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Assam.

The Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940
Governor Suggests Further Provisions before
Adoption; Council Accepts Suggestions.

References were made at pages 2 and 3 of our March 1941 and June 1943 reports respectively to the adoption of the Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940, by the local Assembly and Council. On 25-6-1943, The Governor of Assam, to whom the Bill was submitted for assent, returned it to the Legislature with the request that the Legislature should consider the desirability of amending the Bill in certain directions suggested by him. (The message was presented to the Council of State on 28-6-43.) The amendments suggested were designed to carry out better the intention of the Legislature in passing the Bill. The suggestions are: (1) The preamble to the Bill indicates that its provisions are intended to apply to factories, plantations and any other establishments which the Provincial Government may notify in this behalf; but there is no specific provision in the Bill itself applying it to factories or conferring power on the Government of Assam to extend it, by notification, and a mere recital of the purposes of the Bill in its preamble is inadequate for this purpose. It is necessary, in order to make the Bill effective, to add a provision governing its application. Mines and oilfields have been excluded because they are subject to legislation by the Central Legislature, which has passed the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941; (2) "Factory" is not a self-evident term and requires definition; (3) Although it is contemplated by the Bill that the benefits provided in clause 4 should be payable by the employer, the Bill nowhere lays this obligation expressly on him.

Suitable clauses to remedy these defects were moved in the Council on 2-7-1943; the Bill was adopted by the Council the same day.

(The Assam Gazette, Part VI-B dated 6-10-1943: pages 225 and 336 to 337). +

Bombay.

Provision of Drinking Water : Amendment
of Factories Rules.

The Bombay Government has amended the provincial Factories Rules in order to substitute new clauses regarding the provision of drinking water, in place of the existing rules.

6733/34
(Notification No. ~~556~~ 34 dated 28-9-43: The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV, dated 7-10-1943, page 138). +

Bombay.

Amendment of Payment of Wages Rules.

The Government of Bombay has issued a Notification Part (I)

of which excludes in the case of all factories situated in the Province of Bombay, the value of the difference between the price paid by employees to their employer for foodgrains, cloth, kerosene and other articles commonly used by them and the market price of such articles from the definition of the term "wages". The second part of the Notification ~~authorises~~ authorises, subject to the following conditions, the supply by an employer to his employees of foodgrains, cloth, kerosene and other articles commonly used by them from a grain shop or store operated by him for their private use and at their will as an amenity for which deductions from the wages of such persons may be made, namely:-(1) The employer shall not charge any rent for the shop or store;(2) The shop or store shall not be conducted for the purpose of profit;(3) The selling prices of all articles shall be displayed in a conspicuous place in the shop or store;(4) The shop or store shall always be kept in a clean condition;(5) An Inspector shall be given a right of entry and of inspection of the articles, records and premises and a right to take samples of the articles kept in the shop or store.

(Notification Nos.6378/34 (1) and (2) dated 12-10-1943: The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 14-10-1943, Page 139).+

British Baluchistan.

Extension of Central Acts to Baluchistan:

The Government of India extended a few Central enactments to British Baluchistan. These include (1) The Indian Boilers' (Amendment) Act, 1943, Act XVII of 1943, (2) The Mines Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 1943, Act XVIII of 1943, (3) The Motor Vehicles (Drivers) Amendment Act, 1943, Act XIX of 1943 and (4) The Reciprocity (Amendment) Act, 1943, Act XXII of 1943.

(Notification No. 156-F dated 29-9-1943: The Gazette of India, Part I, Section 1, dated 2-10-1943, page 1073).+

North West Frontier Province.

N.W.F.P. Trade Employees Bill, 1943.

By Notification No. 17509-D.L., dated 6-7-1943 the Weekly Holidays Act, 1942, was brought into force in all the Municipalities and Cantonments in the N.W.F. Province. By a subsequent Notification No. 20176-D.L.D.D.-24/18, dated 9-8-1943 the following persons are exempted from the provisions of the Act:- (a) Persons employed in a public utility service; (b) Persons employed in a shop or commercial establishment under the management or control of the Central or a Provincial Government; and (c) members of the family of the employer.

Subsequent to applying the Weekly Holidays Act, 1942, to certain areas of the Province as referred to above, the Government of the N.W.F. Province framed the N.W.F.P. Trade Employees Bill, 1943. The full text of the Bill, together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons, appeared at pages 3-6 of an Extraordinary issue dated the 5th August 1943 of the N.W.F.P. Government Gazette. The Statement of Objects and Reasons is as follows:-

"There is at present no law in the North-West Frontier Province to protect the rights and regulate the working conditions of persons employed in shops and commercial houses. This Bill is designed to limit the hours of their employment and secure for them rest intervals, holidays, leave with pay and prompt payment of wages. Some of its principal features are:- (1) A maximum of 54 working hours per week and 10 hours per day is prescribed; (2) All shops and commercial houses with a few exceptions noted in the Bill shall be closed for one day in a week; (3) Wages shall be paid for holidays if the employee *has* continuous service of 15 days or more; (4) An employee with one year's continuous service shall be entitled to leave for 14 days with full pay; (5) Deductions from wages by way of penalty shall not exceed one pice per rupee.

Contravention of the provisions of the Bill involves a penalty of Rs. 25 for the first offence and a penalty of Rs. 100 for every subsequent offence. The Bill applies to the whole of the Province; but in the first instance its provisions will be enforced only within the municipal and cantonment limits of the North-West Frontier Province."

(Indian Labour Gazette, October, 1943 issue).

The United Provinces.

Exemption of Certain Classes of Workers From Provisions regarding *Hours* of Work and Weekly Rest of the Factories Act: Draft Notifi- cation.

The U.P. Government has gazetted the draft of certain amendments to the Provincial Factories Rules, to ~~red~~efine the classes of workers who are ~~subject~~ subject to certain conditions, ~~exempted~~ exempted from the provisions relating to ~~hours~~ hours of work and weekly rest of the Factories Act. The exempted classes includes persons holding positions of supervision or management, maintenance staff, those engaged in urgent repairs, those employed in continuous process factories, etc.

(Notification No. V-1163(L)/
XLIII-247(L)-43 dated 21-10-19
43: The Government Gazette of
the United Provinces, Part I-A,
dated 23-10-1943, pages 277-
279).

ment of India

Extension of Minimum Age Limit ⁱⁿ Mines Act to Fresh Classes of Mines

Sections 26 and 26A of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, which implemented the Minimum Age (Industry) (Revised) Convention of 1937 as far as mines in India are concerned, ~~was~~ not applied to all mines; There have been some mines which were exempt from the application of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, so that the limitations imposed by Sections 26 and 26A were not obligatory on them. By a notification of the Department of Labour dated 6-8-1943 such mines which have hitherto been exempted from the provisions of the Mines Act have, with the exception of the salt mines in the Kohat District, been required to comply with sections 26 and 26A, in other words, to observe the minimum age limits prescribed by the Convention.

(Notification No. M1055 dated 6-8-1943: The Gazette of India, Part I, Sec. 1, dated 14-8-1943, page 901.)

Central Government's Concern for Labour Welfare:
Minimum Wage Boards, Better Housing, etc.:
Labour Adviser's Speech at Madras.

Addressing a workers' meeting under the auspices of the Wimco and Tax Workers' Labour Unions at Tiruvottiyur, Madras, on 5-10-43, Mr. R.S. Nimbkar, Labour Adviser to the Government of India, referred to the labour policy of the Government and stressed the need for co-operation between Government, employers and workers.

Pointing out that most labour problems could be solved and progress made if there was thorough co-operation between the Government, employers and labour, he said that the Tripartite Labour Conference recently set up by the Government of India was created with the specific intention of increasing this co-operation; he added that, although the decisions of the conference were not binding on the Government, its advice carried considerable weight with the Government and helped the Government to frame suitable policies for workers' welfare.

Mr. Nimbkar then dealt with the more recent steps taken by Government for the welfare of labour, and directed attention to the proposal of the Government of India to enquire into the conditions of plantation and mine workers for fixing decent minimum wages for them. He said that the wages of workers in Madras Presidency were low and most of them were half-starved. The Government of India were keen on establishing Minimum Wage Boards throughout the country. They were also considering questions like holidays with pay and sickness insurance. They were going ahead in persuading employers to institute provident funds. At a place in Northern India where an ammunition factory employed 25,000 workers, the Government had built houses for 12,000 of them during 1943. At present another place where a mint had been built, they had provided model housing facilities; somewhere in Northern India they had constructed a parachute factory, the whole of which was air conditioned. At one place the population of a town had on account of war industries, gone up from four to eight hundred thousands; but the Government had provided housing for all the workers. He ~~also~~ hoped that the Government would be able to solve the housing problem of workers satisfactorily within a short time. There were millions of starving people in India. Still in about 20 places in India the Government felt the shortage of coolly (unskilled) labour. In fact they were raising Labour Corps somewhere near the Himalayas to be taken where there was shortage of labour.

Referring to the threat of post-war unemployment, he advised workers to save a part of their present incomes and to organise themselves in properly constituted trade unions which would not fail to receive due support from the Government.

(The Hindu, 6-10-43).

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Labour Statistician to be Appointed,
by Government of India.

It is understood that a labour statistician and a statistician or the Cost of Living Index Scheme will shortly be appointed in the labour Department, Government of India, to collect statistical information about labour. The labour statistician will direct and supervise the tabulation of statistical data and will initiate inquiries relating to labour matters. On receipt of the data, he will prepare draft reports on the interpretation of the data. He will also compile annual statistical reports on the working of labour laws.

The other statistician will advise the Director, Cost of Living Index Scheme, on statistical problems relating to family budget investigations and the compilation of Cost of Living Indices. He may also visit centres which have been selected for conducting investigations on family budgets.

It is further understood that Dr. S.N. Sastry, Lecturer in Statistics, Madras University, has been selected for the post of Labour Statistician and Mr. S.P. Saksena, Lecturer in Economics, Lucknow University, for the post of Statistician, Cost of Living Index Number Scheme.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
30-10-43). +

CONDITIONS OF WORK.

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Trade Disputes.

Amendment of Trade Disputes Act: Views of Bombay Mill owners' Association on Government Proposals.

On 30-5-1943 the Government of India sent a Draft Bill to Provincial Governments to elicit opinion of interests on certain proposals to amend the Trade Disputes Act, 1929. In sending out the Draft Bill, it was pointed out that during war time there is already the machinery under the Defence of India Rule 81A, supplemental to the machinery of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, but that it is desirable that permanent legislation ~~should~~ should be placed on the Statute Book to serve in post-war circumstances. The main provisions of the Draft Bill were: (1) Prohibition of strikes and lock-outs without 14 days' notice. (2) Not only participating in a strike (as now under section 15(1)) but organisation of a strike is made punishable in certain circumstances. (3) If the appropriate Government appoints a Board of Conciliation or Court of Inquiry during the period of 14 days' notice, the organisation of or participation in a strike within two months from such appointment is made punishable. (4) Employers will be required in case of industrial disputes to give the appropriate Government or an authority appointed by Government information regarding conditions of labour in their concerns. (5) Employers will be required to observe for a certain period, terms and conditions of employment as may be determined by the appropriate Government or an authority appointed by them in this behalf. (6) The responsibility of the Central Government is specified in more detail and the existing provisions under sections 3, 18A, 19 and 17(2) are brought into line with the new provision.

Views of the Mill owners' Association, Bombay. The Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, expressing its views on the provisions of the Draft Bill, pointed out that provisions somewhat on the lines of the Bill had already been incorporated in the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938. The Bombay Act was applicable to the cotton textile industry of the Province, and in this view of the case, the amendments were only of academic interest so far as the Bombay membership of the Association was concerned. Referring, however, to the specific clauses of the Bill, the Committee made the following observations:-

The Bill provided for the insertion of a new section requiring the employers to supply to Government such information as they might require regarding conditions of labour in the industry, business or undertaking, if any trade dispute existed or was apprehended. The object of these provisions was not clear. If the information required from employers was only to enable Government to make up their mind as to whether the dispute should be referred to a Board of Conciliation or Court of Inquiry, then there was probably nothing to be said against it except that a similar obligation might also be placed on labour with appropriate penal provisions for failure to supply the information called for. If, however, the information called for was really intended for the use of the Board or Court, then the powers proposed to be conferred on the appropriate Government were unnecessary since the Board or Court already enjoyed these powers under section 9 of the Act.

The Bill provided for the insertion of a new section which prohibits the declaration of a strike during the pendency of the dispute before a Board or Court. It was pointed out that this was not enough. Even in spite of the Government Ordinance prohibiting strikes without notice, there had been a number of lightning strikes, and it seemed that such strikes would continue to take place in future

also. In this view of the case, it was suggested that a further provision might be added requiring the workers to resume work on the appointment of a Board or Court if they were already on strike.

Finally, the Committee expressed grave doubts as to whether the amendments which Government had in view would serve any useful purpose from the point of view of preventing lightning strikes. In spite of the Ordinance prohibiting lightning strikes and in spite of the provisions of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act prohibiting such strikes, there had been several illegal strikes in Bombay and elsewhere. The operatives knew that they had struck work in contravention of the law, but they also knew that it was practically impossible to prosecute all those who were concerned in all illegal strike. The prosecution of the ringleaders was difficult because in several cases it was difficult to find out who the ringleaders were and in several other cases such ringleaders condemned the strike in public but participated in it in private. The authorities responsible for the handling of the strikes were very often obsessed with the desire to get the workers back to work and placated the workers by appeasement, which in their opinion was the most logical thing to do.

(Annual Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay for 1942, Pages 90-91). †

Leave and Leave Allowances of Inferior and Menial
Servants of Local Boards in Madras Province: 1943 Rules

Rules regulating the grant of leave and leave allowances to inferior and menial servants of local boards in the province of Madras, have been ~~revised~~ on 24-9-43.

Leave and Leave Allowance.- The rules provided that servants whose posts are classed as 'inferior' in the rules regulating the grant of gratuities by local boards may be granted leave and leave allowances- (i) as provided for in the Fundamental Rules in the case of persons who were entertained in service prior to 4-9-1933; and (ii) as provided for in the Madras Leave Rules, 1933, in the case of persons who were entertained in service on or after that date. Servants classified as 'menials' may be granted in each year of service, calculated from the 1st April to the 31st March following- (i) leave on full pay for a period not exceeding fifteen days; and (ii) leave on half pay for a period not exceeding one month subject to the production of a medical certificate granted by a registered medical practitioner. All admissible leave not taken by a menial within the year shall lapse. In the case of menials of less than one year's service, leave may be granted only to the extent earned by active service, i.e., in the proportion which his active service bears to the full active service prescribed for a complete year. ~~Menial~~ Menial servants shall not be entitled to casual leave.

Maternity Leave.- Married women menial servants may, in addition to the leave already specified, be granted maternity leave on full pay for a period not exceeding two months in respect of each confinement. This leave is not debitable to the leave account and may be granted in combination with any other kind of leave. The sanctioning authority may, before granting the maternity leave, require the servant to furnish a medical certificate granted by a registered medical practitioner regarding the state of her health necessitating such leave.

Casual Leave.- Inferior servants may be granted casual leave upto a maximum of fifteen days in all in the course of one calendar year. No single period of absence on casual leave shall exceed seven days. Casual leave may be combined with Sundays or authorized holidays, provided that the resulting period of absence from duty does not exceed ten days. These servants will not be entitled to any casual leave as a matter of course. Members of works establishments belonging to the category of inferior servants may be granted casual leave whenever they are prevented by illness from attending to their work. Such leave may be on full pay or on reduced wages. Special casual leave not counting against ordinary casual leave may be granted to an inferior servant in exceptional circumstances. Casual leave can not ordinarily be taken in combination with any other leave, vacation or joining time. The president, local board, may, however, sanction such combination in special cases.

(Rules Supplement to Part I A,
Fort St. George Gazette dated
19-10-43, pages 2-3).+

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Factories Administration in Bombay in 1942.

According to a press note issued by the Director of Information, Bombay, on the report on the administration of the Factories Act in Bombay Province in 1942, the continued attention paid to smaller factories resulted in better working conditions in these factories, the number of which continued to increase. The number of working factories increased 8, from 3,621 to 3,719. The total gross number of factories (working and non-working) subject to the control of the Act rose by 126 from 3,888 to 4,054, notable additions being engineering and certain industries affected with the war.

Number of Workers. - *Accidents Rate* The number of operatives employed in all factories, according to returns received, showed an increase of 39,381, or 4.4 per cent. as compared with the previous year. The number of women and children employed showed an increase of 795 and 164 respectively. The total number of accidents reported was 16,190, against 15,054 in the preceding year, and the total number of persons injured was 16,345, against 15,143. The percentage of accidents to employees increased by 1.4 per cent.

Prosecutions. - During the year 288 prosecutions were instituted by full-time staff, as against 426 in the previous year. The amount of fines realised for convictions was Rs. 8,958, against Rs. 15,721. No prosecution was instituted by ex officio inspectors.

Welfare Measures. - The welfare work done in factories on ventilation, housing, cheap grain shops and in various other directions continued to make progress in spite of war difficulties.

Working of the Employment of Children Act, Maternity Benefit Act and the Payment of Wages Act. - The Employment of Children Act continued to receive the attention of the full-time staff in the cities of Bombay, Poona and Ahmedabad, other centres being under the control of the local revenue officers, who are declared inspectors for the purpose. The reports received from these officials do not reveal any abuses of child employment.

Enquiries revealed that women workers on maternity leave did not receive any dearness allowance or grain concessions in recompense for the high cost of living. The position was considered to need some attention and recommendations made to the Millowners' Associations at Bombay and Ahmedabad resulted in the two bodies agreeing to pay a 50 per cent. increase on the prescribed rates.

The Payment of Wages Act continued to be of great assistance to workers. Shortage of small coin caused some difficulties in payment of wages, but these were remedied by suitable arrangements.

