatak: The present Mysore State excluding the Siruguppa taluk, the Bellary taluk, the Hospet taluk and a small area of the Mallapuram taluk in which the dam and headworks of the Tungabhadra Project are situated, plus the four Kannada-speaking districts of Bombay (Dharwar, Bihapur, North Kanara and Belgaum except the Chantgarh taluk of Belgaum district), the districts of Raichur and Gulbarga from Hyderabad, the South Kanara district of Madras minus the Kasaragod taluk, the Kollegal taluk of Coimbatore district and Coorg.

4. Hyderabad: The present Telegu-speaking districts of Mahboobnagar, Nalgonda, Warrangal (including Khammam) Karimnagar, Adilabad, Nizambad, Hyderabad and Medak, Bidar district and the Mungalla onclave in Nalgonda district at present belonging to the Krishna district of Andhra.

5. Andhra: No change in the present State except the addition of Siruguppa, Bellary and Hospet and a portion of the Mallapuram sub-taluk of Bellary district and the loss of the Mungalla onclave of Krishna district.

6. Bombay: The present State of Bombay minus the Abu Road taluk of the Banaskantha district and the four Kannada-speaking districts plus the Hyderabad district of Osmanabad, Bhil, Aurangabad, Parbhani and Nanded, Samsashtra and Kutch.

7. Vidharba: The eight Marathi-speaking districts of Madhya Pradesh, namely, Buldana, Akola, Amraoti, Yeotmal, Wardha, Nagpur, Bhandara and Chanda.

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8. Madhya Pradesh: The remaining 14 districts of the existing State of Madhya Pradesh plus the whole of Bhopal, the whole of Vindhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat except the Sunel enclave of Mandsoor district and the Sironj sub-division of the Kotah district of Rajasthan.

9. Rajasthan: The present State of Rajasthan, minus Sironj sub-division but plus Ajmer, the Abu Road taluk of Banaskantha district of Bombay, the Sunel enclave of Mandsoor district of Madhya Bharat and the Loharu sub-tehsil of the Hissar district of Punjab.

10. Punjab: The existing State minus Loharu sub-tehsil but plus PEPFU and Himachal Pradesh.

11. Uttar Pradesh: No change.

12. Bihar: The present State minus a portion of Purnea district, east of the river Mahananda and the Purulla sub-district of Manbhum except Char Thana.

13. West Bengal: The present State plus the areas to be lost by Bihar mentioned in Paragraph 12.

14. Assam: The present State plus Tripura.

15. Orissa: No change.

16. Jammu and Kashmir: No change.

Territories:

Delhi, Manipur and the Andaman and the Nicobar Islands to be Centrally administered areas.

(The full text of the Report of the States Reorganisation Commission, published in the Hindustan Times, 10 October 1955).

12. Activities of the External Services.

India - October 1955.

Participation in Conferences, Meetings, etc.

Mr. V.K.R. Menon, Director of this Office attended a seminar on the development of public libraries in Asia convened by the United Nations Educational and Scientific Organisation. The seminar which was held at New Delhi on 6 October 1955 was attended by delegates from 15 countries and 23 observer delegates.

Articles and Lectures.

On 23 October 1955, Mr. Menon delivered a lecture at the International Centre, Kanpur. The subject of his talk was: "The ILO and Its Contribution to Human Progress".

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Chapter 2. International and National
Organisations.

25. Wage-Earners' Organisations.

India - October 1955.

Annual General Meeting of the National Union of Railwaymen,
New Delhi, 22 and 23 September 1955; Second All-India
Federation to be Organised.

The annual general meeting of the National Union of Railwaymen was held at New Delhi on 22 and 23 September 1955, Mr. Frank Anthony, M.P., presiding.

Presidential address.- Mr. Frank Anthony addressing the meeting said there was a strong case for the appointment of a Pay Commission for railways.

Mr. Anthony said this was necessary because numerous "anomalies" persisted as a result of the "misapplication of the Central Pay Commission's recommendations" and also as a result of the disparity in the conditions which existed between the different railway systems before regrouping.

He said the railwaymen should be given the benefit of opting for a pension scheme. "In this matter the railway administration is only considering the point of view of the Class IV staff and ignoring the almost universal demand of the Class II and Class III staff", he said.

Mr. Anthony said the housing position continued to be unsatisfactory for railway workers and this was accentuated by the "irregular allotment of quarters by local officials" in defiance of the priority rules".

The whole subject of railway regrouping should be comprehensively reviewed especially because of the targets in the second Five-Year Plan and the proposed addition of about 6,000 miles of railway track, he said.

Mr. Anthony also supported the move of the Executive Committee of the Union for starting a railway federation, because, he felt, the strength of the railway trade unionism has definitely declined and it was in a weaker bargaining position than even a few years ago. The main reason was that at the present time most of the unions were not independent and free from political affiliations.

The session adopted among others a resolution stating that there was a vital need for at least one other all-India body to which the large number of railwaymen who are not members of the National Federation of Railwaymen may look for leadership and organisation and that steps be taken to set up as early as possible an All-India Federation of Railwaymen.

The session elected Mr. Frank Anthony as President, Mr. H.A. Stuart as Vice-President and Mr. Suraj Narain as General Secretary ~~and office bearers~~ for the next year.

(Railwaymen's Rights, October 1955).

022/2/185

6

29. International Co-operation.

India - October 1955.

Colombo Plan to be extended till 1961: Singapore
Conference's Decision.

Member nations of the Colombo Plan, meeting at Singapore for a five-day meeting of the Plan's Consultative Committee which concluded on 21 October 1955, have decided to prolong the Colombo Plan until June 1961. The Ministers attending the Plan's conference, however, will review this date again in 1959 with a view to extending the Plan still further. The Plan, launched in 1951, was originally intended to last until June 1957.

Member Governments of the Colombo Plan expect to spend more next year than ever before, according to a communique released after the Plan's Consultative Committee ended its meeting.

The communique showed that 752 million Pounds had been spent in 1954-55 as compared with 542 million ppunds in the previous year, adding that it was hoped to spend even more in 1955-56.

(The Statesman, 22 October 1955).

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022/21/185

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Chapter 3. Economic Questions.

33. Full Employment Policy.

India - October 1955.

Planning Commission sets up Study Group on Educated
Unemployed with Mr. V.K.R. Menon as Chairman.

The Planning Commission has set up a Study Group on Educated Unemployed, with Mr. V.K.R. Menon, Director of the I.L.O. India Branch, as chairman, and 10 other members representing the Central Ministries of Education, Commerce and Industry, Production, Rehabilitation and Labour and the Planning Commission.

For details, please see pp. of this report.

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222/21/180

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Survey of Unemployment in Lucknow City:
Results published.

A survey to enquire into the unemployment situation in the City of Lucknow was conducted by the Economics and Sociology Department of the Lucknow University in 1953-54. The actual enumeration of the unemployed in the City took place in the months of December 1953 and January 1954. The results of this survey are briefly reviewed below*.

Though the survey attempted to collect information about all the 516 mohallas (wards and streets), complete data that could be made available was, owing to various limitations, in respect of only 148 mohallas covering 22.7 per cent of the total number of families in the City. As a person was counted as unemployed only if at the time of the enquiry, he was not in service or was not self-employed in any trade, business or profession, the survey does not cover the underemployed or the irregularly employed and its scope is, therefore, limited only to the measuring absolute unemployment.

Unemployment and its incidents.- The enquiry reveals that an average family of 5 members has 2 to 3 earners. The single earner family is still insignificant in spite of the increasing disintegration of the joint-family system. The employment situation is dominated by the increasing number of earners per family. Even in the middle-income groups the desire to improve living standards in the face of increased cost of living drives an increasing number of family members to the labour market. The unemployed-earner ratio ranges between 1 to 8 and 1 to 10, the incidence of unemployment between 10.36 per cent and 11.9 per cent of earners and the families with an absolutely unemployed member from 25 per cent to 30 per cent of the total.

Of the unemployed nearly 19 per cent are women but in about one-sixth of the total mohallas in the City, the problem of women's unemployment is so acute that the proportion of unemployed women to unemployed men is as high as 50 per cent or even more. A lower standard of health and living of the womenfolk and their rather compulsory migration with men irrespective of their employment opportunities in the City explain the situation in this regard.

* A Report on Unemployment in the City of Lucknow. By Dr. Daljit Singh, Head of the Department of Economics and Sociology, Lucknow University (revised) pp.51.

9

The unemployed belong to all age groups but quite a large proportion i.e., 55 per cent of the total are youngsters between the ages of 16 and 20 years. Many of these must be freshers seeking employment for the first time. The next age-group of 21 to 25 years accounts for another 22 per cent of the total unemployed. In all 57 per cent of the total unemployed are young persons not exceeding the age of 25 years.

Unemployment is more acute among the educated than among the uneducated. Of the total number of unemployed persons only 26.3 per cent are illiterate. To a large extent unemployment rises with education; while the proportion of the graduates and post-graduates among earners is infinitesimal, they constitute 11.29 per cent of the total unemployed. The irony is that the incidence of unemployment not only rises with education but varies almost directly with the educational attainments of the earners. On the whole it is found that next to illiterates the matriculates account for the largest number of unemployed and the proportion of those with higher education is substantially high, particularly among unemployed men.

Causes of Unemployment: Insufficiency of Employment for 'Freshers'.— The main cause of unemployment in the case of both men and women is the failure of economy to expand as fast as the supply of 'freshers'. 'Freshers' constitute the single largest class among the unemployed persons. Of the total unemployed persons in the survey 36 per cent have been recorded as freshers and if it be further presumed that many among these for whom the cause of unemployment is not given, may also be freshers, they account for nearly half of the total. Practically half of the total unemployment in the City is therefore due to the lack of sufficient openings for new entrants. The resultant employment lag is cumulative and, therefore, tends to be critical with the passage of time. The unemployed 'freshers' have been without employment for no short period. Only about 8.5 per cent are known to be employed for less than six months while information about the period of unemployment of another 19.5 per cent is not available. The rest i.e. 72 per cent have been unemployed for more than 6 months and almost one-fourth among these for even more than 3 years.

Retrenchment.— There has been no general retrenchment; and yet, retrenchment accounts for the second largest number of unemployed persons. It is reported to be responsible for the unemployment of a little more than one-tenth of the total. Among the retrenched the largest proportion is that of matriculates. It is significant that more than 60 percent of the retrenched persons are educated. Retrenchment is mainly a feature of the public sector. The Government practice of retrenching temporary staff of one department and recruiting fresh hands on a temporary basis for another department has resulted in worsening the situation. The Government has, however, taken certain steps to give priority in new recruitment to the retrenched personnel but these appear to be inadequate.

Dismissal.- The incidence of dismissal is high and accounts for 10 per cent of the unemployed. Apparently, dismissal does not cause any shrinkage or diminution in total employment - the dismissed persons being replaced by others. Actually, it may not be so, if the job is not filled, or as is often the case certain time elapses before the rearrangement is completed. During this intervening period there is frictional unemployment. Further, the dismissed person remains chronically unemployed or must accept a job and remuneration lower than his worth. Indiscipline and corruption, the two main causes for dismissals, may be dealt with strictly, but not in a manner as to create social problems by aggravating unemployment.

Illness.- Illness accounts for the fourth largest group of the unemployed persons constituting nearly 9 per cent of the total. This reveals the poor state of health of workers in general and the insecurity of employment that it causes. These do not of course include all those earners who may be lying ill but only those who have been discharged from their work and unemployed on account of illness. These persons might not all be ill at the time of enquiry. In fact many of them must be fit enough to go to work but they are unemployed now because they fell ill during the period of their previous employment.

Slump.- The incidence of unemployment due to slump is 6.6 per cent of the total unemployed persons. Uneducated persons have been affected more than the educated.

Retirement and Resignation.- These two factors account for 5.5 per cent and 4 percent of the total unemployed persons respectively. Fresh employment for the retired is even more difficult than for the freshers. Superannuation at a ripe age and extension of the system of contributory provident fund or pensions are the measures suggested for relieving the incidence of unemployment due to retirement, and security of service is considered important for reducing the unemployment resulting from resignations.

Migration.- Migration accounts for 4 per cent of unemployed persons and it affects women more than the men.

34. Economic Planning, Control and Development.

India - October 1955.

Lok Sabha approves Government's Economic Policy with Special Reference to Agriculture: Additional Food Production of 10 Million Tons envisaged during Second Five Year Plan .

The Lok Sabha debated and endorsed on 30 September 1955 and 1 October 1955, the Government's economic policy with special reference to agriculture, land and rural credit.

Food production during Second Five Year Plan; Minister's address.- Mr. A.P. Jain initiating the debate said that the Government proposed to step up the production of food grains by about ten million tons in the second-Plan period. This will be an increase of 15 per cent over 1955-56. The additional area to be irrigated by minor as well as major schemes in the second Plan period was likely to be well over 20 million acres. The Central Tractor Organisation alone proposed to reclaim about 1 million acres of wasteland and the States were also expected to reclaim a substantial area.

The other main points of the speech are indicated below:-

The expansion of agricultural production in relation to the targets fixed under the first Five-Year Plan had not only strengthened the agricultural base of Indian economy, but had also created a favourable climate for stepping up the rate of investment. The production of food grains had increased from 50 million tons in 1950-51 to 65.8 million tons in 1954-55, exceeding the planned target for 1955-56 by about 4.2 million tons. Whereas India imported 4.7 million tons of food grains in 1951, her imports during the current year were expected to be not more than 0.8 million tons.

The measures taken by the Government to arrest the fall in agricultural prices recently, such as price support and export credit survey committee, have by and large had the desired effect and the current prices are generally above the minimum prices.

