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International Labour Office Bureau International du Travail	Report for November 1943
Date: JAN 12 1944	LABOUR LEGISLATION. ✓
Government of India:	
	Indian Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 1943: Introduction and Circulation.

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Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, introduced in the Central Assembly on 8-11-1943 a Bill to amend the Trade Unions Act, 1926, by inclusion of conditions under which trade unions may be accorded recognition. The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that trade disputes often occur or are prolonged because an employer refuses to recognise a trade union of his workmen. The position has not much improved since the Royal Commission completed its report and it is felt that the time has now come when the compulsory recognition of trade unions must be provided for by legislation. With all its limitations recognition by statute will at least clarify the position and give organised and well conducted trade unions the status they deserve. It may achieve much more. The present Bill provides for the compulsory recognition of trade unions under certain conditions and defines what recognition will imply. Power is taken to set up tripartite Boards of Recognition which will report on the representativeness of trade unions and their fitness to be recognised. The main conditions of recognition will be that the trade union must have been a registered union for 12 months and that it must have previously applied to the employer concerned for recognition. Unions formed on a communal or sectarian basis will not be eligible for recognition. Besides laying down the basic conditions required for recognition, the Bill allows for additional conditions to be imposed by the appropriate Government and power is given to the Central Government to issue directions to Provincial Governments in this matter. Recognition will be granted or withdrawn by the appropriate Government after receiving a report from the Board of Recognition, where one is appointed or, in other cases from the Registrar. Recognition will entitle a union to negotiate with the employer in respect of matters affecting the common interests of its members. The Bill also states the obligations of employers consequent on recognition.

On 13-11-1943, the Assembly adopted a motion to circulate the Bill for eliciting public opinion. Mr. Griffiths (Employers' Representative) while supporting circulation, criticized certain provisions and characterized the Bill as a whole as nebulous, uncertain and indefinite in many parts. He took particular objection to giving protection to labour and treating them as " hot-house plants" instead of leaving it to labour as in Great Britain to build up trade unions which were reasonable, representative and efficient.

Mr. Jammadas Mehta declared it was only because Mr. Griffiths and employers like him would not learn the lessons of experience, such as were embodied in the International Labour Conventions, that labour stood in need of protection from the State.

Mr. N.M. Joshi declared that employers had shown hostility to the trade union movement and that was the reason why the Bill was needed. Employers in many cases insisted not only on trade unions being representative, but wanted trade unions to have no politics. A standing order issued by a mill in Madura laid it down that trade unions should be

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"devoid of political or social views". Mr. Joshi asked whether Employers' Associations would like to have such conditions laid down for observance by them.

Union of Government Employees.- Sir Gurunath Bewoor replied to criticisms of the Posts and Telegraph Department's attitude to trade unions, and said that the Department was in fact the first to have recognized unions. It had a union before the last war and now had 17 all-India unions. He imagined that one of the reasons why the provisions of the present Bill were not meant to be made immediately applicable to labour employed by the Crown, by a Federal Railway or a major port was that the Government already had well-established rules for the recognition of Government Servants' unions.

Dr. Ambedkar, replying mainly to Mr. Griffiths' criticisms, pointed out that there was nothing indefinite about the conditions on which recognition was to be given to trade unions. The representative character of a union would be decided by a tripartite board to be set up under the Bill. That board could go into all the relevant circumstances, including if necessary the private character of the leaders of the union. As regards the provision about labour employed by Government, he explained that there was really no exemption given to them from the provisions of the Bill. What was provided was that a date would be fixed when the provisions would be made applicable to them.

(The Gazette of India, Part V,
dated 13-11-1943, pages 225 to 229
and the Hindustan Times 14-11-43).

(A copy of the Bill was sent to Montreal with our Minute dated D/945/43 dated 10-11-1943). +

Government of India:

Lifting of Ban on Employment of Women
underground in Coal Mines in Bengal
and Bihar. +

Reference was made at page 1 of our July 1943 report to the Notification gazetted by the Government of India on 2-6-1943 lifting the ban on the employment of women under ground in the Coal Mines in C.P. and Berar. On 24-11-1943, the Government of India issued a Notification (No. N. 5731) exempting until further orders, all coal mines in Bengal, Bihar or the Central Provinces and Berar from the provisions of clause (j) of section 29 of the Mines Act, to the extent to which regulations made thereunder prohibit the entry of women into underground working for the purposes of employment, subject however, to the following conditions, namely:- (i) no woman shall be employed underground in galleries which are less than six feet in height; and (ii) every woman employed underground shall be paid wages at the same rate as a man employed underground on similar work.