(Press Note No. 1069 dated 26-10-1943,
issued by the Director of Information,
Bombay.) +

Retail and Whole-sale Prices in Hyderabad State - 1931-32 to 1940-41.* +

This publication gives useful and authoritative information about retail and whole sale prices in Hyderabad State for the decade 1931-32 to 1941-42, which includes three years of the present war. The Director of Statistics and Census, Hyderabad State, in the introduction to the publication points out: "With the declaration of the second World War in September 1939, there was a sudden jump in prices. Prompt measures were adopted throughout India to control the situation. The Nizam's Government also appointed a Committee for checking profiteering in Hyderabad State. Except in case of rice, the prices of other food grains showed no cause of anxiety till the end of 1940 F. (1940-41) in Hyderabad. This is why the demand for dearness allowances was not so very active in the State, and the Wages Census returns showed a slight rise on the pre-war scale. With the issue of this publication, there become available the prices in the State of certain principal staple food grains for an unbroken period of fifty years."

The publication contains 12 charts and 102 tables. Some of the more important tables are: "Comparative statement of Retail Prices of food grains in Hyderabad State and India during the last fifty years (1301-1350 F.) (1891-92 to 1940-41). Average annual Retail Prices of chief commodities in Hyderabad State with index numbers." The commodities dealt with are spaddy, rice, wheat, jawar, bajra, ragi, maize, gram, tuar (all kinds of pulses) and salt; "Average Wholesale Prices of chief commodities in Hyderabad State with index numbers". The commodities dealt with are spaddy, rice, wheat, jawar, bajra, ragi, maize, gram, tuar, cotton lint, cotton seed, sesamum (oil), linseed, castor seed, tobacco, ghee, gur, salt, kerosene oil and plough bullocks.

Annual General Meeting of the Indian Sugar Mills Association, New Delhi, 16-10-43. +

Problems relating to the sugar industry - better control of distribution, organised marketing, planned production, etc., - were dealt with by Mr. Krishan Deva, president of the Indian Sugar Mills Association, in his address at the annual general meeting of the Association held at New Delhi on 16-10-43.

Plea for setting up Distribution Panels. - Referring to the acute difficulties experienced by the public in obtaining sugar for their daily requirements, in spite of the fact that there are adequate stocks existing in the country, he suggested that the remedy lay in the Central and the Provincial Governments working in a co-ordinated manner in the matter of distribution of sugar, taking into confidence the industry

Retail and Wholesale Prices in the Hyderabad State from 1341 to 1350 A.D. (1931-32 to 1940-41 A.D.) by Mazhar Husain, M.A., B.Sc., Director of Statistics and Census. Price Re. 1/- . Third issue. H.E.H. the Nizam's Government. Pages 225. +

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and the trade interests concerned. The co-ordination, he said could be effected by the formation of a Panel or a Board, consisting of accredited representatives of the industry and the Central Government, to plan distribution of sugar in the country, along with Regional Boards or Panels for the various Provinces. He referred to similar bodies appointed in connection with the control of textile goods and drugs and said that there was no justification for subjecting the sugar industry to a differential treatment by not appointing such Board representative of the industry for controlling transactions in sugar. Criticising the method and manner of distribution of sugar adopted by the various Provincial Governments, he said that instead of relying on the normal channels of trade and utilising the same for effecting proper distribution of sugar, the Governments had attempted to set up their own organisations and agencies for the purpose. But most of these had failed either on account of their lack of experience in the trade or absence of the necessary funds.

Post war Problems.- Referring to the post-war problems of the industry, he expressed the view that it was imperative for the Indian sugar industry to produce cheap sugar of an improved quality and to set up efficient marketing arrangements, as also to devise measures which would secure the industry against periodical fluctuations of increased production and restricted output both of cane and sugar. He stressed the fact that production at lower rates was absolutely essential if the industry were to retain the home-market and win new markets outside. Expansion to foreign markets was indispensable for keeping the factories fully engaged, as their cane crushing capacity had expanded to one and a half million tons a year - an amount much above India's highest consumption till now. But cheap sugar, however, could be produced only when the grower was able to cut down the cost of production of cane appreciably as it formed more than 50 per cent of the total cost of sugar. He therefore emphasised the necessity of both the Provincial and Central Governments giving more attention to cane development work.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,
dated 19-10-43). +

Manufacture of Chemical Fertilisers:
Expert Committee's Proposals.

A conference of representatives of the chemical industry and the Government of India presided over by Sir A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, Supply Member, Government of India, was held at New Delhi on 29 and 30-9-43 to consider methods of increasing production of fertilisers, especially ammonium sulphate, from available indigenous raw materials.

The consumption of ammonium sulphate in India, which went up steadily in the pre-war years to 96,000 tons per annum, has fallen since 1939-40, mainly due to restrictions of imports resulting from the war. The conference emphasised the need for increasing production of fertilisers from indigenous sources, both on a short-term basis and from the point of view of long-term possibilities. Enquiries on these lines were conducted by a Committee appointed by the Conference with Sir. P.M. Kharegat, vice-chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, as President, and consisting of a few official and non-official members. The Committee examined the possibilities of new production within the next two years, the most easily available resources which could be exploited and the assistance that was needed to

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set up the industry. It estimated the existing capacity for production of ammonium sulphate at about 30,000 tons, against the Food-grains Policy Committee's estimate of 350,000 tons a year required as fertilisers if India's dependence on imports of rice from abroad was to be reduced. A total production of 350,000 tons from the new plants, to be set up and to start working within the next two years, was considered feasible.

Several representatives of the chemical industry expressed their readiness to put up plants, subject to assistance which the Government could render. It was urged that the most immediate problem would be the question of importing the necessary plants and the difficulties during war conditions were stressed. It is understood that ~~the~~ Government will actively pursue the question of importing plants as the first step in the scheme of expansion.

On the question of finance, the Committee suggested that a corporation should be set up, Government subscribing 51 per cent and throwing the remaining 49 per cent open to public subscription. The industry should be guaranteed a suitable minimum interest and the management vested in the hands of a Board of Directors with a majority of non-official public men. This proposal seems to have commended itself to a majority of members of the Committee. It was felt that a complete geological survey to ascertain the quality and quantity of gypsum available at various places should be undertaken; expert advice should be made available to industrialists in regard to capital and recurring cost, cost of production, etc. ~~The~~ Government should obtain the necessary plant without delay and prevent competition, particularly from outside the country. Among other forms of Government assistance suggested were facilities for cheap railway transport and a Government guarantee ~~too~~ for the offtake of the entire production for a minimum period of five years.

(The Hindu, 2, and 13-10-43). +

Indian Cotton Statistics:
Annual Report of Indian Central Cotton Committee for 1941-42* ✓

The following details regarding cotton statistics for India are taken from the Annual Report for the year ended 31st August, 1942, issued by the Indian Central Cotton Committee. Constituted by the Government of India in 1921, the Committee was originally purely an advisory body. With its incorporation under the Indian Cotton Cess Act in 1923, however, it became an administrative body having at its disposal funds for the improvement and development of the growing, marketing and manufacture of cotton in India. The funds of the Committee are derived from the cotton cess of two annas (four annas for the first three years) levied on every bale of Indian cotton exported from or consumed in mills in British India, on the principle that special expenditure for the benefit of a particular industry should be met by that industry. The funds at the disposal of the Committee are allotted for research into cotton problems mainly of all-India importance and for the development, extension and marketing of improved varieties of cotton. The aim has always been to supplement and not supplant the work of the Agricultural Department in the cotton growing provinces and Indian States and, though, as a matter of convenience, certain lines of demarcation have been laid down regarding investigations which the Committee considers most appropriate for its own work, the general policy is to give assistance in the direction where it is most needed in the carrying out of a co-ordinated policy of cotton improvement. Touch is maintained with the work done under the various schemes by means of annual progress reports submitted by the officers in charge of schemes; these reports are critically examined by the appropriate sub-committees and suggestions made for the future conduct of the work.

Measures to meet War Situation: Loss of Markets.- The Central Cotton Committee met twice during the year under review. The most important subject which received consideration at the first meeting held on 23 and 24-1-1942, was the question of the measures that should be taken to safeguard the position of Indian cotton in view of the loss of markets in Europe and the Far East as a result of the war. The following resolution was unanimously passed by the Committee:- "In view of the necessity and urgency of avoiding any further glutting of the Indian cotton market with short and fair staple cotton hereafter, the areas of which have been cut off from the Indian market owing to the war, the Government should take steps to divert the production of such cotton to the Indian market." Indian Central Cotton Committee. Annual Report for the Season 1941-42. British India Press, Bombay. pp.103.

sent hostilities with which may run for a period which cannot be limited at present, the Indian Central Cotton Committee requests the Government to urge all Provincial Governments and States in India, especially those in areas where short and fair staple cotton is being grown, to increase the existing acreage under such cotton forthwith by at least 50 per cent. As alternative to short and fair staple cotton, such other crops may be encouraged as may suit the conditions of each area, preference being given to food grains, adequate stocks and reserves of which will continue to be a matter of vital national importance for a number of years to come. To stimulate and accelerate such change, Provincial Governments and States should be urged to subsidise the same by such means as may be most effective according to local conditions in each Province and State, including the supply of free or cheap seeds and the provision of funds and facilities for the sinking of new and the repair of old wells. The Committee requests every Provincial and State Government concerned to inform the public regarding the action taken by them as early as possible and not later than 1st March next." At the second meeting held in July 1942, the principal subject considered was that relating to the difficulties experienced by cotton ginning and pressing factories in obtaining their requirements of baling hoops and coal and other types of fuel. The recommendation made by the Committee were as follows: "The Indian Central Cotton Committee is of the opinion that the orderly and prompt marketing of the cotton crop is of paramount importance to the cotton cultivator. For this purpose, it considers it essential that ginning and pressing factories should be provided with the necessary facilities for their working especially in respect of coal and other types of fuel used by them. To secure the object in view, the Committee respectfully requests the Government of India to take early steps to place on the priority list the requirements of cotton ginning and pressing factories, in particular coal and other kinds of fuel, in good time before the commencement of ginning and pressing operations in each Province."

Indian Cotton Production Statistics.- On the average of the five years ending 1940-41, production of Indian cotton represented some 17 per cent. of the total world production, the share of the United States of America being 42 per cent. The total area under cotton in India during the year was 24,151,000 acres, showing an increase of 840,000 acres as compared with the previous year. The total estimated out-turn for 1941-42 was 6,127,000 bales, against 6,080,000 bales in 1940-41, the average yield per acre being 101 and 104 lbs. respectively. The out-turn was higher than that in the previous year in the major cotton growing provinces and States except Sind, the United Provinces and Madhya Pradesh State. The ascertained area under improved strains of cotton was 8,568,000 acres or 35 per cent. of the total, against 28 per cent. in the previous year. The proportion of cotton of staple length 7/8" and above in the total production increased from 30 per cent. in the quinquennium 1922-1927 to 35 per cent. in the quinquennium 1936-41; the proportion in 1941-42 was 45 per cent. against 36 per cent. in 1940-41. The production of 'medium and long staple' cotton in 1941-42 increased by 109,000 bales or 68 per cent. as compared with 1922-27; under "short staple" there was a reduction of 431,000 bales or 11 per cent. The production of cotton of staple length '1" and above', which was practically nil in 1922-27, amounted to 415,000 bales in 1941-42. The average yield per acre rose from 96 lbs. in the quinquennium 1922-27 to 109 lbs. in the quinquennium 1937-42. The average yield in 1941-42 was 115 lbs. per acre against 121 lbs. in 1940-41. Of the official estimate of 6,025,000 bales (since revised to 6,127,000) bales (compared with the trade estimate of 542,000 bales), 7 per cent. was of staple length 1" and above and 38 per cent. of staple 7/8" to 31/32".

Indian Cotton Situation in 1941-42: Difficulties of disposal of short staple cotton.- The Indian cotton position at the commencement of the season was overshadowed by the impending loss of the Far Eastern markets, consequent upon the freezing of Japanese assets towards the close of the last season. With the entry of Japan into the War in December 1941, the problem of short staple cotton became a live issue. During the three seasons ending August 1939, the annual exports to Japan averaged some 1.5 million bales, most of which consisted of short staple cotton. The sudden closure of this outlet made the disposal of this type of cotton a problem of the first magnitude. Various remedies were suggested to deal with the situation, such as the lowering of the specifications of goods required by the Supply Department, the use of short staple cotton for the manufacture of uniforms, blankets, nitro-cellulose, cloth for road-making, ditch and lining, etc. The possibility of giving chemical finishes to short staple cotton yarns and fabrics was also suggested. The acceptance by the Government of India of the Committee's recommendations regarding relaxation of the specifications of cotton goods required by the Supply Department resulted in an offtake of 400,000 bales of short staple cotton, which merely touched the fringe of the problem. The wider aspect of the question of adjusting the supply of short staple cotton to probable demand was discussed at some length by the Committee at its meeting in January 1942, when a resolution was unanimously passed recommending inter alia that the Government of India should request all Provincial Governments and States in India to reduce the existing acreage under short staple cotton forthwith by at least 50 per cent.

Change-over from Short Staple Cotton to Food Crops.- On 29-1-1942, the Government of India announced the creation of a special fund, called "Cotton Fund", from the proceeds of the levy of an additional duty of one anna per lb. on all imported cotton, with a view to financing measures for assisting the grower of certain types of cotton which used to be exported in large quantities to the Far East prior to the outbreak of war with Japan. The object of this measure was not merely to steady the market by making purchases of raw cotton of the types concerned, but also to assist the cultivator to change over from short staple cotton to food crops. A "Grow More Food" campaign was started on a country-wide scale, and the cultivator was advised to reduce the area under short staple cotton and grow food grains instead. These measures, together with the announcement by the Government of Bombay of their intention to stop import duties for the movement of unwanted short staple cotton to Bombay and its replacement with Fine Jarila 3/4" staple as the basis, were largely responsible for bringing about a reduction in the production of short staple cotton. ~~In the first all-India cotton forecast~~

Statistical Position.- As regards the statistical position of short staple cotton, the season started with a carryover of 1.2 million bales (400 lbs. net each) with the trade, excluding the spinning mills. The total crop of 1941-42, on the basis of cotton pressed and unpressed and cotton consumed in mills amounted to 6.5 million bales (excluding extra-factory consumption of 450,000 bales), of which 3.13 millions were estimated to have been of staple length 7/8" and above. The consumption of Indian cotton by mills, amounting to 4.03 million bales, constituted a new record, being 410,000 bales higher than in the previous season. The receipt at mills of Indian cotton on the basis of voluntary returns, amounted to 4.08 million bales (400 lbs. net each). The actual receipts, however, were estimated to have been some 4.3 million bales, including 1 million bales below 7/8" in staple. With the loss of the continental and Japanese markets for Indian cotton, the only important export outlets were the United Kingdom, U.S.A. and Australia. The total exports during the season amounted to 870,000 bales including 510,000 bales below 7/8" in staple. On the basis of the figures of actual production,

mill consumption and exports, the calculated carryover of Indian cotton with the trade, excluding spinning mills, at the end of the season, works out to 2.53 million bales.

Demand for Indian Cotton.- Receipts at mills of Indian cotton, during the season, were nearly the same as in the previous year, while exports showed a shrinkage of about 1.2 million bales. The reduction of 440,000 bales under export of long and medium staple cotton was to some extent offset by the increase of 200,000 bales in the offtake of such cotton by mills. Under short staple cotton both exports and mills receipts recorded decreases by 760,000 and 240,000 bales respectively.

Stocks.- Stocks of Indian cotton held in India by the trade at the end of the season 1941-42, on the basis of voluntary returns, amounted to 1.49 million bales, showing an increase of 270,000 bales on the previous year. The figures of stocks of cotton held by the trade do not cover certain areas, while the information collected for some of the other areas is not complete. It is considered that the figure of 1.49 million bales is very low, as on the basis of the figures of actual crop exports, mill receipts, etc., the carryover on the same date is estimated at some 2.59 million bales; one important cotton firm, in fact, puts the figure as high as 2.9 million bales. The discrepancy has been examined and is accounted for mainly by the incompleteness of the figures for certain provinces.

Cotton Consumption Statistics.- The total consumption of Indian cotton in mills in India during the season under report, viz., 4,025,232 bales, showed an increase of 408,085 bales as compared with the previous season, and constitutes yet another record. Bombay Province alone accounted for about 45 per cent. of the increased consumption. All the Provinces in British India except Bengal recorded increases. Indian States shared 17 per cent. of the increased consumption which was mainly in Hyderabad, Mysore and Indore States.

Exports.- The exports of Indian cotton from British India during the season totalled 873,000 bales against 2,013,000 bales in 1940-41. On the average of the three financial years ending 1940-41, the value of cotton (including waste) exported from British India formed 36 per cent. of the total value of "Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured" exported, and 14 per cent. of the total value of all merchandise exported.

Pressed Cotton.- During the season under review, 4,207,681 bales of cotton were pressed in British India and, 1,729,102 bales in Indian States, making a total of 5,936,783 bales for all-India; the corresponding figures for 1940-41 were 4,195,719, 1,779,554 and 5,975,273 bales, respectively. For India as a whole, the average net weight per bale of cotton pressed during the season under report amounted to 391 lbs., against 392 lbs. in the previous season.

Unpressed Cotton.- The statistics of cotton pressed do not account for the whole of the Indian cotton crop, as, apart from the quantity utilised for extra-factory consumption, chiefly in the form of kapas, mills situated in cotton growing areas often use considerable quantities of ginned unpressed cotton. During the year, 562,053 bales of unpressed cotton were consumed in mills in India against 523,001 bales during the preceding year.

Ginned Cotton.- The figures of cotton pressed do not cover the entire crop, as, apart from ginned unpressed cotton consumed in spinning mills for which figures are available, both ginned unpressed cotton and kapas are also utilised for domestic purposes, such as, hand-spinning, making of quilts, mattresses, etc., for which there are no reliable data. ✓

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SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act:
Views of Millowners' Association, Bombay.