The broad features of the reconditioned rural credit structure, in implementation of the Rural Credit Survey Committee's recommendations, will be the large-sized credit societies at the base. The area of operation of large-sized credit societies will generally be about five villages if irrigated, and 10 to 15 villages if un-irrigated. It is expected that by the end of 1960-61, about 12,000 large-sized societies will be set up and 5,000 godowns constructed. After the absorption of some of the existing societies into the large-sized societies, it is expected that 100,000 out of the 125,000 existing societies would continue to survive. Both these types of societies are by the end of 1960-61 expected to advance short-term loans of 1,500 million rupees and medium-term loans of 500 million rupees, which, together with long-term loans of 250 million rupees would meet 50 per cent of the rural credit needs of the farmers and cover about one-third of the villages and population. It was also proposed to increase the

12

number of Central Land Mortgage Banks from nine to 18, so that each Part 'A' and 'B' State might have a Central Land Mortgage Bank. The total cost of all these would come to nearly 250 million rupees to be subscribed by the Reserve Bank, and about 100 million rupees to be supplied by the Central and State Governments for construction of godowns and subsidising the staff.

The Government had accepted in principle the recommendation of the Rural Credit Survey Committee for the creation of a National Co-operative Development and Ware-housing Board and a National Warehousing Corporation. These were for the purpose of organising co-operative marketing and processing. A Bill for the setting up of the Board and the Corporation was being drafted and would soon be placed before Parliament.

The broad features of the land reform measures taken by the Central and State Governments were: (1) abolition of intermediaries; (2) tenancy reforms; (3) ceiling on holdings; and (4) reorganisation of agriculture. The decision to abolish intermediaries had been taken by a number of States before the first Plan started. During the Plan period the process had been expedited. Intermediaries had been abolished, or necessary legislation for abolition passed, in most of the States. Wherever intermediaries had been abolished, the tiller of the soil had generally come in direct contact with the Government.

The Planning Commission was of the opinion that generally the rent should not exceed one-fourth or one-fifth of the produce. In Assam, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Madras, Uttar Pradesh, Hyderabad, Rajasthan, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin, Ajmer, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Vindhya Pradesh rents had been accordingly reduced. In other States, where rents had not been reduced to this level, the Governments were being urged to take action. The Panel on Land Reforms, appointed by the Planning Commission, recently went into the question of tenancy reforms and had appointed a tenancy reforms committee, which would assess the work so far done and suggest measures for the second Plan.

On the question of a limit being imposed on individual holdings, the first Plan had accepted this in principle. The Planning Commission had recommended that before finally working out the policy about ceiling, State Governments should undertake a census of holdings. Census work had been undertaken in all the States except West Bengal, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir and 12 States had already sent their reports. Meanwhile, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Hyderabad and Himachal Pradesh had already imposed ceilings on existing holdings. In Uttar Pradesh, Madhyabharat, Saurashtra and Delhi, ceilings had been imposed on the future acquisition of land.

Debate.- Speaking during the debate, Mr. A.K. Gopalan (Communist) urged that the Government should immediately issue an ordinance to stop all evictions of tenants from land. He also said that agricultural labourers should be granted full ownership rights to their home-stead lands, which should be tax-free.

13

Mr. Asoka Mehta (Praja-Socialist) was happy to note that there was an increase in agricultural production and also a slight increase in the yield per acre. "But," said Mr. Mehta, "our food consumption is nowhere near what it was before the war even with the increase in food production, of which the Food Minister is legitimately proud. We have a considerable leeway still to make up." Referring to the Government's four-point programme of land reform, Mr. Mehta said it had been claimed that about 2.25 million intermediaries had been removed and over 160 million acres of land had been freed from intermediaries. This was undoubtedly an achievement of which it could be legitimately proud. But this had been done by piling up a tremendous amount of cost of compensation, which was likely to run into anything like 5,000 million rupees. According to a Congress publication, in Part 'A' States, where 4,140 million rupees would have to be paid as compensation, the additional revenue to the State Governments would be merely 195.2 million rupees. The result would be that the compensation at current values would load the present tenants with considerable debts.

Ceiling on Land holdings to be fixed: Minister's reply to debate.— Replying to the debate, the Minister announced that the Government had decided to fix a ceiling on land holdings. A committee, comprising members of all parties, had been set up to determine the ceilings.

"We want to take a decision in this regard as early as possible", he said.

Mr. Jain said that opinion in the House was largely in favour of fixing a ceiling on land holdings. There were however some members who wanted no ceiling to be fixed in the interest of scientific and progressive farming.

The policy of the Government was that there should be a basis of equality in distribution of land. It was impossible to ensure that, everybody had the same acreage of land. "I do not say that all people should have an equal area of land. But it will be our constant endeavour to see that a proper ceiling is fixed".

He also announced that the Government had decided to appoint a Forest Commission to lay down a policy for the whole country regarding conservation of forests and afforestation. This policy would hold good for the Centre and the State Governments.

Regarding landless labourers, Mr. Jain said that the question of fixing minimum wages for these labourers had been left to be finalised by the State Governments. Landless labourers would be given priority when reclaimed land was distributed. The land would be given to tribal people and Harijans also.

Mr. Jain said that the larger issue of eviction of tenants could not be fully solved through the courts. "Evictions can be stopped fully only when we strengthen the hands of the kisans. We are already taking steps in this direction and our aim is to make the kisans as strong as possible".

(The Hindustan Times, 1 and 2 October 1955).

14

Encouraging Rise in Production: Reserve Bank Review
of Economic Situation during 1954-1955.

The maintenance of agricultural production near the all-time record achieved in the previous year and the further substantial growth in industrial output were the most encouraging features of the Indian economy during 1954-55, according to the annual report of the Reserve Bank of India.

This dual advance facilitated the sharp increase in the tempo of developmental expenditure in the public sector as well as the progressive relaxation of controls over a wide field. The supply position was on the whole comfortable.

The record production of food-grains for 1953-54 amounting to 66 million tons would have been exceeded in the year under review but for the extensive damage by floods in parts of Assam, Bihar and West Bengal.

In any case the production of foodgrains for 1954-55, as for the previous year, exceeded the target for the final year of the Plan by 4.5 million tons.

The rice production fell by 3.4 million tons or 12 per cent from the previous year's figure while the production of other foodgrains is said to have made up the loss.

The production of cash crops, including wheat, sugarcane, oilseeds and cotton, is stated to be above last year's. Hence the total agricultural output, the review adds, is not likely to be less than in 1953-54.

The greater part of the improvement in agriculture in the past two years, it is said, was due to a good monsoon, but a part at least, was the result of various schemes to increase the yield and the acreage under cultivation, particularly major and minor irrigation works and improved methods of cultivation.

During 1954-55 food controls were virtually eliminated. Imports of wheat under the International Wheat Agreement were not fully availed of and further imports of rice, except under previous commitment were stopped. At the same time, an emergency food reserve was built up as a cushion against future contingencies and at the end of the year it amounted to about 1.7 million tons.

Decontrol of commodities other than foodgrains was also carried a stage further. The free movement of cotton was restored in July 1954, and distribution control over it was suspended in February 1955. Only price controls on cotton are now retained.

Industrial progress maintained; Concern over Unemployment.-
The progress of industrial production is held by the Reserve Bank to be even more satisfactory than in the agricultural sphere. There has been an uninterrupted increase in annual industrial production since 1950 and the aggregate rise over the first four years of the Plan was about 40 per cent.

Several factors were responsible for the industrial progress. Supplies of raw material were available in larger measure. Existing plant capacity was more fully utilized or expanded. The Bank, however, comments that, despite the improvement in production, the situation regarding employment continued to give room for concern. In large-scale industry, the increase in employment was less in proportion to the increase in production.

During the year, particularly with a view to augmenting employment opportunities, special attention was given to the development of small-scale industries. An important step in this direction was the establishment of the Small Industries Corporation and the Small-Scale Industrial Board, and the strengthening of the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board and the All-India Handicrafts Board.

The Bank also notes that in addition to the Industrial Policy statement of 1948, the Government's economic policy now aims at a "socialistic pattern of society".

Downward trend of prices.- The pressure of increased supplies arising from high production, a large volume of imports and the relaxation in controls initiated a downward price movement, which was accentuated by dishoarding.

With a view to stabilizing prices at reasonable levels, Government initiated measures to expand exports and to curtail imports and introduced limited price support scheme for wheat, certain coarse grains and gram.

Expenditure in public sector.- A prominent feature of economic development during 1954-55 was the acceleration of expenditure in the public sector to make up for the slow progress of the earlier years and this was reflected in a widening of budgetary deficits. Central and State Governments are expected, on the basis of revised estimates, to have incurred an overall deficit of about 2,350 million rupees in 1954-55, as against a much smaller deficit of about 650 million rupees in the preceding year.

Allowing for the actual increase in the floating debt of the Central Government and for certain other adjustments, however, the combined overall deficit of the Central and State Governments is likely to be lower at about 1,000 million rupees.

16

The combined estimated deficit for 1955-56, is placed at a much higher level (3,950 million rupees) since development outlays in the final year of the Plan have been further stepped up in an effort to reduce the margin between targets and actual performance.

While the combined disbursements of Central and State Governments on both revenue and capital accounts have risen steeply by nearly 6,000 million rupees between 1951-52 and 1955-56 (budget estimates) to a total of well over 16,000 million rupees, the combined current revenues during the same period have crept up only by 250 million rupees to about 9,000 million rupees.

The estimated current revenues for 1954-55 formed about 8 per cent of the estimated level of national income, a proportion which has not varied significantly since the pre-war period.

Both facts, says the Bank, indicate the urgent necessity to enlarge budgetary resources. Increases in taxation have been considered in great detail by the Taxation Inquiry Commission, the publication of whose report was one of the outstanding events of the year under review.

For the year 1955-56, as a first step in the direction of implementing the Commission's recommendations, changes in income and commodity taxation, estimated to yield about 130 million rupees, were introduced by the Union Government. When the Commission's recommendations are implemented a substantial increase in the tax resources of the Central and State Governments may be expected.

The enlarged budgetary deficit of the Central Government, was the principal factor tending to expand money supply during 1954-55 by 1,830 million rupees.

Banking facilities.- The main development as regards extension of banking facilities, was the publication in December 1954 of the General Report of the Committee of Direction of the All-India Rural Credit Survey, appointed in 1951. The Committee's recommendations envisage a revitalization of the co-operative agencies for rural credit side by side with provision of storage and warehousing facilities, and development of banking facilities in rural areas through a State-associated sector of commercial and co-operative banking.

Despite the efforts made for some time past, the progress of expansion of branches of commercial banks to semi-urban and rural areas has been slow and unsatisfactory. For several reasons, commercial banks have not found it profitable to open branches in smaller towns, individual loans are small, and while the collateral offered is not easily marketable, the risk element in agriculture is generally greater. The volume of credit for agricultural production granted by commercial banks has continued to form a negligible proportion (3 to 4 per cent) of the total credit extended by them. This general situation underlined the need for an institution which, while conducting its business on sound lines of commercial banking would be able to have in mind the larger

17

interests of the country along with its obligations to its shareholders.

The Committee of Direction of the All-India Rural Credit Survey, which examined this question in detail, recommended the setting up of a State Bank of India as one strong integrated State-partnered commercial banking institution with an effective machinery of branches spread over the whole country for stimulating banking development by providing vastly extended remittance facilities for co-operative and other banks and by following a policy which would be in effective consonance with the national policies.

In pursuance of this recommendation, the State Bank of India was established on July 1 last by transferring to it the undertaking of the Imperial Bank of India. One of the immediate objectives of the Bank is to establish not less than 400 branches within five years or such extended period as the Central Government may specify. It will also provide considerably larger remittance and other facilities to co-operative and other banks and attempt to mobilize rural savings.

Another important recommendation of the report of the All-India Rural Credit Survey related to the creation of five national funds, three in connection with agricultural credit and two for the development of co-operation and warehousing. Two of these funds, viz., the National Agricultural Credit (Long-term Operations) Fund and the National Agricultural Credit (Stabilisation) Fund are to be set up by the Reserve Bank.

Savings.— There were indications during the year of a better flow of savings, and the response to public as well as private issues reflected a distinct improvement in the tone and strength of the capital market. Governmental market borrowings were on a notably larger scale. Total subscriptions to the 3 1/2 per cent National Plan Loan 1954 which was floated on 19 April 1954, to meet the combined requirements of the Centre and State Governments amounted to 1,580 million rupees.

The only State issue during the year was by Saurashtra amounting to 25 million rupees. Net market borrowings of the Centre and States, that is, after allowing for conversions and repayments amounted to 1,130 million rupees in 1954-55 as against a net outgo of 20 million rupees in 1953-54.

Small savings also showed a substantial rise to 520 million rupees, which compared very favourably with 380 million rupees in the preceding year. Soon after the year ended, the National Plan Bonds (second series) 1955 bearing interest at 3 1/2 per cent were issued on 1 July 1955 at 98.8 rupees per cent for a sum of 1,000 million rupees. The response from the market was again good and the loan closed a day earlier on 4 July 1955, the subscriptions having reached a total of nearly 1,040 million rupees.

Private issues on the market also showed improvement. During the year, the total of seven issues of not less than 10 million rupees each, for which data are available, was 160 million rupees.

Balance of payments position.- The survey says that impact on the balance of payments position of the rising momentum of development expenditure and the expansion in industrial output was reflected in the virtual disappearance of the substantial surplus shown on current account during the previous year. On the basis of the preliminary figures for the first three quarters, and estimates for the last quarter of the year under review, the current account is expected to be in balance, whereas in the previous year, it had shown a surplus of nearly 590 million rupees.

Indian economy stronger.- On the whole, the Review concludes, that during 1954-55 the Indian economy acquired greater strength, with an impressive rise in production and considerable progress in expenditure on public projects, facilitated by appropriate fiscal and credit policies, says the report.

