

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

Report for March 1937.

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

Contents.

	<u>Pages.</u>
1. <u>References to the I. L. O.</u> ...	1 - 8a
2. <u>National Labour Legislation.</u>	
(a) Amendment to Madras Trade Unions Regulation, 1927: Compulsory Auditing of Trade Unions.	9 - 10
(b) Payment of Wages (Procedure) Rules, 1937: Rules made by Central and Provincial Governments. ...	11 - 12
(c) Workmen's Compensation Rules, 1924: Amendments Notified. ...	12
(d) Payment of Wages (Railways) Rules, 1936.	12
(e) Hazardous Occupations (Lead) Rules, 1937.	12 - 13
(f) Hazardous Occupation Rules, 1937: Final Text of Rules made by Government of India.	13
(g) Compensation for accidents to workmen employed in Warehouses and Markets: Final Notification issued by the Government of India.	13 - 14
(h) Bill to amend Payment of Wages Act, 1936: Introduced in Assembly on 30-3-1937.	14
(i) The Mysore Maternity Benefit Regulation, 1937.	15 - 19
(j) The Code of Civil Procedure (Second Amendment) Act, 1937: Act receives Assent of Governor General. ...	20
(k) The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1937: Act receives Assent of Governor General.	20
(l) The Travancore Trade Unions Bill: Third Reading passed on 17-3-1937.	21
3. <u>Conditions of Labour.</u>	
(a) Reduction of Hours of Work of Industrial Workers: Congress Programme in Legislatures.	22 - 23
(b) The Utilisation of Creches in Bombay Mills: Findings of Enquiry by Lady Inspector of Factories. ...	24
(c) Sequel to B.N. Railway Strike: Agent withdraws Recognition of Union: Government orders Enquiry. ...	25 & 26
(d) Working Class Cost of Living Index: Numbers for various Centres in India.	26 - 27
(e) Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in India, 1935. ...	28 - 31
(f) The Bengal Jute Mills Strike.	31 - 32
4. <u>Enforcement of Conventions.</u>	
(a) Factory Administration in Ajmer-Merwara, 1935.	33 - 35

(b) Factory Administration in India, 1935.	35 - 40
5. <u>Industrial Organisation.</u>	
<u>Workers' Organisation</u>	
(a) Co-operation of Railway Unions (India): New Organisation formed. ...	41
(b) The Trade Union Movement in Madras, 1935-36. ...	42-43
(c) The Trade Union Movement in the Punjab, 1935-36. ...	43-45
(d) All India Congress Socialists' Programme: "Anti-Constitution" Rally at Delhi on 16-3-1937. ...	46-47
(e) French Indian Workers' Grievances; Delegat- ion Leaves for France. ...	47
(f) Recognition of Trade Unions; Mr. Giri's cut motion in Legislative Assembly. ...	48-49
6. <u>Intellectual Workers.</u>	
Conditions of work of Journalists; 15th Annual Meeting of Indian Journalists' Association, Calcutta. ...	50-51
7. <u>Economic Conditions.</u>	
(a) 8th Industries Conference: Report of Proceed- ings. ...	52-54
(b) Public Works Programme for India; Effects of Rising Prices. ...	54-55
(c) Five-year Scheme of Planned Development; Supplementary Report of the U.P. Enquiry Committee. ...	56-57
(d) Protection for Sugar Industry: Tariff Board Enquiry Ordered. ...	57
8. <u>Employment and Unemployment.</u>	
(a) Problem of Educated Unemployment in C.P.: Government sets up Advisory Committee. ...	58
(b) Relieving Unemployment in C.P.: Sapru Recommendations Examined. ...	59-60
(c) Unemployment problem in Baroda: Government sets up a Central Board. ...	61-62
(d) Free Training in Manufacture of Cutlery: Bengal Government Plan to alleviate Middle-class unemployment. ...	62-63
9. <u>Social Insurance.</u>	
(a) Compulsory Insurance for Government Servants: Baroda State's Scheme. ...	64.
(b) Social Insurance Schemes for India; Mr. N.M. Joshi's Cut Motion defeated in the Legislative Assembly. ...	64-66

10. <u>Public Health.</u>	
(a) Industrial Housing Scheme in Bombay, 1935-36.	67-68
(b) Housing workers of Bangalore: City Municipality's Decision.	69
(c) All India Institute of Hygiene: Two New Sections added.	69-70
11. <u>Nutrition.</u>	
Nutritive Value of Indian Diets: Publication by Nutrition Research Laboratory, Coonoor.	71-72
12. <u>Co-operation.</u>	
(a) Co-operation in Bihar and Orissa, 1935.	73-76
(b) Co-operation in Burma, 1935-36.	76-78
(c) Co-operative Movement in Travancore, 1935-36.	78-79
13. <u>Agriculture.</u>	
(a) Agricultural Statistics of British India, 1934-35.	80-83
(b) Agrarian Problems: U.P. Congress Committee formulated Demands.	84-86
14. <u>Maritime Affairs.</u>	
Recruitment of Seamen: Setting up of State Employment Bureau urged by National Seamen's Union of India, Bombay.	87
15. <u>Migration.</u>	
(a) Indians in Malaya: Sastri Report published.	88-91
(b) Minimum Wages for Indian Workers in Singapore: Government Decision.	91-92
(c) Protection of Indian Labour in Burma: Mr. P.N. Saprú's Resolution in Council of State.	92-93
16. <u>General.</u>	
National Convention, Delhi, 19 and 20-3-1937: Economic and Labour Programme of Congress.	94-95

References to the I.L.O.

A communique on the items on the agenda of the 78th session of the Governing Body (issued by this Office on 3-2-1937) is published by the Indian Post, Delhi, in its February 1937 issue.

* * *

A communique on the decisions of the 78th session of the Governing Body (issued by this Office on 20-2-1937) is published by the following: the Hindu dated 24-2-1937, the Bombay Chronicle dated 25-2-1937, the National Call dated 17-3-1937 and the March issued of the Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay.

* * *

The Hindu dated 25-2-1937 publishes an editorial article on the above. The article welcomes the proposal of the I.L.O. to hold an Asiatic Labour Conference and stresses the importance of regional conferences for a proper understanding of the special problems of particular areas.

* * *

The Guardian, Madras, dated 25-2-1937 publishes a short editorial note on the I.L.O.'s proposal to hold an Asiatic Labour Conference.

* * *

A communique on the last meeting of the Permanent Migration Committee (issued by this Office on 26-1-1937) is published by "Federated India", Madras, dated 24-2-1937.

* * *

A communique on the last meeting of the I.L.O. Committee on Salaried Employees (issued by this Office on 19-1-1937 is published in the February 1937 issue of the "Progress of Education", Poona.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 28-3-1937 reproduces the note on the meeting of the Advisory Committee on Salaried Employees held in November 1936. ~~It~~ ^{is} from I.L.O. News Bulletin No. 12 of November 1936.

* * *

The February 1937 issue of the Insurance and Finance Review, Calcutta, publishes a communique issued by this Office on 18-1-1937 on the meeting of the Committee of Experts on Social Insurance at Geneva in November 1936.

* * *

The March 1937 issue of the Indian Textile Journal publishes a communique issued by this Office on 11-1-1937 on the Preparatory Technical Meeting on the Chemical Industry.

* * *

A communique on the Washington Textile Conference (issued by this Office on 26-2-1937) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 27-2-1937, the Bombay Chronicle dated 1-3-1937, the Hindu dated 2-3-1937, the Times of India dated 3-3-37, the Indian Labour Journal dated 7-3-1937 and the Leader dated 10-3-1937.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 5-3-1937 publishes a message to the effect that Mr. B.M.Birla, who has been nominated to attend the Washington Textile Conference as the Indian Employers' representative, will be leaving India for Washington on 6-3-1937.

* * *

A news item to the effect that Mr. B.M.Birla left India for Washington on 6-3-1937 to attend the Textile Conference is published by the following: the Times of India and the Bombay Chronicle dated 6-3-1937 and the National Call dated 8-3-1937.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 9-3-37, the Hindu dated 5-3-1937 and the Bombay Chronicle dated 11-3-1937 publish a picture of Mr. B.M.Birla taken before he left India for Washington to attend the Textile Conference.

* * *

A message to the effect that Mr. R.R.Bakhale has been nominated Indian Workers' delegate to the Washington textile conference, and that he would be proceeding from Washington after attending the Conference to Tokyo to attend the 2nd Session of the Asiatic Labour Congress, is published by the Hindu dated 5-3-1937, the Bombay Chronicle dated 4-3-1937 and the Times of India dated 9-3-1937.

* * *

The Leader dated 10-3-1937 publishes pictures of Messrs. R.R.Bakhale and B.M.Birla taken prior to their departure from India to attend the Washington Textile Conference.

* * *

A Reuter's message from London dated 9-3-1937 to the effect that Sir Firoz Khan Noon is leaving England for America on 25-3-1937 to attend the Washington Textile Conference, is published by the following: the Statesman, the Hindu and the Hindustan Times dated 10-3-1937 and the Bombay Chronicle, the National Call, the Leader and the Times of India dated 11-3-1937.

* * *

A B.O.W. message from London dated 13-3-1937 regarding the British delegation to the Washington Textile Conference is published by the Statesman and the Hindustan Times dated 14-3-1937, the Times of India dated 15-3-1937. The Times of India dated 16-3-1937 repeats the message.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 24-3-1937 publishes a short note on the forthcoming Washington Textile Conference and the I.L.O. report submitted to it.

* * *

The Times of India dated 24-3-1937 publishes a summary of a note published in the Daily Herald on the Washington Textile Conference.

* * *

The February 1937 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes a short note on the Washington Textile Conference.

* * *

A Reuter's message from Washington dated 30-3-1937 to the effect that Germany will be represented at the Washington Textile Conference, is published by the Statesman, the Hindu and the Times of India dated 31-3-1937, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Hindustan Times and the Bombay Chronicle dated 1-4-1937 and the Leader dated 2-4-1937.

* * *

The Times of India dated 2-4-1937 publishes a short editorial note explaining the objects of the Washington Textile Conference.

* * *

"Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 25-3-1937 publishes a communique under the caption: "Social Standards in Textile Industry" based on the Geneva communique on the I.L.O. report to the Washington Textile Conference. (The communique was sent to the paper by this Office).

* * *

A Reuter's message from Washington dated 3-4-1937 to the effect that nearly 200 delegates and advisers will be attending the World Textile Conference at Washington is published by the Statesman, the National Call, the Hindustan Times, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, and the Bombay Chronicle dated 4-4-1937.

* * *

A communique on the I.L.O. publication "The Social Consequences of the Economic Depression" (issued by this Office on 17-2-1937)

is published by the Hindu dated 23-2-1937 and "Federated India", Madras, dated 31-3-1937.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 6-3-1937, the National Call dated 7-3-1937, the Bombay Chronicle dated 8-3-1937 and the Indian Labour Journal dated 14-3-1937 reproduce an article contributed by Mr. Herbert Tracey to "Industrial News" (issued by T.U.C., London) dated 2.2.1937. The article reviews the I.L.O. publication: "The Social Consequences of the Economic Depression." (Copies of the article were forwarded to these papers by this Office).

* * *

The National Call dated 17-3-1937 reproduces the note: "Co-operation among Cabmen in Delhi", published in Co-operative Information, (No.3 of 1937). (Copies of the note were forwarded to the National Call and a few other papers by this Office).

* * *

A communique on the I.L.O. publication: "The Co-operative Movement and Better Nutrition" (issued by this Office on 19-3-1937) is published by the Hindustan Times dated 23-3-1937 and the Bombay Chronicle dated 25-3-1937.

* * *

The National Call dated 25-3-1937 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "Need for Pure Food Supplies". The article reviews favourably the I.L.O. publication: "The Co-operative Movement and Better Nutrition."

* * *

The Hindu dated 17-3-1937 publishes a letter from Zurich dated 6-3-1937 from the paper's Swiss correspondent, in the course of which reference is made to the I.L.O. publication: "World Statistics of Aliens."

* * *

The Statesman dated 5-4-1937 publishes a Reuter's message (undated) from Geneva giving a summary of the statistics published by the I.L.O. regarding the emigration of Italian workers to Abyssinia.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 28-3-1937 publishes a summary of the note recently published in "Industrial and Labour Information" on the Rust Mechanical Cotton Picker.

* * *

The March 1937 issue of the Madras Journal of Co-operation

publishes an article under the caption "Trade Unions and the Co-operative Movement in the U.S.A." based on notes published in "Co-operative Information". In the course of the article, the I.L.O.'s interest in the co-operative movement is referred to. (The article was sent to this and a few other journals by this Office).

* * *

The Hindu dated 23-2-1937 publishes a message from London dated 10-2-1937 relating to questions in the House of Commons regarding the ratification of I.L.Conventions by Indian States. Mr. R.A.Butler, Under-Secretary of State for India, is reported to have replied that Indian States are not under any obligation to consider the enforcement of I.L.Conventions, but that when British India ratifies any Convention, the Government of India "bring it to the notice of those States to which its provisions appear to be relevant and are prepared when necessary to use their good offices with the authorities of such States to induce them to apply as far as possible the provisions of the Convention within their territories."

* * *

The Hindu dated 26-2-1937 publishes an obituary note on the late Sir B.N.Mitra, in the course of which reference is made to the fact that he has represented India at several sessions of the I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Statesman dated 26-2-1937 publishes a note on the late Sir B.N.Mitra's official career, in the course of which reference is made to his connection with the I.L.O.

* * *

The Times of India dated 27-2-1937 publishes a note on the above subject in the course of which incidental reference is made to his connection with the I.L.O. The same paper also publishes an editorial article on the late Sir B.N.Mitra in the course of which reference is made to Sir Bhupendra's connection with the I.L.O.

* * *

A communique on the condolence message sent by the Director of the I.L.O. to the Government of India on Sir B.N.Mitra's death (issued by this Office on 27-2-1937) is published by the following : the Statesman and the National Call dated 1-3-1937 and the Leader dated 3-3-1937.

* * *

A news item to the effect that Sir H.P.Mody and Mr. G.L. Mehta have been nominated by the Government of India to represent Indian employers at the 23rd session of the I.L.Conference, is published by the Hindustan Times and the Hindu dated 9-3-1937 and the National Call, the Amrita Bazar Patrika and the Times of India dated 10-3-1937.

* * *

The Hindu dated 12-3-1937 publishes a message to the effect that Sir Frank Noyce will probably be one of the Government delegates to the 23rd I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 4-4-1937 publishes a United Press forecast of the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the 23rd I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 26-2-1937 publishes a report of the debate in the Council of State on 25-2-1937 on the Government resolution recommending non-ratification of the I.L.Convention re. holidays with pay. (The debate was reported in all Indian papers.).

* * *

The Statesman dated 4-3-1937 publishes a short editorial note on the above debate. The note states that though the desirability of holidays with pay for industrial workers is admitted on all sides, "there are enormous practical difficulties to be overcome before such a far-reaching reform can be brought about."

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 4-3-1937 publishes an article under the caption: "Holidays for Workers: Need for Ratifying International Convention" contributed by Mr. Mangaldas L.Kaji. He compares the attitude of the British Government and the Government of India towards the Convention and examines critically the reasons advanced by the Government of India against ratification.

* * *

The January 1937 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes a short note on the debate in the Legislative Assembly on the Government resolution recommending non-ratification of the Draft Conventions re. Migrants' Pension Rights and Holidays with Pay.

* * *

The Times of India dated 2-3-1937 reproduces a statement laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly by the Home Member regarding the action taken by the Central and Provincial Governments

on the I.L.Convention re. Forced Labour. (The statement was reproduced in all other papers).

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 3-4-1937 publishes a summary of the debate in the Central Legislative Assembly on 2-4-1937 on a resolution moved by Mr. Sheodas Daga (Congress) advocating stoppage of India's financial contribution to the League, in view of the League's repeated failures in the political field and of India's position of dependence on Britain. The debate was inconclusive. (The debate was reported in all other papers.).

* * *

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 6-3-1937 publishes a report of a meeting held in Calcutta under the auspices of the All India Women's Conference on 5-3-1937 at which Dr. Ekstrand spoke on the social work of the League of Nations. References were made in the course of the speech to the work of the I.L.O.