(The Gazette of India, Part I,
Section 1, dated 27-11-1943,
page page 1284). +

Madras:Exemption of Certain Classes of Workers
from Hours of Work Provisions of Factories
Act.

The Government of Madras has gazetted rules under the Factories Act to define the classes of persons who are, subject to certain conditions, exempted from the provisions relating to hours of work and weekly rest of the Factories Act.

(Notification G.O.No.2184,
P.W.(Labour) dated 19-10-1943:
The Fort St.George Gazette,
Part I, Rules Supplement,
dated 16-11-1943, pages 2 to 8).

Orissa:Exemption of Certain Classes of Workers
from Hours of Work Provisions of Factories
Act.

The Orissa Government has gazetted certain Rules to replace those already in force, which define the classes of persons who are, subject to certain conditions, to be exempted from the provisions relating to hours of work and weekly rest of the Factories Act.

(Notification No.25470-1 Fac/43-
Gen.(c) dated 15-11-1943: The
Orissa Gazette, Part III, dated
19-11-1943, pages 288 to 290).

Punjab:The Punjab Maternity Benefit Act,
1945, (Act VI of 1945).

The Punjab Maternity Benefit Bill which was introduced in the local Legislative Assembly on 26-3-1943 was referred to a Select Committee the same day. The Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, was considered by the Assembly on 2-11-1943 and passed the same day. It received the assent of the Governor on 15-11-1943 and the text of the Act is published at pages 113 to 115 of the Punjab Gazette Extraordinary dated 20-11-1943.

The main features of the Act are: (1) It applies to all perennial factories including those brought under the Factories Act under Sec. 4 (j). (2) A woman should not be employed, or work, in a factory during the 30 days immediately following ~~the~~ her delivery. (3) A woman worker is entitled to maternity benefit at the rate of ~~the~~ her average daily earnings or 12 annas a day ~~whichever~~ whichever is greater for the days she is on leave up to a maximum of 30 days preceding and for 30 days after delivery, provided she has been working under the employer from whom benefit is claimed for not less than 9 months immediately preceding the day of delivery. (4) Full benefit is payable even in case of the death of the woman worker and her child, if her death happens on

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the day of delivery or there after; if death happens earlier, employer need pay only up to day of death. ✓ +

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SOCIAL POLICY.

Separate Labour Department for Bihar. ✓

It is understood that the Bihar Government is setting up a separate Labour Department at Patna at the beginning of December 1943. At present the Labour Department is a branch of the Industries Department, but as the work of the Labour Department has increased much, it cannot cope with the present work as a sub-Department. It is also learnt that Mr. S.N. Mazumdar I.C.S. will be appointed Labour Commissioner.

(Vanguard, 16-11-1943). ✓

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CONDITIONS OF WORK.

General.

The Bengal Fisheries Bill, 1943. ✓

On 28-9-1943, a Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly by a non-official member to provide for State control, extension and improvement of the fisheries of Bengal, and protection against exploitation of people engaged in the fishing industry. The statement of objects and reasons points out that fish is one of the chief articles of diet in Bengal, but its supply is steadily decreasing and there is serious apprehension of shortage of fish in the near future unless legislation is made for State control, extension and improvement of fisheries. It is also necessary to protect the actual catchers of fish from exploitation. With the above objects in view, the present Bill has been drawn up and provisions have been made in it for protection of fries, for observance of close seasons, for catching of fish and for removal of jak, etc., and also for fixing the maximum proportion of rent realised from fishermen. ✓

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV-A, dated 18-11-1943, page 47). ✓

Working of the Bombay Government's
recently Set up Commercial and
Industrial Intelligence Bureau. ✓

The working since its establishment by the middle of 1943 of the commercial and Industrial Section of the Department of Industries, Government of Bombay, is reported to be very encouraging. During the first four months of its existence, the Bureau dealt with nearly 700 inquiries of various types - from the commercial and industrial community of Bombay (580), Bombay Government departments (6), inter-provincial (170), Government of India (129) and over-seas (15).