Reference was made at page 1 of our July 1942 report to the Draft Bill prepared by the Government of India to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act so as (i) to regulate deductions from final compensation payable to dependants of deceased workmen and (ii) to define how average monthly wages are to be calculated for purposes of Sec.5 of the Act.

The Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, in expressing its views on the provisions of the Draft Bill, pointed out the proposed amendment to section 8 (i) of the Act, would entitle the dependents of a deceased worker to a statutory minimum of not less than 20 months' wages of the deceased, ~~whereas the amount of compensation payable to dependents according to Schedule IV of the Act, the amount of compensation ranged between Rs. 500 and Rs. 4,000 according to different wage groups, and this worked out approximately at 30 months' wages of the deceased worker.~~ because according to Schedule IV of the Act, the amount of compensation ranged between Rs. 500 and Rs. 4,000 according to different wage groups, and this worked out approximately at 30 months' wages of the deceased worker. Thus, if the injured operative, when he was alive, had received more than 10 months' wages by way of half-monthly compensation, such excess amount could not be deducted from the amount which would be payable to his dependents after his death. As under the Act only half the monthly average wages were to be paid to the operative during the period of disablement, the 10 months' wages referred to above would be paid to him in the course of 20 months. ~~from the date of the incident and, therefore, the chances of an employer paying by way of half-monthly compensation more than the permissible deduction were remote.~~ Death due to an injury by an accident was not likely to occur after 20 months from the date of the incident and, therefore, the chances of an employer paying by way of half-monthly compensation more than the permissible deduction were remote. However certain occupational diseases like anthrax, lead poisoning, phosphorus poisoning, etc., which were treated as accidental injuries under the Act, might cause temporary disablement for a considerably long time and thereafter result in death. In such cases, the employer or insurance company would certainly have paid a large amount by way of half-monthly compensation before the death of the operative, and if the permissible deduction was to be limited, it might be necessary and advisable for those responsible for payment of compensation to restrict the payment of half-monthly compensation, so that the insurer might not be out of pocket in the event of death of the operative. It was also pointed out that the amendment might lead to another anomaly. For instance, an operative whose claim had been settled for permanent disablement might die some time later, and in this case, if death was attributed to the permanent disablement, the employer or the insurer might have to pay again for death, whereas with the Act as it stands at present, a set-off for the amount paid before death could be claimed from the amount payable for death.

^{amendment}
Government's proposals were therefore neither fair nor equitable to the employer, and the Committee opposed the amendment as drafted, but stated that they were prepared to take a sympathetic view of the whole case if Government would limit the compensation payable to the dependents in the event of death of the workman to Rs. 300 or the difference between the amount payable for death and the amount actually paid to the worker during his lifetime, whichever was higher.

The Committee stated that they had no comments to offer on the proposed amendment of section 5(c) of the Act.

(The Annual Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for 1942, Pages 96-98)

Housing Facilities for Durban Indians:
City Council's £ 40 million post-war
Development Scheme.

Large - scale plans for providing better housing facilities for Indians in the Durban area are reported to be included in the £ 40 million programme of post-war development which has been approved by the Durban City Council recently. The scheme, according to Reuter's Durban Correspondent, provides for an up-to-date township which will be set aside for Indians in their own environment. There will be no legal compulsion for Indians to live in the area. The programme also provides for building 1,600 houses for Indians in Durban and 2,000 at Duffroad, outside the municipal area, at a cost of about £ 1,000 per house. It also provides for the erection of a further number of smaller houses at a cost of £ 620 to £ 690 per house.

(The Bombay Chronicle 7-10-43).+

Ceylon Government Regulation to prevent
Illicit Immigration.

With a view to check the immigration, in contravention of the provisions of the Indian Emigration Act, of skilled and unskilled labourers from the southern district of Madras, the Government of Ceylon has issued a new defence regulation (Regulation No. 23-A) to the effect that no person coming by sea from places outside Ceylon ~~immigrants~~ shall enter Ceylon except at certain specified places. Anyone entering Ceylon in contravention of the order is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or to a fine not exceeding Rs. 10,000 or to both. The master of a vessel or the pilot of an aircraft by means of which ~~any~~ any person enters Ceylon in contravention of the order shall be deemed to have abetted the offence and will be liable to be punished in the same manner, unless he proves that he has exercised all due diligence to prevent such contravention.

(Press Note dated 4-10-43 Issued
by the Government of Madras, and
The Hindustan Times 5-10-43).+

Disabilities of South African Indians:
Evidence before the National Health
Services Commission, South Africa.

Giving evidence before the National Health Services Commission set up by the Government of the Union of South Africa (the commission which was recently appointed by the Government to survey the health ~~of~~ needs of the Union both rural and urban, has put forward concrete plans for modification of the State medical services), The Natal University College, in its memorandum, stated that the rate of the growth of the European population in Natal was the lowest in the Union, while the Indian birth-rate was almost twice as high (37 per thousand of Indian birth-rate, against 20 per thousand, of European). The practical consequence of this, in the absence of adequate health services, education and opportunity for employment, was that the poverty-stricken, undernourished mass of 300,000 Indians would have to be largely supported by the European minority. The memorandum suggested that the problem could not

be met by family allowances because they cost more than a quarter of the whole national income. It proposed investigation of the question of reorganizing farming on a more economical basis to produce more protective foods and better education of consumers in food values. The memorandum pointed out that since 1904 the proportion of Indians engaged in agriculture had fallen from 50 per cent to 18 per cent; in industry there had been an increase from 6 per cent to 12 per cent and in commerce from 6 per cent to 8 per cent.

The disabilities of the Indians in the Union were put before the Commission by a deputation from the Indian Social Welfare Association, which pointed out that, although during the last ten years there was vast improvement in the living conditions in Johannesburg as the result of the work of the Municipal Public Health Department, further improvement was hampered by a "shocking lack of proper housing for Indians, tight restrictions hedging their lives and lack of proper educational facilities". The Association suggested that if the Indians were to develop as a community it was essential that they should be recognized as an integral part of the South African population, and should be given all chances of development open to other communities. At present there were too many restrictions on avenues of employment; Indians were more hemmed in by restrictive legislation than any other section of the people. The Association called for wards in hospitals for Indian patients with sufficient free accommodation on an adequate scale, provision for treatment of outpatients, home nursing and other medical services.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
15-10-43)..

Conditions of Indian Emigrants in the
British Empire in 1942-43.*

The following ^{information} ~~details~~ relating to Indians in the different parts of the British Empire during the year 1942-43, is taken from the "Review of Important Events relating to or affecting Indians in different parts of the British Empire" ^{in 1942-43} recently published by the Department of Indians Overseas, Government of India. (The report for the previous year was reviewed at pages 15-21 of our January, 1943, report).

South Africa:

The Second Broome Commission Inquiry.- Towards the end of 1942 the Durban City Council represented to the Minister for Interior, the Union Government, that Indian penetration into areas in Durban which had been found to be predominantly European by the previous Broome Commission had increased since 1-10-1940 (the previous Commission covered the period from 1-1-1927 to 30-9-1940). Justice F.N. Broome was once again appointed to inquire into the extent of acquisition of immovable property in the areas by Indians, including companies with predominantly Indian Directorates. This time the Commission was not called upon to investigate into the reasons for penetration. The Natal Indian Association and the Natal Indian Congress both protested against this restriction in the terms of reference of the proposed Commission and the Natal Indian Association withdrew from the inquiry. The report of the Commission covered the period from 1-10-1940 to 28-2-1943. The inquiry was concluded on 19-3-1943.

*Review of Important Events Relating To or Affecting Indians in Different Parts of the British Empire During the year 1942-43, issued by the Government of India (Indians Overseas Department) pages, 22.

The main features of the Commission's findings were - (1) that the number of sites acquired by Indians during 1942 was 195 as against 78 in 1939 (the highest for any year covered by the previous Commission); and (2) during the first two months of 1943, Indians paid more for sites in European areas than during any complete year dealt with by the previous Commission and the amount so paid by Indians during the 29 months covered by the present Commission did not fall far short of the amount paid by them during the 13 years covered by the previous Commission. Mr. Justice Broome informally observed that accelerated penetration may have been due to - (1) a mistaken impression both among Europeans and Indians that the previous Commission had established that there had been no penetration; (2) the fact that Indians were anxious to pass through while the door was still ajar; (3) the fact that War conditions had left no other avenue of investment of a non-interest bearing nature. Indians contended that they had purchased property in European areas, firstly because they were within their rights to do so, secondly because there was no other avenue of investment open to them, and thirdly because the Durban City Council had grossly neglected housing and civic amenities in Indian areas. The Minister for Interior pointed out that the reason about housing and civic amenities had not been substantiated by facts as the majority of houses acquired by Indians were still in European occupation. It would appear that towards the end of the period covered by the Commission, Indian penetration was accelerated by rumours of a 'pegging' bill being in the offing.

Extension of the Asiatic (Transvaal Land and Trading) Act to Natal.-

Early in February 1943 indications were received that the Union Government proposed to renew the Asiatic (Transvaal Land and Trading) Act which was due to expire on 1-5-1943. The Government of India made a strong representation to the Union Government pointing out that, in view of the Broome Commission's findings, a renewal of the Act would have no justification, especially in view of the fact that the period of the Commission's investigations covered a period of twelve years when the Act ~~would have been justified~~ was non-existent. It was pointed out that the Act was discriminatory, and that the Government of India were opposed to its continuance and considered that it should be allowed to lapse in the best interests of India and South Africa. Every further renewal of the Act made it appear less and less a temporary measure. The Union Government, on the other hand, argued that the Act had been fairly and liberally administered and had improved relations between Indians and Europeans in the Transvaal by removing the danger of uncontrolled Indian expansion. On 7-4-43, however, it was announced in the senate that the Union Government would introduce a bill on 10-4-43 renewing sections 2 and 3 of the Asiatic (Transvaal Land & Trading) Act until 31-3-1946. The same bill contained 'pegging' provisions for Natal. The provisions for Natal were to apply to the Municipal area of Durban from 22-3-1943 and, if found necessary, were to be extended to other parts of Natal by proclamation after a Commission, specially appointed for the purpose, had reported. This bill was introduced without giving the Government of India an opportunity to comment on it. Strong protest was lodged by the Government of India. It was pointed out that while the Government of India were always willing to explore and give all support to any scheme to assist voluntary restriction of purchases of property likely to lead to racial feeling, the introduction of the proposed bill was a matter of deep concern to them and that the bill would be strongly resented by Indians every where. It was also pointed out that the Union Government would be going back on their intention, expressed in 1939, not to proceed with legislation likely to raise controversial racial issues, during the course of the

War

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War, and that the present was a most inopportune moment for taking up a measure of such nature. The Union Government, while expressing their desire to remove racial ill-feeling, stated that the extent of 'penetration' in Durban revealed by the report of the Second Broome Commission had forced their hands. ~~Despite these protests~~ Two more representations were made urging that the difficulties could be met without restrictive legislation and by administrative arrangements designed to give full publicity to any transaction which might be regarded as undesirable and bringing the pressure of public opinion to bear upon the seller and purchaser alike. Despite these protests, the Union bill, called the Trading & Occupation of Land (Transvaal & Natal) Restriction Act, 1943, passed its third reading in the Senate on 27-4-1943.

Riverside Scheme Abandoned.— Early in 1941, the Durban City Council proposed to put into effect, a housing scheme which popularly came to be known as the 'Riverside' Scheme. Under the scheme Indians were to be removed from Riverside, a ridge overlooking the Umgeni river, Prospect Hill, a long established Indian suburb between the European suburb of Durban North and the sea, and from the bulk of the Sydenham area to the low-lying Merebank Wentworth area. The Durban City Council stated that the proposed acquisition formed a part of an eight-year housing scheme costing £ 5½ million and involving the erection of 3,350 sub-economic and 5,124 economic houses, including over £ 2 million to be spent on Indian housing in Springfield and Merebank Wentworth areas. To this proposal it was objected that it was aimed at ousting Indians from the better residential areas. In February 1942, the Minister of Interior deputed the Central Housing Board to visit Durban and to suggest modifications to the original scheme so as to meet the Indian objection. The Board recommended that the entire Riverside be acquired but not solely for the benefit of the Europeans, and that 600 plots be set aside for Indian housing. This did not satisfy the Indian community. It was not indicated on which side the plots for Indians would lie and there was, therefore, the suspicion that Indians would be pushed off to the less desirable part of the locality. In the meantime, the High Commissioner had been urging the Minister that it would not be desirable to push on with the scheme during war time as it was bound to create racial strife. The Riverside scheme was finally shelved in October 1942, but, later it was understood that it has again been revived by the Durban City Council.

Extension of Period of Sojourn of Indians Visiting India.— During 1940, the Minister for Interior agreed to the extension of the validity of certificates of Indians visiting India beyond the three-year period, provided satisfactory evidence was produced that the reason for their failure to return to South Africa was the difficulty of obtaining passages. In August, 1942, owing to the change in the war situation and the increasing dangers attending the voyage between South Africa and India, the Union Government agreed to accept any reason arising out of conditions brought about by the war for a condonation of an extension beyond the three-year period, provided application was made in time.

East Africa:

Agreement Regarding Import of Piece Goods from India.— In October 1942 the Governments of Uganda and Kenya accepted the recommendation of the East Africa Civil Supplies Board that a single organisation should be vested with monopoly rights for the import of certain classes of piecegoods. It was proposed that a Corporation be formed, the members of which should be selected from previous importers and others approved by the Governments concerned, to be the sole importers of piece-goods

from India. But since it was feared that the formation of the Corporation would seriously jeopardize the interests of the Indian exporter in India and the Indian importer in East Africa, the Government of India strongly opposed the idea of diverting export of piece-goods from India from the established channels, and took up the matter with the Governor's Conference, Nairobi. Later, a Delegation of the East African Governments came to India and an agreement was reached between them and the East Africa Shippers Association providing for the establishment of panels of bonafide textile merchants to advise the East African Governments on the import of textile goods from India and also for the registration of the prices at which deals are closed at Bombay.

Aden:

Restrictions on Immigration.-The restrictions on immigration into Aden continued to be in operation except that they were relaxed to the extent of permitting "new comers" to bring their wives and children with them. In answer to an enquiry by the Government of India, the Government of Aden have informed them that the restrictions applied equally to all foreigners in civilian occupation, but that the entry of wives and children of British Service Personnel is governed by service considerations and war-time needs. The Government of Aden also enacted an immigration Ordinance to control the entry into Aden of certain "prohibited" and destitute immigrants of the category of paupers, lunatics and criminals.

Canada.- Permanent Indian residents, like all permanent British subjects resident in Canada, are liable for military service. But certain individual Indians ~~are~~ have protested against this and representations were received by the Government of India ^{from} on behalf ~~of~~ ^{their} and asking for their assistance in the matter of securing exemption from military service in Canada on the ground that Indians there ~~had~~ ^{had not} been granted full citizenship rights by the Dominion Government. The Government of India had, however, already taken up the question, through His Majesty's Government, of the enfranchisement of the Indians in British Columbia.

Ceylon:

Relaxation of Ban on emigration of Unskilled Labour to Ceylon.- The ban on the emigration from India of unskilled labourers to Ceylon continued to be in force throughout the year; but as from 1-9-1942, the Government of India relaxed it to the extent of permitting labourers already in Ceylon to return to the Island after visits to India. To prevent a sudden and large exodus of labourers from the plantations, employers have been regulating the grant of leave to labourers so as always to keep a sufficient number in the Island to maintain the production of rubber and tea at a level necessary for war needs. In order further to relieve the hardship caused by the "separation of families" the Government of India ordered the exemption from the operation of the ban ~~of~~ wives, including "new brides" and minor children, of all unskilled labourers who were in Ceylon or who might be permitted to proceed from India to Ceylon by any special or general order of exemption.

Negotiation for more Labour from India.- By the end of 1942 shortage of labour began to be felt in the rubber plantations. Rubber production required further intensification as a result of the loss of Malaya and the adjoining areas and "slaughter tapping" of some areas

was resorted to. This created a further and acute demand for rubber tappers. As a result of repeated representations to the Ceylon Government by the Planing community that additional labour from India was necessary, the Governor of Ceylon addressed the Government of India pointing out the necessity, from the point of view of the war effort, for the most intensive rubber tapping possible and enquiring whether the Government of India, notwithstanding their ban on emigration, would consider the special recruitment of labour to meet the war emergency on the following terms:- (a) pay and conditions of employment identical with those of other Indian labour; (b) repatriation to India at the end of the war or other period stipulated by agreement. The latter condition was unacceptable to the Government of India. They were also of the view that the emigration of fresh labour from India could not be permitted unless the two Governments could first arrive at an agreement on some of the fundamental principles which should form the basis of postwar Indo-Ceylon negotiations. They accordingly placed before the Ceylon Government a draft of these fundamental principles. The proposals of the Government of India were, however, unacceptable to the Government of Ceylon who later informed the Government of India that they hoped to obtain sufficient labour locally to achieve the maximum output of rubber. The negotiations thus came to an end.

Labour conditions on Estates.- Various measures were taken during the year to ensure the continuous and efficient functioning of essential services. An order entitled "Essential Services" (Avoidance of strikes and lock-outs) Order, 1942, was issued under the emergency powers of the Governor on 19-3-1942. On 17-4-1942, various services, including tea and rubber industries, were declared "essential". The effect of this order is that no person can incite, or continue or participate in, a strike or lock-out in any of the essential services and the employers and the employees alike have an obligation to apprise the Controller of Labour of all trade disputes. Employers are further prohibited from employing persons in essential services except on "recognised terms and conditions of employment".

On 29-8-1942, an order was passed under the Defence Regulations prohibiting the holding of public meetings within certain specified areas except with the previous permission of the Minister of Home Affairs. Later, as a result of protests by the public and in the State Council, certain categories of meetings were exempted from the order, but not meetings relating to labour convened at the instance of trade unions. The general attitude of the planters in regard to the entry into estates of labour leaders remained the same as in the previous year. These tended to suppress trade union activities, although conferences under the Seven Point Agreement continued to be held. There were no strikes of any magnitude or importance during the year under report.