The improvement in the flow of savings and the change in the balance of payments are developments of special significance in the context of the framing of the second Five Year Plan.

Two features of the economic situation which led to some concern during the year were the relatively steep fall in foodgrains prices which has been stemmed, and the continued acuteness of unemployment among urban workers.

The review adds: "The augury for stepping up the tempo of development in the second Plan period this appears to be definitely good. There is, nevertheless, a limit to the pace and extent of economic development possible that is set by the real resources available. With unutilized real resources capable of being harnessed to national development, a measure of deficit financing is not only desirable but may be essential for economic stability.

"Deficit financing, however, provides no easy substitute for sustained and substantial efforts to mobilise resources for development. It is a double-edged weapon which may be employed, within limits, to help development, but may hinder it, if used to excess. It is desirable, therefore, to set our targets of development on a realistic assessment of available resources while making the fullest efforts to maximize such resources.

(The Hindustan Times, 12 September 1955;
The Statesman, 12 September 1955;
The Gazette of India, Part II, Section 3,
dated 18 September 1955, pp. 1749-1762.)

36. Wages.

India - October 1955.

Trends in earnings of Factory Workers: Labour Bureau Analysis.

According to a study on earnings of factory workers in India during the years 1950 to 1953, made by the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour, there has been an all-round substantial increase in earnings, mainly as a result of the awards of the Tribunals, but there are signs of the process having been halted in 1953.

The following tables show (i) the all-States average annual earnings of factory workers drawing less than 200 rupees per month for the period 1950-1953 and the average annual earnings for the same category of workers in 1953:-

Year	All-State average annual earnings	
	Rs.	Per cent
1947	737.0	100
1948	889.7	121
1949	985.9	134
1950	966.8	131
1951	1,035.6	141
1952	1,112.2	151
1953	1,111.8	151

Average annual earnings of factory workers drawing less than 200 rupees per month

State	1953	
	Rs.	(1947 = 100) Per cent
Assam	1,265.1	167
Bihar	1,474.2	180
Bombay	1,346.4	138
Madhya Pradesh	898.0	157
Madras (including Andhra)	792.6	142
Orissa	880.8	178
Punjab	890.9	142
Uttar Pradesh	1,019.6	152
West Bengal	963.1	170
Part 'A' States	1,109.6	158
Ajmer	603.9	136
Delhi	1,311.6	149
Part 'C' States	1,193.8	155
All India	1,111.8	151

* The figures for 1953 are liable to minor revisions.

A study of the detailed figures for States shows that the comparatively smaller increase in Bombay appears to be due to the fact that the minimum wages and dearness allowance in the cotton mill industry in Bombay and Ahmedabad had already been increased by the awards of the Industrial Court in 1947 and as such the wage level in Bombay was already high. Generally speaking, the increases over the period have been more or less gradual, although in a few cases there have been erratic variations in the intervening years. For instance, in Bombay the average earnings declined from 1,210 rupees in 1949 to 1,170 rupees in 1950 mainly due to a prolonged strike in cotton textiles, although the fall was more than made up in the succeeding year. In the case of Madhya Pradesh the average earnings increased sharply in 1949 and was abnormally high in 1950, but came down to a more normal level in the later years. Again, the increases have been particularly marked in some years in some States. Such years for the important States are; 1949-50 and 1953 for Assam, 1951 and 1952 for Bihar, 1948-49 for Bombay, 1949-50 for Madhya Pradesh, 1949 and 1952 for Madras and 1948 and 1949 for Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. These years can generally be linked to the enforcement of awards granting increases in wage rates, allowances and bonuses in a number of industries employing large number of workers.

Earnings in industries.— The table given below shows the earnings in the main industry groups during the years 1950 to 1953:—

Code No.	Industry	1950	1951	1952	1953
		RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
23	Textiles. -----	971.4	1044.0	1122.0	1116.1
24	Footwear, other wearing apparel and made up textile goods. -----	851.0	989.5	1122.0	1038.3
25	Wood and Cork except furniture.	602.9	653.8	667.7	717.0
26	Furniture and fixtures. -----	668.0	940.0	834.4	883.2
27	Paper and paper products. -----	910.0	959.9	1019.3	998.5
28	Printing, publishing and allied industries. -----	962.1	1052.9	1155.8	1123.4
29	Leather and Leather Products (except footwear). -----	640.7	752.3	718.9	879.1
30	Rubber and Rubber products. ---	1164.6	1325.1	1339.6	1431.9
31	Chemicals and Chemical products.	871.4	868.9	974.2	1036.2
32	Products of Petroleum and Coal.	1047.0	1131.8	1156.7	1407.8
33	Non-metallic Mineral products.	720.2	699.2	695.9	824.2
34.	Basic Metal industries. -----	1175.6	1368.2	1532.7	1711.1
35	Manufacture of Metal products.	798.7	917.3	901.2	942.5
36	Manufacture of Machinery. -----	1000.7	998.5	1030.3	1032.1
37	Electric Machinery, apparatus etc.	1195.8	1237.6	1296.4	1309.1
38	Transport Equipment. -----	1052.4	1170.7	1670.9	1164.2
39	Miscellaneous Industries. -----	1014.8	1067.3	885.3	1074.1
51	Electricity, gas and steam. -----	1198.9	1229.2	1300.2	1412.8
52	Water and sanitary services. -----	951.8	907.9	973.3	898.7
83	Recreation Services. -----	980.0	968.6	968.8	919.7
84	Personal Services. -----	799.1	852.9	327.5	337.2
23 to 84	All Industries. -----	966.8	1035.6	1112.2	1108.5

The following table shows the trends in individual industries. The all-India average earnings in the cotton and jute textile industries are shown in the following table:-

Year	Cotton Textile Rs.	Percentage	Jute Textile Rs.	Percentage
1939	329	100	231	100
1943	684	208	356	154
1944	772	235	363	157
1945	723	220	391	169
1946	722	220	425	184
1947	911	277	498	216
1948	1094	333	638	276
1949	1193	363	795	344
1950	1162	353	807	349
1951	1178	361	815	353
1952	1258	382	905	392
1953	1228	373	914	396

(Indian Labour Gazette, Vol. XIII, No. 2,
August 1955, pp. 81-89).

Travancore-Cochin: Minimum Wages Act extended to Cardamom Plantations.

In exercise of the powers conferred under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, and by a notification dated 17 October 1955 the Government of Travancore-Cochin has made the following amendment to Part I of the Schedule to the said Act in its application to the State.

In item 4 of Part I of the schedule to the said Act for the words "tea or coffee" the following shall be substituted namely:-

"tea, coffee or cardamom".

(Notification No. L1-8367/55DD dated 17 October 1955;
Travancore-Cochin Gazette, Part I, 25 October 1955,
page 1199).

Travancore-Cochin: Minimum Wages Act to be extended to Employment in Salt Pans.

The Government of Travancore-Cochin has given notice of its intention to add employment in the salt pans to Part I of the schedule of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The proposal will be taken into consideration by the Government after 4 January 1956.

(Travancore-Cochin Gazette, Part I, 4 October 1955, p. 1124).

22

Increased Wages for Jute Workers in West Bengal:
Industrial Tribunal's Award*

The Industrial Tribunal, Calcutta (Third Jute Tribunal) has, in its award dated 20 September 1955, given the lowest paid worker in the jute textile industry in West Bengal a total monthly emolument of 67 rupees 2 annas and 9 pies for a 48-hour week instead of 63 rupees and 6 annas as at present. Of the amount 32 rupees 8 annas represents dearness allowance, a drop of 4 rupees 14 annas from the present level. Dearness allowance sanctioned by the Tribunal will be the same for all the categories of workers throughout the industry.

The Tribunal's award was given on the question of revision of the wage structure in the jute textile industry in West Bengal. Altogether the claims of 16 different categories of workers employed in the industry were considered by the Tribunal which was presided over by Mr. M.C. Banerji. The first reference to the Tribunal by the State Government in April 1954 covered the cases of 89 jute mills. Later reference raised the number to 101 out of 102 mills in the State.

Basic wage.- The Tribunal accepted the finding of the First Award that the total pre-war cost of living of an average working-class family should be properly taken as 22 rupees per month. The Tribunal considered the fact that the workmen in the industry had to suffer a wage cut almost continuously commencing from 5 December 1949 on account of reduction of the working hours, which was made by the Industry to conserve jute or to safeguard the trade as against a shrinking overseas market. The Tribunal, therefore, decided that the total wage of the lowest paid worker should be at 5 annas per hour composed of a dearness allowance of annas 2 per cent per hour and a basic pay of annas 2.6 per hour. The dearness allowance will then amount to 32.50 or 32 rupees 8 annas per month, and the basic pay to 32.50 rupees or 32 rupees 8 annas per month. These elements of wage make up a total wage of 65 rupees per month. The Tribunal decided that the dearness allowance of 32 rupees 8 annas per month should be invariable, in spite of fluctuations in the weekly working period, and the basic wage of 32 rupees 8 annas per month should be considered to be the minimum basic wage when the working week is of 45 hours. For a working week of 48 hours, the basic wage will be increased proportionately to an amount of 34.67 rupees per month, corresponding to a wage of annas 2.8 per hour. The Tribunal decided and awarded that for a 48-hour week, the lowest paid worker shall get a basic wage of 34.67 rupees or 34 rupees 10 annas and 9 pies and a dearness allowance of 32.50 rupees or 32 rupees 8 annas per month. The total wage for the lowest paid worker will, therefore, be 67.17 rupees or 67 rupees 2 annas and 9 pies per month. The Tribunal further awarded that

* Government of West Bengal, Labour Department. In the matter of Industrial Dispute in the Jute Textile Industry in West Bengal between 101 specified mills and their workmen, Award dated 20 September 1955. Superintendent, Government Printing, West Bengal Government Press, Alipore, 1955. pp. 136.

23

every worker in the industry, except the clerks, mistries and durwans, will have his basic wage raised by 8.67 rupees or 8 rupees 10 annas and 9 pies permonth, to maintain the existing differentials. The dearness allowance shall be the same, that is, 32 rupees 8 annas permonth for all categories of workers including the clerks, mistries and durwans.

The Tribunal also awarded that for a working week of 48 hours the minimum basic wage shall be 8 rupees per week or 34 rupees 10 annas and 9 pies per month. Basic wages shall be proportionately reduced for reduction of working hours below 48 per week. The dearness allowance shall be 7.50 rupees or 7 rupees 8 annas per week or 32.50 rupees or 32 rupees 8 annas per month. This dearness allowance shall be unalterable for all ranges of working period in the week.

Clerical staff.- The Tribunal considered the question of wage structure of the clerical staff of the mills. On a detailed consideration of the matter, the Tribunal awarded that the clerks shall be given a flat increase of 8 rupees in their basic wages and the basic wage scales of all categories of clerical staff shall be increased by 8 rupees per month and the grades and scales recast accordingly as follows:-

Grade II - Rs. 63-3-93-E.B.-4-113.
Grade I - Rs. 78-5-143-E.B.-10-183.
S.B. - Rs. 108-10-208.
S.A. - Rs. 208-10-308.

The Tribunal directed that the mills shall not employ more than 35 per cent of the total number of clerks in grade II. The mills are at a liberty to employ some clerks in this grade as a recruiting base. For the clerical staff employed in jobs other than those of weighing, marking, tally, billet, measuring or similar unimportant jobs, such clerks shall be promoted to grade I on completion of six years' service, unless they are otherwise disqualified. The clerical staff employed in unimportant jobs, as for example, weighing, etc., shall be entitled to promotion to grade I in the discretion of the employers. Graduates should be always employed in grade I.

The Tribunal rejected the claims of the Union, representing the jute mill workers, that piece-rate workers should be ensured a guaranteed minimum basic wage. It also rejected the Union's demand that the Tribunal's award should be implemented with retrospective effect from 7 April 1954, the date of the first reference of the matter to the Tribunal by the State Government.

38. Housing.India - October 1955.Mysore Housing Board Act, 1955 (No. 20 of 1955).

The Government of Mysore gazetted on 24 October 1955, the text of the Mysore Housing Board Act, 1955, which received the assent of the President on 17 October 1955.

The Act provides for the establishment, for the purpose of the Act and the Mysore Labour Housing Act, 1949, of a board by the name of the Mysore Housing Board, consisting of a chairman and six other members appointed by the State Government, charged with the duty of framing and executing such housing schemes as the Board may consider necessary from time to time or as may be entrusted to it by the State Government. The matters to be provided for by housing schemes include the acquisition of property, distribution of sites, construction and reconstruction of buildings, provision of parks, playing fields, and sanitary arrangements, provision of accommodation for any class of inhabitants, ~~to~~ advance of money for the purposes of the housing scheme and collection of information and statistics. The Board is to prepare and forward to the State Government before 1 December each year a programme containing such particulars of housing schemes and labour housing schemes proposed to be executed during the next year, budget and establishment schedule for the next year. From the date of the establishment of the Board under the Act, the Mysore Labour Housing Corporation established under the Mysore Labour Housing Act, 1949, shall be deemed to have been dissolved and the property, rights and liabilities of the Corporation shall vest in the Board. The Act also makes certain amendments to the Mysore Labour Housing Act, 1949 and certain other Acts.

Other provisions of the Act deal inter alia with acquisition and disposal of land, constitution of a tribunal to decide the amount of compensation and other matters in respect of land vested in the Board, power to evict persons from Board premises, finance, account and audit.

(The Mysore Gazette, Extraordinary,
24 October 1955, pp. 1-29).

25

CHAPTER 4. PROBLEMS PECULIAR TO CERTAIN BRANCHES
OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

INDIA - OCTOBER 1955.

41. Agriculture.

Expansion of Rural Credit; Central Government set up
Committee.