* * *

The Statesman dated 8-3-1937 publishes a long article under the caption: "America and Europe" from an American correspondent of the paper. The article reviews the foreign policy of America; the U.S.A's attitude to the League of Nations and the I.L.O. is also referred to.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 14-3-1937 publishes a message to the effect that Mr. G.Selvapathy Chetty has been elected by the Madras Trade Unions to represent them at the forthcoming Asiatic Labour Congress at Tokyo. It is recalled that Mr. Chetty was adviser to the Indian workers' delegate to the 20th I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 17-3-1937 publishes a "Letter to the Editor" by a "Trade Unionist" complaining of the inadequate number of advisers that are being sent to Geneva with Indian workers' delegates.

* * *

The March 1937 issue of the Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, publishes the views of the Chamber on the report submitted by Mr. D.S.Erulkar on the work of the 77th session of the Governing Body. The Chamber has expressed itself against the proposal to raise the minimum age for employment of children from 12, so far as India is concerned. The Chamber has welcomed the proposal for holding an Asiatic Labour Conference under the auspices of the I.L.O.* * *

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 24-3-1937 publishes ^{the} report of the address ^{delivered by} of H.E. the Governor of Burma to the joint session of the Burma Legislature on 22-3-1937. In the course of his speech, the Governor makes the following reference to the future relations of Burma with the League:

"As regards the League of Nations, it had been agreed that Burma should be represented in future at the League Assembly and Conferences through His Majesty's Government and advisers or experts representing Burma should be attached to the United Kingdom delegation. When the agenda of the League Assembly or Conferences included matters of special concern to Burma, there would be no difficulty in conferring on Burma's representative the status of a substitute or full delegate."

* * * * *
The Statesman dated 22-3-1937 ^{* publishes} a long editorial article under the caption: "Factory Hours" in which it criticises the I. L.O. proposals for a 40-hour week and holidays with pay.

* * * * *
The Hindu dated 2-4-1937 publishes a brief account of a dinner given by the Director of this Office to Sir Frank Noyce on the eve of his retirement ~~from~~ from the Viceroy's Executive Council.

* * * * *
The Hindustan Times dated 3-4-1937 publishes a detailed account of the above dinner.

* * * * *
The National Call dated 4-4-1937 ^{* publishes} the full text of Dr. Pillai's speech on the above occasion.

* * * * *
The National Call dated 5-4-1937 publishes an editorial article on the above, in the course of which generous recognition is made of the I.L.O.'s contributions towards furthering the welfare of Indian labour. Referring to the great work accomplished by Sir Frank Noyce, the paper observes:

"This felicitous result has doubtless been accomplished by the manner in which Sir Frank has worked in co-operation with the I.L.O., and what is more, allowed the ~~usually~~ usually wooden and unresponsive Industries and Labour Department to be animated by the I.L.O. spirit of jealous concern for labour welfare."

* * * * *
The Times of India of 13-3-1937 publishes the report of representations made by a deputation from the National Seamen's Union of India which waited on Capt. Philby, Nautical Adviser to the Government of India. The deputation urged the early ratification of the I.L. Conventions adopted at the 21st and 22nd (Maritime) sessions of the I.L. Conference.

* * * * *

The following statement gives the list of Indian newspapers and periodicals which have published notes from the I.L.O. News Bulletin or commented on them (The list is compiled only from newspapers and periodicals received in this Office. In addition to these, copies of the News Bulletin are sent to over 140 addresses).

1. The Bombay Chronicle dated 28-3-1937 reproduces the item: "Salaried Employees" from the I.L.O. News Bulletin No.12 (November 1937).

* * *

The following messages having reference to the I.L.O. emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian press during March 1937:-

1. A London message dated 10-2-1937 re. Mr. R.A. Butler's statement in the House of Commons on the ratification of I.L. Conventions by the Indian States.
2. An article from the American correspondent of the Statesman under the caption: "America and Europe".
3. A Reuter's message from London dated 9-3-1937 re. Sir Firoz Khan Noon's departure for attending the Washington Textile Conference.
4. A B.O.W. message from London dated 13-3-1937 regarding the British delegation to the Washington Textile Conference.
5. A Reuter's message from Washington dated 30-3-1937 re. Germany's representation at the Washington Textile Conference.
6. A Reuter's message from Washington dated 3-4-1937 re. the delegations attending the Washington Textile Conference.
7. A Reuter's message from Geneva re. statistics of Italian workers in Abyssinia.
8. A letter from the Hindu's Swiss correspondent re. ^{IR}I.L.O. publication: "World Statistics of Aliens."

HHK.

4

National Labour Legislation.

Amendment to Madras Trade Unions Regulations, 1927:

Compulsory Auditing of Trade Unions. + n

The Government of Madras has published in the Fort St. George Gazette (page 454 of Part I of issue dated 16-3-1937) the draft of an amendment which the Government propose to make in the Madras Trade Unions Regulations. The amendment, which provides for the compulsory auditing of annual accounts of unions with a membership of not less than 250, is reproduced below:-

DRAFT AMENDMENT.

For regulations 18, 19 and 19-A of the said regulations, the following regulations shall be substituted, namely :-

"18. (1) The Examiner of Local Fund Accounts, Madras, shall audit the annual accounts—

(a) of every registered trade union which has had not less than 250 members on any day in the financial year preceding ^{the} year to which the audit relates; and

(b) of every federation of unions to which not less than 5 unions were affiliated at any time during the financial year preceding that to which the audit relates.

Provided that in the case of a registered trade union or a federation of unions, which has been newly formed, this clause shall apply if on any one day during the financial year to which the audit relates there were 250 members in the trade union or 5 or more unions were affiliated to the federation.

(2) (1) Every registered trade union and every federation of unions referred to in clause (1) shall submit the annual statement required under section 28 of the Act in Form "E" without the auditor's declaration, so as to reach the Registrar on or before the 15th day of April in each year.

(ii) The Registrar shall on receipt of such return arrange to get the accounts audited by the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts, Madras, in accordance with clause (4) and take such other action as is required thereunder.

K.2.

(3) Applications for audit from registered trade unions and federations of unions referred to in clause (1) shall reach the Registrar before the 15th day of April following the financial year to which the audit relates.

(4) Subject to any general or special orders that may from time to time be issued by the Local Government the Registrar of Trade Unions shall, in consultation with the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts, Madras, arrange for the annual audit of the accounts of the registered trade unions and federations of unions referred to in clause (1). The cost of such audit shall be borne by the Local Government. The audit shall be conducted by the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts, Madras, in accordance with the instructions which the Registrar of Trade Unions may from time to time issue. A copy of the report of such audit shall be sent by the Registrar to the Trade Union concerned and a copy shall also be filed in the Registrar's office. A copy of the report shall be furnished by the Registrar to any person on application and on payment of copying fees at the rates fixed by the Registrar in that behalf.

19. (i) Every registered trade union not being a registered trade union or a federation of unions referred to in clause (1) of Regulation 18 shall submit the annual statement required under section 28 of the Act in Form "E" duly audited so as to reach the Registrar on or before the 31st day of July in each year.

(ii) The annual audit of accounts of every such trade union shall be conducted——

(a) by an auditor authorized to audit the accounts of companies under sub-section (1) of section 144 of the Indian Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913); or

(b) by a person who having held an appointment under the Government in any audit or accounts department is in receipt of a sanctioned pension of not less than Rs. 75 per mensem; or

(c) by a provincial co-operative organization recognized by the Local Government for this purpose; or

(d) by any two members of the union who are not either office bearers or members of the executive committee on any day during the financial year to which the audit relates.

11

Payment of Wages (Procedure) Rules, 1937:
Rules Made By Central And Provincial Governments. - "

Reference is made at page 12 of our September 1936 report to the draft of the Payment of Wages (Procedure) Rules, 1937, which the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India proposed to make under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936. The Gazette of India of 27-2-1937 (Pages 303-312 of Part I) publishes the final Rules made by the Government of India as Notification No. L. 3067 dated 24-2-1936.

The Gazette references re. the Rules made ^{five of} by the Provincial Governments under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, are given below:

1. The U.P. Payment of Wages Rules, 1936. — Notification No. 600/XVIII-625-A dated 17-2-1937 published at pages 327-333 of Part I of the United Provinces Gazette dated 20-2-1937.

2. The Bombay Payment of Wages Rules, 1936. — Notification No. 9639 dated 1-3-1937 published at pages 237-249 of Part IV-A of the Bombay Gazette dated 4-3-1937.

3. The Madras Payment of Wages Rules, 1937. — Notification No. 133 of the Development Department dated 20-2-1937, published at pages 356-360 of Part I of the Fort St. George Gazette dated 23-2-1937.

4. The Assam Payment of Wages Rules, 1937. — Notification No. 891-GJ dated 12-3-1937 published at pages 634-639 of Part II of the Assam Gazette dated 13-3-1937.

2.K.

12

5. The Bengal Payment of Wages Rules, 1937.— Notification No. 1918 -Com. dated 27-2-1937, published at pages 416-426 of Part I of the Calcutta Gazette dated 4-3-1937.

Workmen's Compensation Rules, 1924:

Amendments notified.

Attention is directed to pages 501 to 502 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 13-3-1936 where the Industries and Labour Department with the Government of India has notified certain amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Rules, 1924. An important amendment is the insertion of rules regarding production of documents and applications presented to wrong Commissioners.

Payment of Wages (Railways) Rules, 1936.

Reference was made at page 9 of our October 1936 report to the publication of the Draft of the Payment of Wages (Railways) Rules, 1936. The Government of India have published at pages 503-512 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 13-3-1937, the final text of the Payment of Wages (Railways) Rules, 1936 (Notification No. L-3070 dated 10-3-37).

The Hazardous Occupations (Lead) Rules, 1937.

At pages 10-13 of our August 1936 report was reproduced the draft of the Hazardous Occupations (Lead) Rules which the Government of India proposed making. The final text of the

3.K.

Rules, which differs from the draft one in some respects, is published at pages 627-630 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 27-3-1937.

The Hazardous Occupation Rules, 1937:

Final Text of Rules Made by Government of India. "

Reference was made at pages 9-11 of our November 1936 report to the draft of the following Hazardous Occupation Rules:-

1. The Hazardous Occupations (Miscellaneous) Rules, 1937.
2. The Hazardous Occupations (Aerated Waters) Rules, 1937.
3. The Hazardous Occupations (Rubber) Rules, 1937.
4. The Hazardous Occupations (Chromium) Rules, 1937. 1937
5. The Hazardous Occupations (Cellulose Spraying) Rules, 1937. 1937
6. The Hazardous Occupations (Sand Blasting) Rules, 1937.

The final texts of these Rules are published at pages 776 to 778 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 27-3-1937.

Compensation for Accidents to Workmen Employed in
Warehouses and Markets: Final Notification issued by Government
of India. "

Reference was made at page 14 of our January 1937 report to the draft of a notification according to which the Government of India proposed to add to Schedule II of the Workmen's Compensation Act (list of persons who are included in the definition of workmen), the persons employed, otherwise than in a clerical

4.K.

capacity or as agricultural labourers, in the handling or transport of goods in, or within the precincts of:-

- (a) any warehouse or other place in which goods are stored, and in which on any one day of the preceding twelve months ten or more persons have been so employed; or
- (b) any market in which on any one day of the preceding twelve months one hundred or more persons have been so employed.

The final text of the Notification (No. L-3002 dated 27-3-1937) is published at page 776 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 27-3-1937.

Bill to Amend Payment of Wages Act, 1936:

Introduced in Assembly on 30-3-37.

On 30-3-37, Sir Frank Noyce, Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Labour, introduced a bill in the Legislative Assembly for amending the Payment of Wages Act, 1936. He explained that Section 9 of the Act, although relieving the employer of payments to workmen who were not present for work, appeared to render him liable to pay wages to persons who, though present, declined to work. The Bill sought to remedy this defect by adding the following explanation to Section 9:- "For the purposes of this section an employed person shall be deemed to be absent from the place where he is required to work, if, although present in such place, he refuses to carry out his work."

(The Statesman 31-3-37.)

15

The Mysore Maternity Benefit Regulation, 1937.

Reference was made at pages 14-15 of our September 1936 report to the introduction in the Mysore Legislative Council of a Maternity Benefit Regulation. The Regulation was adopted by the Council and received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja on 4-2-1937. The text of the Regulation is reproduced below:-

REGULATION II OF 1937.

(Received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja
on the fourth day of February 1937.)

Regulation to regulate the Employment of Women in Factories sometime before and sometime after Confinement and to provide for the Payment of Maternity Benefit to them.

Whereas it is expedient to regulate the employment of women in factories sometime before and sometime after confinement and to provide for the payment of maternity benefit to them in the manner hereinafter provided: It is hereby enacted as follows:-

Short title.- 1. This Regulation may be called the Mysore Maternity Benefit Regulation, 1937.

Extent and operation. - 2. (1) It extends to the whole of Mysore.

(2) It shall come into operation on the first day of April 1937.

Definitions.- In this Regulation, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context—

(a) "Employer" includes an occupier of a factory as defined in the Mysore Factories Regulation, 1936, and the manager of a factory.

(b) The expression "factory" "Inspector of Factories" and "Worker" shall have the same meaning as are respectively assigned to them under the Mysore Factories Regulation, 1936.

K.2.

(c) "Maternity benefit" means the amount of money payable under the provisions of this Regulation to a woman worker in a factory.

(d) "Wages" includes the money value of any earned grain concession, and any money paid to cover high cost of living but does not include a bonus given for regular attendance, or any deduction or payment made on account of fines.*

Employment of or work by women in factories prohibited during certain period.- 4. After this Regulation comes into operation,

(1) no employer shall knowingly employ a woman in any factory during the four weeks immediately following the day of her delivery; and

(2) no woman shall work in any factory during the four weeks immediately following the day of her delivery.

Right to payment of maternity benefit.- 5. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Regulation every woman employed in a factory shall be entitled to the payment of maternity benefit at the rate of her average daily wage calculated to the nearest quarter of an anna on the total wages earned during a period of three months immediately preceding the date on which she gives notice under sub-section (1) of section 6 or at the rate of eight annas a day, whichever is less, for the actual days of her absence for the period immediately preceding her confinement and for the four weeks immediately following her confinement as mentioned in sub-section (2):

Provided that a woman shall not be entitled to maternity benefit unless she has been employed in the factory of the employer from whom she claims maternity benefit for a period of not less than nine months immediately preceding the date on which she gives notice under sub-section (1) of section 6.

(2) The maximum period for which any woman shall be entitled to the payment of maternity benefit shall be eight weeks, that is to say, four weeks up to and including the day of her delivery and four weeks immediately following that day. If a woman dies during this period the maternity benefit shall be payable only for the days up to and including the day of her death.

Procedure regarding payment of maternity benefit.- 6 (1) Any woman employed in a factory and entitled to maternity benefit under the provisions of this Regulation, who is pregnant may, on any day, give notice in writing to her employer stating that she expects to be confined within one month next following, that her maternity benefit may be paid to her, and that she will not work in any employment

K.3.

7
during the period for which she receives maternity benefit.

(2) The employer shall thereupon permit such woman to absent herself from the factory from the following day until four weeks after the day of her delivery.

(3) Maternity benefit shall be paid by the employer to the woman entitled thereto after taking her wishes into consideration in any one of the following three ways, namely:-

(i) for four weeks - within forty-eight hours of the production of a certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner certifying that the woman is expected to be confined within one month next following, and for the remainder of the total period for which she is entitled to maternity benefit under sub-section (2) of section 5 - within forty-eight hours of the production of a certified extract from a birth register stating that the woman has given birth to a child; or

(ii) for the period up to and including the day of delivery - within forty-eight hours of the production of a certified extract from a birth register stating that the woman has given birth to a child, and for the remainder of the total period for which she is entitled to maternity benefit under sub-section (2) of section 5 - punctually four weeks after the production of such certified extract from a birth register; or

(iii) for the entire period for which the woman is entitled to maternity benefit under sub-section (2) of section 5 - within forty-eight hours of the production, within six weeks of her delivery, of a certified extract from a birth register stating that she has given birth to a child;

Provided that no woman shall be entitled to any maternity benefit or any part thereof, the payment of which is dependent upon the production of a certified extract from a birth register under the provisions of this sub-section unless ^{such} extract has been produced within six months of the day of her delivery.