Wages and Food supply to Plantation Labour.- No wages boards or district wages committees were constituted under the Wages Boards Ordinance during the period. Notifications were issued applying the provisions of Part II of the Ordinance to the tea and rubber industries and the coconut, plumbago, painting and engineering trades. By a notification published in the Gazette of Ceylon, dated 31-3-1942, the increase in the basic minimum wages already approved by the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour, came into legal force on 1-5-1942. The following were the rates in cents:-

	Men	Women	Children
Up-country	57	46	35
Mid-country	55	44	43
Low-country	53	43	33

With issue price of rice not exceeding Rs. 4-8-0 per bushel together with a "dearness allowance" for each labourer (based on the cost of living index number for Indian labourers ascertained by the Department of Labour) of such amount each working day as may be fixed by the Controller of Labour by notification published in the Gazette. The Board of Indian Immigrant Labour generally approved of the scheme of dearness allowance and decided that it should be paid in the proportion of 5 : 5 : 3 for men, women and children. The scheme came into legal force from 1-5-1942. In August 1942, owing to frequent changes in the food ~~ration~~ ration it was decided and notified in the Gazette that all rice would be sold to labourers at a controlled price and the dearness allowance would be adjusted accordingly.

The position in regard to the supply of foodstuffs to estate labourers deteriorated considerably during the year. The differential system of rationing which was accepted in principle by the Government of Ceylon, came into force on and from 20-7-1942 with a basic ration of $1\frac{1}{2}$ measures of rice per week, one-third of the ration being compulsorily issued in paddy wherever available. The General Committee of the Planters' Association recommended that there should be four issues of rice per month to labourers on estates, with or without other food grains, each issue representing 4, 3 and 2 measures of rice for men, women and children and 2 measures of substitute food grains being treated as equivalent to 1 measure of rice. Though most of the bigger estates with large built-up stocks of rice were able to conform to these instructions without difficulty, there were many estates which were not able to make the issues on this scale. Wheat and wheat flour were subsequently declared to be substitutes for rice and in September Kurakkan was included in the scheme of rationing, 1 measure of Kurakkan being equivalent to 1 measure of rice. This had a prejudicial effect on the total issued to estate labourers, and representations were made without any success. More and more estates had gradually to adopt the ratio fixed by the Government in issuing foodstuffs to their labourers. The general unsatisfactory food position in the Island necessitated the promulgation of the Defence (Purchase of Foodstuffs) Regulations which were issued early in September prohibiting all persons maintaining an adequate supply of food for over a period of 2 months, from drawing on their ration-cards until the stocks went below that level. These regulations were actually ~~app~~ applied to the estates only in November when the general basic ration was increased from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 measures of rice. This had the effect of curtailing the period during which the employers could issue to their labour force larger quantities of food articles than was obligatory under the rationing scheme. The Planters' Association, however, reiterated its recommendation for the issue to estate labourers of food articles equivalent to 4 cut measures for men, 3 cut measures for women, 2 cut measures for working children and 1 cut measure for each non-working child per week, but with the modification that all cereals should be treated as equivalent to rice, measure for measure. The quantity of rice to be issued to labourers was at the same time restricted to the level of the Government ration. It was recognised everywhere that the estate population which was accustomed to a principal rice diet had been hard hit by the rationing scheme, but nothing could be done to improve the position especially when the agreed limit of export of rice from India to Ceylon had fallen from 38,000 tons to 12,000 tons per month during the year. From the 4-1-1943 only a fourth of the Government ration was issued in the form of rice. The Agent of the Government of India was closely watching the situation and was in

constant touch with the authorities. As a result of his representations, it was decided in the last week of February 1943 to authorise the issue by estates of free mid-morning meals to labourers on a voluntary basis. The Civil Defence Commissioner promised to supply outside the ration one and a half pounds of wheat flour per head per week for the purpose. Later it was understood that the scheme applied primarily to rubber estates though there was nothing to prevent the tea estates from following suit, if the superintendents chose to do so.

APP Appointment of Representative of Ceylon Government in India.- In December 1942, Sir Baron Jayatilaka was appointed the first Special Representative of the Government of Ceylon in India. The functions of the Special Representative are to secure and maintain adequate food supplies for Ceylon from India and to improve relations between the two countries.

Control of Textile Trade.- In September 1942, the Ceylon Government set up a Department for the control of textiles and appointed a Controller who drafted a scheme for the licensing of all importers and dealers, wholesale and retail. Some reduction in the number of merchants in the trade was contemplated on the plea that India now being virtually the only source of supply for textiles and in view of the quota restrictions, the volume of imports into the Island would be substantially diminished. It was proposed to effect this reduction by issuing licences only to those who were bona-fide dealers on 1-7-1941 and were carrying on business as such on ~~the~~ 1-10-1942. This proposal, if adopted, would have thrown out of business all the Indians who had closed their business soon after the Easter air raids over Colombo and returned to India and also those traders who had started their business for the first time after April 1942. Representations were made by various textile Merchants' Associations and the Government of India also addressed a telegram to the Governor of Ceylon seeking an assurance that the Controller will exercise his discretion to refuse licences ~~to~~ only for normally accepted reasons like infringement of the Regulations, fraud or persistent failure to use licences granted and the like, without reference to the traders' conduct in relation to evacuation after the April bombing. After considering these representations, the Board of Ministers finally decided to license all traders who were in business in the first week of January, 1943, and the regulations were accordingly gazetted on ~~the~~ 19-3-43.

West Indies. Constitutional changes of a far-reaching nature, based on adult suffrage, were announced in respect of Jamaica by the Secretary of State for colonies in February 1943. But since it was felt that the Indian community in the Island numbering only about 18,000 (1.5 per cent of the total population) and largely uneducated, impoverished and scattered widely over the area was not numerically strong enough or sufficiently organised in any electoral area to succeed in returning its own representatives ~~to~~ either House of the legislature, ~~The~~ Government of India made a representation to His Majesty's Government strongly urging that provision should be made (a) for one East Indian always to be nominated to the legislative Council, and (b) that at least one seat in the Legislative Assembly be reserved for East Indians. The result of the representation is still awaited.

Far Eastern War-Zone.- Switzerland continued to be the ~~the~~ protecting power in charge of British interests in Japan, Japanese-occupied China, French Indo-China and Siam. The Japanese Government have not yet agreed to the appointment of a protecting power in the territories of

the United Nations occupied by Japan.

Welfare of Indians in Japanese-Occupied Territories.- Besides the facilities already mentioned in the previous year's review for affording relief to Indians stranded in enemy-occupied territories, bulk supplies of foodstuffs, medical drugs and clothing have been sent during the year through the agency of the Red Cross to Singapore and Hong Kong. A long-range policy for organising relief to Indians in enemy-occupied territories in the Far East is under consideration by the Government of India. The welfare of prisoners of war has been somewhat improved by the arrival of British, Dominion, and Indian Red Cross supplies, but drastic restrictions imposed by the Japanese Government on visits to these camps and limits imposed on correspondence caused very little information about them to filter through. Out of a total number of 7,480 enquiries regarding the whereabouts of British Civilian subjects in Japanese occupied territories, information has been received on about 1023. Facilities for postal communication with prisoners of war and civilian internees in Japanese hands have been extended to all British civilians in Japan and Japanese-occupied territories and the procedure to be followed in sending such communication has been given wide publicity throughout India. As the result of an agreement reached between the British and the Japanese Governments for the repatriation of their nationals, about 125 Indians were repatriated to India from Japanese occupied territories towards the end of October 1942. The Government of India made arrangements for the reception and dispersal of the repatriates, giving accommodation, cash advances and railway fares to destination within India, wherever necessary.

Facilities for Evacuees: Revised scale of Advances: Appointment of Refugee Officers, etc.- Arrangement made by the Government of India in respect of the evacuation of Indian civilians in Burma helped about 500,000 Indians (nearly 50 per cent of the estimated Indian population in Burma) in reaching India. The scale of maintenance advances granted earlier to evacuees and families whose breadwinners were stranded in enemy-occupied territories was revised as it was felt that this scale which was designed mainly for the Indian artisan class and was lower than that approved for Europeans, was unsuited to the varying requirements of the different classes of evacuees who began to arrive in India from Malaya and Burma. A new scheme was therefore sanctioned with effect from July 1942 applicable to all evacuees without distinction of race and based solely on the pre-evacuee status of the persons concerned. Under the revised scheme, the principle of regarding all allowances granted to evacuees or "dependants" as repayable, has been retained and grants are made only against undertakings to repay. It is estimated that during the year 1942-43 nearly 50,000 evacuees and "dependants" were in receipt of relief and the amount disbursed was nearly Rs. 7 million. Further, Refugee Officers have been appointed for the four zones (Northern, Eastern, Southern and Western India) whose duty it would be to pay particular regard to bringing to the notice of evacuees all avenues of employment by putting them in touch with prospective employers, employment registry agencies, National Service Labour Tribunals, Army recruiting authorities and the like. As the bulk of evacuees in India are from Burma, the Government of Burma have also appointed their own officers as Evacuee Welfare Officers to the zones corresponding to those of the Government of India Officers.

Measures have also been taken for giving assistance to the employe

employees of the Governments of Hong-Kong, British North Borneo and Sarawak and the Shanghai Municipality who were in India at the outbreak of hostilities with Japan, and to the dependants in India of those of whom they were stranded in the Japanese Occupied territories.

Burma Evacuees. - The Burma Government began functioning in India in May 1942. Most of the offices have been opened. Employees of the Government who have already arrived in India and dependants of those still in Burma are being paid advances for maintenance. Some of ~~employees~~ employees have already been re-employed by the Government itself. Those still un-employed are placed by Government order on 'surplus leave' conditions under which they have been granted leave on full average pay followed by eight months leave on half average pay. This order took effect from ~~the~~ 10-4-1942, for those already on ~~Burma~~ leave in India and from the date of arrival here of those who evacuated from Burma. The periods of half-pay leave have been extended upto 31-5-1943 and a revised scheme has been sanctioned after that date. This does not apply to Burma Railway employees. As regards quasi-Government bodies, the Burma Government have assumed responsibility for claims against some of them, including the University of Rangoon, the Rangoon Port Trust Commissioners, The Rangoon Corporation, and Government managed schools. As regards other local bodies, the Government of Burma have not accepted liability for payment of claims relating to leave, leave salary and arrears of pay, but the withdrawals of their provident fund balances by the employees will be considered by Administrators for local bodies. The Government of Burma have however authorised the grant of necessary relief, without undertakings to repay, to local body employees in India, and to dependants of those left behind in Burma, relief being restricted to needy cases.. To look after the interests and welfare of the evacuees from Burma, the Burma Government has set up an Evacuee Welfare Department. The reconstruction of Burma after reconquest is also engaging the serious attention of the Government.

Some of the other evacuee relief measures that have been adopted are: protection of orphan evacuees; ~~provision~~ provision of special facilities for the education, whether in schools, colleges, or technical institutions, of student evacuees; encouragement of non-official relief organisations and the provision of employment facilities. +

Consumers' Cooperative Stores in Assam:
Government's suggestion for Improvement.

In a press note issued on 12-10-43, by the Publicity Officer, Government of Assam, it is pointed out that more than 150 consumer's co-operative stores have been registered in the province since the Assam Government launched its co-operative stores campaign six months ago and that the number of applications for registration is increasing daily. It is however stressed that progress at a faster pace had been hindered by: (a) lack of adequate organising staff, (b) lack of adequate sympathy on the part of some local authorities, and (c) high price of shares issued by cooperative stores.

More Inspectors to be Appointed: Plea for better public cooperation. Dealing with measures to redress the situation, the note points out that Government proposes to appoint an additional staff of Co-operative Inspectors to supplement the work of the supply staff. As for the conservative and suspicious attitude of some of the local authorities, it is suggested that it will be for those who have faith in the co-operative movement and are interested in it to convince those in authority of the usefulness of the stores by associating with them more actively and prove that cooperation is not a mere temporary device for obtaining privileges during difficult times. Even within the narrow scope of its present activities, the consumers' co-operative movement has done useful work and proved its worth as a weapon against profiteering, black marketing and other causes of the inequitable distribution of commodities. Realising this, it is stated, Government has decided to offer the maximum possible help for the furtherance of the movement.

Lower-valued shares to be issued.— In regard to the objection that the prices fixed for shares are too high for the poorer classes, the press note says, "The exclusion of the poorer sections of the public from the benefits of co-operation is probably due to an unsympathetic interpretation of the rules and by-laws. These admit of shares of any value not lower than eight annas each, but generally shares of higher denominations, mostly Rs. 10 shares, only are issued. Again, the by-laws of a society can be framed so as to allow payment to be made in any reasonable number of instalments, say from two to twelve. Thus poor people can either have their own separate stores in which the value of the shares will be fixed according to their means, or join such stores as would allow them to pay the share instalment money by monthly instalments".

Distribution of non-controlled Articles.— Urging the enlargement of the stores by undertaking the sale of more articles, the press note says, "some of the newly organised stores are perhaps confining their business to controlled commodities only. This is likely to land the smaller stores in losses, since the margin allowed to them on the sale of controlled commodities can hardly be adequate to meet the cost of transport, management, storage, etc. They would do well to deal in other articles also and to sell them to members as well as non-members, even if they restrict themselves to members in the case of controlled commodities".

Co-operation in sale of Textiles.— Another press note issued by the Assam Government on 12-10-43 explains how the sale of cotton cloth and yarn may be undertaken with profit by these stores, as the Government has decided to exempt consumers' cooperative stores from the

restrictive provisions in the Central Government's Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, 1943, (vide page 22 of our June 1943 report) regarding the sale of cloth and yarn. In granting this privilege, Government hopes that the stocks of cloth and yarn placed with the stores for sale will always remain available to the public at reasonable prices instead of being hoarded and sold in the black market. It is also suggested that, in making purchases of cloth and yarn, the stores should not confine themselves to the requirements of their members; they should cater for a larger clientele. The Textile Control Staff, with its expert knowledge, will help the stores, if required, in making their purchases of textile goods.

(The Assam Gazette, Part II, dated 20-10-43, pages 312-313).+

Training of Backward Classes in Cottage Industries:
Bombay Scheme.

Fourteen peripatetic teaching parties to train members of the Backward Classes in cottage industries are to be organised in four districts in Bombay Province. This decision has been taken by the Government of Bombay in accordance with the recommendation of the ad hoc Committee appointed to consider ways of improving the conditions of the Backward Classes. The cost of the parties and of other measures to be adopted for the development of industries will be met from the Rs. 2.5 million earmarked from the Special Development Fund for the benefit of the Backward Classes.

All four districts will have parties teaching cane and bamboo work and carpentry and wood-turning. In addition, one of the districts will have a party teaching fibre work, parties in another for wool-weaving, fibre work and ~~knits~~ leather-work and parties in the remaining two for cotton weaving and tanning. The duration of the parties has been sanctioned until 29-2-1948. Courses of training will last for a year, except in the case of tanning, the course for which will be six months.

Financial Aid.- Students will be paid Rs. 12 a month while training. On finishing their courses, as recommended by the Committee, they will each be given a subsidy and a loan, aggregating up to Rs. 400, to enable them to buy appliances and tools and to provide them with working capital. Similar financial assistance will be given to students trained in technical institutions with the aid of scholarships recommended by the Committee, but the number of persons given assistance in both categories is restricted to 500 for five years. The scholarships, 258 in five years, will be tenable at the technical schools in Ratnagiri, Satara, Sholapur, Poona, Bombay, Surat, Dhulia and Ahmedabad and will range from Rs. 15 to Rs. 25 a month.

Co-operative Societies.- The Committee's recommendation that Industrial multi-purpose co-operative societies should be organised for the Backward Classes in the Surat, Thana, Nasik and West Khandesh districts will be considered by the Government after some persons have been trained by the peripatetic parties and it is known what kinds of articles are being produced for marketing. Meanwhile, the Government has asked its officers to formulate a scheme for the development of the co-operative movement among the Backward Classes in one or two tracts on the lines of the activities being carried on in the Dohad Taluka and Jhalod Mahal of Broach and Panch ~~Mahals~~ Mahals district.

Grain Depots. - The Committee's proposals concerning the grain depot system are still under consideration and the Government's decision will be announced later.

(Press Note No. 1063 dated 25-10-1943 issued by the Director of Information, Bombay.)

Workers' Organisations:Recognition of Trade Unions: Views of Millowners' Association, Bombay.

Reference was made at page 1 of our April 1942 report to the Draft Bill to amend the Trade Unions Act, 1926 to provide for "Recognition" of Unions sent out by the Government of India to the Provincial Governments for eliciting opinion on the subject. The following is a summary of the views expressed by the Millowners' Association, Bombay, on the Government proposal:

Objections to "Recognition" Legislation.— The Committee of the Association stated that employers should not, under any circumstances, be compelled by statute to recognise unions. Where a trade union, which consisted of bona fide workers and which was managed by representatives of workers, adopted strictly trade union methods in securing redress of its members' grievances, and was further in a position to impose its will upon its members in securing the due observance of all the agreements and undertakings given by it in its negotiations with employers, and was, in addition, thoroughly representative of labour, recognition by employers followed as a matter of course without any compulsion whatsoever. Where these conditions did not obtain, and recognition was forced on employers, as Government proposed to do, it would become not only a farce, but an irritant, and employers would be forced into endless correspondence with a number of unions of all dimensions on something or other connected with internal working conditions in factories with no useful or practical results.

In an earlier communication, the Government of India had requested the Employers' Federation to recommend its members "to adopt a liberal policy towards any trade unions of their workers even though they may feel some doubts regarding the leaders of those unions". The Committee stated that it could not accept this proposition. Experience in Bombay had, unfortunately, been extremely bitter. Active leadership and initiative in all trade union matters had passed, owing to the lack of workers in sufficient numbers with experience in trade union methods, into the hands of outsiders with destructive views, and these leaders had not hesitated to use the union machinery in their hands as a convenient weapon for the advancement of their personal aims and objects, regardless of the interests of the union which they were supposed to represent and of the industry affected.