Functions of the Body. The principal functions of the new Section are to disseminate commercial and industrial information, to collect statistics of industrial production, to prepare an authoritative commercial directory for the province, to survey the sources of raw materials for provincial industries, and to organise and maintain a technical and commercial library. This work has been split up into six divisions of which four - commercial and industrial intelligence, statistics, research and library - have already commenced work. The remaining two - industrial survey and general division - are to be inaugurated shortly. The Commercial and Industrial Intelligence division collects, collates and disseminates information to foster the growth of trade, commerce and industry in the province of Bombay. The Statistics division collects information regarding the production of industrial concerns in the province.

Industrial Survey. Information of the present quantitative production of various factories, and the possibility of expanding existing factories and establishing new ones is essential to meet the increasing demand for stores from indigenous sources. Such information is as indispensable for any scientific planning for industrial development for war emergency now as for peace-time reconstruction hereafter. At present there are only two publications issued by the Government of India which provide production statistics of some of the industries. They, however, give only very brief information about the quantity and description of articles produced and hence are quite inadequate to meet the growing demands for industrial information.

To remedy this, the Government of India passed the Industrial Statistics Act early in 1942, empowering the Central as well as the Provincial Governments to collect industrial and labour statistics under the Act. Taking advantage of this Act, the C.I.I. Section has prepared a ~~report~~ scheme for a preliminary census of Bombay's industrial production. This is the first attempt of its kind made in India. The scheme has been approved by economists and prominent Bombay industrialists and sanctioned by the Government of Bombay.

The Officer-in-Charge of the section^{is} Dr. S.M. Dhume, D.Sc., Ph.D. (London),

(The Times of India, dated
8-10-1943). ✓

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Working Class Cost of Living Index for
Various Centres in India during March
1943.

The index number of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during March 1943, as compared with the preceding month :-

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base = 100</u>	<u>February 1943</u>	<u>March 1943</u>
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	205	208
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1927	165	173
Bhopalpur	Year ending January 1938	151	160
Bangpur	August 1939	234	262
Bahiana	1931-35	339	339
Banarpore	August 1939	235	248
Batna	Average cost of living for five years preceding 1914.	<i>not available.</i>	
Banshodpur	1936	255	265
Baria	Ditto	256	269
Bardras	Year ending June 1936	163	170
Bardra	Ditto	164	164
Bambatore	Ditto	180	185

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in
India for March 1943). ✓

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SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation
Act in Bombay in 1942. ✓

According to the report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bombay in 1942, compensation paid to injured workers in Bombay Province in 1942 and reported to the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, totalled Rs. 667,960. In addition, there was the compensation paid direct for injuries resulting in temporary disablement by employers not obliged to report such payments to the Commissioner. Of the total of Rs. 667,960, Rs. 503,175 were awarded in contested cases, from voluntary deposits and paid under agreements, and Rs. 164,785 were paid by reporting employers directly to injured workmen for injuries causing temporary disablement.

The year opened with 221 cases (both applications and agreements) pending from the previous year, and 1,376 cases were ^{received} during the year, making a total of 1,597 cases. Of these 1,325 were disposed of. There were 264 cases relating to fatal accidents, 1,049 to non-fatal accidents and 12 miscellaneous. The number of applications in proceedings before the Commissioner disposed of was 534, against 489 in the previous year. Of these 161 were cases of award, 361 cases of voluntary deposits and 12 miscellaneous. Of the 161 cases of award, claims were allowed in full in 27 cases and in part in 70 cases. In three of the 13 cases dismissed, ~~ex gratia~~ ^{ex gratia} payments totalling Rs. 375 were made by employers. Indemnity was claimed and granted in seven cases.

Of the 361 cases of deposits, 211 were in respect of fatal accidents and 150 of non-fatal accidents, of which 17 related to injuries to women or minors and 133 to male adults. In seven cases of fatal accidents, deposits amounting to Rs. 10,580 were refunded to employers, no claimant having come forward. In no case did the employer desire to be made a party to distribution proceedings.