Payment of maternity benefit in case of a woman's death.-
7. If a woman entitled to maternity benefit under this Regulation dies during the period for which she is entitled to maternity benefit, the employer shall pay the amount of maternity benefit due, if the newly-born child survives her, to the person who undertakes the care of the child; and if the child does not survive her to her legal representative.

No notice of dismissal to be given to a woman during period of maternity benefit.- 8. (1) When a woman absents herself from work in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation, it shall not be lawful for her employer to give her notice of dismissal during such absence or on such a day that the notice will expire during such absence.

(2) (a) No notice of dismissal given without sufficient cause by an employer to a woman worker within a period of three months before her confinement shall have the effect of depriving her of any maternity benefit to which but for such notice she would have been, or would on or before the date of her confinement have become, entitled under this Regulation.

(b) If any question arises as to whether any notice of dismissal given under clause (a) was or was not given for sufficient cause, it shall be referred to the Inspector of Factories whose decision shall be final.

(c) The provisions of this sub-section shall not apply to notices falling under sub-section (1).

Forfeiture of maternity benefit.- 9. If a woman works in any factory after she has been permitted by her employer to absent herself under the provisions of section 6, she shall forfeit her claim to the payment of maternity benefit to which she is entitled.

Penalty for contravention of the Regulation by an employer.- 10. If any employer contravenes the provisions of this Regulation he shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

Penalty for contravention of the Regulation by a woman.- 11. If any woman works in any factory within four weeks of the date of her delivery, she shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding ten rupees.

Cognisance of offence- 12(1) No prosecution under this Regulation shall be instituted except by or with the previous sanction of the Inspector of Factories.

(2) No court inferior to that of a Magistrate of the First Class shall try any offence against this Regulation or any rules thereunder.

Limitation of prosecution.- 13. No court shall take cognisance of any offence against this Regulation or any rule thereunder unless complaint thereof is made within six months of the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed.

Rules.- 14. (1) The Government may make rules for the

K.5.

purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Regulation.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for,-

- (a) the preparation and maintenance of muster roll or register or a combined muster roll and register and the particulars to be entered in such muster roll, ~~and~~ register or combined muster roll and register or in the register kept or deemed to have been kept under section 41 of the Mysore Factories Regulation, 1936;
- (b) the inspection of factories for the purposes of this Regulation by Inspectors of Factories;
- (c) the exercise of powers and the performance of duties by Inspectors of Factories for the purposes of this Regulation;
- (d) the method of payment of maternity benefit in so far as provision has not been made in this Regulation; and
- (e) any other matter for which no provision has been made in this Regulation and for which provision is, in the opinion of the Government, necessary.

(3) Any such rule may provide that a contravention thereof shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

(4) The making of rules under this section shall be subject to the condition of previous publication.

Copies of Regulation and rules thereunder to be exhibited.-
15. An abstract of the provisions of this Regulation and the rules thereunder in the vernacular of the workers shall be exhibited in a conspicuous manner by the employer in every part of a factory in which women are employed.

(Pages 33-38 of Part IV of the Mysore Gazette dated 25-2-1937.)

The Code of Civil Procedure (Second Amendment) Act, 1937:

Act Receives Assent of Governor General.

Reference was made at pages 36-39 of our February 1935 Report to the Code of Civil Procedure (Second Amendment) Bill, 1935, which seeks to prohibit the attachment of salaries below Rs. 100. The Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 18-2-1935 and was referred to a Select Committee on 9-4-1935. The Bill as reported by the Select Committee was taken up for consideration and passed by the Assembly with certain amendments on 9-2-1937. (vide pages 19-20 of our February 1937 report). The Act received the assent of the Governor General on 4-3-1937 and is published at pages 21-22 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 13-3-1937.

Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1937:

Act Receives Assent of Governor General.

Reference was made at page 21 of our February 1937 report to the introduction in the Legislative Assembly of a Bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Bill was taken up for consideration by the Assembly on 19-2-1937 and was passed by it the same day. The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1937, received the assent of the Governor General on 4-3-1937 and is published at page 18 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 13-3-1937.

21

Travancore Trade Unions Bill:

Third Reading Passed on 17-3-1937.

Reference was made to the Travancore Trade Unions Bill, 1935, at pages 18-19 of the report of this Office for August 1935. The Sri Chitra State Council, the Upper House of the State, passed the third reading of the bill on 17-3-37. The object of the Bill is to safeguard the rights of industrial combination, whether for the purpose of improving wages or conditions of labour. The Bill provides for compulsory registration of ~~the~~ Trade Unions and also provides that the major portion of the Trade Union officers must be connected with ^{Kal} trade or industry. In general, the Bill is drawn up on the lines of the Indian Trade Union Act of 1926. It has already been passed by the Lower House of the Travancore Legislature and now awaits the royal assent to become law.

(The Hindu 19-4-37 and National
Call, 18-3-37.)

22

Conditions of Labour.

Reduction of Hours of Work of Industrial Workers:

Congress Programme in Legislatures.

The Working Committee of the Indian National Congress met at Wardha during the last week of February 1937 to review the situation in the light of the result of the elections to the Provincial Legislatures and to decide the future policy of the Congress with regard to the working of the New Constitution. In this connection a statement was issued by the Working Committee defining the aims and policy of the Congress. Relevant extracts from the statement are given below :

Attitude to New Constitution. The Congress has entered the legislatures not to co-operate with the new constitution or the Government, but to combat the Act and the policy underlying it, as this Act, and the policy are intended to tighten the hold of British Imperialism on India and to continue the exploitation of the Indian people. The Congress adheres to its general and basic policy of non-co-operation with the apparatus of British Imperialism, except in so far as circumstances may require variation.

Object in view. The objective of the Congress is purna swaraj, or Complete Independence, and to that end all its activities are directed. The Congress stands for a genuine democratic state in India, where political power has been transferred to the people as a whole, and Government is under their effective control. Such a state can only be

created by the Indian people themselves and the Congress has, therefore, insisted on a constituent assembly, elected by adult franchise, to determine the constitution of the country. The Constituent assembly can only come into existence when the Indian people have developed sufficient power and sanctions to shape their destiny without external interference.

Congress Programme. Congress members should press for carrying out of the Congress programme as enunciated in the election manifesto and the Congress agrarian resolution. In particular, they should work for:

- (1) A substantial reduction in rent and revenue;
- (2) Assessment of income-tax on a progressive scale on agricultural income, subject to a prescribed minimum;
- (3) Fixity of tenure;
- (4) Relief from the burden of rural debt and arrears of rent and revenue;
- (5) Repeal of all the "repressive" laws;
- (6) Release of political prisoners, internees and detenus;
- (7) Restoration of lands and property confiscated or sold by Government during the civil disobedience movement;
- (8) Eight-hour day for industrial workers without reduction of pay, and a living wage;
- (9) Prohibition of intoxicating liquor or drugs;
- (10) Unemployment relief; and
- (11) Reduction of high salaries, allowances and the administrative cost of Government.

(The Servant of India, 4-3-1937) H

Utilisation of Creches in Bombay Mills:
Findings of Enquiry by Lady Inspector of Factories. R

A difference of opinion has arisen between the Government of Bombay and the Bombay Municipal Corporation on the question of provision of creches in factories for the care and nourishment of children of women workers. The Corporation believes that provision of creche accommodation is an integral part of infant welfare activity and that Government should take steps to enforce such a provision in every factory in the city.

Government on the other hand, believe that, while the management of factories is generally sympathetic towards this aspect of welfare, women do not like to avail themselves of the facility. In a letter to the Mayor on the subject, the Chief Secretary to the Bombay Government states: "The Lady Inspector of Factories, Bombay, was asked to conduct an inquiry in certain mills in Bombay where good creches were established some years ago and where the attitude of the management is sympathetic towards this aspect of welfare. The inquiry has shown that creches, even when they are well run, are unpopular. There are various factors which have led to this failure, but the most obvious reason in Bombay appears to be that women do not like the bother of carrying infants and very young children long distances through the streets to the place of employment. They make other arrangements for their young children."

(The Times of India, 6-3-1937)

Sequel to B.N.Railway Strike: Agent withdraws
Recognition of Union: Government orders Enquiry. H

Reference was made at page 38 of our February 1937 report to the settlement of the B.N.Railway strike and its termination on 10-2-1937. On 19-2-1937, the Agent of the B.N.Railway ~~Indian~~ informed the Secretary of the B.N.Railway Indian Labour Union, Kharagpur, that "in view of the action taken by responsible representatives of the B.N.Railway Indian Labour Union, during the last eight months, and the attitude adopted by the Union as a whole in its dealing with events which culminated in the general strike,... it is clear that this Administration can have no confidence in the B.N.Railway Indian Labour Union as at present constituted and administered", and that in these circumstances the official recognition accorded to the Union is withdrawn. (The Indian Labour Journal, 7-3-1937). This action was condemned by the Union Executive as being against the spirit of the terms of the strike settlement, and representations were made to the Government of India protesting against the withdrawal of recognition.

Mr. Giri raised the issue of recognition of trade unions in general by a cut motion in the Legislative Assembly on 10-3-1937 in the course of the debate on the Budget, and referred in particular to the withdrawal of recognition of the B.N.Railway Indian Labour Union by the Agent. Sir Frank Noyce, Member in Charge of Labour, in reply to the debate on the cut motion, gave an assurance that he and the Railway Member would continue to give careful consideration to the unsatisfactory state of affairs which he knew existed

in the B.N.Railway at present.

As a result of this assurance, the Railway Board issued a communique on 25-3-1937 announcing the appointment of Mr. R.F. Mudie, I.C.S. to hold an enquiry into the allegations made by the Union, with the following terms of reference:

"To enquire into and report on the allegations made by the President of the B.N.Railway Indian Labour Union that the B.N. Railway Administration have failed to implement the terms of the settlement of the recent strike as communicated by the Agent of the B.N.Railway in his letter dated 6th February to the President of the Union and accepted by the Union. Further, to report whether action of the B.N.Railway Administration in withdrawing recognition from the Union as at present constituted and administered was justified and whether continued withholding of recognition is desirable."

Lt.-Col. H.W.Wagstaff, Supervisor of Railway Labour, has been appointed advisor to Mr. Mudie. It is expected that the enquiry will start by the middle of April 1937. (The Indian Labour Journal, 28-3-1937).

Working Class Cost of Living Index

Numbers for Various Centres in India.

The Cost of living index numbers for working classes in various centres of India registered increases during January 1937 as compared with the preceding month.

Bombay. - The index number (Base: July 1914) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in January 1937 rose by 1 point to 104. The average in the year 1936 was 102.

Ahmedabad. - The index number (Base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad rose by 2 points to 74; in 1936 the average was 71.

Sholapur.- The index number (Base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur advanced by 3 points to 73. The average for 1936 was 71.

Nagpur.- The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in January 1937 rose by 1 point to 61.

Jubbulpur.- The index number (Base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in January 1937 rose by 2 points to 61.

Rangoon.- The index number (Base: 1931) of the cost of living in Rangoon for all communities of labourers rose by 4 points to 91 (provisional figure.).

(Extracted from Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India, January 1937 issue). M

28

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act
in India, 1935* + "

The Government of India has recently published the annual report on the administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act during 1935, the first report to be issued since the Act was extensively amended by the Amendment Act of 1933.

Review of Administration in the Provinces : The total number of cases has increased steadily from 14,261 in 1932 to 22,999 during 1935 and the figures of compensation paid increased from Rs. 823,145 in 1932 to Rs. 1,161,465. Increases both in the number of cases reported and the amount of compensation paid were registered in all the provinces except Baluchistan where no accident was reported during the year. The compensation paid in respect of accidents on railways rose from Rs. 284,900 to Rs. 322,043. The average sum paid during the year per case was Rs. 50.5 as against Rs. 51.4 during 1934, in spite of the appreciable enhancements in the scales of compensation made by the Act of 1933. This is due to the fact that the great increase in the number of cases represented very largely cases of temporary disablement; these cases increased by over 6,000, while other cases increased by less than 100. The increase is probably due more to an increasing readiness to claim compensation than to a rise in the incidence of accidents.

* Workmen's Compensation Statistics for the year 1935; Together with a note on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi, 1937. Price Annas 6 or 8d. pp.5

29

Passivity of Trade Unions : As in ^{the} previous year, few trade unions are reported to have assisted their members to obtain compensation. In Bombay, the only trade union to take any part in settling claims on behalf of the workmen was the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, which settled 184 cases and secured compensation amounting to Rs. 18,445. In Bengal, the Indian Seamen's Union, the Workers' Claims Bureau and the Press Employees' Association continued to take an active interest in Workmen's Compensation cases and the Indian Railwaymen's Union, Kharagpur, B. N. Railway, also rendered some assistance to its members. The activities of the Jute Workers' Unions which were noticeable in the past were less marked during the year. In Burma, although some trade unions had assisted workmen in the past in prosecuting claims they do not appear to have done so during 1935.

The Calcutta Claims Bureau acting on behalf of insured employers continued to render assistance in the settlement of claims. In Bombay, the working of the Act was greatly assisted by the Insurance Companies who represented the employers in about half the cases. In Burma, although only 11 per cent. of the employers were insured against claims under the Act their establishments included 31 per cent. of the workmen. Both Bengal and Bombay refer to actual cases of the kind mentioned in last year's report, where claims are tenable against small firms which are unable to pay the compensation ~~against the~~ required within the statutory period.

Application filed before Commissioners : The figures for proceedings before the Commissioners show an increase over those of the previous year. The number of applications under section 10 of the Act was 786, as compared with 581 in 1934 and 509 in 1933. The number of deposits under section 8 was 1,002 as compared with 613 in 1934. Some of this increase is due to a change in the form of Statement ~~IX~~ II which now allows for the inclusion of voluntary deposits with Commissioners, thus giving a complete picture of all matters with which they deal. The percentage of contested cases to the total number of cases disposed of by Commissioners was 58.2. 1,324 agreements were presented during the year. Of the total number for disposal, 1,261 were registered without modification, 26 were registered after modification, 28 were not registered on account of inadequacy, or for other reasons, and 106 were pending at the close of the year.

Appeals before High Courts : Thirteen appeals were filed in the High Courts during the year, while 12 were pending at the beginning of the year. Of these, 15 were disposed of and 10 were pending at the close of the year. Two references were made under section 27 of the Act.

Occupational Diseases : Claims on account of industrial disease appear to have been very few. In Bengal, a claim was instituted for compensation for alleged lead poisoning which remained pending at the end of the year. The Bombay report mentions the first recorded case of the grant of

4.K.

compensation for compressed air illness, a disease added to the schedule by the Amending Act of 1933; compensation was awarded on the basis of permanent total disablement.

Legislative Changes : The only enlargement of the scope of the Act during 1935 was the inclusion of persons engaged in the following occupations, ~~other than a clerical capacity,~~ *other than in a clerical capacity,* amongst those to whom the Act applies :- Felling or logging trees; Transport of timber by inland waters; Controlling or extinguishing forest fires; and Elephant-catching operations.

The Workmen's Compensation (Transfer of Money) Rules were finally published during the year. These rules prescribe the procedure for the transfer to any part of H. M.'s Dominions or to any other country, of money deposited with a Commissioner under the Act, for the benefit of any persons residing or about to reside in such part or country, and vice versa. Reciprocal arrangements for transfer were made in 1935 with the Straits Settlements.

(A Copy of the Report reviewed above was sent to Geneva with this Office's minute D/331/37 dated 25-3-1937).

Bengal Jute Mill Strike.

Reference was made at pages 28-29 of our February 1937 report to the strike in the Jute mills of Calcutta during February 1937 as a protest against the refusal of the employers to increase wages proportionately to the recent increase in the hours of work of operatives. This strike was settled towards the last week of February; but soon after trouble broke out in the Budge Budge Jute Mills, Calcutta, as a protest

against the dismissal of certain workers, and the management declared a lock-out. In sympathy with the workers of these mills, workers in other jute mills ^{of Calcutta} also struck work, with the result that by 4-3-1937 nearly 40,000 Jute workers were on strike, and by 10-3-1937 about 60,000 workers of 12 mills were idle. (The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 11-3-1937.)

Early in March, the Government prohibited meetings of workers and other organised activities under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The Strike ^{was} ~~is~~ still proceeding at the close of March 1937. _n

Factory Administration in Ajmer-Merwara, 1935*.