The Committee was therefore, firmly convinced that, unless there was a radical change in leadership, recognition of the type which Government proposed to bestow on unions would not only fail to confer any benefit on labour, but was likely to be a positive danger to the industry and its war efforts. The real need, therefore, was good leadership by men who came into the movement purely as trade unionists, pledged to rectify the economic grievances of the men and not to mix them up with politics. If such men came forward and showed their bona fides and if, as was most essential, labour was also willing to accept their leadership out of their own will, the Committee stated, it would be willing to reconsider the whole position.

The Trade Unions Act, 1926, sought to offer immunity from legal proceedings to officers of registered trade unions for tortious acts done, and the Committee strongly felt, in the light of what had happened in Bombay and elsewhere, that, far from conferring additional privilege.

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privileges on unions, there existed a case for tightening up Government control over unions.

Present Time Unsuitable.— Without prejudice to its general contention that recognition was not fit subject for legislation, the Committee stressed that the proper time to go into these matters would be when the war was over and normality had been restored. The greatest need of the hour was for all concerned to concentrate on war work, and discussion on such matters would not only make this difficult, but was likely to create diversions, which might have unfortunate consequences on peaceful working conditions in the industry. Bombay had already enacted separate legislation which provided for proper investigation into labour's grievances, and for all practical purposes, this legislation was working satisfactorily. It was, therefore, immaterial in the present emergency whether the object in view was achieved through unions or any other agency. What might, however, be done was that Provinces which had not passed any such legislation, might bring in immediately a simple statute on the lines of the Bombay Trade Disputes Conciliation Act of 1934 for the duration of the war.

Conditions of Recognition.— The Government still desired to proceed with their proposals for amendment of the Trade Unions Act, then the Committee pointed out that, bearing in mind the desirability and importance of ensuring that recognition was accorded by statute only to bona fide and representative unions, the conditions governing the grant of recognition should be tightened up, the Committee understood that the Central and Provincial Governments had already laid down ~~certain~~ certain conditions for recognition of unions of their own employees. As a further safeguard, it was suggested that under certain circumstances, detailed below, it should be made possible for the employer to withdraw recognition. The Government's proposal that, where labour did not agree with the employers' decision to withdraw recognition, the matter should be dealt with by the Registrar whose decision would be final in these matters, was strongly condemned. What was suggested was that if labour felt that the employers' action was in contravention of the Act, then it should be free to appeal to the High Court or to a Court equivalent to the Bombay Industrial Court. In connection with the conditions precedent to the grant of recognition, the Committee suggested that, in addition to the conditions specified by Government in the proposed section 28C, it should be laid down that the Union rules should specifically provide for :— (1) The prohibition of class war; (2) peaceful and legitimate methods being followed in all disputes with employers; (3) total prohibition of violence; (4) control by actual workers ~~representing~~ representing a substantial number of persons whom the union claimed to represent; (5) prohibition of strikes without notice; (6) prohibition of strikes unless preceded by a ballot in which two-thirds of the workers actually affected were in favour of the strike; (7) disowning of workers who had gone on strike, except with the consent of the union; (8) membership being purely voluntary; and (9) maintenance of proper records of subscriptions collected and of negotiations with employers. The Bombay Industrial Disputes Act of 1938 (vide section 7) laid down a minimum of 25 per cent. membership of the total number of employees employed in any industry or occupation in a local area, to qualify a union for registration under that Act, and the Committee insisted on the minimum laid down in the Bombay Act to entitle a union to recognition from employers.

Grounds for Withdrawal of Recognition.— With regard to the circumstances in which recognition might be withdrawn by an employer, the

Committee suggested that they should be: (i) if any of the conditions governing the grant of recognition were broken by the union; (ii) if the union preached class war or violence or called out a strike without going through the formality of negotiations with the management and giving 14 days' notice; (iii) if the union encouraged or ~~participated~~ participated in a strike called out by an unrecognised or unlawful organisation; (iv) if the union directly or indirectly encouraged or maintained subversion of internal discipline in mills; (v) if the union engaged in trade union activities on employers' premises except to the extent mutually agreed upon between the union and the Employers' Association; (vi) if the union was unable to give effect to an agreement negotiated by it with the employers; and (vii) if the members of the union failed to carry out lawful orders given by the union executive.

Recognition of Union operating in more than one Province. - Government proposed that a trade union recognised in one Province should be recognised trade union in any other Province to which its operations extended. Recognition, as had already been pointed out, must essentially depend, among other things, upon the representative character of the union in any locality.

(The Annual Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for 1942, pages 92-96). +

Meeting of A.I.T.U.C. General Council,
Calcutta, 24 and 25-9-43. +

A meeting of the General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress was held at Calcutta on 24 and 25-9-1943. Members from various parts of India attended the meeting. Mr. Sudhindra Pramanik, Vice-President, A.I.T.U.C. presided.

The Council adopted a resolution on the food crisis in the country, condemning the failure of the Governments, Central and Provincial, to carry out measures to overcome the crisis, "to plan control of supplies and their even distribution through rationing, pegging of prices and efficient organisation of transport and to take severe measures against hoarders and speculators". In the opinion of the meeting, "the Central Government failed to discharge its duty and allowed the profiteers and bureaucrats of provinces to disrupt even its belated plans for central food control and distribution". The resolution also pointed out that "undue emphasis has been placed on hoarding by cultivators who mostly live from hand to mouth". The Council appealed for the co-operation of the people in forming an All-Parties Food Committee for solving the crisis.

Other resolutions adopted by the Council urged the Government to follow a uniform policy of granting dearness allowance according to the rise in the cost of living and not to lower the standard of living below that of 1939, to allow adequate cash payment of bonus to workers, to reconstruct radically the Textile Control Board, to give adequate representation to workers in all committees, to pay full compensation for forced unemployment due to coal shortage, etc., and to appoint a representative committee for the establishment of social security in India. The meeting demanded release of political prisoners and withdrawal of externment and internment orders as first step for easing the political situation.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4-10-43). +

Meeting of the Central Advisory Board
of Public Health, New Delhi, 4, 5 and 6-10-43.

The Central Advisory Board of Public Health met at New Delhi on 4, 5 and 6-10-43.

Viceroy's Message: Post-war Health Planning on Wide Basis essential. The outgoing Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, in a farewell message to the meeting, stressed the need for preparing a postwar public health programme for India and said that after the war there should be a determined effort to raise the Indian standard of living. The work of the Board will be of great assistance to provincial Governments in preparing their postwar planning programmes in the field of public health. One of the main questions to consider at present is planning for this postwar development. Health administration demands a considered programme, and any attempt to deal piecemeal with the many and varied problems involved can but lead to a dissipation of effort and financial resources. It is also necessary to introduce housing and sanitation schemes prepared on right lines in all large towns. He hoped that the Central Health Survey and Development Committee, recently appointed, would produce results of the utmost value.

Sir Jogendra Singh's Address.- Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, in his inaugural address said that he hoped to give the country, before the year ended, "a programme of agricultural development aiming at providing nourishing food for all, a programme of health and housing aiming at improving living conditions, and a programme of education aiming at equipping our whole population with knowledge". Referring to the food shortage, he said that no health programme can succeed which fails to provide good nourishing food for all. Regarding two items on the agenda of the Board - the sanitation of areas around military establishments and the question of postwar reconstruction - he hoped the work of the Health Survey and Development Committee would be of material assistance to provincial Governments as well as the Centre in making reconstruction plans.

Discussions: Need for Strict Enforcement of Food Adulteration Act, etc.- In the course of its proceedings, the Board considered the report of the Food Adulteration Committee which, inter alia, recommended fearless and unprejudiced prosecution of offenders, when adulteration had been shown, as one of the primary elements in the efficient administration of the Food Adulteration Act. Equally important was the necessity for deterrent punishment of offenders. The Board gave its support to the Committee's suggestions.

A memorandum by Sir Clutha Mackenzie on "Blindness in India" and a proposal from the Central Advisory Board of Education for the setting up of a joint committee to investigate the problem of blindness and its prevention were also discussed and approved. The view was expressed that smallpox and venereal diseases were responsible for much of the blindness in this country.

Resolutions.- The Board adopted twelve resolutions mainly bearing on health planning in post-war India based on a wider and satisfactory basis. One of the proposals adopted was for the creation of a Provin-

cial Nursing Service with a provincial cadre of nurses and the creation of the post of superintendent of Nursing Services. It was also agreed to incorporate in the resolution a proviso urging upon the Government of India to create a Central Nursing Council for India. By another resolution, the Board desired that wide publicity should be given to the recommendations of the Food Adulteration Committee and that special stress should be laid on the necessity for securing the goodwill and collaboration of the food trade in the campaign for the improvement of the community's food supply. As for post-war health planning, the Board was of opinion that the improvement of health conditions was a matter of vital concern to the country and that plans for a determined effort to raise the standard of health and to provide adequate preventive and curative health service for the people should be placed in the forefront of the post-war development programme. The Board considered that the programme should be based in a comprehensive survey of all aspects of the health problem and welcomed the appointment of the Health Survey and Development Committee and stressed the importance of completion of the committee's work at the earliest possible date. A comprehensive resolution was adopted on Dr. Aykroyd's memorandum relating to Hot Springs Conference recommendations. The Board, after endorsing the views of the conference, recommended that full attention should be given to its findings in planning reconstruction with the objective of improving the diet and health map of the population. It strongly recommended that a trained nutrition worker should be attached to provincial and state health departments and that provincial and state nutrition committees ~~in order to provide a national organisation for the country~~ should be established. The Board further recommended that the Government of India should immediately investigate the need for modifying or developing the present National Nutrition Advisory Committee in order to provide a national organisation for the country.

(The Statesman, 5-10-43, The Hindustan Times, 8-10-43 and The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 11-10-43).*

Personnel of the Health Survey and Development Committee.

The personnel of the Health Survey and Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Joseph Bhowe (vide pages 29-30 of our August 1943 report) was announced on 18-10-1943. The Committee consists of 24 members including Lt. Col. E. Cotter, Public Health Commissioner, Government of India; Dr. J.B. Grant, Director, All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health; Mr. N.M. Joshi, M.L.A.; Mr. B. Shiva Rao; Dr. B.C. Roy, President of the Medical Council of India; Mr. P.N. Sapru, Member of the Council of State and of the Central Advisory Board of Health; and Mrs. Shuffi Tyabji. The Secretary of the Committee is Dr. K.C.K.E. Raja.

Care has been taken to include in the Committee persons with practical experience of preventive public health work, medical relief, medical and public health education, industrial health conditions and other aspects of the health problem. The committee will have power to appoint sub-committees to make preliminary inquiries into particular aspects of the problem. Owing to war conditions it will not be possible for the committee as a whole to make tours of inquiry but it will be open to the committee to have local inquiries made by small groups or sub-committees when such inquiries are essential for the discharge of their task.

(The Statesman, 19-10-1943.)

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EDUCATION

Plan for Educational Reconstruction:
Mr. John Sargent's Memorandum. †

A scheme for a national system of education to provide all children in India with basic education and enable promising children to pass on to high schools, universities, technical, commercial and art institutions outlined in a memorandum prepared by Mr. John Sargent, Educational Adviser to the Government of India, as part of the Government of India's post-war reconstruction plans. The scheme was discussed by the Central Advisory Board of Education at a special meeting held at Dehra Dun on 13, 14 and 15-10-1943.

Basic Education.- A few important suggestions are made regarding basic (primary and middle school) education. What is envisaged is a system of universal, compulsory and free education for all boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 14. It is suggested that, while the majority of the pupils should go through the complete course, children of ability and promise should be enabled at the end of the primary or junior basic stage to enter high schools and other institutions for higher education. Nearly one child in every five may be able to enter the high school stage.

A vast increase into the number of women teachers is envisaged and certain minimum standards of training, recruitment and service conditions for teachers should be adopted and enforced everywhere. It is estimated that the cost of such a system of universal elementary education for British India would be Rs. 2000 million a year. This would call for 1.5 million teachers to instruct 52 million pupils. Kindergarten work should invariably be in the hands of women teachers trained for the purpose. Such instruction should be free and every effort should be made to persuade parents to send their children to school, particularly in areas where housing conditions are bad or mothers have to go to work.

Higher Education.- High schools will be of two types - academic and technical - but both should aim at giving a good all-round education and preparing pupils in the later stages for their future careers. Curricula should be as varied as possible and university and examination requirements should not be the deciding factor. Mr. Sargent is of opinion that the defect in the existing scheme is not that India has too many universities for a country of her size and population, but that the proportion of students in Indian universities as compared to the schooling population is too high. To raise standards all round, he suggests that the conditions for admission to universities should be revised to ensure that all students admitted will benefit from a university course. It is expected that the proposed reorganisation of the high school system will facilitate this. Other suggestions include those for the introduction of a three-year degree course with the intermediate course covered in the high school stage, the extension of the tutorial system and closer personal contacts between teachers and students, as well as steps to improve conditions of service of teachers.

Technical Education.- In view of the difficulties in the way of organizing technical (including commercial) education on a provincial basis, it is suggested that it should be controlled, at least in its higher stages, by an all-India body called the National Council for Technical Education and that the cost should be borne by the Government of India. Prospective post-war developments make the establishment of an efficient system of technical instruction a matter of the greatest

portance. Importance should also be laid on agricultural education. Technical schools should aim at giving an all-round education with a technical bias for pupils of ability so as to satisfy the aptitudes of those who want a practical course and the needs of industry and commerce for intelligent young workers. But ~~over and above this~~ ^{over and above this} technical instruction should meet the needs of five classes of industrial workers - the managerial class, research workers, the supervisory class, skilled artisans and semi-skilled and unskilled workers.

Adult Education.- A 20-year campaign to deal with illiteracy among adults preceded by five years of preparation is envisaged in the survey of the problem of adult education. Such a campaign is particularly important in India with its very high percentage of illiterates. To an increasing degree, as illiteracy is reduced, education in a fuller sense could be provided for those who become literate. Here, as in all branches of education, an important problem will be the securing of teachers and, while the main responsibility is the State's, the help of voluntary organisations, where they are available, will have to be listed.

Training of Teachers.- The great increase in the number of schools all over India call for an enormous stepping up of the output of trained teachers, and India's existing institutions are only sufficient to provide for placements among existing teachers. There will be required ultimately over 2 million non-graduate teachers and 180,000 graduates for high schools. New training schools and colleges must be provided to meet this need. Suitable pupils from high schools and colleges must be ~~provided~~ ^{picked} - particularly from girls' high schools. No fees could be charged and poor students should be helped liberally. Teachers, especially those in remote rural areas, should be able to take refresher courses.

School Medical Services.- On the subject of school medical services and physical education, Mr. Sargent takes his stand on the findings of a Joint Committee appointed in 1941 by the Central Advisory Board of Health and Education. The medical inspection of children is of little value unless linked up with the treatment of defects discovered and arrangements for following up cases where necessary. The provision of midday meals in schools is a step towards combating malnutrition, while better personal hygiene can be taught both by example and precept in schools. Physical training should be given to all children. It is estimated that India's school-going population will need 7,500 school medical officers and 15,000 nurses to run an efficient school medical service. So far what has been done for the education of mentally and physically handicapped children in India has been almost always due to voluntary effort. Provision for them should, however, form part of the State system of education.

Employment Bureaus.- Employment bureaus under the control of the education departments and staffed by trained experts with experience of teaching and of industrial conditions should be maintained in the provinces. They are specially necessary in India because of the restricted openings at the moment for progressive employment. Such bureaus should be responsible for those leaving all types of schools; universities should preferably have their own employment bureaus.

Finance.- For British India alone, the ^{entire} scheme is estimated to cost, by the time it is fully established - that is at the end of between 40 and 50 years - Rs. 3130 million annually, of which Rs. 2770 million will probably, have to come out of public funds. These figures compare with a total expenditure on education of about Rs. 200 million in 1940-41, of which Rs. 175 million came from public funds.

(The Hindustan Times and the Statesman,
dated 18-10-1943.)

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME.

Wages :

Enhanced Scale of Dearness Allowance from 1-6-43
for Lower-paid Punjab Government Employees.

The Government of the Punjab has on 30-9-43 sanctioned a further enhancement in the scale of dearness allowance granted to its lower paid employees. The scales now granted are :

<u>Scale of pay (Monthly)</u>	<u>Rate of Dearness Allowance.</u>		
	<u>(Monthly)</u>		
	<u>Rs.</u>	<u>A.</u>	<u>P.</u>
Upto Rs. 20.	8	8	0
Exceeding Rs.20 but not exceeding Rs. 30.	9	8	0
Exceeding Rs.30 but not exceeding Rs. 40.	11	0	0
Exceeding Rs.40 but not exceeding Rs. 60.	12	0	0
Exceeding Rs.60 but not exceeding Rs. 100.	14	0	0
Exceeding Rs.100 but not exceeding Rs. 150.	10 per cent of pay or Rs.14 per mensem whichever is greater.		
Exceeding Rs.150 but not exceeding Rs. 250.	10 per cent of pay.		

Government servants in receipt of pay exceeding Rs. 250 but not exceeding Rs. 275 per mensem will draw dearness allowance at such rates as will raise their total emoluments to Rs. 275 per mensem. Gazetted Officers whose pay falls within the limits prescribed will also be entitled to the grant of dearness allowance.

The revised rates of dearness allowance will have effect from the 1-6-43.

(Circular letter dated 30-9-43, issued to all Heads of Departments by the Secretary, Finance Department, Government of the Punjab).

Inquiry ^{into} the Principles of fixing
Dearness Allowance: Committee Appointed
by Labour Member.

A committee with Sir Theodore Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India, as chairman, has been appointed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, to determine and report on the principles on which dearness allowances should be fixed.