The number of agreements pending from the previous year was 99, and 84 new agreements were received for registration. The number of agreements disposed of was 791, of which 782 were for permanent and nine for temporary disablement. Of the total of 791 agreements, 774 were registered without modification and 12 after modification. In five cases registration was refused, in one on the ground of inadequate compensation and in four for other causes. The compensation paid under the 786 agreements registered amounted to Rs. 171,352, against Rs. 128,355 under 675 agreements in the previous year. The number of agreements pending registration at the end of the year was 92.

Compensation was awarded in 409 cases, against 383 in the previous year. In 178 of these cases the injuries were fatal, in 187 the result was permanent disablement and in 44, temporary disablement. The wage group most numerously represented was Rs. 27, followed by Rs. 15, Rs. 30 and Rs. 35. The number of workmen receiving compensation at Rs. 60 and above was 64, against 48 in the previous year. In two cases compensation was paid at the maximum rate.

Working of ^{the} Payment of Wages Act. - This was the fifth complete year in which the Payment of Wages Act had been in operation. The year opened with seven applications pending and 68 were filed. Of the total of 75 applications, 69 related to claims in respect of delayed wages and three to unlawful deductions: The number of workers involved was 136. Of the 38 applications decided, 23 were dismissed, five were withdrawn and 40 were allowed either in part or in full. The total amount claimed in

spect of the 68 applications was Rs.5,751-6-6, of which claims to the tent of Rs. 1,523-8-2 were allowed, with Rs. 78-4-0 for compensation d costs. In all cases the amounts of the awards were paid to the plicants in accordance with the directions and in no case was any plication for recovery received. Of the 68 new applications filed ring the year, 58 were from individual workmen and nine were group plications. The number of applications presented by trade unions was

(Press Note No.1084 dated
3-11-1943 issued by the
Director of Information,
Bombay). ✓

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MIGRATION.

Indians in Ceylon, 1942: Report of the
Agent of the Government of India.* ✓

In his annual Report for 1942, the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon points out that of the total area of 18,212,400 acres of Ceylon, 60,000 acres are under tea, 606,000 under rubber, 1,100,000 acres under coconut and 1,272,000 under other products, the total cultivated area being 3,538,000 acres. The estimated total population of Ceylon at the end of 1942 was 6,083,000; of these about 750,000 were Indians.

Indian Estate Population.- The number of Indian labourers and their dependents on estates on 31-12-1942, was 680,785 as against 669,472 at the end of 1941, and 688,179 at the end of 1940. Of these, 203,993 were men, 197,882 women and 278,910 children. The total number of estates employing 5 or more Indian labourers and paying acreage fees to the Indian Immigration Fund on 31-12-1942, was 1,396 as against 1,359 in 1941 and 1,341 in 1940.

Migration Statistics.- "Recruitment" from India has been in abeyance since September, 1935, and the flow of labour to Ceylon estates was confined to the "non-recruited" class till 1-8-1939, when by a notification issued under the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, the Government of India prohibited the emigration of all unskilled labour to Ceylon unless specially exempted in each case by the Commissioner of Labour, Madras. The number of Indian estate labourers who came to Ceylon from India during the year 1942 was 6,814 as against 3,584 in 1941 and 3,318 in 1940. During the year under review 33,183 estate labourers (excluding repatriates) returned from Ceylon to India as against 11,243 in 1941 and 12,578 in 1940. The increase was mainly due to the general food position in the island. There were 52,461 more departures to than arrivals from India in the unassisted class during the year as against 45,242 in 1941 and 3,194 in 1940.

By an Order under the Defence Regulations dated 31-7-1942, the entry into Ceylon of any female person whose domicile was not in India or in Ceylon was prohibited except under a permit issued by the Chief Secretary. This was modified by another order on 4-10-1942 under which general exemption was granted to "any female person who (a) is a Ceylonese or is married to a Ceylonese, or (b) being an Indian, is a relative (whether by blood or by marriage) of a person resident in Ceylon". By administrative arrangement Indian women accompanying male relatives are treated as in the same position as Ceylonese women and allowed entry without permits. Indian women who are not accompanied by male relatives and who have no relations in Ceylon have to obtain permits. The restrictions are intended as an emergency measure for the duration of war.

Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for the year 1942, published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, New Delhi 1943. Price Rs.2 or sh., pages 41.