H

Statistics of Factories. During the year 1935 the number of factories in Ajmer-Merwara subject to the control of the Indian Factories Act decreased from 47 to 45. One hosiery factory was added to the factory register and three factories were removed. Of the 45 registered factories, 38 actually worked and 7 remained closed throughout the year. Of the 38 in commission, 11 were perennial and 27 seasonal. The factories, which remained closed, were ~~otton~~ cotton ginning and pressing factories. The pressing and ginning factories remained closed owing to the fact that a pooling system was operated by factory owners in Bikaner and Jodhpur.

Number of Workers. The total number of operatives in all factories was 13,481, as compared with 12,336 in 1934, the net increase being 1,145. Out of 13,481 operatives, 12,255 were males, 1,011 females and 215 child workers as compared with 11,362 males, 891 females and 88 child workers during the year 1934. Of the 13,481 workers, 11,599 were in perennial factories and 1,882 in seasonal factories.

The total number of children certified by the certifying surgeon during the year under report was 203 as compared with 232 in the previous year, of these 189 were declared to be over 15 years of age and 14 were rejected as being physically

* Annual report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Ajmer-Merwara for the year 1935 printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, New Delhi, 1936, pp.16.

2.k.

unfit to work in a factory. No certificate was cancelled during the year under report.

Inspection. Of the 38 factories which worked during the year, 9 were inspected once, 14 twice and 15 thrice. The total number of inspections therefore was 82 as compared with 72 in the previous year.

Sanitary Conditions, Ventilation etc., Water supply both for drinking and for the efficient running of factory plants continued to be good and sufficient in all factories throughout the year. The provisions in regard to lighting were generally found to be both satisfactory and sufficient. Sanitary conditions in factories were found to be generally satisfactory.

The standard of ventilation was found to be generally good in the textile and Railway workshops. The ventilation of the cotton ginning factories remained the same as in the previous year. It was noticed that rules regarding humidification in textile mills were complied with.

Wages. While the wages of engine drivers, blacksmiths, spinners, weavers and women reelers registered increases over the 1934 figures, the wages of boilermen, fitters and carpenters decreased during the year.

Health of Operatives. The health of the operatives in all the factories was found to be good throughout the year. No epidemics were reported to have occurred during the year; neither was any case of occupational disease brought to the notice of the department.

Housing. The textile mills have quarters for their workers but the number of quarters is not sufficient to accommodate all; the majority of the workers, however, belong to the surrounding villages and return to their homes at the completion of the day's work.

Hours. The one hour rest interval was observed in 35 factories and the remaining 3 factories took advantage of section 37 (b) of the Act and gave half an hour's rest interval at mid-day. Adolescents worked under children's certificates.

Labour Disputes. There was no strike or labour dispute amongst operatives of registered factories during the year under report.

Factory Administration in India, 1935.*

The following are the salient features ^{of} ~~in~~ the annual report on the working of the Indian Factories Act for the year 1935, which has recently been published by the Government of India. This is the first report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, which came into force on the 1st January, 1935. That Act introduced important changes, including the reduction of the maximum weekly working hours for adults from 60 to 54 in perennial factories, except in continuous processes where the hours may extend to 56. It reduced the daily limits for work for men in

*Statistics of Factories Subject To The Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934), For The Year ending December 31st, 1935, Together With A Note On The Working Of The Factories Act During The Year. Published by order of the Government of India, Manager of Publications, Delhi. Price Rs.1-10-0 or 2s.9d. pp.39.

.K.

perennial factories and for women in all factories from 11 to 10 and enforced a consecutive period off work of at least 11 hours for adults. It limited the working hours of children (persons between the age of 12 and 15) to 5 instead of 6 daily, and limited the spreadover of their work to 7½ hours. The Act also accords protection to adolescents (persons between the ages of 15 and 17) who cannot be employed as adults until they are certified as fit for adult work. Other new provisions cover the protection of workers against serious discomfort due to high temperatures in factories, tests of stability of factory buildings, certificates of stability for new buildings or extensions, control of mechanical transport, and protection from industrial disease. Further provisions for welfare were introduced and the administrative provisions were recast. In particular enhanced penalties were introduced for repeated offences.

Amendment of Act : During the year the Factories Act, 1934, was amended by the Factories (Amendment) Act, 1935 (XI of 1935). The latter Act withdrew the power of exempting women managers or supervisors, or women employed in confidential capacities, from the prohibition against the employment of women during night hours and brought the law into line with the Draft Convention concerning the night employment of women which was ratified by India.

Number of Factories : The total number of registered factories increased from 9,759 to 9,918, the highest figure ever recorded. As the provisions of the Factories Act, 1934, did not apply to the Federated Northern Shan States, the statistics relating to Burma exclude information relating to the Shan States. The number actually working, including 260 notified under Section 5 (1) of the Act, was 8,831 of which 5,166 were perennial and 3,665 were seasonal. A change in the definition of seasonal factories, introduced by the Factories Act of 1934, has transferred a large number of factories from the seasonal to the perennial class, altering the percentages of seasonal and perennial working factories from 53.5 and 46.5 respectively in 1934 to 41.5 and 58.5 in

.K.

1935. The percentage of registered factories working during the year was 89, as against 88.7 in the preceding year. The number of new factories registered was 629 and the number struck off the registers 470.

Out of the 8,831 factories actually working during the year, 365 (345) were owned by Government or Local Funds; 596 (528) textile factories of which 339 (319) were cotton (spinning, weaving and other) factories and 103 (100) Jute mills; 703 (643) engineering concerns; 142 (139) minerals and metals works; 3374 (3413) food, drink and tobacco factories of which 1718 (1608) were rice mills, 1023 (1015) tea factories; 484 (439) concerns dealing with chemicals, dyes etc., of which 238 (220) were oil mills; 417 (390) paper and printing factories; 408 (377 (371) wood, stone and glass factories; 2184 (2238) gins and presses. As the previous years, the Bombay Presidency had the largest number of factories - 1746, followed by Bengal with 1595, Madras with 1491 and Burma with 965. (Note - Figures in brackets in the above paragraph relate to the year 1934.)

Number of Operatives: The average number of operatives employed during the year increased from 1,487,231 in 1934 to 1,610,932 in 1935. This is the highest number yet recorded in the history of Indian industry. The most marked increases were in Bombay (44,883), Bengal (33,811), Madras (15,966), the U.P. (13,274) and Bihar and Orissa (8,103). The number of workers employed in the Cotton textile industry rose from 385,065 in 1934 to 438,820 in 1935, which also constitutes a new record. Bombay was responsible for more than 50 per cent. of the increase. Jute mills registered an increase from 263,739 to 277,986; and this is attributed to the decision of the Jute Mills Association further to increase production. Most of the looms sealed in accordance with the scheme of restriction adopted in 1932, were restarted during the year.

Employment of Women and Children : There was an increase in the number of women employed from 220,860 to 229,726, but the employment of children decreased from 18,362 to 15,457. The percentage of women and children to the total factory population was 14.26 and .96 respectively, as against 14.8 and 1.2 in 1934. Bombay and Madras were chiefly responsible for the increase in the number of women employed. Comparative large decreases in the employment of children were reported in Bengal and Assam. In Bombay and Madras, owing to increased activities, more women obtained employment but the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act is said to have had a restricting influence to their employment, particularly in Ahmedabad. The process of eliminating child labour from the jute and cotton mills in Bengal continues. 278 children were employed in the Jute industry during 1935, compared with 26,500 ten years ago. In Bombay the number of children employed touched a new low level.

Hours of Work : The Factories Act, 1934, reduced the legal limits of working hours in factories. The position is summarised in the table below.

S.K.

Percentage of factories in which normal weekly hours are:-

	Not above 42.	Between 42 and 48.	Above 48.
<u>Perennial.</u>			
For men.	7	23	70
For women.	15	18	67
<u>Seasonal.</u>			
For men.	27	13	60
For woman	35	11	54

No child can be employed for more than 30 hours in a week. It is interesting to note that the decrease in working hours under the new Act was at first resented by piece workers in textile mills in the Punjab, but that before the close of the year so much improvement in their efficiency had occurred that ultimately no reduction in their wages resulted.

Wages : The wages of skilled and unskilled labour were steady in most provinces, but fluctuated slightly for some classes of labour. In the Punjab, there appeared to be a slight downward trend. The system of employing contractors to secure labour continued during the year in almost every district in the Punjab in which there are cotton ginning factories. In Bengal the wage rates generally remained steady in the principal industries but, in a few cases, the total earnings were slightly affected by the reduction of the legal limit of weekly hours from 60 to 54. The only reduction in rates which came to notice was in the rice mills in one or two mufussil areas which, on account of the short-age of paddy, consequent on the drought, found it necessary to reduce wages slightly in order to run at a profit. In the Central Provinces there was a general fall in wages to the extent of 6.6 per cent. owing to continued trade depression. In Madras, the reduction in the hours of work seems to have adversely affected earnings in the cotton textile industry, where much of the work is done on a piece rate basis and the operatives did not make up for the shorter hours worked by improved production.

Accidents : The number of recorded accidents increased from 20,787 in 1934 to 23,119 in 1935. Fatal accidents decreased from 233 to 207, but serious and minor accidents increased from 4,440 to 4,831, and from 16,114 to 18,081, respectively. The incidence of all accidents per 100,000 operatives rose from 1,398 to 1,435 in the year under review.

Safety Work : The safeguarding of machinery and plant continued to receive close attention in all provinces. In Bengal, in the smaller factories such as rice and oil mills,

7.K.

the most noticeable improvement was the more general use of steel in the construction of fencing. In the jute mills, and in many other factories shorts are gradually replacing dhotis and loin cloths as the factory dress with a consequent reduction of risk. In Burma many small factories still give little attention to the maintenance of protective gear and in many cases the workers themselves fail to appreciate the value of protections afforded. In the C. P., the protective measures were found to be satisfactory except in the case of some of the smaller concerns. In many mills fire drills are held systematically. In the U. P. there is still a tendency to delay the provision of necessary guards and fencing till it is actually ordered by the Inspector. The provision of wire mesh screens was extended during the year and in the wood working section of a railway workshop, where eye injuries due to flying chips were frequent, the machine men were provided with goggles with beneficial results. In the Punjab fencing and guarding machinery still needs the attention and co-operation of the factory managers. In Bihar and Orissa the number of safety committees formed up till now represents a little over 10 per cent. of the number of working factories. Some of these committees are well organised and take a real interest in the safety of workmen.

Housing and Welfare Work : Appreciable progress was made in the housing of workers in the Punjab, Bombay, Bengal and the United Provinces. The position of housing of workers in Madras, the C. P. and Burma is much the same as in previous years. In Madras, the C. P. and the U. P. there was no notable expansion in the welfare sphere, but the existing welfare work was continued. The management of the Prag Ice and Oil Mills, Aligarh, started an interesting welfare scheme comprising a Provident Fund and Insurance for the workers. A Savings Bank account is opened in the name of each worker who is required to deposit one anna in the rupee of his monthly wages, the management adding an equal amount. A 20 year endowment insurance policy is taken out for each worker, the management paying the entire premium. The values of the policies range from Rs.250 to Rs.550 according to the worker's monthly income. A further advance in welfare work amongst factory workers was reported in the Punjab. In Delhi, the Delhi Cloth Mills engaged a fully qualified lady doctor for the hospital, while in the Birla Mills a hospital with a fully qualified doctor and a first aid clinic in the mill compound was provided. Owing to strike some factory owners in the C. P. are reluctant to extend welfare facilities to their employees. Creches do not appear to be popular with the operatives. In Bombay, 5 creches were started in Bombay City, two in Ahmedabad and two in other mofussil centres. Improvements and extensions have also been effected in several of the existing creches in Ahmedabad and Bombay. The first industrial co-operative society started in Ahmedabad about a year ago, appeared to be flourishing and two other mills were expected to start societies on similar lines. In Bombay, three mills

8.K.

and 2 other concerns either established or were establishing co-operative societies. 31 health exhibitions were held during the year, 15 in Bombay, 10 in Ahmedabad and 6 in other centres.

Convictions : The number of convictions under the Factories Act was 955 during the year as against 1,468 in 1934. The most marked decreases were in Bombay (194), the Punjab (163), Madras (127). In the Punjab and Madras, the recorded number of prosecutions decreased owing to the adoption of a new method of filing. Hitherto separate cases were made out for each worker involved in a single breach of the factory law but now a single breach involving many workers is only counted as one case.

Inspections : The number of factories inspected during the year was 7,982 - being 90.38 per cent. of the factories actually working. The percentage of perennial and seasonal factories inspected to the total number of such factories was 92.90 per cent and 86.8 respectively as against 93.6 and 85 in the preceding year. No factory remained uninspected in the C. P. and Berar, Baluchistan, Ajmer-Merwara, Delhi, Bangalore and Coorg.

(A copy of the Report reviewed above has been forwarded to Geneva with this Office minute No. D1/309/37 dated 18-3-1937).

(The administration of the Factories Act in India for the year 1934 is reviewed at pages 19-22 of the December 1935 report of this Office.).

Workers' Organisations.Corporation of Railway Unions (India):New Organisation Formed.

As the result of a meeting in the first week of March 1937, at New Delhi, a new federation of railwaymen has been formed, entitled the Corporation of Railway Unions (India), with its head office in Bombay. The Delhi meeting was the outcome of protracted negotiations between the spokesmen of the National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma on the one hand and those of the All India Muslim Railway Employees' Association on the other. Sir Henry Gidney, M.L.A., and Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed, M.L.A. were ^{took} ~~were taking~~ a prominent part in the negotiations. The meeting was presided over by Sir Henry and was attended by a few members of the central legislatures.

Sir Henry, in his opening remarks, observed that the Corporation was not conceived in any spirit of hostility to ~~any~~ existing unions or federations, but solely to represent adequately the interests of the minority communities representing railway labour in this country.

The Corporation of Railway Unions, before it begins to function, will have to receive the approval of the members of the two bodies, namely, the National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma, and the All India Muslim Railway Employees' Association. The president of the Corporation is Sir Henry Gidney, with Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed as Vice-president. The General Secretaries of the two component bodies will be the joint Secretaries of the Corporation.

+ (The Times of India, 8-3-1937) M.

42

Trade Union Movement in Madras, 1935-36.*

Membership. According to the annual report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Madras Presidency during the year ending 31-3-1936, ~~14~~ 4 unions were registered under the Act and the registration of 4 unions ~~was~~ cancelled. One union was transferred to the New Orissa Province from 1-4-1936. The cancellations were ordered either because unions had ceased to exist or had failed to submit their annual returns. The total number of registered trade unions functioning on 31-3-1936 was 32. The year opened with 21,297 members in 27 unions which sent returns, and closed with 22,186 members of whom 2,508 were females.

General Funds. The opening balance of the 27 reporting unions amounted to Rs.20,074-4-7 and the closing balance to Rs.21,446-9-8. The accounts of ~~14~~ 6 unions were audited free of charge by official auditors. The Government have since decided to introduce compulsory official audit - free of charge for the first three years commencing from 1935-36 - by the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts, Madras, in respect of unions which have 250 members on any day in the year.

General Remarks. The Registrar remarks that though a decade has elapsed since the introduction of the Act, genuine trade unionism seems to have gained but little ground
*Government of Madras, Development Department, G.O. No.155, 19th January 1937. Labour-Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926-report for 1935-36. pp.5.

K.2.

4

in this Province. Subscribing members of a union rarely take a keen interest in its affairs and unions are in many cases managed and led by the honorary members who form a majority in the executive. Honorary members frequently act on selfish motives and have not the interests of members really at heart. The spread of real trade unionism will take place only when paying members take a keen interest in the working of their union, and call on the service of honorary members only in special circumstances.

(The trade union movement in Madras for the year 1934-35 was reviewed at pages 33-34 of our July 1936 report.)

The Trade Union Movement in the Punjab, 1935-36* H

Number of Registered Trade Unions: According to the Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Punjab during ~~the year~~ 1935-36, the year under report did not witness any advance of the trade union movement in the Punjab, for there was a decrease both in the total number of members and in the income of the trade unions. The number of registered trade unions, including 3 federations, was the same as last year, viz., 33. Two applications were pending from the previous year and 4 fresh applications were received for registration during the year under report.

*Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act 1926, in the Punjab during the year 1935-36. Printed by the Superintendent Government Printing Punjab, Lahore, 1937, Price Re.0/12/0 or 13 d. pp.8

K.3.