The question of appointing such a committee was discussed at the last session of the Tripartite Labour Conference (vide pages 4 to 10 of our August 1943 report). It was then generally agreed that the question of profit bonus should be kept separate from that of dearness allowance. There was also general agreement that it was more important

to supply essential articles at reasonable price than to pay extra cash allowances. The conference has authorized its Chairman, Dr. Ambedkar, to appoint a small committee to make precise recommendations on the subject, which would be placed before the next meeting of the Standing Labour Committee. It is in pursuance of this decision that Dr. Ambedkar has now set up a small committee which includes two representatives each of the provinces, employers and labour.

(The Hindustan Time 27-10-43). +

Ahmedabad Textile Labour Unions demand
Adequate Bonus.

The Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association has demanded adequate bonus for the textile operatives for 1943 on the ground that the textile industry has made 'unprecedented' profits during the year. Negotiations between the Millowners' Association and the Textile Labour Association are proceeding in this connection. The Mill Kamdar Union, another labour union in the city, has already demanded three months' wages as bonus for the current year.

(The Bombay Chronicle 25-10-43). +

Employment:

Up-Grading of Semi-Skilled Workers in Bombay
Textile Mills: Views of Bombay Millowners'
Association on Government Scheme.

Towards the end of September 1942, the Employers' Federation of India, at the instance of the Government of India, Department of Labour, invited the views of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, on a scheme to provide for the systematic and continual upgrading of men from the less skilled to the more highly skilled posts after a short period of training with a view to releasing a number of highly skilled men in each factory for transfer to more important war work. In inviting the cooperation of employers, Government pointed out that the pressure on the skilled and highly skilled labour of the country was already great, and since the quantity of this form of labour was severely limited, it was growing increasingly important that as a national asset it should be distributed to the best advantage of the war effort. Government's proposals were examined by the Committee of the Association. While the Committee was willing to do everything possible to assist Government's war effort, it felt that it might not be possible to adopt the scheme in its entirety. The main difficulty in this direction was providing the necessary training facilities. Cotton mills in India are not equipped for the training of highly skilled mechanics, nor had they the necessary staff or class of work for conducting such training. Workshops in cotton mills were essentially repair shops, and had not the facilities usually available in engineering establishments. Departmental machinists in mill workshops were only semi-skilled labour trained for dismantling and assembly of their particular machines, which work did not call for highly skilled workmanship, and the nature of their work did not give them an opportunity to acquire skilled training. Women machinists were generally upgraded after years of experience, but even then their ability was always found to be very limited. The Employers' Federation was informed of the Committee's views, and nothing further, it is reported, has been heard from Government in this matter.

(Annual Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for 1942, Page, 103)

Unemployed Handloom Workers:
Madras Government's Scheme for Employment.

To provide employment to the hand-loom factory workers who have been thrown out of employment as a result of the slump in the cloth market following the introduction of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Act, the Textile Commissioner, Madras, has prepared a scheme, which has been approved by the Government of Madras. Under the scheme a selective weaving centre will be started in Cannanore, Malabar, for the production mainly of twills and drills in hand-loom factories. The cloth produced will be taken over by the special officer-in-charge of the centre and the Provincial Textile Commissioner will arrange for its marketing. The scheme will be worked for the time being with 2,000 looms. The number of looms is likely to be increased if necessary within a month.

(The National Call, 10-10-43).

Labour Conditions in Coal-Mines:
Meeting Convened by Government
of India.

To discuss methods for increasing Indian coal production, a meeting the representatives of the Central and the Provincial Governments concerned and of colliery-owners was convened by the Department of Labour, Government of India, at New Delhi on the 23rd October 1943. The following matters were understood to have been considered:-

Labour Position in the Coal fields.- The representatives of colliery interests were all agreed that the labour position had become increasingly difficult, particularly from the latter half of 1942. The principal reasons for this according to them, were : (1) the "Grow More Food" campaign (2) the counter-attraction of high wages paid by military contractors, (3) inadequate supply of food-grains, which in turn was responsible for high sickness rates, and (4) the serious delays experienced in obtaining stores, and transport (railway wagons) to get the stores to the coalfields. Most of the collieries were granting concessions to the workers to meet the increased cost of living due to war conditions. These concessions were principally: (a) dearness allowance, (b) supply of food grains at concession rates, (c) supply of cheap cloth, and (d) grant of bonus (by some of the bigger collieries).

Some of the colliery owners urged that, in view of the labour shortage, under-ground work of women in mines should be permitted, particularly in Bengal and Bihar coal-fields. It was also suggested that an attempt should be made to stop military contractors from recruiting labour in areas where colliery labour was usually recruited. Another point stressed by some employers was that one of the subsidiary reasons for lowered output was the recent withdrawal of Prohibition by the Bihar Government; some employers disagreed with this view.

Regarding difficulties in connection with transport of stores, the colliery owners urged that no authority should have power to override any priority given by the Chief Inspector of Mines and the Chief Mining Engineer who were in a better position to judge the needs of the coal-fields than purely transport authorities.

Ensurance of adequate Food Supplies.- The discussions seem to have turned on the following three aspects: (1) Was it possible to arrive at any figure of what food rations should be? (2) Was there any relationship between the total amount of rations required by a mining force and the total tonnage of coal raised? (3) Would it be possible to persuade miners to change over from rice to atta (wheat flour)?

It was pointed out that ^{any} scheme which based rations on production and not on the number of persons to be fed, was not likely to be acceptable to the Provincial Governments. Government had now accepted the principle of giving a special ration to heavy workers.

These questions were referred to a sub-committee, which met the same day and reached the following conclusions:-

Provision of Commodities at Concession Rates in Bengal and Bihar.- ~~Employers~~ Employers to initiate uniform schemes.- It was considered desirable that the Employers' Associations should initiate schemes on uniform lines for the supply of food-stuffs and other commodities to their labour, and that the Government of India should ask Provincial Governments to assist

the Association in giving effect to such schemes. The schemes should (a) provide for a uniform rate at which basic foodgrains should be sold by owners to their workers, (b) lay down as a guide a uniform ~~rate~~ of ration (which would fall in with that adopted by the Provinces concerned with due regard to the heavy work done underground, and which would serve as a basis for procurement), and (c) include schemes for providing at concessional rates other commodities such as dal, salt, gur, gram, mustard, oil, tea and standard cloth.

Basic Rations.— It was agreed (a) that the uniform rate at which rice should be sold should be 6 seers (1 seer=2 lbs.) to the rupee, and that other basic foodgrains should be sold at a uniform rate fixed to give approximately the same concession, (b) that procurement of main foodgrains should be based on the following ration: 1½ lbs. of foodgrains per day for each adult male worker, 1 lb. for each woman and ½ lb. for each child dependent; (c) that collieries should themselves distribute the other commodities mentioned (in order to eliminate middlemen's profit), (d) that any worker working not less than four days a week should get a full week's ration. (Those working less than four days would get rations on a pro rata basis. If a man was on a pro rata basis, then his dependents also would be on that basis).

Administrative Arrangements.— The Provinces would require an estimate of the number of persons for whom rations would be required probably a month in advance. The Associations undertook to conduct a sampling census and to send the figures based on the results of this census, to the Government of India. As Government would give assistance in obtaining supplies required, they must have an assurance that those supplies would be used in the right manner. The Secretary of the Labour Department also pointed out that it was probable that Government would consider it necessary to recover the cost involved in administering the above scheme in some form, and that unless production reached 1 ton for each 4 seers of grain provided under Government arrangements, the matter would have to be reconsidered.

(*) Provision of Commodities at Concession rates in coalfields outside Bengal and Bihar.— The Sub-Committee was of opinion that procurement difficulties were not so great in coalfields outside Bengal and Bihar and that therefore a detailed scheme on the lines proposed for Bengal and Bihar was not necessary. It however suggested that coalowners should at once give "commodity concessions" to their labour at rates not less favourable than those proposed for Bengal and Bihar.

(*) Production Bonus.— Some of the employers were not in favour of any production bonus on the ground that it was not likely to provide any additional incentive to increased production. It was pointed out in this connection that, if the miner was given more money, there were no goods in the bazar on which he could spend it and that no goods were available in which to make payments in kind. In reply, it was pointed out that articles such as gur, tamarind, chillies, salt, etc., in which the bonus could be given, were available in the markets; if conditions were sufficiently attractive, the miners would work for more than 4 days a week.

The Labour Member of the Government of India, who was in the Chair, said that it would be difficult for Government to make any provision for additional labour in the mines unless they were quite satisfied that everything possible was being done for labour, and that, in particular, the question of allowing women to work underground in mines would depend

on the attitude adopted towards improving the conditions of existing labour.

As a result of this meeting it is understood that the Government of India would shortly be initiating certain welfare measures for the mining population. The more important of these ameliorative measures are :-

- (1) Forcing the industry by voluntary arrangement, if possible, but ultimately, if necessary, by statute, to give all necessary grain concessions and concessions in respect of consumer goods.
- (2) Taking all possible steps to increase the supply of consumer goods in the coalfields so that increased earnings will prove attractive to labour.
- (3) Immediate enquiry by the Chairman of the Coal Mines Stowing Board into the availability of grainshops, arrangement for supply of food, and the existence of educational, medical and housing facilities in the Bengal, Bihar and Central Provinces coalfields.
- (4) Appointment of a special staff charged with adopting measures for improvement of welfare. The staff is to consist initially of one Chief Welfare Officer and two Welfare Inspectors, and possibly also one Woman Welfare Officer.
- (5) Inclusion in such welfare measures of improved arrangements for the maintenance of public health and if possible, for improved education.
- (6) Examination of the possibility of improvement in ventilation and sanitation in Central Provinces mines.
- (7) Where women are employed underground, making provision-
 - (a) that such women shall be paid rates of wages equivalent to those paid to male workers underground on similar work, and
 - (b) that no woman shall be employed underground in galleries which are less than 6 feet in height.

(This note is for the information of the I.L.O. only, and not for publication.)+

Emigration.

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The Asiatic British Evacuees (Census) Order,
1943. ✓

The Government of India has gazetted ~~and~~ the Asiatic British Evacuees (Census) Order, 1943, so as to take a census of all such ~~evacuees~~ in India. "Asiatic British Evacuees" are defined as Asiatic British subjects who have arrived in India since 8-12-1941, ~~having~~ left any territory to the east of India in consequence of military operations. The census will collect information under the ~~heads~~: civil status, occupation ~~and~~ in the country from which the person was evacuated, educational and other qualifications, details of dependents, present means of livelihood, etc.

(Notification No. 149/43.O.S. dated
2-10-43: The Gazette of India,
Part I, Section 1, dated 2-10-43,
page 1077). ✓

Control Measures :

The Jute Industry Essential Stores Control Order, 1943.

The Jute Industry Essential Stores Control Order was Gazetted by the Government of India to licence the sale and purchase of 21 specified articles considered essential stores of the jute industry.

(Notification No.SS/226 dated 30-9-43: The Gazette of India, Part I, Sec.1, dated 30-9-1943, pages 1104-1105).+

The Ferro-Alloys Control Order, 1943.

The Ferro-Alloys Control Order, 1943, was gazetted by the Government of India to prohibit the sale or purchase of Ferro - Alloys, except under official permission.

(Notification No.1105 dated 30-9-1943: The Gazette of India, Part I, Section 1, dated 9-10-1943, Page. 1104).+

The Cotton Baling Hoops (Control of Movement) order, 1943.

The Cotton Baling Hoops (Control of Movement) Order, 1943, was gazetted to prohibit the movement of cotton baling hoops by road, river, sea or air except under official permission. Movement by rail is permitted.

(Notification No.1150 dated 13-10-1943; The Gazette of India, Part I, Section 1, dated 16-10-1943, Page 1137).+

The Zinc Chloride Control Order, 1943.

The Government of India has gazetted the Zinc Chloride Control Order, 1943, which requires any one wanting to buy zinc chloride to get a licence for the purpose, and prohibits sale of zinc chloride to any one having no valid licence to acquire zinc chloride.

(Notification No.200-Tex(B)/43(1) dated 9-10-1943: The Gazette of India, Part I, section 1, dated 9-10-1943, Page 1097).+

The Cotton Cloth Movement Control Order, 1943.

The Cotton Cloth Movement Control Order, 1943, was gazetted by the Government of India in order to prohibit the movement of cotton cloth from one area to another by rail without a permit from the authorities. For purposes of granting permits, India has been divided into zones of which Bombay and Delhi alone are surplus zones, all the rest being deficit zones. Cotton cloth may be transported only along specified routes.

(Notification No.265-Tex/43, dated 23-10-1943: The Gazette of India Part I, section 1, dated 23-10-1943 Pages 1158-1159).+

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The Wireless Sets Control Order, 1943.

The Government of India has adopted the Wireless Sets Control Order, 1943, to require dealers to declare existing stock and to control the sale of wireless sets imported by the Central Government from the U.S.A.

(Notification No. 457-C.S.(B)(8)/43,
dated 9-10-1943; The Gazette of India,
Part I, section 1, dated 9-10-1943,
Pages 1097-1098). +

The Aluminium Control Order, 1943.

The Government of India has gazetted the Aluminium Control Order, 1943, to prohibit manufacturers from acquiring aluminium without an official certificate. The sale of aluminium and its alloys, except to certificate holders, is prohibited.

(Notification No. 1169 dated 21-10-1943;
The Gazette of India, Part I, section 1,
dated 23-10-1943, page 1167). +

The United Provinces Starch Manufacturing
Control Order, 1943.

The Government of the United Provinces has under the Defence of India Rules issued on 6-10-43, the United Provinces Starch Manufacturing Control Order, 1943, under which no person is to purchase any food-grain for the purpose of manufacturing starch except under and in accordance with the terms of a licence granted under the Order.

(Government Gazette of The United
Provinces Extraordinary dated
9-10-43). +

The Sind Rent Control (Non-residential Premises)
Order, 1943.

The Sind Government has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 27-9-43, the Sind Rent Control (Non-residential Premises) Order, 1943, for controlling the rent of premises let wholly or principally for non-residential purposes. The Rent Controller is authorised to fix 'fair' rates of rent for any such premises. 'Fair rent' normally means the rent at which the premises were let on 1-12-42. The Order applies only to premises the fair rent for which does not exceed Rs. 25 per month.

The Order came into force on 1-10-43 in the Municipal and Cantonment limits of the City of Karachi. Its application may be extended to other areas in the province by notification in the Official Gazette.

(The Sind Government Gazette, dated
30-9-43, Part I, pages 1224-1225). +

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The Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention
Ordinance, 1943 (Ordinance No. 35 of 1943).

Governor General
The ~~Government of India~~ has issued on 16-10-43 the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943. (Ordinance No. 35 of 1943.)

The Ordinance will apply to all articles except food-grains and those which have been exempted specifically by the Government. Under the Ordinance, the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, fix in respect of any article the maximum quantities which may at any time be possessed by a dealer or producer, or may be sold to any person, as also the maximum price that may be charged by a dealer or producer. In the case of articles in respect of which no maximum has been fixed by notification, no dealer shall have in his possession at any time a quantity of the article exceeding one-quarter of the total quantity of that article held by him in the course of the year 1939, or as the case may be, exceeding the quantity which the Controller General of Civil ~~Supply~~ ~~Supplies~~ may fix, and no producer shall have in his possession at any time a quantity of the article exceeding one-quarter of his total production of that article during 1940, 1941 or 1942, in whichever year production was greatest, or the quantity fixed by the Controller General.

Where no maximum has been fixed in regard to the price of an article, no dealer or producer shall sell or otherwise dispose of the article for a consideration which, whether it is paid exclusively in money or not, ~~shall not exceed~~ the amount represented by an addition of twenty per cent or the addition allowed by normal trade practice whichever is less to - (a) the cost landed of the article in the case of an imported article, (b) the cost of ~~pro~~ production of the article in the case of an article which is not imported. No person purchasing an article should, as a condition of its sale, be required to purchase any other article. The margin of 20 per cent allowed to dealers and producers is subject to alteration by the Controller General.

The Ordinance also provides that no person shall have in his possession at any one time a greater quantity of certain articles which the Controller General may specify than what is necessary for the reasonable needs of himself and his family for a period of three months or such longer period as may, for special reasons in his particular circumstances, be considered a reasonable period for which to make provision. "Reasonable needs" includes the fulfilment of social or religious or other customary obligations. This restriction does not apply to a dealer or producer in respect of any article sold or produced by him. No dealer or producer shall, unless previously authorised to do so, without sufficient cause, refuse to sell to any person any article within the limits as to quantity imposed by the Ordinance. The possibility or expectation of obtaining a higher price for the article at a later date shall not be deemed to be a sufficient cause for this purpose. Dealers and producers may be required to mark the sale prices on articles intended for sale, or exhibit prominently a list of prices of such articles.

Contravention of the provisions of the Ordinance is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years or fine or both.

(The Gazette of India, Extraordinary, dated 16-10-43, pages 626-629). +

Bombay Government's Savings Campaign:
Rs. 200 Million Aimed at. ✓

The question of introducing measures to check inflation was recently examined by the Government of Bombay in the light of suggestions received from the Central Government. Besides a country-wide savings campaign, the Government of India had suggested to Provincial Governments that the possibilities of fresh taxation, such as agricultural income-tax, higher stamp and other duties and entertainment tax, might also be examined.

The Government of Bombay has now decided to launch a vigorous savings drive throughout the province, with a view to immobilise surplus purchasing power. The amount aimed at is Rs. 200 million. It has also come to ^{the} conclusion that agricultural income-tax is not to be levied in view of the peculiar nature of the land revenue system in the province, while other heads of taxation offer very limited scope for increase. ~~Since the~~ These considerations have prompted Government not to impose fresh taxation unlike some of the other provinces and to concentrate only on the savings campaign.

(The Times of India,
dated 6-10-43). ✓

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Textile Industry.

The Madras Handloom Standard Cloth (Control of
Production, Distribution and Sales) Order,
1943.