The Government of India has by a resolution dated 8 October 1955 set up a Committee with a view to evolving a co-ordinated policy for rural credit development. The functions of the Committee are: (i) to ensure adequate supply of credit resources for rural development and to avoid their wasteful use; (ii) to exchange information about overall and detailed plans of development and extension of Rural Credit; (iii) to co-ordinate the provision of Rural Credit organised and sponsored by various agencies in the sphere of marketing, warehousing and processing of agricultural produce; and (iv) co-ordination of activities of the co-operative staff in the National Extension Service and Community Projects Blocks with the work of the other staff of the Co-operative Department in the States.

The Committee will meet as frequently as necessary but not less than three times in a year.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Section 1,
22 October 1955, page 284).

PEPSU Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1955 (No. 25 of 1955).

The Government of Patiala and East Punjab States Union gazetted on 20 October 1955 the PEPSU Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1955, which received the assent of the President on 10 October 1955. The object of the enactment is to facilitate donation and settlement of lands in connection with the bhoodan yagna (land gift movement) initiated by Acharya Vinobha Bhave.

(Patiala and East Punjab States Union Gazette,
Extraordinary, 20 October 1955, pp. 525-530).

Hyderabad Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation
of Holdings Bill, 1955.

The Government of Hyderabad published on 28 September 1955 the Hyderabad Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings Bill, 1955, proposed to be introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the State.

According to the statement of objects and reasons the Bill is intended to replace provisions of the Hyderabad Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1950 in respect of prevention of fragmentation and consolidation of holdings. The concept of 'Fragment' as an area of less than a basic holding is proposed to be substituted by the concept of a 'Standard area' to be determined for each local area separately. Reservation of required extents of land for common purposes has been included as one of the objects of the consolidation and the consolidation officer is empowered to effect for any such purpose a pro rata out of all the holdings of the village. It is also proposed to constitute Village Committees to assist the consolidation officer in the work of consolidation of holdings.

(Hyderabad Government Gazette, Extraordinary,
No. 122, 28 September 1955, pp. 877-891).

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The Jaunsar-Bawar Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms
Bill, 1955.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh published on 28 September 1955 the Uttar Pradesh Jaunsar-Bawar Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Bill, 1955, proposed to be introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the State.

According to the statement of objects and reasons to the Bill the Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950, provides for the application by Government of the provisions of that Act to Pargana Jaunsar-Bawar, subject to such exceptions or modifications not affecting the substance as may be necessary. The conditions obtaining in this Pargana are peculiar and it is not possible to apply the Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act to it without making substantial changes in it. The Government has therefore, decided to introduce this Bill.

The salient features of the Bill are: (1) distribution of land revenue at present assessed on each khat or khag among its zamindars; (2) acquisition of the rights of zamindars in land held by tenants with certain exceptions; and (3) introduction in Pargana Jaunsar-Bawar of land tenures similar to those introduced in the rest of the State under the provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act.

(Government Gazette of the Uttar Pradesh, Extraordinary,
28 September 1955, pp. 1-14).

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42. Co-operation.

India - October 1955.

Bihar: Annual Report on the Working of the Co-operative Societies for the Year 1952-1953*.

According to the annual report on the working of the Co-operative societies in Bihar State for the year 1952-53, on 30 June 1953, there were 17,681 societies of all types with 758,957 members and a share capital of 11,240,723 rupees, reserves of 9,187,786 rupees and a working capital of 63,432,812 rupees against 16,659 co-operative societies with 713,753 members (corrected figures), 10,261,311 rupees of share capital, 8,251,655 rupees of reserves and 58,570,960 rupees of working capital at the end of the previous year.

The following statement shows the progress of different types of co-operatives in the State as on 30 June 1953.

	Central Societies	Agricultural Societies	Non-agricultural Societies
Total Number	-- 136	16,430	1,115
Membership	-- 20,318	599,113	139,526
Paid up Share Capital.			
	Rs. 1,680,880	3,488,316	6,071,527
Working Capital.	Rs. 25,694,016	15,661,618	24,077,178
Loans advanced			
during the year.	Rs. 7,845,834	5,443,604	19,413,792
Loans outstanding			
at the end of			
the year.	Rs. 7,926,850	7,639,925	15,508,230
Profit(plus) or			
Loss (-).	(x) 2,329,016	(x) 1,256,377	(x) 459,325

Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies.— Government sanctioned in 1948 a scheme for the organisation and development of Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies. The work was started in June, 1949 after giving necessary training to the staff. Under this scheme particular areas in the State were selected and intensive organisation of multi-purpose co-operative societies in those areas was taken up. The selected areas were Paru (Muzaffarpur district), Dhaka (Champan district), Surajgarha and Lakhisarai (Monghyr district), Bagodar (Hazaribagh district), Hausa, Rajauli and Aurangabad (Gaya district), Bhoray (Saran district), Pusa (Darbhanga district) and Purnea Sadathana (Purnea district).

* Annual Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in Bihar for the Year 1952-1953. The Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna, 1955. pp. 263; Price Rs. 6-1-0.

27

Organisation of new multi-purpose co-operative societies on an intensive scale and conversion of old primary co-operative societies with unlimited liability into multi-purpose co-operative societies with limited liability were taken up in those areas. During the year under report (1952-53), 583 new multi-purpose co-operative societies were organised, while 58 old primary co-operative credit societies were converted into multi-purpose co-operative societies, bringing the total number of multi-purpose co-operatives to 6,521 on the 30 June 1953 as against 5,880 at the end of the previous year. The total of 6,521 includes 2,193 old credit societies converted into multi-purpose co-operative societies.

The main activities of these societies were supply of credit, supply of improved seeds, manures and consumers' goods, promotion of sanitation and adult education, development of village industries, improvement of cattle and development of village communication.

Development of handloom industry.- The scheme for the development of handloom industry was first sanctioned in 1935 and has remained in operation since then on year to year basis. Special staff consisting of one assistant registrar, one technical assistant and a number of weaving supervisors were employed under this scheme for the organisation and supervision of the weavers' co-operative societies whose number stood at 165 on 30 June 1953, with 12,984 weaver members and 13,136 handlooms. The marketing of their product was largely done through the cottage industries institute of the industries department.

In 1951 Government sanctioned a scheme for the development of handloom marketing organisation for 3 years under the direct control of the co-operative department. A provincial handloom weavers' co-operative union was organised. Since then the marketing of the products of the weavers' co-operative societies is being done through the Bihar handloom weavers' co-operative union to which these societies are affiliated. The State Government sanctioned a loan of 500,000 rupees to the union at four per cent per annum repayable in 10 equal annual instalments to provide for its working capital in order to enable it to supply yarn to its members and to market their products. The loan was however, not drawn during the year under review.

The Government of India sanctioned in November-December 1953 an interest free loan of 875,000 rupees and a grant of 401,260 rupees from out of the cess fund to the Bihar State Government for the development of handloom industry.

The State Government has drawn up a programme for utilising this amount during 1953-54. The programme includes, among others, bringing 25,000 additional weavers into the co-operative fold, opening 34 sales emporia, advancement of 375,000 rupees as loan for share capital to weavers and adoption of improved methods of manufacture of handloom fabrics.

20

Weavers' Co-operative Societies.- Of the non-agricultural and non-credit co-operatives, the most important are the weavers' co-operative societies numbering 165, of which 11 are of unlimited liability while the rest of limited liability type. These societies have a membership of 12,984 a share capital of 254,730 rupees, reserves of 119,488 rupees and a working capital of 454,879 rupees. They produced cloth worth 423,832 rupees during 1952-53. They purchased goods for 418,182 rupees and marketed for 664,748 rupees and had stock in hand worth 290,904 rupees at the end of the year. The total profit in these societies was 24,259 rupees and their total loss was 47,813 rupees. Out of 165 societies 81 were running at profit and 84 in loss. Several important societies in different districts were running at heavy loss because of the lack of adequate marketing facilities coupled with the keen competitive prices of mill-made products.

Co-operative Credit Agricole.- The Bihar State Co-operative Bank continued to be responsible for the distribution of fertilisers in the State during the year under review. It conducted this business through central co-operative banks and its own depots throughout the State. The number of such depots on 30 June 1953 was 170 and the total value of the sale during the year under report was 5,804,849 rupees.

Community Project.- The following four Community Projects and one Development Block were sanctioned in Bihar in October 1952.

- (i) Pusa-Samastipur-Sakra Project - North Bihar.
- (ii) Bihar-Ekangarsarai-Barbigha Project - In South Bihar.
- (iii) Bhabua-Mohania-Sasaram Project - In South Bihar.
- (iv) Ormanjhi-Ranchi-Mandar Project - In Chotanagpur Division.
- (v) Raneshwar Development Block - In Bhagalpur Division.

In the sphere of co-operation, the programme is to organise multi-purpose co-operative societies to cover all the villages in the Project Areas as well as to organise special types of societies like industrial co-operative societies to meet special needs of these areas. The estimated cost of the scheme is 24.9 million rupees, of which 0.425 million rupees are to be spent on co-operation. The scheme was inaugurated on the 2 October 1952 and has been sanctioned for a period of 3 years. Short-term and medium-term loans to member-cultivators of societies have been made available through the multi-purpose co-operative societies, State co-operative bank and the central co-operative banks. In each community project one assistant registrar of co-operative societies, and the inspector and two local auditors for each block have been deputed.

Agricultural societies.- With the introduction of multi-purpose co-operative societies scheme in this State since 1948, primary agricultural credit societies with unlimited liability are not being registered. The existing societies of this type are gradually being converted into Multi-purpose Co-operative societies. The number of such societies stood at 2,849 on 30 June 1953.

The number of agricultural non-credit societies on 30 June 1953 stood at 7,025 comprising of 79 vegetable growers' co-operative societies and 6,946 cane growers' co-operative societies.

31

The total membership of primary agricultural credit societies with unlimited liability was 73,799 with a paid up share-capital of 296,559 rupees and working capital of 3,268,335 rupees. They advance 232,572 rupees as loans to members during the year. The value of goods received and marketed was 15,572 rupees and 26,444 rupees.

The special scheme for the organisation and supervision of vegetable growers' co-operative societies was terminated on 28 February 1953. The number of such societies rose from 67 at the end of the previous year to 79 during the year under report. Their membership also increased to 1,887 against 1,124 of the last year. Their paid-up share capital stood at 10,987 rupees, reserves at 125 rupees, and working capital at 111,352 rupees against 7,203 rupees, 118 rupees and 86,808 rupees respectively of the previous year. There was an appreciable decrease in their volume of transactions owing to the absence of marketing facilities. The value of goods sold through these societies fell to 2,941 rupees during the year. The amount of loan advanced by them to the members during the year was 12,081 rupees.

The membership of the cane-growers' co-operative societies was 243,310 and their paid-up share-capital and reserves were 1,120,224 rupees and 543,612 rupees respectively on 30 June 1953. Their working capital was 3,339,955 rupees. They advanced 3,043,507 rupees as loans to their members during the year. Recovery of loans from the members during the year was 2,893,643 rupees leaving a balance of 2,085,038 rupees as outstanding at the end of the year.

Non-agricultural credit societies.— Out of 139 non-agricultural credit societies, 105 were employees' that is, wage-earners' co-operative societies, 13 shop-keepers', 17 societies of the scheduled castes classes and four people's and traders' co-operative banks. Of these, the most important are of the employees' co-operative societies, 10 of these societies have their areas of operation extending over the whole State while the remaining societies are of departmental or of sectional employees of government, semi-government and non-government institutions.

The 105 employees' societies had 52,593 members, 4,461,406 rupees paid-up share capital, 1,528,736 rupees reserves and 20,448,370 rupees working capital. They advanced 16,996,039 rupees as loan to their members during the year and a sum of 14,395,545 rupees was repaid by the members towards their loans. The total loan due against the members remained at 14,800,101 rupees at the close of the year, of which 1,367,974 rupees was overdue. They had a sum of 118,340 rupees as loan from Co-operative Banks and 77,592 rupees as loan from other sources, besides deposits of 13,638,081 rupees from members, 592,796 rupees as deposits from non-members and 31,419 rupees from societies. These societies conducted also trading business. They purchased goods worth 317,083 rupees and sold goods worth 421,486 rupees during the year. The total profit of these societies amounted to 293,296 rupees while their total loss was 3,378 rupees only. Out of 105 societies 99 societies were running at profit while only 6 societies worked at loss.

31

Fishermen's Co-operative Societies.- There were 25 societies at the end of the year under report, six of which are in the Shahabad District. Some of these societies are not in proper working order. Government have helped them by settlement of Khasmahal fisheries with them. The position of these societies as on 30 June 1953 is indicated below:-

Hoads/ Years.	No. of Socie- ties.	Member- ship.	Share capital Paid-up.	Reserves	Working capital.	Goods purcha- sed.	Goods sold.	Profit	Loss.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1952-53	25	1,579	46,305	570	145,406	171,478	192,001	28,935	5,366

N.B.- In 1952-53, only 13 Societies submitted figures.

Harijan co-operative societies.- The position of the existing societies is indicated in the statement below:-

HARIJAN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES (ON 30 JUNE 1953)

(1) No. of societies	-----	39
(2) Membership	-----	2,760
		Rs.
(3) Share Capital (Paid-up)	-----	83,957
(4) Reserves	-----	30,336
(5) Loans held	-----	3,800
(6) Deposits held	-----	125,779
(7) Working Capital	-----	241,872
(8) Loans advanced	-----	238,281
(9) Loans realised	-----	9,631
(10) Loans outstanding	-----	196,559
(11) Profit	-----	4,748
(12) Loss	-----	1,080

N.B.- Figures as on 30 June 1953 represent of 36 societies.