6 unions were registered during the year and 6 removed from the Register. Returns were received from 22 unions only.

Membership and Finances of Unions: The membership of the 22 unions from which returns were received was 64,053 as against 75,846 according to returns from 23 unions in 1934-35. The average number of members per union also decreased from 3,297 during 1934-35 to 2,911 during 1935-36. This fall is primarily due to a decrease by 13,679 in the total number of members of the two biggest unions in the province, viz., the North Western Railway Union and the North Western Railway Industrial Workers' Union, Lahore, which had still a membership of 35,227 and 23,852 respectively at the end of the year. It is interesting to note that the Punjab Miners' Labour Union, Khewra, included amongst its members 649 females.

As in the previous year, there were 3 federations. The number of unions affiliated to them, however, fell from 48 in the last year to 44 during the year under report. The Punjab Labour Board, Lahore, had the largest number of unions affiliated to it.

The opening balance of the 22 unions from which returns were received during the year was Rs.5,468. The income during the year was Rs. 8,253 and the expenditure Rs.8,806. The closing balance was Rs.4,915. The average income per union decreased from Rs.999 to Rs.375 and the average expenditure from Rs.929 to Rs.400. The total income of the three federations during the year was Rs. 555-8-0 as against Rs.1,228 during the previous year. At the same time the expenditure decreased

from Rs.1,082-2-0 to Rs.717-11-0 during the same period.

Activities of Unions: The Registrar remarks that there is nothing outstanding to note regarding the beneficent activities of any of the unions. The All India Ansar Textile Workers' Union, Amritsar, claims to have helped in bringing to an end a strike amongst the workers at Amritsar. The Homœopathic Association, Lahore, gave advice to needy patients. Some of the labour leaders took considerable interest in presenting the case of labour before the Delimitation Committee in connection with seats allotted to labour in the provincial Legislative Assembly.

Free Audit of Unions: As in the previous two years, the facility of free audit of accounts was extended to all registered trade unions. Individual letters as well as a press communiqué was issued for the information of the unions. Six unions took advantage of the arrangement.

(The report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act in the Punjab during 1934-35 is reviewed at pages 33-35 of our March 1936 report.)

46

All-India Congress Socialists' Programme:

"Anti-Constitution" Rally at Delhi on 16-3-1937.

To demonstrate and mobilise public opinion against the Reformed Constitution, an "Anti-Constitution Rally" was held at Delhi on 16-3-1937 under the auspices of the All-India Congress Socialist Party. The All-India Trade Union Congress, the Bengal Labour Association and the the Students' Federation were some of the associations represented at the Rally. Numerous resolutions defining the political and economic policy and programmes which, in the opinion of the Socialists, Congress legislators should follow in the legislatures were adopted.

The following is the resolution re. work in the legislatures:-

The Rally congratulates the people upon the splendid response they gave to the call of the Indian National Congress and other anti-Imperialist organizations like the All-India Trade Union Congress by returning to the provincial legislatures their nominees who fought the elections on the programme of wrecking the slave constitution, thereby demonstrating their will to wreck the Constitution which seeks to consolidate Imperialist domination and exploitation. The Rally is firmly of opinion that the Constitution can be wrecked only through the non-acceptance of Ministerial offices and the revolutionary use of the legislatures, which consists in fighting and exposing the Government at every step, putting forward and fighting for the pressing demands of the masses and linking up their political and economic struggle with work inside the Legislatures. Such a policy would make the constitutional functioning of the Government impossible and make it possible for the people's representatives to come out of the Legislatures at a stage where the mass struggle reaches a high pitch. With this aim in view, this Rally proposes the following programme as an immediate basis for work within the Legislatures as well as among the masses outside:

1. Fifty per cent. reduction of rent and revenue, fixity of tenure, exemption from rent and revenue of uneconomic holdings and cancellation of arrears of rent and revenue.
2. Moratorium for debts.
3. Forty-hour week and living wages.

K.2.

- 47
4. Unemployment Relief.
 5. Free primary education.
 6. Release of political prisoners, and repeal of anti-national and anti-Working-Class laws.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-3-1937.)

French Indian Workers' Grievances:

Delegation leaves for France.

Messrs. V. Subbiah, President of the French India Labour Conference Committee, and J. Savarinathan, Advocate, Pondicherry, left for France on 17-3-37 where they will represent to the Home Government the grievances of French Indian workers. They will also, it is learnt, represent to the Home Government the disabilities of French Indian citizens in general.

(The Hindu 19-3-37.)

118

Recognition of Trade Unions:

Mr. Giri's Cut Motion in Legislative Assembly.

In the course of the debate in the Legislative Assembly on the Indian central budget for 1937-38, a cut motion under the head of the Department of Industries was moved in the Assembly on 10-3-1937 by Mr. V. V. Giri to discuss the question of the recognition of trade unions by employers and the withdrawal of recognition in certain cases. Mr. Giri declared that the question of the recognition of trade unions was of paramount importance to workers' organizations in this country. He referred to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour which stressed the desirability of a more generous policy in the recognition of trade unions. He said that if the recommendations of the Labour Commission had been carried out in their spirit and letter, many trade disputes which had occurred since its report was published could have been avoided. Mr. Giri complained in particular of the omission to appoint central joint machinery to settle disputes.

Mr. Giri referred to the instance of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway strike and the subsequent withdrawal of recognition of the B. N. Railway Workers' Union and declared that the Agent, as soon as the strike was terminated, took the earliest opportunity to withdraw recognition of the Union. He also stated that since the settlement of the strike, complaints had been made to him by the Union that the railway authorities were continuing to employ men who were taken on as "blacklegs", that

2.K.

49

strikers who offered themselves for work in time were not takenⁱⁿ, that junior non-strikers had been promoted over the heads of senior men who had gone on strike and later been re-entertained, and that ~~the Union treasurer, Mr. Suryanarayana, had been re-employed and that the Union~~ settlement therefore had not been carried out.

Sir Frank Noyce's reply: Sir Frank Noyce, replying gave an assurance that he and the Railway Member would continue to give careful attention to the unsatisfactory state of affairs which he knew existed in the B. N. Railway at the present moment. Sir Frank Noyce hoped that this assurance would satisfy Mr. Giri.

Mr. Giri explained that he referred to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Union only as an example of the way in which Trade Unions in the country had been generally treated, but he was thankful for the assurance given by the Industries Member and withdrew his cut motion.

(The Statesman, 11-3-1937.)

(10)

INTELLECTUAL WORKERS.

Conditions of Work of Journalists:

15th Annual Meeting of Indian Journalists Association,
Calcutta. 11

The 15th annual general meeting of the Indian Journalists' Association was held at Calcutta on 28-2-1937.

President's Address: Opening the meeting, S. J. Mrinal Kanti Bose, the President, invited the attention of the journalists to the deplorable conditions of service of working journalists. Dealing with the conditions of service of working journalists, he pointed out that the scales of pay obtaining in Calcutta are the lowest in all India. There was no system of grades in salary in any of the Indian conducted dailies (and this is true also of periodicals) in any of the presidency towns. Leave rules there are none. Some of the leading Calcutta dailies granted 15 days' leave in the year, while others strictly observed the principle - no work, no pay. Leave for sickness depended on the pleasure of the proprietors. Some of the papers, however, grant full pay for a period for sickness; others however, are far less lenient. There is Provident Fund in only two of the English (Indian-owned) dailies in Calcutta.

He further pointed out that, while working journalists shed torrents of tears for employees elsewhere, they had no tears for their own condition. There are many reasons, which account for this mentality of the working journalists, but one important cause is the disunity among journalists due to party spirit or mutual jealousy or both. Till working journalists put forth united efforts through one organisation, there saw no hope of amelioration in their condition.

Continuing Mr. Bose said that he was not in favour of the principle of excluding proprietors from their organisation. It is no use abusing the proprietors behind their back. "We, working journalists would rather discuss, negotiate and arrive at agreement with them as members of the same organisation. That would make our task easier, regard being had to the absence of the Trade Union spirit among us".

Office Bearers: The following office-bearers ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ were unanimously elected :-

President:- S. J. Mrinal Kanti Bose (A.B.Patrika.)

.K.

Vice-Presidents:- Sj. Tushar Kanti Ghose-(A. B. Patrika);
Sj. Bidhu Bhusan Sen Gupta.-(United Press); Sj. Profulla Kumar
Sarkar.-(Ananda Bazar Patrika); Moulvi Mujibur Rahman.-(Comrade);
Dr. S. C. Roy.-(Insurance and Finance Review); Sj. Haridas
Majumdar.-(Amrita *Bazar Patrika*).

Secretary:- Sj. Ashutosh Banerjee.-(Insurance Herald).

Assistant Secretaries:- Sj. Bimalendu Koyal.-(Calcutta
Review); Mr. D. N. Roy.-(Panchayet); Sj. Sudhansu Bikas Roy
Chowdhury.-(Onward); Sj. Surendra Nath Niyogi.-(Sanhati).

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 3-3-37) M.

Economic Conditions.

8th Industries Conference: Report of Proceedings.*

Reference was made at pages 60-64 of our December 1936 report to the 8th session of the Indian Industries Conference *held* at Lucknow in December 1936. A report of the detailed proceedings of the Conference has now been issued by the Departments of Industries and Labour of the Government of India; a short summary of the *report* ~~proceedings~~ is given below:-

Handloom Industry.- In this report the details of the work for the development of the handloom industry now actively proceeding in each province are summarised and numerous projects now well in hand are listed. Central depots for the supply of yarn to weavers have been set up, new designs have been introduced for the weavers to work upon, and demonstrators have been touring the villages to show village weavers improved methods. Marketing systems have been organised in most provinces for the sale of these products, with a view to placing this village-industry on a more prosperous footing. Efforts are being made to bring about standardisation of the cloth produced ~~in~~ and to ensure that fast colours are used. Improved appliances for weaving are being tried out in villages.

The conclusion of the conference was that the allocation of the grant to the Indian provinces for the development of the handloom industry for the year 1937-38 should be the same as for the current year, with the addition of five grants of Rs. 4,000 each to Bihar, C.P., Assam, Sind and Orissa to enable them to instal finishing plants. A sum of Rs. 5,000 was also granted to the North-West Frontier Province from the reserve to meet a portion of the cost of installing a calendering machine.

Standardisation of Weights and Measures.- A discussion took place on the question of standardisation of weights and measures throughout India, a step recommended by the Bombay Government. The memorandum from the Bombay representative pointed out that the weight of a seer not only varied from district to district, but even in the same district. The following conclusions were reached by the conference on the subject:

(1) The Conference agreed that weights should be standardised throughout the country.

(2) By a large majority the Conference considered that the weights should be those recognised under the Bombay Act of 1932, and

* Bulletins of Indian Industries & Labour No.59 -Proceedings of the 8th Industries Conference (held at Lucknow on the 7th & 8th Dec.1936).- January 1937. -Delhi: Manager of Publications.1937.Price Rs.2-2-0.pp.110

(3) While it was desirable that measures should be standardised, the Conference was not in a position to recommend what the standard measures should be.

Trade Statistics.- Another important matter that came up for discussion was the publication of fuller trade statistics of important manufactured and semi-manufactured goods produced in the country and raw material consumed, together with figures of inter-provincial movements of these articles. General agreement was expressed that fuller statistics would be more valuable and that a sub-committee might meet in conjunction with the next Conference, when the Provinces and States could come with clearer ideas regarding commodities and the financial implications involved.

Inter-Provincial Trade Barriers.- The representative of Mysore took up the question of the removal of inter-provincial barriers to trade in the pharmaceutical and drug industry in India. He said that the Mysore State had started the manufacture recently of pharmaceutical preparations and in attempting to export small quantities to other parts of India, found it extremely difficult owing to the unduly stringent regulations that exist. It was felt that a simpler procedure might be evolved.

Some representatives of the provinces expressed the view that it was desirable to continue the existing procedure in the interest of revenue, but others, including some States, showed a desire for a consideration of the question. It was concluded that a uniform set of rules was desirable, and that the matter should be referred to a meeting of Excise Commissioners who should be assisted by selected Directors of Industries.

Industrial Surveys.- The question of industrial surveys was also discussed. There was general agreement that a survey of industries was desirable and that it should be undertaken by the provinces and co-ordinated by a central agency, the question of cost being the subject of correspondence with the Provincial Governments.

Rule Making Powers. - The question of rule-making powers in Acts affecting industry, especially electricity and boilers, was discussed with a view to securing uniformity after the introduction of the new constitution, and the following conclusions were reached:-

(1) That it was ~~not~~ desirable to have Central Boards for both Electricity and Boilers to exercise such rule and regulation making power now held by the Government of India.

(2) That the local Governments should have full discretion regarding the nomination of their representatives.

(3) That the representatives should be able to bring advisers.

(4) That the suggestion that representatives of States, prior to Federation, be invited to co-operate with the Boards should be examined.

(5) That if possible, provision be made for States members on the Board after Federation.

Women Workers of Mines.— The Bihar Government submitted a memorandum containing proposals for the introduction of the hand weaving industry among the women workers of the Jharia coal fields who will shortly be thrown out of work due to the prohibition of employment of women underground in mines. The scheme consisted in the establishment of three institutions to teach hand-weaving industries, each capable of training 50 women at a time. The women were to be paid wages at four annas a day during the period of training. The cost of the scheme was estimated at Rs. 33,700 towards recurring expenses and Rs. 3,000 towards non-recurring expenses.

In the course of discussion, representatives of other provinces disapproved of a central grant for this purpose. Sir Frank Noyce, the President of the Conference, said that although the Government of India had encouraged the Bihar Government to put forward a proposal of this nature, the force of the objections raised had to be recognised. The conclusion of the Conference was that the scheme should not be proceeded with.

(A copy of the Report reviewed above was sent to Geneva with our minute D.1/309/37 dated 18-3-1937). M.

PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME FOR INDIA:

Effects of Rising Prices. M

Dr. P. J. Thomas, University Professor in Economics, Madras University, in the second of a series of University lectures on "Current Economic Problems" delivered on 5-3-37 dealt, among other subjects, with the question of planning a public works programme for India as a means to relieve unemployment. He took up the position that the adoption of a strong public works programme for India in 1933 or 1934, when prices were still repressed, would have proved beneficial to the country, but that, at the present time,

when prices were rising, it would be unwise to push through a large public works programme. The following are relevant extracts from the lecture :

The recovery of prices in India had not been so marked as that in Europe and America. Prices had risen since 1933, but the rise had been slow and halting. Lately, the pace of recovery had been quickening. During the last one year, the price of wheat had increased nearly 50 per cent. Metals, wool, rubber, cotton, jute, oil-seeds (especially copra), had also shown fairly good improvement. These price increases had not yet had a corresponding effect on our index number of wholesale prices, which still stood only 4 or 5 points above the low level of 1932, partly owing to the faulty nature of its composition and partly because the rise was in many cases fairly recent. That the trend was upward was beyond doubt and judging from happenings elsewhere a further rise of prices was fairly certain, at no distant date.

The best economic remedies may bring the worst results if applied at the wrong time. When the depression is at its ~~xxxxxxx~~ bottom and employment at its worst, it is necessary for governments to inject purchasing power by means of loan expenditure on public works; but when the depression is fast lifting and private enterprise is steadily advancing, it would be a serious mistake to increase the expenditure on public works, as it would mean an unhealthy diversion of capital and labour from private enterprise. In 1933, even in 1934, a large expenditure on public works of a remunerative nature would have been welcome, and had it been carried out recovery in India would have been a quicker and less painful process. But now, in the midst of rising prices and rapidly increasing private enterprise, it would be unwise to push through a large public works programme. Public works must be timed according to the trend of the trade cycle, and a long-range plan is desirable for this country as well. There is still considerable unemployment in India, but it is not due to the depression. Rural under-employment has been the bane of Indian economic life, and this must be tackled by a carefully devised plan of rural development. With this aim in view a new economic policy and a new financial policy must be framed and carried out by the new provincial governments.

Five Year Scheme Of Planned Development:

Supplementary Report Of The U. P. Enquiry Committee. A

Reference was made at pages 55-57 of our August 1936 report to the report submitted by the Economic Planning Committee appointed by the U. P. Government to draw up a five year plan of economic development for the province. The Board of Economic Inquiry, United Provinces, at a meeting, held in August 1936 with the Industries Member Minister in the chair, generally approved the report, but directed the Committee to prepare a supplementary report by the end of the year, giving an estimate of the cost of the scheme of economic planning, having regard to the financial circumstances of the Government.