The Government of Madras has issued under the Defence of India Rules on 27-10-43 the Madras Handloom Standard Cloth (Control of Production, Distribution and Sales) Order, 1943. Under the Order handloom standard cloth shall be woven or processed and finished only by (1) Weavers' Co-operative Societies which have been affiliated to, and authorized in this behalf by the Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society; and (2) private licensees to whom the Provincial Textile Commissioner, Madras, has granted licence. Distribution and sale of hand loom cloth have also to be carried on strictly in accordance with the terms of the licence issued for the purpose, and at prices not higher than that fixed by the Provincial Textile Commissioner.

This Order supersedes the Madras Handloom Standard Cloth Control Order, 1943. (Vide page 24 of our June, 1943 report).

(Pages 1 & 2, Rules Supplement to Part I, The Fort St. George Gazette, Dated 5-10-43). +

The Madras Silk Control Order,
1943. +

The Government of Madras has issued under the Defence of India Rules on 2-10-43 the Madras Silk Control Order, 1943. Its main stipulations are that no person shall carry on the business of purchase and sale of raw silk or 'thrown' silk except under a licence granted by the Controller appointed for the purpose, and also that all the silk produced by the charka (Spinning wheel) establishments and filatures shall be sold to the Government only at prices fixed by the Government from time to time.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, dated 3-10-43, Part I Extraordinary, pages 1 & 2). +

Resumption of forward Trading in Cotton:
Central Government's proposed Safeguards.

According to a press note issued by the Government of India on 27-10-43, the Government has decided to permit, as an experimental measure, the reopening of the cotton futures market subject to certain safeguards and conditions. Forward Trading in cotton cloth and yarn was prohibited by Government order on 25-6-43. (vide page 22 of our

June, 1943, report).

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The safeguards proposed are: (1) Forward trading shall be permitted only in the official market which at present exists in Bombay only, i.e. in the East India Cotton Association and such trading in any other market shall be a penal offence. (2) Trading in options shall remain a penal offence. (3) Forward trading shall be subject to maximum and minimum prices. (4) Every member firm shall deposit with the East India Cotton Association, which shall in its turn deposit with the Imperial Bank of India, a sum (not carrying interest) not less than Rs. 25 per bale on the net open futures position of each such member regardless of the price level. (5) The Association shall undertake to enforce rigidly its various disciplinary bye-laws, e.g., any infringement of the limitation of trading hours shall be dealt with immediately by expulsion, etc. (6) The Association must take power to call upon any of its members at any time to declare his open position and the accounts on which it is held. If the Association is unwilling to take such power and to exercise ~~this power~~ it as and when necessary, Government will itself exercise this power. (7) When cotton prices are at the ceiling rates Government shall retain the right of requisitioning cotton for the use ~~of~~ of mills at prices, three to five per cent. below the ceiling rates.

The ceiling price fixed in terms of Indian cotton contract is Rs. 550 per candy (1 candy= 784 lbs approximately) and the minimum is Rs. 400 per candy. It is emphasised that the Government is prepared to allow forward trading in cotton in the special circumstances of the cotton market and only under the strictest possible safeguards. No permission will be given for futures trading in any of the other markets in which such trading is now prohibited.

It is understood that the Board of the East India Cotton Association later approved of Government's proposals.

(The Times of India,
dated 28-10-43). +

The Mysore Silk Control Order.

The Mysore Government has recently issued the Mysore Silk Control Order providing that no trader or trading organisation shall carry on the business of purchase and sale of raw silk or thrown silk except under a license granted by the Controller under the order and that all the silk produced by the charka (spinning wheel) establishments and filatures in the State shall be sold to the Government only, at rates fixed by the Government from time to time. No person shall sell or dispose of any raw silk or thrown silk to any person outside the State without a permit issued in writing by the Controller.

(Mysore Information Bulletin,
August, 1943). +

Production.

Means of Increasing Coal Production:
Bonus on Individual output suggested.

A conference of representatives of provinces producing coal and mining interests was held under the auspices of the Government of India at New Delhi on 23-10-43, to consider ways and means of increasing coal production in India. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member Government of India, presided. Various suggestions for increasing coal production are understood to have been considered. These include the grant of ~~an~~ attendance bonus on individual out-put. An early decision on these suggestions is expected.

(The Hindu, dated 25-10-43).+

Central Government's New Scheme to
accelerate production of Rubber.

In order to secure the maximum out-put of rubber in the immediate future, the Government of India have introduced a scheme for the intensification of tapping on rubber estates and slaughter tapping ~~on~~ specified areas. Producers participating in the scheme will be required to intensify tapping on 80 per cent of their tappable acreage and to slaughter tap the remaining 20 per cent. In compensation for the accelerated exhaustion of the trees so tapped, the Government of India will pay producers, after the cessation of hostilities, the cost of replanting the areas slaughter-tapped.

Every effort will be made by Government to ensure that adequate food supplies will be available for the additional labour that will be required on the rubber estates.

(Press Note dated 20-10-43, issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India, and The Times of India, 22-10-43).
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Anti-hoarding Bill to be introduced in
the Central Assembly.

An anti hoarding Bill has been tabled for introduction in the Central Assembly during its November, 1943, session, by Sir Zia-Uddin Ahmed.

The Bill seeks to lay down that no person, including a producer, shall be permitted to hoard foodgrains over the normal requirements of his family and dependants for a month without a licence. Any person found in possession of foodgrains over normal requirements without a licence will be punishable with a maximum fine of Rs. 50,000 or with a maximum imprisonment of a year or with both and the excess foodgrains shall be confiscated and sold; any person selling foodgrains at a price higher than that notified by Government shall be fined to a maximum sum of Rs. 5,000 or sentenced to a maximum of three months' imprisonment or both. The money realized as fine or from sale of confiscated foodgrains should be deposited under a special fund to be called "Food Equalization Fund" to be used to stabilize foodgrain prices. Other clauses prohibit the carriage of foodgrains from one province to another without a licence for the purpose, and provide for the establishment of a committee of the Legislature with which the Chief Commissioner of Railways should consult in fixing railway freight for transport of foodgrains.

(The Hindustan Times 10-10-43).

Food Distribution in Cawnpore:
Special Arrangements for Workers.

A new scheme for distribution of food grains in Cawnpore, a city with a large labour population, came into force towards the close of September, 1943. In view of the magnitude of the problem resulting from the large increase in population, it was considered advisable to divide the entire city into zones, each under the supervising control of an officer, the Civil Defence Magistrate, ~~that excluding mill and factory workers, about 30 per cent of the total population benefited by the present arrangements in the matter of securing supplies of foodstuffs from Government shops. For mill and factory workers, there are separate arrangements and a special officer is in charge to ensure equitable distribution of rations.~~ It is reported that excluding mill and factory workers, about 30 per cent of the total population benefited by the present arrangements in the matter of securing supplies of foodstuffs from Government shops. For mill and factory workers, there are separate arrangements and a special officer is in charge to ensure equitable distribution of rations.

(The Hindustan Times 4-10-43).

The Bengal Rationing (Establishments) Inquiry
Order, 1943.

The Bengal Rationing (Establishments) Inquiry Order, 1943, issued under the Defence of India Rules by the Government of Bengal on 9-10-43, provides that every person owing or in charge of any establishment in certain specified areas desiring to obtain any specified article of food for use or consumption at such establishment shall furnish to the Controller of Rationing true and correct information in respect of his

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average weekly food requirements. "Establishments" cover catering establishments, residential establishments (boarding houses, hotels, hostels, schools, etc., but not include private households), institutions like hospitals, sanatoria, nursing homes, orphanages etc., bakeries, confectioneries and animal establishments (stables, poultry farms, etc.). The areas to which the order at present applies are Calcutta, and the municipalities of Howrah and Bally - Belur; but it may be extended to other areas by official notification. By 'specified articles' is meant rice, wheat and their products, dal (pulses) and sugar.

(The Calcutta Gazette dated
14-10-43, Part I, pages 1533-34).+

The C.P. and Berar Rationing (Statistics of Establishments) Order, 1943.

The Government of the Central Provinces and Berar has issued under the Defence of India Rules on 14-10-43 the Central provinces and Berar Rationing (Statistics of Establishments) Order, 1943, which provides that persons owning catering, residential, manufacturing and animal establishments (stables, poultry farms, etc.) institutions (hospitals, orphanages, boarding schools, etc) mills, and factories shall furnish to the Government information regarding their average weekly requirements in respect of rice, wheat, juar and their products. The order came into force on 14-10-43 in the Municipal areas of Nagpur and Jubbulpore, and Jubbulpore Cantonment, and a number of villages in the Nagpur and Jubbulpore tahsils; it may be extended to other areas by official notification.

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette dated
15-10-43, Part I, pages 577-78).+

The Assam Rationing Preparatory Measures Order, 1943.

With a view to introduce rationing of essential food materials in certain areas, the Government of Assam has on 5-10-43 issued, under the Defence of India Rules, the Assam Rationing preparatory Measures Order, 1943, providing for numbering of premises, enumeration of persons, collection of information and statistics relating to establishments (shops, institutions, mills, factories, catering houses and residential establishments) and licensing of retail and wholesale shops. The articles to be rationed are rice, wheat, sugar, salt and dal. (pulses.) The Order has come into force within the municipal areas of 8 important towns in the province with effect from 15-10-43.

(The Assam Gazette dated 6-10-43,
Part II, pages 798-799).+

The Assam Essential Articles Restricted Acquisition Order, 1943.

The Government of Assam has on 5-10-43 issued the Assam Essential Articles Restricted Acquisition ~~Order~~ Order, 1943, under which no person may, except under the authority of a licence granted by the Provincial Government, acquire any essential article if by so doing

the quantity thereof in his possession or under his control would exceed the normal quantity. This restriction does not apply to the acquisition, in the ordinary course of his business, of any essential article by a person carrying on the business of a producer, dealer, manufacturer, carrier or warehouse-man. The Order also provides that no person shall sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any essential article to another person if he knows that by doing so the normal quantity of such article in the possession of the other person will be exceeded.

'Essential Articles' means an article which the Provincial Government, being of opinion that the maintenance of the supply thereof is essential to the life of the community, declares to be an essential article and 'Normal Quantity' means such quantity as would be ~~required~~ ^{required} for use and consumption in a household or establishment during a period of one month or such longer period as the Provincial Government may decide should be allowed in view of the existence of any special circumstances.

(The Assam Gazette, Dated 6-10-43, Part II, page 799). +

The Madras Rationing Regulations, 1943:
Special provisions for Labourers. +

In exercise of the powers conferred by the Madras Rationing Order, 1943 (vide page 31 of our July, 1943 report), the Government of Madras has on 5-10-43 gazetted rationing regulations in respect of areas outside the City of Madras where the Order may be brought into force by Order of the Provincial Government. Certain special provisions are made in these regulations in regard to labourers. "Labourer" means a person who earns his livelihood by hard manual labour, and if any question arises as to whether a person is or is not a labourer, it shall be decided by the Rationing Officer.

According to the rationing scheme, for purposes of obtaining any rationed article for household consumption, ration cards have to be secured. A ~~holder of~~ ^{holder} ration card employed by any employer who runs an approved shop shall not register himself for obtaining rationed articles except with his employer, provided that after such period not exceeding two months from the rationing date as the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, may prescribe in this behalf, he may register himself with any authorized retail distributor. "

An "Approved Shop" means a grainshop run by an employer of labour solely for the benefit of his employees and approved as such by the Rationing Officer. No authorized retail distributor who is an employer running an approved shop shall, when requested so to do, refuse to register the holder of a ration card who is his employee. On demand and offer of price by a labourer residing in ^{a rationed} ~~the~~ area who is employed by an employer running an approved shop, the employer shall supply to the labourer, even without the production of a ration card, the rationed article not exceeding the quantity available for four weeks at a time. Any labourer, other than one employed by an employer running an approved shop, may if required, obtain a supplementary ration card from the Rationing Officer.

(Rules Supplement to Part I, the Fort St. George Gazette, 5-10-43, Pages 10-14). +

The Sind Government has issued on 12-10-43, The Sind Rationing Order, 1943, providing for the introduction of rationing in the province in respect of certain articles which will be notified officially.

The City of Karachi Rationing Regulation, 1943, issued along with the Order contains certain special provisions in regard to the supply of increased quantities of rationed articles to persons doing "heavy manual work" residing in the City. A manual labourer who is employed by any one of the specified employing concerns ^(numbered 35) is entitled to be supplied with any one of the specified distributing stores run by that concern, otherwise than on a ration card, with any rationed article not exceeding the quantity available for four weeks at supplementary ration rates. Manual workers not employed by any one of the 35 employers will, on application, be issued with supplementary ration cards.

(The Sind Gazette Extraordinary, dated 16-10-43, Part I, pages 1363-1368) +

Decisions of the Food Conference, New Delhi, 14, 15 and 16-10-1943

Three ^{main} decisions were arrived at by the All India Food Conference which met at New Delhi on 14, 15 and 16-10-1943. These were: the institution of statutory price control of major foodgrains in all provinces, introduction of rationing in urban areas and the delegation to provincial Governments of the responsibility to adopt procurement measures.

Statutory Price Control.- Announcing these decisions, ^{at the conference,} the Secretary, Food Department, Government of India, said that the Government accepted the recommendations of the Conference that statutory price control should be instituted for all major foodgrains in all the provinces, as also ^{similar} control in respect of an increasing number of non-agricultural commodities, particularly those required by the cultivator. The Government was, however, of opinion that in the present emergency, it was not possible to introduce such a control on an all-India basis, and that it would be more advisable to build up price control first on a provincial and then on a regional basis. Meanwhile, it is hoped that Government would be enabled, by the adoption of efficient distribution arrangements supported by imports from abroad, to regain control of all stocks or sufficient stocks to influence the markets of food grains. Pending the enforcement of statutory control of prices throughout India, such provinces as desire to enforce statutory control or ceiling prices will be permitted to do so. What is ultimately aimed at by such measures is a price system under which the price for a crop, once fixed, will remain the same throughout the crop season. For purposes of co-ordination, the Central Government will be vested with the right to suggest changes of prices both upwards and downwards. The Government accepted the recommendation for setting up a Standing Prices Committee at the Centre. Disputes relating to price changes which may arise between the provinces and States and the Central Government will be referred to this committee.

Rationing in Urban Areas.- The Government of India regarded the recommendations relating to urban rationing as a fundamental part of a co-ordinated food plan. It also realized that planning and organization of rationing schemes would take time, but, nevertheless, urged

administrations, not already engaged on the task, to take ^{up} the work
over, without delay.

The Government of India has also urged the provinces and States to
make plans for introducing card rationing in towns with a population
of one hundred thousand and over, and to introduce as early as possible,
essential preliminary measures, such as compiling information rela-
tive to streets and houses, enforcing food grains control order, establish-
ment of Government grain shops, where necessary, and allocating officers
of senior staff for the duties of food control administration.

Procurement Policy.- While accepting the view expressed by the Food
Grains Policy Committee that a Central Government foodgrains monopoly
is, in principle, highly effective, the Government considers that
it is not possible to establish such a monopoly at present. For the
procurement, ~~both~~ both on behalf of the provinces for them-
selves, whether for their own consumption or for export to deficit areas,
and on behalf of the Central Government, will continue to be carried out
by provincial or State agencies. The Central Government will, however,
exercise such a degree of direction, superintendence and control as
may be necessary to secure the effective discharge of these functions.
A uniform pattern of procurement machinery for the whole country is not
likely to be effective, as conditions vary from province to province.
The Government would sponsor a single procurement agency for a
province, which should be essentially a Government procuring agency
co-ordinating with itself, the more important of the local trade organiza-
tions. Requisitioning may be resorted to, if considered absolutely
essential.

Food Supply in Deficit Areas.- In the matter of supplying Food to
deficit areas, Government proposes to proceed by two stages. The first
will be to devise a plan of distribution as between the different
deficit areas, in the light of the declared surpluses of provinces and
States. The plan will ~~be~~ come into operation from the beginning of the
next crop year, the actual movements being adjusted to the harvest-
periods of the State or province concerned. Another step of equal
importance would be to calculate, using the formula proposed by the
Grains Policy Committee, the target deficits and surpluses of the
provinces and States to serve as a basis for discussions between the
Centre and provinces or States concerned. In applying the formula,
account will be had to ~~all~~ all the relevant facts, such as actual crop
conditions, harvesting periods, abnormal increases in population and
statistics of past imports and exports.

(The Hindustan Times,
dated 17-10-43).+

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Post-War Reconstruction.

Financing Industrialisation and Post-war Reconstruction Schemes in Hyderabad State:

Budget Proposals. ✓

The Budget for 1353 Fasli (1943-44) of the Hyderabad State introduced in October 1943, estimates a revenue of Rs. 130.2 millions and expenditure of Rs. 129.3 millions, yielding a surplus of about Rs. .9 millions. Duty on intoxicants has been increased by 50 per cent., and an excise duty has been levied on manufactured tobacco and vegetable ghee. Provision has been made for an expenditure of more ^{than} 20 millions on Education and Public Health. The Budget also provides for an expenditure of Rs. 3.32 millions to push on the "Grow-More-Food" campaign. The post of a Live-stock Officer in the Veterinary Department has also been created. The Budget Note refers to a request likely to be made to the Government of India to supply iron and steel for agricultural implements and also machinery, stores and plant for ~~xxxx~~ Hyderabad's Post-War Reconstruction schemes. Another important feature of the Budget is the formation of three new Reserves called: (a) The Budget Stabilization Reserve; (b) The Post-War Development Reserve; and (c) the Securities Adjustment Reserve.

Post-war Adjustment.-Referring to the post-war period, the Budget Note stated that some adjustment may become necessary in the post-war period due to increased expenditure on nation-building departments like education, public health, agriculture and veterinary, but that the financial structure of the State is sufficiently strong and the untapped taxable capacity sufficiently elastic to bear the legitimate burden which a future Government may like to impose in the interest of progress and development.