Housing co-operative societies.- At the end of the year under report the number of housing co-operative societies remained five as before, namely, the Metropolitan Housing Co-operative Society Ltd., Patna; Pioneer Housing Co-operative Society Ltd., Patna; Gaya Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., Jamshedpur Housing Co-operative Society Ltd., and Muri Housing Co-operative Society Ltd., Ranchi. Of these, Gaya and Muri Co-operative Housing Societies are not in working order. The position of the other three Housing Co-operative Societies is shown below:-

Name of Co-operative Societies (On the 30 June 1953)	No. of members.	Share Capital.	Reserves.	Working Capital.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Metropolitan Housing Co-operative Society Ltd.	31	3,732	--	3,732
2. Pioneer Housing Co-operative Society.	120	21,750	3,450	117,579
3. Jamshedpur Housing Co-operative Society Ltd.	649	168,658	--	168,658

27

Madras: Annual Report on the Working of Co-operative
Societies for the Year 1953-1954*.

According to the annual report on the working of co-operative societies in the State of Madras for the year ending 30 June 1954, during the year the movement recorded further progress. The total number of all types of societies increased from 14,548 to 14,885 and the membership increased from 2.441 million to 2.622 million. There was comparative increase in the paid-up share capital also from 82.179 million rupees to 87.291 million rupees. The reserve fund of all the societies at the end of the year was 85.498 million rupees as against 84.101 million rupees at the beginning. The total working capital of all the societies at the end of the year was 620 million rupees.

A major event affecting the co-operative movement in the State that took place during the year was the formation of the Andhra State and the consequent bifurcation of State Co-operative institutions and the transfer of co-operative societies situated in the Andhra area to that State. This resulted in the reduction in the size of the movement. At the same time it afforded an opportunity for greater attention being paid to the movement in a smaller area.

Co-operative credit.- In the structure of co-operation in Madras, the State Co-operative Bank is at the apex with 16 central co-operative banks and 157 individuals as its members. It held deposits amounting to 39 million rupees, of which 19.4 million rupees was from inside the movement as against 24.4 million rupees in the previous year. It rediscounted 25.1 million rupees of hundies of the Central Co-operative Banks. Its working capital was 59.272 million rupees. It advanced loans to the Central banks to the extent of 29.377 million rupees and to other societies to the extent of 2.966 million rupees. The net profits of the Bank were 0.502 million rupees.

Below the State Bank are 16 district central co-operative banks with 14,085 members of which 11,873 are co-operatives. Their share capital was 9.438 million rupees, the working capital being 121 million rupees of which a sum of 73.1 million rupees represented the deposits of members and non-members. During the year, they issued loans up to 165.8 million rupees as against 223.4 million rupees in the previous year, the fall being due to reduction in dealings of controlled foodgrains.

* Report on the Working of the Co-operative Societies in the State of Madras for the Co-operative Year ending 30 June 1954. The Superintendent Government Press, Madras, 1955. pp.160 x 4. Price Rs.2-10-0.

The Reserve Bank of India sanctioned credit limits to the Central banks to be drawn with the second signature of the State Co-operative Bank. The amount drawn from the Reserve Bank of India against these limits was 25.1 million rupees while the amount outstanding to the Reserve Bank of India was 14 million rupees. The Central banks obtained funds from the apex Bank at 2 1/2 per cent and lent at 4 1/2 per cent to their affiliated societies which now lend to the members at 3 1/4 per cent which is the lowest rate charged by co-operatives in the whole of the Indian Union. For medium-term funds required for purposes like sinking or deepening wells, erecting pump-sets, constructing farm houses, the Parliament has amended the Reserve Bank of India Act to enable the Reserve Bank of India to provide co-operative banks in India with medium-term funds, up to 50 million rupees in the aggregate. The Reserve Bank of India has agreed to sanction a medium-term loan of 4 million rupees to the Madras State Co-operative Bank on Government guarantee. On the whole, the Central banks have worked satisfactorily and reduced their overdues both under principal and interest from 13.73 to 10.94 and from 1.17 to 0.46 per cent respectively.

Agricultural credit societies.— There was a slight increase in the number of agricultural credit societies, their membership and paid-up share capital. The number of societies increased from 10,151 on 30 June 1953 to 10,295 and the membership from 929,695 to 980,857. The percentage of increase in membership was 5.5. The paid-up share capital of members also recorded a corresponding increase from 12.388 million rupees to 13.020 million rupees. Their working capital stood at 76,565 million rupees as against 79,052 million rupees at the end of the previous year. The decrease in the working capital was due to the decrease in outstandings under borrowings from members, non-members and central banks at the end of the year. The loans obtained from the central banks amounted to 36.765 million rupees of which 5.183 million rupees were under cash credit system and the amount due to central banks at the end of the year was 45.514 million rupees as against 49,938 million rupees on 30 June 1953. The total amount of loans issued by agricultural credit societies during the year also registered a fall from 37.548 million rupees to 35.003 million rupees, while there was corresponding decrease in the loans outstanding against members from 63.406 million rupees to 60.058 million rupees at the end of the year. The percentage of loans issued for productive purposes, however, remained stationary, it being nearly 97 per cent in the years 1952-53 and 1953-54.

Of the rural credit societies 468 were associated with multi-purpose activities, such as supply of agricultural, industrial and domestic requirements and the sale of finished products. The total non-credit business done in this manner amounted to 2.968 million rupees during the year.

Non-agricultural credit societies.- On 30 June 1954 there were 841 urban credit societies, with a membership of 0.603 millions and a paid-up share capital of 20.265 million rupees. Of these, 172 were urban banks, 475 employees' societies and the rest other credit societies in urban areas. While their borrowings from the Central Banks were only 12.337 million rupees at the end of the year, the deposits from members and non-members held by them amounted to 71.338 million rupees which constituted more than 61 per cent of their total working capital of 114.917 million rupees. Their owned capital, composed of the paid-up share capital, deposits of members, reserves and other funds amounted to 68.273 million rupees which represented nearly 60 per cent of the working capital. During the year, they issued loans to the extent of 105.9 million rupees as against 91.2 million rupees in the previous year. Their business resulted in a net profit of 16.041 million rupees while some of them worked at a loss which amounted to 0.133 million rupees.

Land mortgage banks.- The primary land mortgage banks, 73 in number, had a membership of 88,431 and paid-up share capital of 2.572 million rupees. Their working capital amounted to 36.320 million rupees. The loans issued to members during the year were 4.807 million rupees as against 4.716 million rupees in 1952-53. The net profits earned by the primary land mortgage banks amounted to 0.166 million rupees, while the loss sustained by some of them was 30,725 rupees. The loans issued for land improvement were 0.718 million rupees as against 0.774 million rupees in the previous year.

The composite Central Land Mortgage Bank was bifurcated during the year on the formation of the Andhra State. At the end of the year, the Residuary Central Land Mortgage Bank had 73 primary land mortgage banks as members with a paid-up share capital of 1.518 million rupees and a reserve fund of 1.399 million rupees. The loans outstanding against the primary land mortgage banks amounted to 32.981 million rupees which includes debentures to the value of 0.303 million rupees allotted to the Mysore Central Land Mortgage Bank in the course of the bifurcation which has to be discharged by the Residuary Central Land Mortgage Bank. The amount to its credit under Debenture Redemption Reserve account and Sinking Fund account were 0.160 million rupees and 9.357 million rupees respectively.

Agricultural production.- Co-operatives of different types make notable contribution to agricultural production. In reclaiming land, they applied for the lease of 92 or 43 acres of Government fallows of which 396.83 acres were made available. The co-operative societies for civilians and ex-servicemen reclaimed 6,911.27 acres of land. Thirty-five land reclamation societies (in Pattukottai taluk) reclaimed 634.56 acres of land in addition to the 4,166 acres previously reclaimed. Eighteen irrigation societies provided facilities for irrigating 8,900 acres of land. In addition, 78 rural credit societies granted 0.264 million rupees of loans to their members to purchase pump-sets. Up to the end of the year, 684 pump-sets had been installed. In addition, primary land mortgage banks issued 0.718 million rupees for construction of wells, installation of pump-sets, etc. One hundred and twenty marketing societies supplied seeds worth 60,500 rupees.

36

chemical manures worth 2.201 million rupees, agricultural implements worth 3.221 million rupees and compost manure worth 0.853 million rupees. Co-operatives handled milk and milk products to the value of 14.101 million rupees, eggs to the value of 17,702 rupees, salt to the value of 56,495 rupees and jaggery worth 10.415 million rupees.

Industrial production.- The handloom industry showed signs of improvement during the year. Consequent on the formation of the Andhra State, the Composite Madras State Handloom Weavers' Society was reconstituted. On 30 June 1954 it had 802 members with a paid-up share capital of 0.616 million rupees. During the year it purchased and sold finished goods on outright basis to the extent of 5.489 million rupees and 4.785 million rupees respectively. It purchased 6,400 bales of yarn for 5.944 million rupees and sold 6,077 bales for 5.926 million rupees to the primaries. It is running two weaving factories for the production of improved varieties of cloth, one screen-printing factory and four dye factories. Of the four collective weaving centres at Salem, Sankarankoil, Tirumageswaram and Arupukkottai, the one at Arupukkottai was closed in March 1954. At the end of the year the State Society had six central depots, 56 emporia and 57 retail depots within the State and 11 marketing units outside the State.

There were 666 primary weavers' co-operative societies on 30 June 1954 with 0.115 millions of members and 0.114 million of looms in their fold. They produced goods to the value of 20.292 million rupees and sold goods for 30.880 million rupees.

Handloom industry is at present carried on mostly on a cottage industry basis and co-operative societies formed for them consist of weavers who still carry on the industry in their own houses. A new method of organising the industry on co-operative lines is proposed to be tried as an experimental measure. Under this arrangement, the weavers will be organised into an industrial co-operative to work the looms under a common roof on factory lines. In an organisation of this type, the weavers will be self-employed, inasmuch as there is no separate employer and the profits of the industry will be divided among the members. The possibility of forming such industrial co-operatives for handlooms in Malabar and since the close of the year in Madurai were examined and proposals were sent to Government. In Malabar it is proposed to take over two factories with about 50 and 75 looms respectively. The cost of taking over the factories is estimated at 0.171 million rupees and it will be met from contributions from members and from the Cess Fund. In Madurai it is proposed to take over on lease about 80 looms for running the proposed handloom industrial co-operative there. Exemption from certain labour laws are necessary for working this new co-operative venture. The Union Government have since sanctioned the scheme for the establishment of the two industrial co-operatives in Malabar district.

Cottage industrial co-operatives.- The cottage industrial co-operatives in the State embrace a variety of industries such as mat-weaving, coir manufacture, leather manufacture, basket making, pottery, metalware, etc. On 30 June 1954 there were 150 cottage industrial co-operatives with a membership of 15,216 and a paid-up share capital of 0.439 million rupees. Some of the deserving societies are given financial assistance by Government for the purchase of equipment subject to a maximum of 50 per cent of the value and towards establishment and contingent charges. Out of a lump sum grant ~~placed at my disposal in this behalf~~, a sum of 12,074 rupees was sanctioned to the societies. The value of goods produced by the societies during the year amounted to 0.562 million rupees, while the sales amounted to 1.013 million rupees. Cottage industrial co-operative societies for women continued to do useful work. There were 35 women's cottage industrial co-operatives with a membership of 3,791 and paid-up share capital of 22,304 rupees. The value of goods produced and sold by them amounted to 29,097 rupees and 48,287 rupees respectively. The Women's cottage industrial central society at Madras purchased raw materials and goods to the value of 20,492 rupees which were either sold or given to the member-societies for the manufacture of ready-made garments. Finished goods to the value of 29,733 rupees were sold during the year. A sum of 6,186 rupees was paid as wages to its members. The women's cottage industrial societies in the district which deserve special mention are those at Arni, Kozhikode, Coonoor, Virudunagar and Tanjore.

Marketing societies.- There were 120 marketing societies at the end of the year with 124,085 members and a paid-up share capital of 1.993 million rupees. They issued loans to their members on the pledge of agricultural produce to the extent of 4.472 million rupees. They marketed the produce of their members to the extent of 13.297 million rupees on agency basis and 7.215 million rupees on outright basis. The controlled credit scheme which links credit with marketing was in operation in 14 Deputy Registrars' circles during the year. Twenty-nine marketing societies worked the scheme through 296 rural credit societies. The loans issued under the scheme amounted to 1.101 million rupees and the value of produce brought to the marketing societies for sale amounted to 2.532 million rupees. The marketing societies also distributed seeds, manures and agricultural implements to their members to the value of 6.335 million rupees. The scheme sanctioned by Government for the grant of subsidies to the extent of 50 per cent of the cost of construction of godowns by co-operative marketing societies subject to a maximum of 7,500 rupees continued to be in force during the year. They were sanctioned a total subsidy of 68,520 rupees. At the end of the year, eleven societies constructed godowns under the scheme. Government have been addressed to raise the amount of subsidy from 7,500 rupees to 10,000 rupees for each marketing society. A few sale societies undertook procurement work also. Two societies in Tanjore district procured 4,263 tons of paddy valued at 1.204 million rupees and one sale society at Madurai procured 412 tons of millets worth 0.103 million rupees.

38

Seven sale societies undertook processing activities such as coffee and arecanut curing, cotton ginning, groundnut decorticating, etc., and the total value of produce processed and the processing charges recovered were 0.864 million rupees and 25,684 rupees respectively. Eleven marketing societies undertook export trade of onions and chillies. The quantity of these commodities exported by them was 648 tons and 184 tons respectively. The Tirunelveli District Jaggery Co-operative Marketing Society exported to Ceylon 423 tons of palmyrah jaggery.