In pursuance of this direction, the Committee recently submitted a supplementary report in which a scheme involving an expenditure of Rs. 2 million has been recommended. The Committee recommends that the scheme be introduced in nine rural reconstruction centres, in each district of the province, each centre embracing a circle of about 15 villages. It is desirable that three of these rural reconstruction circles should be contiguous. This will provide the opportunity for developing local emulation and progress-mindedness in a compact area, contributing towards economic uplift and improvement of the general morale of the peasantry. The arrangement will incidentally permit certain important development activities to be undertaken more economically and effectively. A programme of consolidation of holdings seemed to the Committee important and urgent enough to

2.K.

make a beginning with the appointment of some supervisors, pending the necessary legislative measures that have been recommended.

The Committee has ~~has~~ estimated a total expenditure ^{at} of Rs. 390 per circle per month on agricultural and field demonstrations, medicines, etc., The total for one circle per district for the province will be Rs. 224,640 and the total for nine circles per district for the province will be Rs. 2,021,760.

(The Statesman 17-3-1937.) M

Protection for Sugar Industry:
Tariff Board Enquiry Ordered.

In pursuance of Section 3 of the Sugar Industry (Protection) Act, 1932, the Governor-General in Council has decided to refer to the Tariff Board the statutory inquiry into the extent of protection required by the Indian Sugar Industry during the period from March 31, 1938, to March 31, 1946. The Board will take up the investigation at the beginning of April 1937.

The personnel of the Board is as follows:- President:
Sir Geoffrey Bracken, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S.; Members:-
Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtoola, Dr. L. C. Jain, M.A., LL.B., Ph.D.,
D.Sc., Econ. (Lond.); Secretary:- Mr. K. B. Bhatia, I.C.S.,

(The Gazette of India, 27-3-37.) M

HK.

Employment and Unemployment.

Problem of Educated Unemployment in C.P.:

Government Sets up Advisory Committee.

The Government of the Central Provinces has recently set up an Unemployment Advisory Committee of 14 members with a view to dealing with the problem of middle class unemployment in the Province. The Committee has been set up for a period of 5 years, with the Vice-Chancellor of the Nagpur University as Chairman. It consists of the Directors of Education and Agriculture of the Province, the Principal of one of the Colleges, members representing the cotton mill, manganese and coal mining industries, two members of the Provincial Legislative Assembly and four non-officials. The Director of Industries is to be the Secretary of the Committee. The Committee will begin functioning immediately after the inauguration of the new Constitution in the Province.

The functions of the Committee are to advise Government on all matters relating to the problem of the educated unemployed and to act as an information bureau regarding employment. In the first place, the Government has desired the committee to advise it on the recommendations made by each department on the report of the United Provinces Unemployment Committee, presided over by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru.

(The Times of India, 15-3-1937).

(A Press Note on the subject issued by the C. P.

Government is published at page 292 of Part I of the Central Provinces Gazette dated 9-3-1937.)

59

Relieving Unemployment in C.P.: Sapru Report

Recommendations Examined. 14

The U.P. Unemployment Committee Report (Sapru Report) was recently subjected to an examination by the Commerce and Industries Department of the Central Provinces, with a view to find what action the C.P. Government could take on the various recommendations of the report, due allowance being made for the differing conditions in C.P. The following is a brief summary of the Department's observations:

Training in Engineering.- With regard to the recommendation made by the Sapru Committee that opportunity should be afforded to students who have qualified as mechanical and electrical engineers for receiving practical training in firms, the Department says that "In this province there is no scope for action on this recommendation, as there is no institution in the province which trains students in electrical engineering. There is, however, scope in the oil industry, says the Department, in view of the decision of the Nagpur University to establish the Laxminarayan Oil Technological Institute."

Encouraging Cottage Industries.- A subsidy of Rs. 20,000 annually to the Nagpur Museum for giving expert advice to cottage industrialists and for carrying on experimental research work is urged while a scheme costing Rs. 100,000 for the financing and the marketing of cotton industries in the province is considered suitable for adoption if and when funds permit. The scheme to foster the organisation of co-operative stores employing educated men is not however considered suitable, as also the establishment of a joint stock bank. The deputation of a special officer to study the working of the Bengal scheme intended to help educated men to start small industries is recommended should funds permit, while the establishment of an Employment Exchange Bureau under the control of the Education Department or the University of Nagpur is favoured.

Age of Recruitment to Government Service.- The Department also examined the question of restoration of posts which have been retrenched but sees no need for restoring any posts at present. Regarding the prescribing by Government of their own standards for entry into Government service in the cases of subordinate services and recruitment of new men through competitive examinations or by selection, the Department does not see any need for changing the present method of recruitment. It, however,

60

suggests that the age limit of 25 years for entry into subordinate services should be reduced to 20 years so as to eliminate candidates with high academic qualifications for the ministerial posts.

Lack of Money. - In conclusion, the Department points out the difficulty of taking immediate steps on many of the Sapru Committee's recommendations, which it favours, owing to ~~the~~ lack of funds.

(The Statesman, 25-3-1937).

11

Ks

11

Unemployment Problem in Baroda: Government

Sets up Central Board. + n

The Government of Baroda appointed some time back a small Committee to examine the Report of the U.P. Unemployment Committee (the Sapru Committee) and to make recommendations to the Government regarding the proposals in the Report ~~was~~ which could be applied with suitable modifications in the State, to alleviate unemployment. The local Committee's recommendations are as follows:-

(1) The re-organisation of the system of primary education; (2) the re-organisation of the professions viz., medicine, law, engineering, etc; (3) the improvement of the facilities for technical, industrial and vocational education; (4) the helping of cottage industries; (5) the starting a Bureau of Industrial Advice; (6) the regulation of recruitment to and retirements from the Government services; (7) the provision of vocational guidance to young men; (8) the appointment of a Central Board of Employment, and (9) the maintenance of unemployment statistics by the Government.

Other suggestions made by the Committee include schemes for subsidising medical practitioners settling down in rural areas, the starting of agricultural schools, the introduction of an agricultural bias in school education, and the inauguration of special demonstration courses in dairy-farming, cutlery manufacture, umbrella-making and other suitable cottage industries. For the propagation of useful knowledge, it is proposed to re-organise the Publicity Branch of the Commerce and Industries Department so as to publish and distribute free to State institutions brochures showing the progress of suitable small scale industries in countries like America, Japan, England, Germany etc.

62

The Government of Baroda has accepted most of the recommendations made by the local Committee and has directed its various Departments to give effect to these recommendations. It is proposed to start work by appointing Vocational Guidance Committees and a Central Board of Employment. Besides helping the various State Departments in their efforts, the main duties of the Board will be to help young men to get employment, to advise Government on all questions relating to unemployment and to publish "career pamphlets" and render such assistance as may be necessary to parents and guardians in the choice of vocations, etc. The newly established Department of Statistics has been entrusted with the work of maintaining unemployment statistics.

(The Times of India, 4-3-1937 and
the Hindu, 5-3-1937).

Free Training in Manufacture of Cutlery:

Bengal Government Plan To Alleviate Middle-Class Un-employment

4

Mention was made at pages 43 to 45 of our October 1936 report, of the various measures adopted by the Government of Bengal with a view to relieving middle-class unemployment in Bengal. A press note issued by the Industries Department of the Government of Bengal states, that in pursuance of its scheme for relief of middle-class unemployment in Bengal, the Department of Industries, in the Engineering Section, is making arrangements for enlisting a fresh batch of students for giving them free training in the manufacture of cutlery goods

63

37.

such as razors, knives, spoons, 'daos,' etc., as well as the manufacture of surgical and medical instruments. The full training course will cover a period of 8 to 9 months and will include a thorough practical training in the heat treatment of steel and other metals ordinarily used.

The manufacture of surgical instruments is an industry almost new to the country and has vast possibilities before it. With the help and encouragement which the Department of Industries usually give to its trained students in starting factories of their own as well as for the successful working of the same, it is likely that students trained in this branch of cutlery manufacture will be able to render a good account of themselves.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 2-3-1937.) +

69

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Compulsory Insurance For Government Servants:

Baroda States Scheme. r

The Government of Baroda has under consideration the introduction of a scheme of state life insurance as in Mysore, and to make it compulsory for Government servants to insure themselves under this scheme. Details, it is understood, have already been worked out and the scheme is expected to be put into operation at an early date.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 15-3-1937.)

Social Insurance Schemes for India: Mr. N.M.

Joshi's Cut Motion defeated in Legislative Assembly. r

On 6-3-1937 Mr. N.M.Joshi moved in the Legislative Assembly in the course of the budget debate a cut motion to urge the Government to undertake a uniform system of compulsory State insurance against risks incidental to the life of industrial workers. He said that experience had shown that voluntary experiments in schemes of social insurance had failed in every country, and only a bold scheme undertaken by the State would be cheap and would prove successful. The Government had always put in the plea of cost, or of unwillingness on the part of workers to

contribute from their meagre wages. Mr. Joshi said that if the Government wanted they could start insurance schemes without any contribution from the workers. He would even suggest that if the Government started any such scheme the workers would be prepared, even from their low wages, to make provision for insurance.

Mr. V.V.Giri emphasised how Russia within a short time was able to work out successfully several beneficial schemes for the working classes. It should be much easier for the Government of India to undertake such schemes as they were better established. He urged the Government to chalk out cut and dried schemes in the form of five-year or ~~ten~~-year plans.

In opposing Mr. Joshi's cut motion, Sir Frank Noyce, Member in Charge of Industries and Labour, pointed out that Mr. Joshi had completely ignored, in urging schemes of social insurance, the question of finance and the constitutional implications of the present motion. He quoted the opinion of the Whitley Commission which had declared that no scheme of unemployment insurance placed before it was at all practicable, and that there was no basis on which a ^{for India} scheme could be worked out. For example, Sir Frank Noyce stressed that the provision of a pension of Rs. 5 to people over 60 years of age would cost Rs. 70 millions, and he asked whether that would be possible. He did not very much appreciate why any distinction should be made between industrial workers and rural workers. Proceeding, Sir Frank Noyce said that the financial implication alone would be such as would crush any Government. From April 1937 the provinces would be autonomous and the Government of India would cease to have control over them. If representative Ministries were

to achieve success on the lines suggested by Mr. Joshi, he would give unreserved credit to them. Personally, he had every sympathy with insurance schemes in this country, and what prevented progress at the present moment was the lack of real demand from all three parties, namely, the provincial Governments, employers and the employed. The entire responsibility in the matter was theirs, and not that of the Government of India.

* The cut motion was not pressed, and was rejected without a division.

(The Statesman, 7-3-1937) †

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay, 1935-36. n

According to the annual report on the administration of the Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay, for the year ending 31-3-1936, the Scheme comprises 207 Chawls of 16,201 rooms and 358 shops. During the year 3 rooms were converted into shops at a monthly rental of Rs. 25 per shop. 137 Chawls were occupied at the close of the year under review. The number of occupied rooms and shops which on 31-3-1935 was 7,912 gradually increased to 8,637 towards the end of December 1935 and then decreased to 8,485 during the quarter ending 31-3-1936. This temporary decline towards the end of the year was mainly attributable to the closing of some departments in some mills and the discontinuance of night shifts. On the whole there was an increase by 575 in the occupied rooms and shops during the year under report.

Scale of Rents. The scale of rents for single roomed tenements at the four centres remained unchanged throughout the year viz., DeLisle Road Rs.8, Raigam Rs.7 and Worli Rs.5. Re.1 extra is charged for corner rooms and Rs.2 extra are charged for rooms in which additional water taps are provided at the option of the tenants.

The rents fixed for two and three-roomed tenements remained unchanged. The rent of two-roomed tenements varied from Rs.19 to Rs.17/3 (top floor) per month and that of three-roomed tenements remained at Rs.27/- per month.

*Annual Report on the Administration of the Industrial Housing Scheme 1935-36, printed at The Government Central Press, Bombay, 1937, Price-Anna 1 or 1d. pp.11

2.K.

Rent Collections. The collection of Rs. 5,55,220 against the assessment of Rs. 5,99,324 gives a percentage of 97.8 for the year under report as against 98.7 for the previous year. The collection is reported to be very satisfactory.

During the year 685 tenants ~~involving~~ ^{owing a total} rent of Rs.5,937 absconded as compared with 1,069 tenants ~~involving~~ ^{owing} Rs.12,308/8 in the previous year. Out of the former amount of Rs.5,937 and the previous year's balance of Rs.10,170/13, Rs.5082/8/8 were recovered after the absconders had been traced and Rs.5,371/15/9 had to be written off, leaving a balance of Rs.7,655/4/7 to be recovered.

Vital Statistics. The following table gives details of vital statistics in the chawls:

Locality.	Approximate population	Deaths	Death rate per 100 approximately
Naigaum	13,905	287	20.6
Delisle Road	9,780	267	27
Worli	15,435	344	22
Sewri	3,305	43	13
Total	42,425	941	22

The average number of occupants per room has been taken as five for the purpose of calculating the specific death rate. During the previous year the specific death rate was 21 per thousand. The sanitation of the chawls at all the centres was satisfactory.

(The Report of the administration of the Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay, during 1934-35 is reviewed at pages 52-53 of our December 1935 report.)

69

Housing Workers Of Bangalore:

City Municipality's Decision. + "

At a meeting of the Bangalore City Municipal Council, held on 13-3-1937, it was resolved to acquire a plot of ground of about 27 acres on the outskirts of the city with the object of providing sites for houses for the poor and middle classes at a reasonable price and relieving congestion in the city. The price of the sites is to be kept sufficiently low as to be within the reach of persons of the working and middle classes.

(The Hindu, 14-3-1937 and the Times of India 16-3-1937) †

All India Institute of Hygiene:

Two New Sections Added. †

~~History of Institute~~ The Government of India have accorded sanction to the opening, at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, of two new sections, one on sanitary engineering and the other on maternity and child welfare. With this addition, the Institute will be functioning, from April 1, 1937, in all the Departments originally contemplated for it.

History of Institute: The All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health was founded in Calcutta in 1932. The Institute was established with funds provided by the Rockefeller Foundation. But the responsibility for its maintenance was undertaken by

2.K.

the Government of India. Unfortunately, however, the opening of the Institute coincided with the period of acute financial stringency, and thus the full developments originally contemplated had to be deferred. As a result, four Sections dealing with Public Health Administration, Malariology, Biochemistry and Nutrition and Epidemiology, and Vital Statistics have been functioning for the past four years, and the two Sections on Sanitary Engineers and Maternity and Child Welfare were kept in abeyance. With the return to improved financial conditions, the Government of India who have all along been conscious of these two outstanding needs of the Institute, have now found it possible to add these new Sections from April 1937.

Sanitary Engineering Course: Although the medical colleges provide post-graduate training in public health, not only has the number so trained in these institutions been small but the opportunities for such training are also limited both by personnel and available facilities. In fact, no institution in India provides for teaching and research in sanitary engineering, and the time has come when, with the increase in public health activities in the field of preventive medicine, there is certain to be a greater demand for the employment of sanitary engineers in municipalities, district boards, larger industrial concerns, and by provincial Governments and Indian States. It is ⁱⁿ recognition of the importance and urgent need for the development of sanitary engineering, and lack of proper facilities for such training in India, that the Government of India have decided to add a sanitary engineering section to the Institute.

(The Statesman 18-3-1937.)

Nutrition.

Nutritive Value of Indian Diets: Publication

by Nutrition Research Laboratory, Coonoor.

The Nutrition Research Laboratory, Coonoor, has recently issued a bulletin on the "Nutritive Value of Indian Foods and the Planning of Satisfactory Diets" giving an analysis of about 200 common Indian foods. Dr. Aykroyd, Director of the Nutrition Research Laboratory states in the introduction that the purpose of the bulletin is to summarize available knowledge about the nutritive value of Indian foodstuffs for the benefit of public health workers, medical practitioners, superintendents of residential institutions and others interested in practical dietetics. The publication is a part of the move to popularize the results of nutrition researches. In the bulletin an account is first given of calorie requirements, and standards suitable for the various age and sex groups in India are suggested. Next, protein, fat, and various vitamins and minerals are dealt with, with special emphasis on the minimum requirements of each. Malnutrition and the effect of cooking on nutritive value are also discussed.