Education and Public Health.- The Budget Note outlines the schemes for the expansion of education and the promotion of public health for which provision has been made in the new year's Budget. The schemes provided for under the head "Education" are :- Establishment of a technological laboratory attached to the Osmania University for students of M.Sc. in Technology (oils and ceramics). Reorganisation of over 1,100 single teacher schools. Raising the salaries of primary school Teachers. Raising 3 Boys' middle schools and 3 girls' middle schools to the status of high schools. Making provision for the teaching of agriculture in 3 middle schools for boys. Strengthening the staff of middle and high schools. Making full provision for 6 middle schools and partial provision for 15 middle schools for boys and girls. Introduction of refresher courses for teachers as a permanent feature. Opening one agricultural school at Farbhani. Raising industrial schools at Aurangabad and Warangal to the grade of vocational high schools. Opening 7 industrial schools for boys and girls in Hyderabad and Districts. Reorganisation of industrial schools. Raising grants-in-aid and awarding new grants-in-aid to private schools. Opening of about a dozen hostels. Small provision for mid-day meals for students in schools. Under the head 'Public Health', provision has been made for new hospitals, health schemes, expansion of medical facilities, launching of a malaria scheme at Nizamsagar and additional funds for medicines, diet and bedding for patients.

Expenditure on Nation-building Activities.- The Budget for 1943-44 provides for a capital expenditure of 9.037 millions, ~~xxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~

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which include expenditure on the following items : Construction of roads - Rs. 2.5 millions; Hydro-electric scheme at Nizamsagar - Rs. .85 millions; irrigation - .411 millions; railway construction - .247 millions; and district electricity schemes - .224 millions. In order to avoid excessive consumption of cement, steel and iron which are primarily required for war purposes and to check inflationary tendencies the Government has stopped all works which are not deemed 'inescapable', but it is felt that Hyderabad is in immediate need of expansion in its system of communication and accordingly a sum of Rs.2.5 millions has been provided for this purpose which is over and above the ordinary grant of Rs. 1.5 millions. Besides this Government has undertaken to supply standard cloth and cheap grain to the labour employed on these roads and this is expected to result in a loss of Rs. .2 to .25 millions. The other important item of Capital Expenditure is that of Hydro-electric scheme at Nizamsagar, preliminary investigations for which have already taken place and details ~~will~~ be worked out in the immediate future. This supply of cheap electric power should stimulate the establishment of suitable industries in and adjoining the Nizamsagar area, plans for which are being worked out in the Post-War Reconstruction Department.

Post-War Development Reserve.- This Reserve is being started by transferring to it any balance in excess of Rs. 30 millions from the State Stabilization Reserve as well as the future profits on coinage and interest accruing on securities held in this Reserve. In fixing the limit of 30 millions for the ~~Hyderabad~~ Government Reserve, has been guided by the practice in British India where a fixed reserve of 100 millions against a much larger rupee issue has proved adequate. Thus a reserve of Rs. 30 millions for a total metallic currency issue of Rs. 200 millions is within very safe limits. This Reserve will be utilized for expenditure on rural development, industries and financing of other productive schemes useful for nation-building which may not otherwise be considered strictly justified.

Help to Cultivators.- On this subject the Budget Note says: An important matter which is causing some anxiety is the lack of iron and steel required for maintaining agricultural implements in the villages at certain minimum standards of efficiency. The cultivator has found it difficult, in the past four years, to buy iron and steel required by him and that also at the exorbitant prices ruling in the black market. It is proposed to request the Government of India to supply the required tonnage of suitable qualities of iron and steel for this purpose so that Government could distribute these to the cultivator on equitable basis and thus encourage and help in the 'Grow-More-Food' campaign. With the welcome change in the fortunes of the war, it should be possible in the coming months to release shipping ~~taxes~~ capacity for civilian purposes and by import of necessary stores and other machinery and plant to enable industries to increase their production for these purposes. There is some scope for increasing production in Hyderabad, given the proper facilities, and the Commerce and Industries Departments ~~will~~ place their requirements before the Government of India. The utilization of the sterling balances accumulated in Great Britain against the large issues of paper currency in India is principally a matter for the Government of India, but as the premier State interested in the Post-War development of industries, Hyderabad feels that such balances should provide the necessary exchange facility to India, including the States, when the time comes for them to place their orders for machinery and plant for industries for which plans are at present under ~~serious~~ consideration.

(Hyderabad Information, October 43).

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New Development Loan in Hyderabad State. ✓

Along with other anti-inflationary measures, the Hyderabad State Government has decided to take advantage of the easy condition of the money market and to float a Development Loan at a low rate of interest. The loan is repayable at par in (October 1963) but Government reserves the right to repay the loan, or any part thereof at par in (October 1953) on giving three calendar months' notice.

The intention of Government is to embark on a policy of construction of public and other works - without unduly straining the demand for cement, iron and steel which are required for war purposes - such as roads or preparatory works for dams, etc. A similar programme for smaller hospitals and dispensaries is also under consideration of Government. Manufacturers, both in England and America, are now booking orders for the supply of machinery and plants after the war on condition that prices are fixed at the time of manufacture on the basis of certain index figures in respect of labour, costs of materials, etc. Orders now booked would receive priority and the Government intends to take advantage of this position as soon as arrangements are completed.

(Hyderabad Information,
October 1943 issue). ✓

Progress of Government's Reconstruction Schemes:
Review by Deputy President, Reconstruction Committee. ✓

The progress achieved by the Government of India in working out its post-war reconstruction schemes was briefly reviewed by Sir J.P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India, and Deputy President of the Reconstruction Committee, at a Press conference held at New Delhi on 12-10-43. The programme as outlined at the conference are briefly dealt with below:

Settlement of Ex-service men: Fund of Rs.50 million built up.- The establishment of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee (the reconstitution of the Committee was referred to at pages 41-42 of our April, 1943 report) and the inter-departmental co-ordination effected under its auspices by the secretariat of the Committee, it was pointed out, have resulted in various departments of the Central Government undertaking a large amount of preparatory work, including the compilation of relevant data, which may finally materialise into definite proposals.

The Directorate of Welfare and Amenities in the Defence Department has extended the systems of district soldiers' boards and civil liaison staff, which are attending to the difficulties and problems of soldiers' families; and a survey of the land resources that might be available for the resettlement of ex-soldiers has been carried out. The problem of training suitable technical personnel in the defence services, in the period preparatory to demobilisation, for absorption in civil industries after the war, is being examined, and it is proposed to establish Military Employment Bureaux in conjunction with Employment Exchange Schemes contemplated by the Labour Department for labour as a whole.

The Military Reconstruction Fund financed by per capita contributions from the Government for the permanent benefit of the enlisted classes already amounted to Rs.50 million and may exceed twice that

amount, if hostilities continue for the next two years. Proposals for the utilisation of this fund are being examined in consultation with provinces and Indian states, and they contemplate the establishment of institutions which, besides functioning as training centres for ex-service personnel to fit them for a better type of civil life, will also be supply centres for agricultural machinery, implements and other requisites as well as centres of small-scale industrial activity and employment. These institutions will also undertake 'projects' under which a thorough attempt will be made to make the best, agriculturally, of selected individual villages. The Directorate of Welfare and Amenities through its Current Affairs' pamphlets is educating soldiers to prepare them for their return to civil life after the war. Schemes for giving them practical training in subjects relating to rural development are also being prepared.

Surplus Industrial Labour.- The problem of industrial labour employed in all industries, including Government factories, part of which will be thrown out of employment after the war, is also being studied. The question of the re-settlement of officers and technical personnel, as well as problems connected with the further education or training of the personnel concerned, interrupted or prevented by war service, are under examination.

Road Development.- A skeleton plan for the post-war development of roads has been evolved by the technical experts of the Government of India and is being examined in consultation with the provincial Governments (and Indian states), since roads and road transport are provincial subjects. If the outlines of the scheme are acceptable, the central Government will set up the technical organization required to facilitate co-ordinated planning and schemes of development, to sponsor research in regard to road construction methods, materials therefor and their production, and to advise Provincial Governments and Indian States on all technical and specialized subjects, such as standards of surfacing, bridging, etc. The end of the war will see a large number of motor vehicles and trained drivers and these will have to be utilized to the best advantage. This problem, as well as the question of co-ordination of all forms of transport and the best utilization of each, are under scrutiny by a technical committee.

Civil Aviation.- Detailed planning is in progress in respect of air routes, services, ground organizations, training, etc., with a view to establishing a comprehensive network of air communications. An experienced officer with a full knowledge of Indian conditions is engaged on this task.

Reorganisation of Agriculture.- The Official Committee on Agriculture is examining the short term and the long-term problems connected with agricultural improvements and a senior experienced officer is preparing a report on the technological possibilities of agricultural development in India. The report will examine possibilities both under circumstances more or less as they exist today and under certain conditions of assumed basic improvements, such as, for instance, ~~maintain~~ creation of economic holdings, extended irrigation, anti-erosion measures, increased subsidiary occupations, use of superior chemical manures, etc. The experience of the post-depression and the war periods has shown that India's agriculture is no longer immune from adverse influences from outside and that in the economic sphere it is necessary to consider connected problems, such as prices, marketing, etc., against the background of world conditions and international commodity agreements. This aspect of the subject is also being

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examined.

A report on the development and utilization of forest resources and another on the development of fisheries are also under preparation. The possibility of expanding indigenous production of fertilisers is being examined by the Supply Department.

Electric Power Production Schemes.- Electrical development is the key to agricultural and industrial progress in India, and it is realised that a programme for the next 5 to 10 years is urgently needed. An official committee is actively engaged on the examination of the problems involved, including those of India's requirements of plant and equipment, the co-ordination and control of electric power supplies and the part which the central Government can play in stimulating the activities of provincial Governments and States in the respect.

Extension of Irrigation Facilities.- The question of extending irrigation facilities has been taken up specially and the problems involved will be considered in consultation with the administrations concerned. In particular, specific schemes for tube well irrigation are being drawn up as part of the Grow More Food Campaign, as well as also of the long-term development required.

Industrial Planning.- Considerable progress has also been made in connection with industrial problems. In the first instance, it is realised that there will be a scramble for the acquisition of capital goods in the early post-war period and that India must be prepared with estimates of her own requirements and make arrangements for priority of deliveries in respect of the plant and equipment required immediately after the war. Industrial organisations are proposed to be addressed regarding the requirements of each industry and estimates for the machinery required for public works and electric undertakings are being prepared. A survey of the strength and weakness of India's industrial organisation is also being made, with a view to formulating definite plans for post-war development, and the problems of post-war commercial policy, tariffs, etc., are being examined.

Social Services.- The Government of India realise that, apart from problems which emerge more or less directly out of the war, factors which increase national welfare and improve the standard of living must take a prominent place in any constructive planning of the post-war future. An official committee has been constituted to co-ordinate the activities of the various departments in respect of social services and to ensure that the whole field is adequately covered. The Department of Education, Health and Lands have set up a committee of officials and non-officials, under the chairmanship of Sir Joseph Bnore, to examine and make recommendations on problems relating to health. The Central Advisory Board of Education is reviewing the possibilities of educational development in urban as well as rural areas. The Board has already appointed a special Committee to deal with technical education. The Labour Department ~~has~~ has also several schemes of far-reaching significance in hand. An investigation of the possibility of introducing minimum wage legislation in the case of certain employments is in progress and a scheme for the establishment of employment exchanges for technical personnel is nearing completion, and it is expected that some exchanges will be established almost immediately. A tentative scheme ~~for~~ of sickness insurance for certain ~~some~~ classes of industrial labour has been prepared and is likely to be ready for discussion by industrialists early next year. Among other questions

under consideration are the training of welfare officers, compulsory recognition of trade unions, model rules for provident funds, etc.

Women's Committee on Social Services.- The importance of associating women's representatives with planning for better social services is recognised, and it has been decided to constitute a women's committee on social services. The committee, which is expected to be constituted shortly, will be given full scope to advise Government in certain fields which particularly affect the womanhood of India.

Policy Committees.- The various policy committees composed of official representatives of the central, provincial and state Governments and non-official representatives of trade, industry, labour and other organisations, as well as members of the general public with expert knowledge or experience, have now been constituted. A general policy committee has also been established to deal with matters of general interest or which concern more than one policy committee.

Concluding ^{the} review, Sir J.P. Srivastava pointed out that, while considerable progress has been made, a great deal remains to be done, but with the co-operation of the non-official members of the various committees as well as the general public, the Government of India is confident that the important tasks ahead could be completed successfully.

(The Leader, dated 15-10-43). ✓

Post-War Reconstruction Advisory Committee
set up in Bengal. ✓

The Government of Bengal has notified on 15-10-43 the constitution of a committee to advise the Government generally on post-war reconstruction problems in Bengal and to formulate schemes likely to advance the all-round development of the province. The Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour, and Industries Department, Government of Bengal, will be the chairman (Ex-officio). The committee consists of eleven members, including Mr. N.R. Sarkar, ex-Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, Mr. Ghulam Mohamed, Finance Minister, Hyderabad, and Sir J.C. Ghosh, Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Mr. S. Drucquer, I.C.S., is the Secretary. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

(The Calcutta Gazette dated 21-10-43, Part I, Page 1547). ✓

Settlement of Ex-Service Men:
Bombay Government's Agricultural
Development Scheme. ✓

The Bombay Government's plans for the settlement of ex-soldiers in selected villages and various schemes of rural ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ reconstruction and development were unfolded at the meeting of the Rural Development Board held at Bombay on 5 and 6-10-43.

Development of villages of ex-soldiers.- In view of the unavailability of large blocks of land for the settlement of returned soldiers and the possible reluctance of ex-soldiers to leave their home villages, Government has decided that resettlement should be along the lines of

general reconstruction. The cost of such a scheme would be largely met from the Government of India's Post-War Reconstruction Funds. In taking up rural reconstruction work, preference will be given to villages where a fair number of soldiers and their families are found. Government has provisionally selected 20 villages in each of the two leading recruiting districts of Satara and Ratnagiri and the possibilities of an all-round development of these villages, with special reference to the problems of the returned soldier and his family, are being explored. A similar selection of villages on the basis of good recruiting figures, would be made in other districts.

The scheme of reconstruction of the selected villages would aim at a general improvement in the economic level of the countryside by anti-erosion work to prevent further deterioration in the cultivable area; contour ploughing on a large scale to conserve the available water supply to enable an extension of proper dry farming methods; afforestation; encouragement of well-sinking and, where practicable, minor irrigation, improvement in road communications and agricultural practice, extension of marketing facilities, consolidation of holdings, provision of educational and other amenities and improvement of live-stock.

Training in Agriculture and village Industries for ex-soldiers.-
Government also has under consideration schemes for the training of ex-soldiers in agriculture and village industries, with special emphasis on ~~xxxx~~ demonstration parties, training in industrial schools and financial assistance to trainees to set up business.

(The Times of India,
dated 9-10-43). +

Need for Industrialization:
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Address at
Meeting of post war Reconstruction
Policy Committee. +

In his address at the opening conference of the ~~Post-War~~ Reconstruction Policy Committee on Public Works and Electric Power, held at New Delhi on 25-10-43, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, emphasised that the main solution for the chronic poverty prevailing in India is to make agriculture profitable and that the only way to do this is to launch a vigorous drive in favour of industrialisation. He said that for the success of any such programme cheap and abundant electricity is absolutely essential.

Dr. Ambedkar said that industrialisation of the country was the surest means to rescue the people from the 'eternal cycle of poverty'. He considered it a great misfortune that India is primarily an agricultural country. Agriculture in this country has 'failed miserably' and this is especially made clear by the fact that, although devoted mostly to cultivation of food crops, she has not been able to produce enough food for her people. There is no increase in the income from land corresponding to the growth of population; on the other hand, it is really going down due to the gradual deterioration of the soil. A solution for this situation could be found only when agriculture is made profitable. "Nothing can open possibilities of making agriculture in India profitable except a serious drive in favour of ~~the industrialization~~

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Industrialization. For it is industrialization alone which can drain away the excess of population which is exerting such enormous pressure on land into gainful occupations other than agriculture".

Referring to the special problems facing India in regard to reconstruction plans, he said that whereas in other countries Reconstruction Committees may have to deal with problems of resetting the organization of production from war basis to peace basis, reconditioning of rundown plant and machinery or replacement of tools and plants which have been destroyed in the war, the problem of reconstruction in India must include the consideration of all the questions with which other countries engaged in the war are concerned. It is mainly a problem of industrialisation with the ultimate aim of removing chronic poverty. "The problem of reconstruction in India, is a problem mainly of the industrialization of India as distinguished from rehabilitation of industry".

(The Hindustan Times,
dated 26-10-43).

Capital Re-equipment of Industries:
Questionnaire to be issued.

The Post-War Reconstruction Policy Committee on Trade and Industry, at a meeting held at New Delhi on 21-10-43, has decided the terms of a questionnaire to be addressed to industries to elicit factual data on which definite plans for post-war developments can be based.

Capital Re-equipment.- Submitting the draft questionnaire prepared by the Government of India for the consideration of the Committee, Sir Azizul Haque, Commerce Member, Government of India, pointed out that the Government was fully aware of the hardships borne by industries due to the continuation of excessive wear and tear on plants and increased difficulty of replacement. Government therefore feels that, in so far as these machineries and plants have to be imported from abroad, no time could be lost in making an aggregate estimate of India's total post-war requirements and that it is essential to place the necessary orders early enough with the exporting countries and organizations concerned.

Planning.- Sir Azizul Haque, also, stated how, since such re-equipment and expansion would necessarily bring in the question of launching new industries, there is need for a sound policy to guide such new enterprises and for a well thought-out plan of action. The kind of new machinery that will be required depends on the new industries it is desired to establish and upon the scale of operation contemplated. While realising that it is its duty to assist new industry and new enterprise, the Government also looks to the trade and industry, to advise it as to what in their opinion are likely to be the scope and prospects of such new industries.

The draft questionnaire has been prepared with a view to elicit all the necessary information in this regard from the interests concerned.

(The Hindustan Times 22-10-43).