Consumers' Co-operatives.- The consumers' co-operatives which were doing substantial work during the control period were greatly affected by the resumption of normal trade. The effect of decontrol was fully felt by them during the year. The turnover of the wholesale co-operative stores and the primaries fell from 216.8 million rupees to 130.9 million rupees. A major portion of their business was however in foodstuffs as they were permitted to deal in open market paddy and rice, after decontrol. They however undertook an important activity during the year in the matter of distribution of chemical manures. They were appointed as the stockists for the State on behalf of the Government and also functioned as wholesaler-cum-retailer in nearly half of the taluks in the State. They played a very useful role in making the manures available at fixed rates in several centres throughout the districts. They handled 42,435 tons as stockists.

Community Projects and National Extension Service.- The scheme of National Extension Service was launched in 28 blocks on 2 October 1953. It was subsequently extended to 10 more blocks. At the end of the year there were 4 Community Projects areas, 4 Community Development Blocks and 38 National Extension Service areas.

There were 2,593 co-operative societies of different types in these areas at the beginning of the year. One hundred and fourteen new societies were started and the total number at the end of the year was 2,707 which consisted of credit societies, consumers' stores, weavers' societies, milk supply societies, and other types of societies such as jaggery societies, cottage industrial societies, agricultural improvement and irrigation societies, marketing societies, etc. The credit societies issued loans to the extent of 13.325 million rupees to their members. Two hundred and twenty-six societies undertook other multi-purpose activities. The consumers' stores sold goods to the value of 11.149 million rupees to their members. The weavers' co-operative societies produced cloth worth 3.778 million rupees and the value of goods sold by them was 4.165 million rupees. The milk supply societies issued loans to the tune of 0.208 million rupees to their members for purchase of milch animals.

39

Prohibition.- Co-operative societies continued to play an important part in providing employment to the ex-toddy tappers throughout the State. The palm jaggery co-operatives organised to provide employment for them have been doing good work. There were 1,536 palm jaggery societies with 0.187 millions of members and paid-up share capital of 0.634 million rupees at the end of the year. They provided employment for 0.151 millions of ex-toddy tappers. The members produced jaggery worth 10.415 million rupees and jaggery valued at 4.819 million rupees was sold through co-operatives.

Resettlement of ex-servicemen.- There were 22 societies for the benefit of ex-servicemen at the end of the year consisting of seven workshops, six land colonization societies and nine motor transport societies. In all, they provided work to 1,532 ex-servicemen. The Special Officer deputed for examining the working of the workshops submitted his report and the recommendations made by him are under consideration. In the seven workshops there were 620 ex-servicemen members. The value of goods produced and sold by them during the year was 0.350 million rupees and 0.353 million rupees respectively. A sum of 71,000 rupees was paid as wages to the members. In the six land colonization societies there were 464 active colonists at the end of the year. Out of 6,553.35 acres of land allotted to these societies, 2,614.46 acres were reclaimed and 1,167.12 acres were brought under cultivation. The nine motor transport societies owned 204 vehicles consisting of 167 lorries, 36 buses and one car. They undertook both goods transport as well as passenger transport. Four hundred and forty-eight ex-servicemen were employed by these societies and salaries and allowances paid to them amounted to 0.401 million rupees.

Co-operative housing.- The urban housing societies in the State have made great progress and contributed to relieve housing shortage in urban areas and major panchayats in a large measure. The urban housing schemes were implemented through four different types of societies, viz., ordinary building societies, house building societies, house construction societies and co-operative townships. There were 170 societies of all these types at the end of the year with a membership of 17,734 and a paid-up share capital of 10.216 million rupees. They completed the construction of 965 houses during the year, making the aggregate number of houses so far constructed to 5,696. The number of houses under construction at the end of the year was 735. Government have now enhanced the maximum of Government loans for the construction of each house from 3,000 rupees to 10,000 rupees. This will go a long way to expand the business of Urban Housing Societies.

On 30 June 1954 there were 23 rural housing societies functioning in the State. They had a membership of 451 and paid-up share capital of 65,480 rupees. The progress of rural housing societies is still slow. The scheme has not yet attracted the villagers mainly because, under the scheme, the minimum cash of a house should not be less than 3,000 rupees. So far, five houses have been completed and 22 are under construction. It is proposed to modify the rules relating to the rural housing scheme.

40

43. Handicrafts.

India - October 1955.

Freezing of Cotton Mill Production at 5,000 Million Yards;
All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board supports
Proposal: "Amber Charkha" to be popularised.

The All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board, meeting at Ahmedabad on 13 and 14 October 1955, urged the Government of India and the Planning Commission to freeze the production of textile mills at 5,000 million yards.

The Board also decided to provide hand-spun yarn by the large-scale introduction of "Amber" charkha to the handloom industry to enable it to meet the increased demand for cloth during the second Five-Year Plan.

Disclosing this at a Press conference, Mr. Vaikunthlal Mehta, Chairman of the Board, said the Board had drawn up a scheme for supplying 400 million lb. of yarn for producing about 1,500 million yards of cloth in the decentralized section of the industry. The plan, if accepted by the Planning Commission, would provide employment to at least four million people.

The Board at its meeting calculated that at the end of the second Plan the domestic requirements of cloth would be about 7,200 million yards out of which the textile mills could supply 4,000 million yards, Power looms would produce 200 million yards and the handloom industry about 1,500 million yards. Therefore, the additional requirement would be about 1,500 million yards of cloth. This should be met by the Handloom and the Khadi Boards.

Pilot Programme.- To convince the Planning Commission about the potentiality of the decentralized sector of the industry and particularly about the possibility of producing the required quantity of yarn through the introduction of about 2.5 million "Amber" charkhas in the country, the Board drew up an intensive and extensive pilot programme for the next five months.

The Khadi Board would set up 100 work centres, each equipped with 60 sets of "Amber" charkha. This "immediate programme" would enable the Board to collect adequate data to be submitted to the Government by March.

The Board proposed to train about 400 instructors to conduct these centres.

41

Mr. Mehta said that the "Amber" charkha project if accepted by the Government, would ensure enough cloth at less cost and maximum employment potential in the country. The Kamungo Committee had suggested the setting up of additional spinning plants in the mills to meet the country's requirements of cloth. This suggestion, if implemented, would cost about 360 million rupees and provide employment to about 58,000 only. While the "Amber" charkha could do the same job with the capital investment of 160 million rupees and employment to four million people.

The Board urged Mr. V. Nanjappa, Textile Commissioner and chairman of the All-India Handloom Board, who attended the meeting that the facilities and aid given to the handloom workers by the Handloom Board should also be given to those weaving hand-spun yarn. Mr. Nanjappa promised to consider the problem.

Textile workers support handloom industry.- The 80,000-strong Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association gave a reception to the members of the Khadi and Village Industries Board on 14 October 1955. Welcoming the members of the Board, Mr. S.R. Vasavda, General Secretary of the Association, assured full support of the textile workers of Ahmedabad to the programme for the development of the khadi industry. It was in the very interests of the textile workers to support the khadi movement which would augment the purchasing power of the people and in turn sustain the textile industry.

The "Amber Charkha".- The "Amber charkha" designed by Mr. Ekambarathan of Madras State, consists of wooden, iron and rubber parts all of which (except the small "traveller") are made in India. Its structure is simple. Any rural carpenter may assemble, replace, repair or re-manufacture almost any part of the "Amber Charkha". The present cost of the charkha is 65 rupees inclusive of the "Amber Belni", an instrument which manufactures the tubular slivers required for the Charkha.

The "Amber Charkha" can fetch the rural spinner daily wages up to 1 rupees 4 annas, it is estimated. Mr. Krishnadas Gandhi, in charge of the "Amber" Scheme puts the minimum that one can earn at annas 12 a day.

The new charkha is generally a four-spindle spinning wheel weighing around 26 lbs. The per spindle production on the "Amber Charkha", (each spindle costing three annas) compares favourably with the per spindle production of the mill spindle (costing 7 rupees). As compared to previous models of the charkha, the "Amber" yield is superior in quality and uniformity of the yarn spun. Inclusive of the

preparatory processes on raw cotton, the average output on the traditional charkha is 2,000 to 2,500 yards of yarn per day while the "Amber" yields 6,000 to 8,000 yards of yarn per day. Being comparatively more uniform and of greater tensile strength, the "Amber" yarn is easier to weave.

Experiments to streamline the "Amber Charkha" are now going on in three scientific laboratories and in 100 centres dotted all over India.

(The Hindustan Times, 13 October 1955;
The Times of India, 14 October 1955).

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44. Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

India - October 1955.

Bipartite Maritime Board set up for Calcutta Port.

A 12-member new Maritime Board for Calcutta was formed at a meeting of the representatives of the Calcutta branch of the National Union of Seamen of India and the Calcutta Liners' Conference held during October 1955.

The new Board replaces the Calcutta Maritime Board, constituted in 1947, which, it is stated, was unable to function for certain reasons since 1951.

The functions of the new Board will be to prevent and adjust differences between shipowners and seafarers, to establish, revise and maintain a standard rate of rates of wages, and approved conditions of service and to consider matters of common interest.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 16 October 1955).

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59. Social Research.

India - October 1955.

India-wide Prohibition by April 1958: Inquiry Committee's Recommendation.

The Prohibition Inquiry Committee appointed by the Planning Commission has recommended that April 1958, be fixed as the target date for nationwide prohibition. The Committee's report was published recently.

The Committee points out that there is strong support for such a nationwide prohibition policy in every State it visited and also a demand to implement that policy as early as possible.

On the experience of prohibition in States like Bombay and Madras, the Committee affirms "prohibition is not only a sound policy but also a practical proposition. The aim should be to promote nationwide prohibition and to achieve better and more lasting results through effective implementation".

In recommending the target date for nationwide prohibition, the Committee explains that it has taken into consideration both the urgency of the situation and the practical difficulties which have to be overcome by the State Governments concerned.

The Committee further recommends that by the end of the current year State Governments may declare their acceptance of this policy and the target date and thus prepare the public to fully co-operate in the fulfilment of the prohibition programme.

It suggests that a clear-cut statement may also be issued by the Union Government to the effect that prohibition has become the national policy of the Government and that through a gradual process of education, tightening of restrictions and enforcement, the use of intoxicating drinks and of drugs injurious to health, except for medicinal purposes, is to be completely stopped.

The intervening period between the date of the declaration of this policy by the State Governments and the coming into effect of complete prohibition should be utilised for bringing into existence requisite machinery and also to take other preparatory steps in the direction of prohibition.

Working of prohibition.- The report sets out the present position regarding progress of prohibition in the States against the background of excise policy, its main defects and ultimate failure. Four States, Andhra, Bombay, Madras and Saurashtra, are under prohibition. In nine States there is partial prohibition, namely, Assam, Madhya Bharat, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Orissa, Travancore-Cochin, the Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

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The Committee expresses the view that a period of five or six years is a relatively short time for a reform of this character to be fully assessed. Viewed against this background the success achieved by the States in this field is by no means small.

The Committee notes with concern that in the non-prohibition States and areas the drink habit has been gradually spreading among classes hitherto not accustomed to it, particularly among the younger generation and even among some women belonging to the "upper" classes.

In the main industrial areas and large irrigation and other development projects, liquor has entrenched itself into the economic life of the workers. This aspect of the problem, the Committee suggests, requires urgent consideration. The Committee suggests that the closure of shops in and near specified industrial or development project areas should be given high priority during the transitional period.

Turning to the financial aspect, the Committee observes that the present excise duties on intoxicants and narcotics are iniquitous, regressive and anti-social and suggests that this "blot on our tax system" should be removed forthwith.

(The Statesman, 25 October 1955).

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64. Wage Protection and Labour Clauses in Employment
Contracts with the Public Authorities.

India - October 1955.

Travancore-Cochin: Payment of Wages Act, 1936, to be
extended to Employment in Salt Pans.

In exercise of the powers conferred under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Government of Travancore-Cochin has given notice of its intention to extend the provisions of the said Act to all persons employed in salt pans. The proposal will be taken into consideration by the Government after 4 January 1956.

(Travancore-Cochin Gazette, Part I, 4 October 1955,
page 1124).

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66. Strike and Lockout Rights.

India - October 1955.

Mysore: Air Transport Services declared a Public Utility Service.

In exercise of the powers conferred under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Government of Mysore has declared the air transport services (including services run by the Indian Air Line Corporation and the Air India International) in the State to be a public utility service for the purpose of the said Act for a period of six months from 6 October 1955.

(The Mysore Gazette, Part IV, Section 2c,
6 October 1955, page 385)

Assam: Air Transport Services declared a Public Utility Service.

In exercise of the powers conferred under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Government of Assam has declared air transport services operating in Assam to be public utility service for the purposes of the said Act for a period of six months from 15 October 1955.

(Notification No. GLR 86/50/89 dated 12 October 1955; Assam Gazette, Part IIA, 19 October 1955, page 1769).

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CHAPTER 7. PROBLEMS PECULIAR TO CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF WORKERS.

INDIA - OCTOBER 1955.

71. Employees and Salaried Intellectual Workers.

Service Conditions of Journalists: Bill introduced in Parliament.

Mr. B.V. Keskar, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 28 September 1955 a Bill to regulate certain conditions of service of working journalists and other persons employed in newspaper establishments.

According to the statement of objects and reasons to the Bill, the Press Commission which was constituted by Government to inquire, among other things, into the conditions of employment of working journalists, have made certain recommendations for improvement and regulation of such service conditions by means of legislation. These recommendations cover minimum period of notice, gratuity, provident fund, settlement of industrial disputes, leave with pay, hours of work and minimum wages. All these aspects are covered in the Bill which generally follows the lines indicated by the Press Commission; the determination of minimum wages has, however, for various reasons, been left to a Board to be constituted for this purpose.

The Commission also suggested the application of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, and the Employees Provident Funds Act, 1952, to the industry, and such application is also provided for in the Bill in respect of establishments exceeding a certain minimum size.

In order to provide a longer period of notice in certain cases of retrenchment, necessary legislative provision in respect of the application of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, has been included in the Bill.