Planning Diets.- The section on the planning of diets describes the differences between "ill-balanced" and "well-balanced" diets, and the methods to be followed in improving diets. It is pointed out that a really "well-balanced" diet will usually cost a good deal more than ordinary Indian diets of poor quality, but how diets can be improved without great increase in cost is also described. The details given are, therefore, likely to be of considerable interest to the public.

Protective Foods.- Human beings, and particularly children, says the bulletin, cannot thrive at their best on a diet largely composed of cereals such as rice, millet, etc.,

and insufficiently supplemented by other foods. To make good the deficiencies of such a diet, they must consume fair quantities of foods like milk, green vegetables, eggs, fruits, etc. These are known as the "protective" foods, since they are rich in proteins, vitamins and mineral salts, and protect the body against the ills which result when the diet is largely based on less nutritious foods, such as milled rice.

Defects of Indian Dietary.- In general, diets in India are defective because they do not contain "protective" foods in sufficient abundance. The aim in public health nutrition work in general and planning "well-balanced" diets must be to increase ^{the} intake of "protective" foods. The classes in the community which are particularly likely to suffer if their diet is defective, are infants and growing children, and expectant and nursing mothers. The value of skimmed milk, which is considerably cheaper than whole milk, but contains most of its valuable elements, is emphasized. Information is given in tabular statements about protein, fat, carbohydrates, fibre, calcium, phosphorus, iron, and vitamins, and appendices are added with data about the biological value of the proteins of various foods, and the availability of iron in certain foodstuffs.

(The Statesman, 23-3-1937) p. 1.

73

Co-operation.

Co-operation in Bihar and Orissa, 1935.* + "

Progress of Societies.- The depression in the co-operative movement continued throughout the year under review. Although there was a small rise in the price of rice, there was little improvement in the condition of agriculturists as the rainfall was unfavourable and agricultural prospects were not bright. It has not, therefore, been possible for the movement to make any appreciable advance towards recovery. The total number of working societies showed a small increase from 8,882 in 1934 to 8,928 in 1935, but the number of members in co-operative societies decreased from 286,931 to 285,282. The percentage of bad and hopeless societies showed a slight increase from 17.4 and 3.7 in 1934 to 18.8 and 4.5, respectively in 1935.

Problem of Frozen Assets. - Reviewing the report for 1934, the Government of Bihar and Orissa laid emphasis on the necessity for fresh finance in order to liquefy the frozen assets of the movement. Fresh finance is, however, hardly practicable, if adequate steps are not taken to check the growing accumulation of overdues. In this respect the position of the movement has not shown any substantial improvement. During the year under review the overdues of principal payable by affiliated societies to central banks rose from Rs. 13.1 millions to Rs. 13.827 millions, while the corresponding amount of overdues of principal payable to affiliated

*Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1935. -Supdt., Govt. Printing, B. & O., Patna, 1937. -Price Rs. 2-8-0. pp.57+xlviii.

societies by their members increased from Rs. 13 millions to Rs. 13.44 millions. Similarly, the overdues of interest payable to central banks also rose from Rs. 2.557 millions in 1934 to Rs. 3.2 millions in 1935, while the overdues of interest payable to affiliated societies by their members rose from Rs. 5.3 millions to Rs. 6.2 millions. It is observed that the future of the movement on its credit side depends entirely on improved collections.

Co-operative Societies and Rural Uplift.- Perhaps the most interesting feature of the year under review is the growing realisation of the importance of the non-credit side of the movement. The central banks are taking increasing interest in education, agricultural improvement, land reclamation, sanitation, medical relief and the promotion of cottage industries, which have for their object the moral and material uplift of the rural population. A striking feature is the progress of welfare schemes in different parts of the province. With the help of the Government of India grant, experiments in rural reconstruction are now being tried in each division, but the report shows that rural reconstruction programmes have been successfully put into operation by central banks independently of the Government of India grant.

Agricultural Societies.- The number of agricultural societies for the joint province of Bihar and Orissa increased by 36, Bihar claiming an increase of 39 and Orissa being responsible for a decrease of 3. The total number of these societies at the close of the year in the joint province was 8,502 as against 8,466 in 1934. But though there was an

increase in the number of societies, the membership decreased by 2,180 in Bihar while it increased by 490 in Orissa, the net result being a total membership of 229,044 for the joint province. At the end of the year the paid-up share capital and the working capital of the societies amounted to Rs. 1.523 millions and Rs. 20.369 millions respectively, as against Rs. 1.554 millions and Rs. 20.931 millions in 1934. The decrease is due chiefly to fall in the membership and the amount of loans outstanding.

Non-Agricultural Societies.- At the end of the year 1935 there were 194 societies with a membership of 28,925 as against 178 societies with 27,110 at the end of the previous year in Bihar. In Orissa the number of such societies decreased by 3, the total number at the end of the year being 136 with a membership of 4,218 as against 4,454 in the preceding year. Of the non-agricultural societies, there were 80 societies, 72 in Bihar and 8 in Orissa, catering to the needs of Government servants and other wage-earners.

Future Development.- The Committee on Co-operation had recommended the establishment of land-mortgage banks to take over the long-term commitments of the movement and ultimately to undertake the business of enabling the agriculturists to redeem their land, liquidate old debts, make improvements and extend their operations. This matter has already engaged the attention of Government which has appointed a Special Officer to study the working of land-mortgage banks in other provinces.

The Registrar points out that an important aspect of the agricultural economy of the province, namely, marketing, has been neglected by the co-operative movement. Some other matters in which co-operation has either made no beginning, or no progress worth the name, in Bihar and Orissa, but which he thinks must needs be taken up in the immediate future are:

- (i) Societies among women;
 - (ii) Societies for the promotion of thrift and general welfare;
 - (iii) Purchase and sale societies;
 - (iv) Cattle breeding societies; and
 - (v) Societies for consolidation of holdings.
- Much also remains to be done in regard to progress of non-agricultural and urban co-operation. The vast field for co-operative stores still remains open.

Progress of Co-operative Movement in Burma, 1935-36. *

General Remarks.- In his annual report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Burma during the year ending 30-6-1936, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies of the Province remarks that the energies of the staff were concentrated on the task of speedily closing down the weak societies and reconstructing those that yielded to the scheme of reconstruction as formulated last year and approved by the Government. The latter work was commenced about the beginning of October 1935.

* Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Burma for the year ended the 30th June, 1936.-Rangoon:Supdt., Govt. Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1937. Price Re. 1-8-0. pp. 92

The relief afforded to all co-operators by the measures undertaken to reconstruct the old societies, both living and in liquidation, gave satisfaction to all concerned and the scheme of reconstruction was everywhere received with favour. As regards unions, their past history has clearly shown that they had signally failed to achieve their aims and objects. They had never been able to check over-financing and reckless borrowing nor were they ever able to enforce union liability. Even in former times, their educative value for propaganda and instruction work was small.

Statistics of Societies and Membership.- There were 2,149 societies of all kinds at the close of the year under review as against 2,138 at the close of the previous year. Of the 2,149 societies, 10 were Central Banks, 164 non-agricultural credit societies, 1,479 agricultural credit societies and 496 other societies. The total membership of the 2,149 societies was 77,377 as against 75,494 during 1935-36.

General Features.- Societies under liquidation were revived and the members who had lost all their lands were glad to get them back under the rent-purchase principle by which they could hope to regain complete possession by payment of annual instalments spread over a long term of years. Living societies which had remained in a dormant condition owing to heavy overdues on the part of members, were glad to be given an opportunity to renew their activities and to accept the new by-laws under which the old societies were resuscitated. In the course of reconstruction, 1461 insolvent members were expelled and only 3,155 who had good repaying capacity were allowed to retain their membership. Irrecoverable debts were also written off.

The nett result of reconstruction work done during the year was the release of many members from their indebtedness by making them repay what is within their capacity during a period of 15 years. Another satisfactory result was the conversion of doubtful loans without security into adequately secured debts since every old loan as now existing in a newly-reconstructed society is fully covered by the market value of the land which the member has surrendered and which he now promises to redeem under the rent-purchase agreement principle.

One great lesson learnt from reconstruction work is the ever-present danger of mismanagement and dishonesty in the working of a society if the members were left to their own devices. Close control and strict supervision cannot be dispensed with for many years to come. It will be only by the exercise of such powers that public confidence can be quickly restored in a movement which has undoubtedly received a severe set-back owing to the events of the past.

Outlook for the Future.- The way has been paved for the revival of the Movement on sound lines by the reconstruction of the old societies and it is left to be seen how the people respond to the present efforts of the Department. The Registrar expresses the opinion that the success of the Movement depends largely on the degree of supervision which the Co-operative Department can exercise over the work of the societies. In many societies co-operative education is sadly lacking and members have come to look upon their society as a mere money-lending institution. The training of members and secretaries of societies must therefore proceed side by side with the work of reconstruction as the position gained through this effort must be consolidated at every step, otherwise conditions may become uncontrollable.

(The progress of Co-operative Movement in Burma during 1934-35 was reviewed at pages 65-66 of our July 1936 report.)_M

Co-operative Movement in Travancore, 1935-36. _M

According to the Government review on the administration report of the Co-operative Department of the Travancore State for the year 1111 M.E. (1935-36) the policy of rectification and consolidation of societies accepted by the Department, was continued during the year under report. The Results of the Registrar's efforts in this direction of pushing through a well-thought out plan and consolidation are awaited.

Statistics of Societies and their Working Capital. The total number of societies decreased by one compared to the previous year. Of the total number of 1,744 working societies

1,633 did purely credit business. An important feature of the development of non-credit activities in the year was the starting of such new types of societies as thrift, better living, cattle breeding and house building societies. The working capital of the societies rose from Rs. 8,765,215 to Rs. 9,197,743. The average working capital of each society was Rs. 100 above that of the previous year. The total share capital in the movement also increased comparatively. The total turnover of all societies aggregated Rs. 15,632,117, the decrease being Rs. 2,989,550 compared to the previous year. The total reserve fund of all societies including Central Bank was Rs. 1,016,421. The total loss sustained by the societies amounted to Rs. 358,530 in the previous year.

Increase of Overdues. Both in number and amount, the loans granted by the Central Bank showed an increase while there were decreases in the loans granted by primary societies. The latter is stated to be the result of poor recoveries during the year. The aggregate over-dues increased from Rs. 3,740,875 giving a percentage of 71 against 61.3 in the previous year. The increase in the overdues is an alarming feature of the movement. The Registrar has repeated his last year's statement that the future is not devoid of hope and that co-operators have begun to turn to the problem of collection of over-dues.

80

AGRICULTURE.

Agricultural Statistics of British India, 1934-35*

Volume I of the Agricultural Statistics of India, issued by the Department of Commercial Statistics, India, deals with the agricultural statistics of British Provinces, while Volume II deals with those of Indian States as far as they are reported. The year to which the returns relate ends on 30th June, this being the generally recognised agricultural year, except in Assam where the year ends on 31st March and in the Central Provinces and Berar where it ends on 31st May. The Report for the year 1934-35 is summarised below :

Total Area and Population . The total area of India is 1,818,000 square miles, or 1,163,685,000 acres with a population of 353 millions according to the census of 1931. This may be divided as follows :-

	Acres	Population
(1) British Provinces (including Indian States within the political jurisdiction of Local Governments and Administrations).	687,618,000	274,382,000
(2) Indian States having direct political relations with the Government of India.	426,825,000	75,809,000
(3) Certain specially administered territories in the North-West Frontier Provinces (Tribal areas, etc.), not included under (1).	14,536,000	2,102,000
(4) British Baluchistan (including administered areas).	34,706,000	464,000
Total	1,163,685,000	352,757,000

*Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India, Agricultural Statistics of India, 1934-35, Volume I, Area, Classification of Area, Area under Irrigation, Area under Crops, Live-Stock, Land Revenue Assessment and Harvest Prices in British India. Printed by Manager of Publications, Delhi, 1937, Price Rs.7 or lls. 6d. pp.xxi+381.

No returns of agricultural statistics are prepared either for item (3) certain specially administered territories in the North-West Frontier Province, or for item (4) British Baluchistan.

Total Area of British India. The total area of the British Provinces (item 1 above) shown in this volume - 687,618,000 acres or 1,074,000 square miles - includes 19,557,000 acres, with a population of some 3 millions, belonging to Indian States, which are within the political jurisdiction of Local Governments and Administrations. Thus deducting 19,557,000 acres belonging to Indian States from the total area of 687,618,000 acres included in British Provinces, the remainder, 668,061,000 acres represents the area of British territory according to professional survey. The agricultural statistics are, however, prepared in a number of provinces or parts of provinces from "village papers" i.e., papers prepared by the village accountants for the purpose of assessment and collection of land revenue. The area of British territory according to village papers for which statistics are given in the Volume under review is 667,594,000 acres, as against 668,061,000 acres according to professional survey.

Classification of Area of British India : The area of 667,594,000 acres is, for the purpose of Agricultural Statistics, classified as shown below:

	Acres (1,000)	Per cent.
Forests	89,239	13.4.
Not available for cultivation	144,816	21.7
Culturable waste other than fallows	154,260	23.1
XXXXXXXXXXXX	228,988	34.3
Current fallows	52,299	7.8
Net area sown	226,980	34.0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	667,594	100

The net area actually sown with crops during 1934-35 was 226,980,000 acres, or 34 per cent of the total area, as against 232,246,000 acres in the preceding year. If, however, areas sown more than once during the year are taken as separate areas for each crop, the gross area sown in the year of report amounts to 259,118,000 acres, as against 267,160,000 acres in the preceding year.

Provincial Distribution of Sown Area : The proportion of the net sown to total area and the number of population per 100 acres of sown area in the-year-under-review each province are stated below :

	Proportion of sown to total area	Population per 100 acres of sown area
Delhi	56 per cent	311
United Provinces	52 "	136
Bengal	47 "	209
Bihar and Orissa	45 "	156
Punjab	44 "	89
Bombay	42 "	63
Central Provinces and Berar	38 "	63
Madras	36 "	140
North-Western Frontier Province	26 "	113
Ajmer-Merwara	20 "	156
Assam	17 "	144
Coorg	13 "	119
Burma	12 "	81
<hr/>		
British India	34 "	118

Irrigation Statistics : The total area irrigated in 1934-35 was 50,534,000 acres, as against 50,508,000 acres in the preceding year. Of this area, 22,404,000 acres were irrigated from Government canals, 3,667,000 acres from private canals, 12,527,000 acres from wells, 6,213,000 acres from tanks, and 5,723,000 acres from other sources of irrigation. In India irrigation is ordinarily resorted to on an extensive scale in tracts where the rainfall is most precarious. In Lower Burma, Assam, eastern Bengal, and the Malabar Coast (including the Konkan), where the rainfall is ordinarily heavy the crops hardly need the help of irrigation, unless there is an unusual scarcity of rain. Of the total area irrigated in 1934-35, the Punjab accounted for 29 per cent, the United Provinces 21 per cent, the Madras Presidency 18 per cent, ^{Bombay and Bihar and Orissa 10 per cent} each, and the other provinces for the remaining 12 per cent. The above figures of irrigated areas do not take into account areas sown more than once during the year with the help of irrigation, but indicate the extent of land actually irrigated. Counting areas sown more than once as separate areas for each crop, the gross area of irrigated crops was 54,193,000 acres in 1934-35. Of this area, 84 per cent was under food crops and the remainder under non-food crops. Of the former, 18,398,000 acres were under rice, 11,212,000 acres under wheat, 2,622,000 acres under barley, 1,374,000 acres under jowar, 988,000 acres under bajra, 1,016,000 acres under maize, 1,990,000 acres under sugarcane, and the remaining 8,165,000 acres were under other food crops. Of the irrigated non-food crop area, 3,381,000 acres were occupied by cotton.

Classification of Area Sown : The gross area cultivated with crops covered 259,118,000 acres in 1934-35. The different classes of crops and the area occupied by each class are stated below :

K.

	Acres (1,000)	Per cent of total
Food Grains	200,635	77.4
Condiments and spices	1,828	0.7
Sugar	3,524	1.4
Fruits and vegetables	4,820	1.9
Miscellaneous food-crops	1,837	0.7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total food-crops	212,644	82.1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Oilseeds	14,543	5.6
Fibres	17,584	6.8
Dyes and Tanning materials	647	0.2
Drugs and narcotics .	2,409	0.9
Fodder crops	10,308	4.0
Miscellaneous non-food crops	983	0.4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total non-food crops	46,474	17.9
	<hr/>	<hr/>

(The agricultural statistics of British India for 1933-34 were reviewed at pages 43-65 of our March 1936 Report).

84

THE AGRARIAN PROBLEMS:

U. P. Congress Committee Formulates Demands.

Considerable interest attaches to the announcement that one of the first measures to be introduced in the Legislative Assemblies of Provinces, where Congressmen are in a majority and are able to form Ministries will be designed to bring about a reduction of the land-tax and a recasting of land policy. ("Statesman" - 21-3-37) The agrarian question has already engaged considerable attention in Congress circles and more than one Provincial Agrarian Committee have been appointed in recent years to formulate the lines of action which the Congress should eventually adopt. The question is particularly acute in the United Provinces, and the following resolution on the subject, incorporating the principal demands of the Congress under this head, adopted recently by the Executive Council of the U. P. Congress Committee on the findings of the U. P. Agrarian Committee, may be taken as illustrative of the agrarian demands of the Congress:

"Deep economic distress is at present prevailing in the villages of the Province, particularly amongst tenants, small zamindars and labourers. The agrarian problem, in the opinion of the Council, cannot be solved without making fundamental changes in the land system. With a view, however, to giving immediate relief the following demands are formulated -

1. Rent and revenue should be readjusted with regard to the present conditions.
2. Rent should be greatly reduced. It should be

conceived as a portion of the surplus remaining with the tenant after he has defrayed the cost of production and of his maintenance. The whole system of present day land taxation should be overhauled in the light of this principle.

3. Uneconomic holdings should be exempted from rent.
4. Holdings should be consolidated. To/further prevent fragmentation laws of succession should be changed.
5. Co-operative farming should be introduced.
6. All tenants in Agra and Oudh should, as a rule, be given rights of occupancy on the lands under their cultivation.
7. The law relating to Zir lands must be changed. No lands not under the actual cultivation of the Zamindar should be classed as Zir and tenant's rights should accrue to all cultivators on the Zir in the same way as on other lands.
(Zir land means land actually cultivated by the zamindar)
8. Land revenue should be assessed on a progressive scale, the actual cultivation of practical farmers being however exempted from revenue.
9. Succession duties should be levied on big estates.
10. All feudal dues should be abolished and demands other than rent should be made illegal. Illegal exactions should be made cognizable offences.
11. The practice of not granting receipts for rent should be penalized.
12. Arrears of rents should be wiped out.
13. The law relating to the ejection of tenants should be greatly modified and arrears of rents should be realised by Government from Zamindars e.g., by giving the lands on a temporary lease and realising the income until the arrears are paid.
14. The right of the tenant to build houses and to plant trees should be clearly recognised provided they do not interfere with the property of neighbours, and they should be regarded as absolute owners of their houses and of the trees which they plant.
15. Free pasture lands should be provided. Rights of people in tanks, wells, ponds, forests (both Zamindari and Government) and the like should be recognised and no encroachment on these rights should be permitted.
16. For relieving rural employment, national industries, both large scale and cottage, should be developed on a planned basis. The principle should be recognized that all those who are willing to work should be given employment and living wages

17. The problem of rural indebtedness should be courageously attacked. Special tribunals should be organised to go into the whole question of debt in detail, and all those debts which are unconscionable or are beyond the power of peasants to pay, should be wiped out. Before, however, such a comprehensive inquiry is taken, a law should be immediately introduced preventing the filing of suits against peasants by creditors and the accrual of interest on debts due from them pending their enquiry. At the same time measures must be taken for providing cheap credit to the peasantry.

18. Canal and other irrigation rates should be substantially reduced.

19. Statutory committees of District Boards should be formed with special powers to undertake improvements in villages and provide land for building purposes to those in need of it.

20. All those tenants who have been ejected from their holdings on account of the depression due to low prices during the last 6 years should be provided with land for cultivation.

(Extracted from communication to the
Amrita Bazar Patrika of 2-3-37 from
its Special Correspondent at Bareilly, U.P.)

Maritime Affairs .

Recruitment of Seamen: Setting up of State Employment
Bureau urged by National Seamen's Union of
India, Bombay.

A deputation consisting of Messrs. Mirza Akhtar Hasan, Syed Munawar and Mahomed Ebrahim Serang, representing the National Seamen's Union of India, Bombay, waited on Captain B.M. Philby, R.I.N., Nautical Adviser to the Government of India, early in March 1937. The deputation urged that a State Employment Bureau be established in Bombay for recruitment of crews and for remedying grievances ^{Of Seamen.} It was pointed out further that the City, Hall and Ellerman Lines, which had employed Bombay saloon crews in their passenger ships for years, had discontinued the practice and were engaging Calcutta saloon crews in Bombay for service on their ships. It was also urged that the conventions adopted at the Geneva Maritime Conference in October relating to seamen be ratified and given effect to at an early date.

Captain Philby gave the deputation a sympathetic hearing and promised to convey the views of the Union to the Commerce and Industries Department of the Government of India for their consideration.

(The Times of India, 13-3-1937).

Migration.

Indians in Malaya: Sastri's Report Published.

Reference was made at pages 71-72 of our November 1936 report to the appointment of the Rt.Hon'ble V.S.Srinivasa Sastri to examine the conditions of life and work of Indian labourers in Malaya and to submit a report thereon to the Government of India. The Report of ~~the~~ Mr. Sastri has now been published at pages 442 to 469 of Part I of the Gazette of India, dated 6-3-1937; a summary of the Report is given below:-

The Malayan Labour Department.- The Malayan Governments have an organised Labour Department which has been in existence for more than 30 years. It is the duty of this department to inspect all places of employment, to investigate any complaints, and to demand from employers fair treatment of their labourers, a reasonable standard of housing, medical attention, education facilities and scrupulous adherence to the proper rates of wages and their due payment. The department operates mainly in the interests of the Indian labourer, renders him sympathetic and efficient service, and has established an effective control over employers, particularly in estates.

Freedom of Movement and Welfare Work.- Every labourer is specifically informed at the time of being employed that he is at liberty to give one month's notice to his employer and seek service elsewhere. This freedom of movement is not only ensured by statute, but is well known and understood by all labourers and engenders in them a healthy spirit of independence.

Communications throughout the country are excellent. Where the number of children justifies it, there is a crèche under the charge of an ayah, paid by the estate, to look after the children whose mothers are at work. Water supply is adequate everywhere, and one of the most remarkable public achievements of Malaya, says Mr. Sastri, is the complete control of malaria, success being as noticeable on estates as elsewhere.

Considerable improvement is taking place in housing conditions, and Mr. Sastri found medical attention also satisfactory on the larger estates. The dressers employed however, are not always sufficiently qualified. Whole time dressers with proper qualifications, Mr. Sastri suggests, should be employed on every estate. It is understood that the Malayan Governments have already taken steps in this direction.

Speaking of the estate managers, Mr. Sastri says that on the whole they are of a good type and take a genuine

interest in the welfare of the labourers. Indian labour on estates is in the long run the most efficient, and the majority of employers find that it pays them to employ a contented labour force.

Educational Facilities.- Mr. Sastri is not satisfied with the educational facilities available to Indian labour in Malaya. According to the Malayan Labour Code, the Controller of Labour has power to order the establishment of a school in any place of employment where the children between the ages of ~~seven~~ and 14 are 10 or more in number. On most estates such schools have in fact been started, but both the accommodation provided and the quality of teachers employed are susceptible of considerable improvement. The Malayan Government are aware of the existing defects and, it is understood, propose to appoint an Inspector for the Tamil schools.

Rates of Wages.- In 1928, standard daily wages were fixed at 50 cents for men and 40 cents for women in ordinary areas, and 58 cents for men and 46 cents for women in certain special areas (one cent being roughly equivalent to three pies). In 1930, a cut of 20 ~~per~~ per cent was imposed on account of the depression. ~~In point of fact the cut was bigger, as the alternative was discharge.~~ By 1936, the rates of 40 cents for men and 32 for women were fairly uniform. From 1-1-1937, standard rates have been fixed at 45 cents for men and 36 cents for women. It has always been understood that with the return to prosperity the standard wages fixed in 1928 will be reintroduced. The rubber industry is now recovering rapidly. Rubber is quoted at 10d. or 36 cents a/lb. and the production quota has recently been raised to 85 per cent. Mr. Sastri is, therefore, of opinion that the time is at hand when the Government of India should press for the restoration of the standard wages. Standard rates are at present obligatory only in certain areas known as key areas. These areas would appear to have been selected with reference to no well-defined principle, and the distinction between key and non-key areas does not seem to serve any useful purpose. Mr. Sastri, therefore, recommends that the standard wage should be applied with statutory force throughout Malaya, but that the higher rates fixed for special areas should continue, as the estates in these areas do in fact pay higher rates to attract labour.

Hours of Work.- As regards the hours of work, Mr. Sastri has ~~no~~ recommendation to make except that if a labourer appears at muster and is given a task, he should receive a full day's pay.

Encouragement of Agriculture.- That the full use of garden allotments on estates should be encouraged, is another recommendation of Mr. Sastri, so that Indians who have a traditional knowledge of agriculture may not lose their

3.

knowledge, which they would if their time were devoted to estate work alone. It is laid down in the Malayan Labour Statutes that on application every labourer in an estate shall be provided with an allotment of land for his own cultivation, and the area to be so allotted has been fixed at 1/16th of an acre for each labourer with dependents.

Settlement Schemes.- There are signs that the number of Indian labourers who tend to look upon Malaya as their home for the whole of their working lives is on the increase. It is, however, essential that settlement schemes should provide for complete independence and liberty for movement among the settlers, so that no suggestion that they are in any way tied or bound to a particular estate should be allowed to grow. Any settlement of Indian labourers should, therefore, be by means of permanent title held only from Government and not from any private owner. As for non-estate labour, Mr. Sastri suggests that if sufficient work cannot be found for women, the possibility of some marriage or family allowance should be considered and thinks that the Labour Department might make a greater effort to obtain the confidence of non-estate labour in general.

Sex Ratio.- On the problem of sex ratio, Mr. Sastri is of opinion that the application to Malaya of the rule that the ratio of males to females should be 1.5 to 1, is fraught with difficulties, for, in the first place, the rule applies only to assisted emigrants while there is a stream of voluntary emigrants to whom it does not apply and to whom under the existing laws it cannot be applied. Secondly, this ratio has been fixed only since 1922, but by 1922 a large Indian labour force had been well established in Malaya. At present, the sex ratio on estates works out at 643 females to 1,000 males and among other Indians at 355. So far, therefore, as assisted labourers are concerned, there has been a real improvement. Mr. Sastri, therefore, recommends that further exemption should be given to Malaya from the sex ratio rule and the position re-examined later.

Political and Social Status.- On the ~~position of~~ political and social status of Indian labourers in Malaya, Mr. Sastri has, no recommendation to make. He suggests that the representation of Indian interests on the Indian Immigration Committee is utterly inadequate, and that at least two more Indian members should be appointed to it.

Voluntary Assisted Emigration.- Voluntary assisted emigration, Mr. Sastri concludes, should be allowed to continue, but the kangani system of recruitment which has practically fallen into disuse should not be revived and, to the extent to which it still exists should be abolished.

There is no justification for preventing Indian Labour from emigrating to Malaya. Given an assurance of active and sympathetic consideration of the improvements suggested, and in particular of steps being immediately taken to restore the standard rates of wages fixed in 1928, non-recruited assisted emigration should be permitted to continue.

In an additional report Mr. Sastri makes a few recommendations on subjects falling outside his terms of reference. In this supplementary report, he discusses the facilities offered in Malaya for higher education of Indians, representation of Indians in public bodies, appointment of Indians in public services, and the status of the present Indian Agency in Malaya.

(A copy of Mr. Sastri's Report reviewed above was sent to Geneva with our minute D/390/37 dated 8-4-1937).

Minimum Wages for Indian Workers in Singapore:

Government Decision.

Following the strike of Indian labourers employed by the municipality and other concerns in the Straits Settlements (vide pages 80-81 of our December 1936 report), the Labour Department of the Settlement was requested to conduct an inquiry into the conditions of employment of Indian labour in Singapore.

According to a communiqué issued by the Straits Settlements Government, the report of the officers of the Labour Department was considered at a conference of representatives of the Government, the Municipality, the Singapore Harbour Board and the Services. The principal recommendation in the report was that a minimum basic wage of 50 cents a day should

1.K.

be paid to labourers provided with free quarters. It was also recommended that each authority should arrange for additional pay to be given to labourers as a reward for long and satisfactory service, but it was not possible to specify precisely what rates should be paid as it was found that conditions differed so much amongst the various authorities in accordance with the functions performed by them. These recommendations have been accepted and effect will be given to them by all concerned.

(The Hindu 11-3-1937) "

Protection of Indian Labour in Burma:

Mr. P.N.Sapru's Resolution in Council of State. "

On 18-3-37, Mr. P. N. Sapru moved a resolution in the Council of State recommending to the Governor-General in Council that he may, on the separation of Burma from India, be pleased to appoint an Agent for the protection of Indian labouring classes in Burma. He said, the Royal Commission on labour recommended the appointment of ^a protector of Indian labouring ~~classes~~ ^{in Burma}. After separation, the Government of India would not have any power to safeguard the interests of Indians in Burma, as they had been doing hitherto. Some time ago, there were anti-Indian riots in Burma, when Indian labourers suffered a good deal. In case a repetition of such unfortunate incidents occurred, there must be somebody to protect Indian interests.

6.K.

~~Sir~~

Resolution Accepted. Sir Jagadish Prasad said ^{that} the Government would try to get certain statistical information as regards the position of Indian immigrants in Burma and their occupation. As soon as that information was available, the question of the appointment of an Agent would receive sympathetic consideration. He accepted the resolution on behalf of the Government. The resolution was, thereupon, passed.

(The Hindustan Times, 19-3-37.) +

GENERAL .

99

National Convention, Delhi -19 & 20-3-1937.Economic and Labour Programme of Congress.

The National Convention convened under the auspices of the Indian National Congress was held at Delhi on 19 & 20-3-1937, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the President of the Congress, presiding. The following important resolutions were adopted by the Convention:-

1. A resolution demanding the withdrawal of the Government of India Act, 1935, as it had been rejected by the people of India.

2. A resolution directing Congress parties in the legislatures to be guided by the resolution on Congress policy passed by the Working Committee at Wardha on 27-2-1937 and adopted by the All India Congress Committee at Delhi on 18-3-1937. The economic, agricultural and labour programme of the Congress is thus defined in the Wardha resolution:

1. A substantial reduction in rent and revenue.
2. Assessment of income-tax, on a progressive scale, on agricultural incomes, subject to a prescribed minimum.
3. Fixity of tenure.
4. Relief from the burden of rural debt and arrears of rent and revenue.
5. Repeal of all repressive laws.
6. Release of political prisoners, internees and detenus.
7. Restoration of lands and property confiscated or sold by Government during Civil Disobedience Movements.
8. Eight hours day for Industrial workers, without reduction of pay. Living wages.
9. Prohibition of intoxicating liquor and drugs.
10. Unemployment relief.
11. Reduction of high salaries, allowances, and cost of administration of Government.

Mr. V.M.Ramaswami Mudaliar, speaking on the resolution, urged Congress legislators to consider the question of social insurance schemes for workers.

Mr. M.A.Zaman enquired if eight hours' work for labourers

95

included an interval for rest. He wanted to specify the minimum living wages at Rs. 30, and pleaded for the recognition of the Trade Union Congress. He stressed, pressure should be brought to bear on British factory owners and Congress should not allow official ~~assistance~~ to promulgate section 144 Cr. P.C. to the prejudice of workers in times of strike.

Professor Ranga laid stress on ~~the~~ labour problems and said that a moratorium should be declared in the existing ^{condition of} rural indebtedness. He said that it was wrong to say that unemployment existed only among the educated classes; ~~but~~ it prevailed in an acute form among the working classes and relief must be provided for them.

3. A third resolution reminding Congress Parties in the legislatures that work outside the legislatures is of equal importance as working ~~ing~~ within the legislatures.

(The Hindustan Times, 21-3-1937) jr