A transitional clause is also included to cover cases of retrenchment which had occurred after the Press Commission signed their report but before the application of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, to working journalists.

The following are the salient provisions of the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

Wages.— The Central Government has been empowered to constitute a Minimum Wage Board to fix minimum rates of wages in respect of working journalists.

Clause 12 of the Bill says that the decision of the Board shall be binding on all employers in relation to newspaper establishments and every working journalist shall be entitled to be paid wages at a rate which shall, in no case, be less than the minimum rate of wages fixed by the Board. Another clause.

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clause provides that in fixing minimum wages the Board "shall have regard to the cost of living the prevalent rates of wages for comparable employments, the circumstances relating to the newspaper industry in different regions of the country and to any other circumstances which to the Board may seem relevant".

Under the Bill, the Board is to consist of an equal number of persons nominated by the Central Government to represent employers in relation to newspaper establishments and working journalists. An "independent person" is to be appointed by the Government as its chairman.

Hours of work.- The Bill lays down that no working journalist should be required or allowed to work for more than 160 hours during any period of four consecutive weeks exclusive of the time for meals. Working journalists are to be allowed during a period of seven consecutive days rest for a period of not less than 24 hours.

Leave and gratuity.- As regards leave they are entitled for each year of completed service to (1) earned leave for a period of 30 days on average pay and (2) leave on medical certificates for 20 days on half average pay.

Gratuity is to be equivalent to 15 days' average pay for every completed year of service or any part thereof in excess of six months.

The Bill makes a separate provision on gratuity in the case of establishments engaging not more than 10 working journalists immediately preceding commencement of the Act. According to it, gratuity payable will be equivalent to (1) three days' average pay for every completed year of service or any part thereof in excess of six months, if the period of such past service does not exceed five years; (2) five days' average pay for every completed year of service or any part thereof in excess of six months, if the period of such past service exceeds five years but does not exceed 10 years; (3) and seven days' average pay for every completed year of service or any part thereof in excess of six months, if the period of such service exceeds 10 years.

Retrenchment.- The periods of notice in relation to the retrenchment of a working journalist as provided in the Bill are as follows: (1) Three months in the case of an editor a leader-writer and news editor and such other working journalists as may be prescribed and (2) one month in the case of any other working journalists.

Under another clause a journalist retrenched between 14 July 1954 and 12 March 1955 is entitled to be paid (1) wages for one month or the rate to which he was entitled immediately before his retrenchment, unless he had been given one month's notice in writing before such retrenchment and (2) compensation equivalent to 15 days' average pay for every completed year of service.

The Bill provides that a newspaper employee shall continue to be entitled to any benefits under an award, agreement or contract if they are more favourable than those accruing under this measure.

The provision of the Industrial Disputes Act will under the Bill apply to working journalists subject to the modification with regard to leave. The Working Journalists (Industrial Disputes) Act is consequently repealed.

(The Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 28 September 1955, pp.487-495; The Statesman, 29 September 1955)

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52

Ajmer Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill, 1955.

The Government of Ajmer published on 22 October 1955 the text of the Ajmer Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill, 1955, proposed to be introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the State. The salient provisions of the Bill are summarised below.

Scope and extent.- The Bill when passed is to extend to the whole of the State of Ajmer and will come into force on such date as the State Government may appoint in this behalf. It shall apply in the first instance in the municipal areas of Ajmer, Beawar, Bijainagar and Kehri and cantonment area of Nasirabad and the State Government may extend all or any of the provisions to such other areas as may be notified.

Hours of work.- Hours of work in shops and commercial establishments are fixed at nine a day and 48 a week and the maximum limit including overtime is fixed at 10 hours in a day and the total hours of overtime not to exceed 50 in a quarter of the year. Hours of work of children between the age of 12 and 15 are fixed at five a day. Wages for overtime shall be paid at the rate of one and a half times the ordinary rate of wages. Provision is made for a weekly holiday of one whole day for rest.

Leave with wages.- Every employee who has worked for a period of 240 days or more in an establishment shall be allowed during the subsequent calendar year, leave with wages for a number of days calculated at the rate of one day for every 20 days of work performed for adults and at the rate of one day for every 15 days of work performed for children.

Employment of children and women.- Employment of children below the age of 12 years in any establishment and night work of women or children between the age of 12 and 15 in any establishment is prohibited. No owner or manager of an establishment shall knowingly employ a woman during the six weeks following delivery and every woman who has worked continuously for a period of not less than 6 months preceding the date of her delivery shall be entitled to receive from the employer a payment of maternity benefit at prescribed rates for six weeks before and six weeks after confinement.

Social security.- The provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, and the rules thereunder shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to every employee of a shop or commercial establishment.

Other provisions of the Bill relate to registration of establishments, appointment, duties and powers of inspectors, penal clauses, etc.

(The Gazette of India, Part II, Section 3,
22 October 1955, pp. 336-340).

53

CHAPTER 8. MANPOWER PROBLEMS.

INDIA - OCTOBER 1955.

81. Employment Situation.

Employment Exchanges: Working during August 1955.

General employment situation.- According to the review of the work of the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment during August 1955, in accord with the seasonal pattern, fresh registrations after increasing heavily in July, after the declaration of examination results, were 16,000 less during August 1955. Despite this, the live register of the unemployed which had increased by over 42,000 during July showed a further advance of over 17,000 and stood at a record figure of 683,632. Employment in the public sector as represented by the number of vacancies notified showed a slight decline but this was more than off-set by a slight rise in the number of job openings in the private sector. Placements, however, recorded an increase of over 800, taking the public and private sectors together. Employment situation in general did not show any signs of improvement even though in some exchange areas the local situation had changed for the better.

Widespread shortage persisted in respect of stenographers, trained teachers, experienced typists, qualified draughtsmen, overseers, surveyors, compounders, midwives and nurses. Dearth of experienced engineers, qualified doctors, road roller drivers and skilled technicians such as fitters, millers, turners, welders and moulders was also reported to be fairly widespread. A number of exchanges experienced shortage of suitable applicants in regard to vacancies of auditors and accountants, physical training instructors, tracers and telephone operators.

Widespread surplus of applicants was reported in respect of clerks, untrained teachers, unskilled office workers, freshers from schools and colleges, carpenters and motor drivers. Semi-skilled turners, fitters, electricians, wiremen, masons, motor mechanics and packers were also found surplus to requirements. Employment opportunities for fresh engineering graduates at Bombay, Delhi, Madurai, Calcutta and Kidderpore and for compositors at Delhi, Allahabad and Gorakhpur were reported as inadequate. Oil engine drivers at Jalgaon and Gorakhpur, and textile workers at Warrangal and Asansol were also surplus to requirements. The newly opened exchange at Rourkella reported a surplus in respect of drillers and engine drivers.

54

Registrations and placings.- The following table shows registrations for employment and placings for August 1955 and July 1955:-

	August 1955	July 1955
Registrations -----	141,068	157,446
Placings -----	12,746	11,904

Registrations marked a fall of 16,378 over the figure of the previous month. The decrease in registrations was comparatively large in Madras (2,921), West Bengal (2,593), Bombay (2,078), Andhra (1,914), Uttar Pradesh (1,625), Travancore-Cochin (1,118) and Madhya Pradesh (1,003). On the other hand, there was an increase in registrations in the States of Punjab (922) and Himachal Pradesh (118).

A total of 77,243 applicants were submitted to employers for selection during August 1955, as against 69,017 during the preceding month. There was an increase of 842 in placements over the figures for July 1955. A comparatively large increase in placements was marked in the States of Uttar Pradesh (489), Punjab (410) and Madras (235); whereas there was a fall in the States of West Bengal (372), Bihar (298) and Bombay (147). Of the total number of placements secured, 5,526 were under Central Government Departments, 4,531 were under State Government Departments and 2,689 with private employers.

Placings by wage groups.- The table below shows placings during the month classified according to wage groups:-

<u>Wage groups</u>	<u>Number placed</u>
101 rupees and above -----	1,899
61 rupees to 100 rupees -----	6,507
30 rupees to 60 rupees -----	4,121
Below 30 rupees -----	219

Vacancies notified.- The number of employers who used the exchanges during the month was 4,865 as against 5,034 during the preceding month. A total of 20,846 vacancies were notified by them as compared to 20,136 during July 1955, thus marking an increase of 710. The increase in the number of vacancies notified was recorded in the States of Punjab (896), Bombay (572) and Uttar Pradesh (539). However, there was a decline in the number of vacancies notified in the States of Bhopal (996), Bihar (664) and West Bengal (571). Of the vacancies notified 15,732 were by Central and State Government establishments and 5,114 by private establishments. There was a fall of 149 in the public sector and an increase of 889 in the private sector.

Register of unemployed.- The number of persons seeking employment assistance through the exchanges on the last day of the month was 683,632, which was 17,487 more than the figure at the end of the preceding month. A total of 4,075 were known to be employed persons who desired further employment assistance. The composition of the live register occupationwise is shown below:-

<u>Occupation</u>		<u>No. on Live register as on 31 August 1955</u>
1. Industrial supervisory	----	5,534
2. Skilled and semi-skilled	----	55,473
3. Clerical	----	206,943
4. Educational	----	27,943
5. Domestic service	----	21,624
6. Unskilled	----	328,273
7. Others	----	37,842
Total.		<u>683,632</u>

Employment position of special types of applicants.- The employment position regarding special types of applicants during August 1955 is shown in the following table:-

<u>Category</u>		<u>Registrations</u>	<u>Placings</u>	<u>No. on the Live Register</u>
1. Displaced persons	---	7,033	924	50,600
2. Ex-servicemen	---	7,730	1,162	32,235
3. Scheduled Caste applicants.	---	15,436	1,848	67,682
4. Scheduled tribe applicants	---	1,466	208	5,147
5. Surplus and discharged Central and State Governments employees.		1,601	647	8,051
6. Highly qualified applicants	...	1,054	119	5,552
7. Women	---	4,978	729	26,723

Special Investigation: Employment assistance rendered to ex-service personnel.- Exchange statistics pertaining to ex-servicemen are separately maintained for those who were demobilised before 1 November 1950 and those demobilised on or after that date. During the period January 1951 - June 1955, 411,761 registrations and 74,351 placements were effected by the exchanges in respect of ex-Service personnel. Of the placements secured 56,185 were in regard to pre-November 1950 demobees and 18,166 in regard to post-October 1950 demobees. The percentage of placements to registrations during the period under report works out to 17.6 for pre-November 1950 demobees and 19.8 for post-October 1950 demobees and for all ex-Servicemen taken together the figure comes to 18.1. This compares favourably with the corresponding percentage for all categories of applicants which was 18.7.

36

During the 4 1/2 years under review, the average monthly registrations and placements in respect of pre-November 1950 demobees declined steadily; whereas in the case of post-October 1950 demobees, the average registration and placement figures after an initial fall recorded steady increase from 1953 onwards. A larger number of registrations and placements were secured by the exchanges in regard to pre-November 1950 demobees than for post-October 1950 demobees, during the period under review. At the end of the year 1951, there were 23,623 pre-November 1950 demobees on the live register of exchanges, but the figure recorded a steady fall and stood at 20,916 at end of the year 1953 and finally declined to 18,927 at end of June 1955. The live register figure in respect of post-October 1950 demobees, however, after showing an initial fall continued to increase steadily, being 7,218 at the end of 1951, 4,130 at the end of 1952, and 9,961 at the end of 1954 and finally stood at 11,169 as on 30 June 1955. Of the 30,096 ex-Service personnel on live register at end of June 1955, 129 were ex-Service women.

Employment exchange activity in respect of supervisory, professional and skilled category of applicants and vacancies.—
Analysis of the live register reveals that of the 666,145 applicants seeking employment assistance, in about 600 different trades and occupations, at the end of July 1955, 5,466 wanted employment of industrial supervisory nature, 53,745 were skilled and semi-skilled technicians, 200,894 sought clerical jobs, 29,648 belonged to the educational group, 21,189 were interested in domestic service, 318,408 were unskilled workers and 36,795 were applicants for other miscellaneous jobs. Thus in all 59,211 employment seekers were keen to get industrial supervisory or skilled and semi-skilled jobs.

On the other hand notification of vacancies to the employment exchange is also purely voluntary in so far as the private sector is concerned. Demands are placed with the employment exchanges by both private and Government employers. During the last one year (August 1954-July 1955) the services of the employment exchanges were utilised, on an average, each month by 3,343 Government and 1,295 private employers. Just as in the case of applicants, the exchanges handle vacancies requiring the highest degree of skill as well, such vacancies for which hardly any skill is required. During the period August 1954 to July 1955 as many as 7,445 vacancies of industrial and supervisory category and 36,597 vacancies of skilled and semi-skilled type were notified to the employment exchanges and of these 3,209 and 19,743, respectively, were filled through that agency.

(Review of the Work done by the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment during the Month of August 1955; issued by the Ministry of Labour, Government of India).

Planning Commission sets up Study Group on Educated
Unemployed with Mr. V.K.R. Menon as Chairman.

The Planning Commission has set up a study group on Educated Unemployed, with Mr. V.K.R. Menon, Director of the I.L.C. India Branch, as chairman, and 10 other members representing the Central Ministries of Education, Commerce and Industry, Production, Rehabilitation and Labour and the Planning Commission.

The terms of reference of the Study Group are:

- (i) to assess generally the extent of unemployment of the educated classes in the country generally and with special reference to conditions prevailing in areas where the problem is acute;
- (ii) to indicate the scope for special programmes for increasing employment opportunities for educated persons in the schemes that are being formulated by State Governments and Central Ministries and in the private sectors;
- (iii) to recommend special measures and programmes of training, reorientation and employment which may facilitate the absorption of educated unemployed persons into the economy of the country;
- (iv) in particular, to work out detailed programmes to be implemented during 1956-57 and especially pilot programmes in selected areas; and
- (v) to recommend a scheme of work and transit camps, particularly in areas badly affected by unemployment with the following objectives in view:-
 - (i) to assist the unemployed during the waiting period,
 - (ii) to assist the unemployed to secure suitable employment, and
 - (iii) to enable the unemployed to lead a disciplined life rendering manual work or other service and acquiring secondary skills through vocational training.

While no definite time limit has been laid down for completion of its work, the Study Group has been directed to submit an interim report within two months in respect of suitable schemes that might be included in the Plan for 1956-57 and in the Draft Report on the Second Five-Year Plan.

60

Survey of Unemployment in Lucknow City:
Results published.

A survey to enquire into the unemployment situation in the City of Lucknow was conducted by the Economics and Sociology Department of the Lucknow University in 1953-54. The actual enumeration of the unemployed in the City took place in the months of December 1953 and January 1954. The results of this survey are briefly reviewed at pp. of this report.

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83. Vocational Training.

India - October 1955.

Labour Ministry's Training Scheme: Progress during August 1955.

Training of craftsmen.- According to the review of the working of the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment for the month of August 1955, the number of trainees on the roll of various training institutes and centres on 31 August 1955 was 9,146. There were 7,579 (including 14 women; 13 in draughtsmen mechanic and 1 in turner trades at the industrial training centre Maharaja's technical institute, Trichur) trainees in the technical trades and the remaining in vocational trades. The fifth session of the scheme for the training of adult civilians renamed as 'Craftsmen Training Scheme' with effect from 1 August 1954 came to an end on the 31 July 1955. The sixth session in vocational trades commenced from 1 August 1955.

Sanction was accorded to the starting of Overseer classes at the industrial training centre, Koni Bilaspur and the industrial training institute, Pusa, New Delhi, with a seating capacity of 32 at each, with effect from 1 November 1955. The duration of the course would be two years and a scholarship of 25 rupees per month per trainee would also be admissible to 33 1/3 per cent of trainees.

Training of displaced persons.- Since the displaced person's training scheme is running concurrently with the craftsmen training scheme, the fifth session in vocational trades came to a close on the 31 July 1955, with the passing out of trainees. In the sixth session which started on the 1 August 1955, the total number of displaced persons undergoing training as at the end of August 1955, was 2,075; of these 1,776 were in technical trades and the remaining in vocational trades.

Apprenticeship training for displaced persons.- A total of 426 displaced persons were undergoing training as apprentices in industrial undertakings and establishments in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, against 1,400 seats sanctioned for the purpose. They were recruited and posted direct to the undertakings and establishments concerned.

Training of women.- Fresh admissions in the vocational trades at the three women training centres were also made during the month under report. A total number of 418 women were undergoing training at the end of August 1955, at the three women training institutes in New Delhi, Dehra Dun and Madras. In addition, 16 women at industrial training institute, Kakinada, 7 at industrial training centre, Orissa poor cottage industries, Cuttack and 37 at industrial training institute, Almora, were undergoing training along side men.

62

Training of supervisors and instructors.- In the fifteenth regular session which commenced from 16 May 1955, 101 supervisors and instructors were receiving training at the central training institute for instructors, Koni-Bilaspur at the end of the month. This includes three supervisors and instructors who were undergoing training in short term courses which commenced from 1 July 1955 and 9 August 1955.

Training of women craft - instructors.- Under the scheme for the training of women craft instructors introduced at the industrial training institute for women, New Delhi with effect from 1 May 1955 twentyone women instructor-trainees were receiving training against a sanctioned capacity of twenty at the end of August 1955.

Training of school going children in hobby centre, Allahabad.- Fifty trainees were undergoing training at the end of the month under report at the hobby centre, attached to the industrial training institute, Allahabad, as against 120 last month.

Trade test results.- Trade tests in vocational trades under both the craftsmen training scheme and displaced person's training scheme were held during July 1955 and all vocational trainees were, accordingly, discharged on completion of training.

During the month under report, trade test results were received. Under the craftsmen training scheme, out of 1,575 vocational trainees (558 women), who were on the rolls of the various institutes and centres, 1,553 (552 women) took the test. Of them 1,469 (532 women) came out successful.

Out of 342 vocational trainees who were on rolls of the various institutes and centres under the displaced person's training scheme, 331 appeared in the test and ~~22~~ 299 were declared successful.

(Review of the Work done by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment during the Month of August 1955; issued by the Ministry of Labour, Government of India).

63

84. ^{al} Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons.

India - October 1955.

Employment Units to help the Handicapped; National Advisory Council's Recommendations.

Establishment of employment units to assist the blind and deaf in securing employment in industrial or commercial concerns has been suggested by the National Advisory Council for the Education of the Handicapped, at its first meeting held in New Delhi on 13 and 14 October 1955. The National Advisory Council had been set up by the Government of India, with Mr. Humayun Kabir, Secretary to the Central Ministry of Education as chairman, to co-ordinate the efforts of various institutions engaged in the task of educating the handicapped and collect statistics about them for research purposes.

Establishment of model schools for the blind and the deaf, expansion of the sheltered workshop for the blind and appointment of special officers in employment exchanges for assisting the handicapped, who have had training in securing employment are the other suggestions made by the Council.

It is learnt that the Council has decided to approach the Government to bring the subject of the education and welfare of the handicapped on the concurrent list. At present it is in the State list.

A draft syllabus for the training course for teachers of the blind has been approved.

The Council recommended that the Government should appoint a committee on the education and training of the mentally handicapped children. The committee should also make a survey of such persons.

Mrs. Kamala V. Nimbkar of Bombay has been asked by the Council to submit at its next meeting suggestions for training of the crippled and others physically handicapped.

Finally the Council approved with some minor modifications the Education Ministry's schemes proposed to be included in the second Five Year Plan. Various schemes to provide more educational and employment facilities to the physically and mentally handicapped have been put forward by several States for inclusion in the second Five-Year Plan. According to papers circulated for the consideration of the Council at least eight States have definite plans to intensify their efforts in this direction during the Plan period. Besides this, the Central Government proposes to implement some of the recommendations of the seminar on the education of the

84

blind held at Mussoorie early this year. These include preparation of brochures on the care of pre-school blind children, establishment of a "talking book" library, a centre for the education of additionally handicapped blind children and establishment of two residential nursery schools for the blind.

At present educational and vocational training facilities for the handicapped exist in about 16 States. Although no reliable statistics are available, it is estimated that there are about 3 million blind, 1 million deaf and about 50,000 mentally retarded persons in the country. The incidence of blindness alone is about 500 per 100,000 of population.

(The Hindustan Times, 15 and 16 October, 1955).

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CHAPTER 9. SOCIAL SECURITY.

INDIA - OCTOBER 1955.

92. Legislation.

VIII. Maternity Benefits.

Travancore-Cochin Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1955.
Scope of the Act to be enlarged.

The Government of Travancore-Cochin published on 28 September 1955 the text of the Travancore-Cochin Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1955, proposed to be introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the State.

According to the statement of objects and reasons to the Bill, there are two enactments in force in the State which provide for the payment of maternity benefit to women employed in plantations, namely the Travancore-Cochin Maternity Benefit Act, 1952, and the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 (Central Act LXIX of 1951). The definition of the terms "plantation" and "worker" contained in these enactments differ in certain respects. Thus to bring within the purview of the Travancore-Cochin Maternity Benefit Act, a plantation should be at least fifty acres in extent or there should be at least fifty persons employed in it. On the other hand, if it is 25 acres in extent and there are 30 persons employed in it, it would be a plantation for the purpose of the Plantations Labour Act. Again, an employee in a plantation whose emoluments exceed 200 rupees per mensim will not be a worker within the definition in the State Act, while the upper limit of the monthly wages of a worker has been fixed as 300 rupees under the Central Act. Thus the Central Act is wider in scope than the State Act. But both these enactments relate to a subject falling under the Concurrent List, in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and the Travancore-Cochin Maternity Benefit Act, has been assented to by the President. Hence under Article 254(2) of the Constitution, the State law will prevail in this State and the provisions of the Central Act in so far as they relate to payment of maternity benefit to women workers in plantations cannot be availed of by the workers in the State. It is considered that the workers who would be entitled to maternity benefit under the Central Act should not be prevented from deriving the benefit simply because of this legal difficulty. Accordingly it is proposed to bring the definition of the terms "plantation" and "worker" in the State Act, in line with the definition of these terms in the Central Act. The Bill is intended to give effect to the above proposal.

(Travancore-Cochin Gazette, Extraordinary, Vol. VI, No. 48,
28 September 1955, pp. 3-4).

93. Application.

India - October 1955.

Employees' State Insurance Scheme comes into force in
Vizagapatam.

In exercise of the powers conferred under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, and by a notification dated 5 October 1955 the Central Government has appointed 9 October 1955 as the date on which the provisions of chapter IV (except sections 44 and 45 thereof which have already been brought into force) chapter V and chapter VI (except sub-section (1) of section 76 and sections 77, 78, 79 and 81 thereof which have already been brought into force) of the said Act, shall come into force in the following areas of the State of Andhra, namely:-

The areas within the limits of (a) Visakhapatnam Port area and Visakhapatnam Municipal Town in Visakhapatnam Taluk (Visakhapatnam District); (b) Chittivalsa in Bhimmipatnam Taluk (Visakhapatnam District); (c) Nellimarla Village in Vizianagram Taluk (Visakhapatnam district); (d) Eluru Municipal Town and Eluru Firka in Eluru Taluk (West Godawari District); (e) Vijayawada Municipal Town (Krishna District); (f) (i) Mangalagiri village in Mangalagiri Firka in Guntur Taluk (Guntur District); (ii) Pedakakani Firka in Guntur Taluk (Guntur District); and (g) Guntur Municipal Town in Guntur District.

The scheme was inaugurated on 7 October 1955 at Visakhapatnam by Mr. Abid Ali, Union Deputy Minister for Labour. The number of employees who will come under the scheme is approximately 18,000. The State Government has established seven full-time dispensaries for providing free medical treatment to those covered by the scheme. The provisions of an annexe with 20 beds is under contemplation.

(Notification No. SRO 21864 dated 5 October 1955; Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, 5 October 1955, page 2197; The Hindu dated 8 October 1955).

67

CHAPTER 11. OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH.

INDIA - OCTOBER 1955.

111. General.

Industrial Safety Committee to be set up: Bombay Convention's Decision.

The Industrial Safety Convention held in Bombay on 17 October 1955 under the auspices of the Safety First Association, appointed an ad hoc Committee to chalk out a detailed programme for the establishment of a permanent body to be known as Industrial Safety Committee.

The main object of establishing the committee is to help prevention of industrial accidents and promotion of hygienic conditions in factories and also to advise and assist industrial organisations in these matters.

The proposal for constituting the body was made by Mr. A. A. Jasdenvala, President of the Safety First Association. He said that during the war the Association had an industrial wing which helped considerably various industrial organisations in their efforts for greater production. The scheme could not be pursued after the war.

The Association felt that it was necessary to revive the section to assist industrial development, particularly in view of the great emphasis on promotion of industries in the second plan. He hoped that the proposed organisation would be of considerable help in increasing production and promoting efficiency in industries.

He suggested that the various officials who would be able to guide the industries in the interpretation of various labour legislations and factory rules should be included in the committee, as also representatives of various industries.

Mr. Jasdenvala stated that the Committee would in practice act as a liason between the industry and the authorities. A Council was proposed to be formed on a suggestion made by the Government and one of its functions would be with regard to industrial safety. He said that the proposed Industrial Safety Committee would extend its full co-operation to that Council.

During the discussion that followed, suggestions for including a labour representative in the committee and for making it clear that the Committee was not a rival body to the proposed Council were made by representatives of various industries present at the meeting.

Mr. Kewalramani was appointed chairman of the ad hoc Committee.

(The Times of India, 19 October 1955).

88

112. Legislation, Regulations, Official Safety and Health Codes.

India - October 1955.

West Bengal Boilers (Testing of Welding Operators) Rules, 1954.

The Government of West Bengal gazetted on 6 October 1955 the text of the West Bengal Boiler (Testing of Welding Operators) Rules, 1954 made in exercise of the powers conferred under the Indian Boilers Act, 1923. The rules apply to persons employed on repairs to boilers by the oxy-acetylene or metallic-arc welding process and prescribe inter alia the minimum age and training of candidates for qualified welding operator test and the various tests to be undergone by the candidates.

(Calcutta Gazette, Part I, 6 October 1955,
pp. 4069-4080).

Draft Mysore Boiler Rules, 1955.

The Government of Mysore gazetted on 13 October 1955 the draft of the Mysore Boiler Rules, 1955, proposed to be made in exercise of the powers conferred under the Indian Boilers Act, 1923. The rules prescribe inter alia the duties of the Chief Inspector and Inspectors, administrative instructors for the registration and inspection of boilers, procedure for investigation of accidents to boilers and procedure for appeals. The draft rules will be taken into consideration by the Government after 2 January 1956.

(The Mysore Gazette, Part IV, Section 2c, 13 October 1955,
pp. 390-406).

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69

LIST OF PRINCIPAL LAWS PROMULGATED DURING THE
PERIOD COVERED BY THE REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1955.

INDIA - OCTOBER 1955.

Chapter 3. Economic Questions.

Mysore Housing Board Act, 1955 (No. 20 of 1955).
(Mysore Gazette, Extraordinary, 24 October 1955, pp. 1-29).

Chapter 4. Problems Peculiar to Certain Branches
of the National Economy.

PEPSU Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1955 (No. 25 of 1955).
(Patiala and East Punjab States Union Gazette, Extraordinary,
20 October 1955, pp. 525-530).

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70

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