Labour Position in Estates.— Both the tea and rubber industries continued to be prosperous during the period. By an announcement made in January, 1942, the export quota of tea was raised from 110 per cent. to 125 per cent. for the year 1-4-1942 to 31-3-1943. The export quota of rubber as fixed by the International Rubber Regulation Committee was 20 per cent. throughout the period under report. On 28-5-1942, however, two sets of regulations entitled the Defence (Tea Control) (Suspension) Regulations and the Defence (Rubber Control) (Suspension) Regulations were promulgated under the emergency powers of the Governor by which the revisions in the Tea and Rubber Control Ordinances relating to export coupons and exportable maxima for estates and small holdings were suspended, although control for other purposes was continued. The object of the regulations was to encourage all persons engaged in the tea and rubber industries to devote their full energy to securing, in the interests of the war effort of the Empire, the maximum quantities of tea and rubber that could be produced in and exported from Ceylon.

The ban on the emigration of unskilled labourers to Ceylon continued to be in force throughout the year; but with effect from ~~the~~ 1-9-1942, the Government of India relaxed the ban in its application to labourers already in Ceylon so as to permit them to return to the Island after visits to India. This was done purely to remove the hardship which was being caused to labourers in Ceylon by the fact that they were deterred from paying their usual visits to India on holiday, or for social, domestic and religious purposes, for fear that their return to Ceylon would be prevented by the operation of the ban. Planters in Ceylon were apprehensive that the relaxation of the ban in respect of labourers in Ceylon might result in a large scale exodus of estate labourers and consequent shortage of labour, and arrangements were made to ensure that labourers desirous of "going to Coast" ~~and~~ did so in rotation and in small numbers. The number of estate labourers proceeding on visits to India subsequent to ~~the~~ 1st September showed no appreciable increase as compared with the figures of departures from Ceylon for the previous months of the year.

The policy of ~~banks~~ both the tea and rubber industries was one of "all-out" production, and there was plenty of work available for estate labourers. The small surplus of labour, which had been a feature of previous years, was completely absorbed, and by the end of the year some shortage was felt mainly for rubber tapping. The planting community made repeated representations to the Ceylon Government that additional labour from India was necessary for increased production of both rubber and tea.. On ~~the~~ 8-12-1942 the Governor of Ceylon addressed a telegram to the Government of India enquiring whether the Government of India, notwithstanding their ban on emigration to Ceylon of unskilled labour other than labourers already in the island, 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. (These negotiations fell through at the beginning of 1943; vide pages 17-19 of our February 1943 report).

Labour Organisation and Trade Disputes.— Various measures were taken during the year to ensure the continuous and efficient functioning of essential services. In November 1941 ~~as a result~~ a set of regulations under the emergency powers of the Governor had been issued making provision for securing that enough workers were available in undertakings engaged in "essential work" and for prohibiting absence of workers in such undertakings without reasonable cause. The regulations also gave power to the Governor to make provision by order for prohibiting strikes

d lockouts and for establishing a tribunal for the settlement of trade disputes in "essential services". An order under this provision entitled "Essential Services (Avoidance of Strikes and Lockouts) Order, 1942", was issued on 19-3-1942, and on 17-4-1942 various services including "all business or undertakings concerned in the production, manufacture, sale or exportation of tea or rubber" were declared to be essential services. The order also provided for any such dispute being referred to a District Judge or any other impartial person for settlement. Employers are prohibited from employing any workmen in any essential services on terms and conditions of employment less favourable than the "recognised terms and conditions of employment"; and "recognised terms and conditions" include terms arrived at by an agreement in settlement of a trade dispute.

The Sama Samaj Party, who were running the All Ceylon Estate Workers' Union, of which a considerable number of Indian labourers were members, was declared to be an illegal organisation early in the year. On 28-8-1942 an order was made under the Defence Regulations prohibiting the holding of public meetings within certain specified areas without the prior permission of the Minister for Home Affairs. The areas specified included the majority of the Indian labour population. A resolution by a private member in the State Council protesting against the order restricting the right of public meetings as uncalled for in the present circumstances and as a serious infringement of the liberty of the subject" was debated on 3-9-1942 and carried by a large majority. As a result of the debate an order was published on 11-9-1942 that no permission of the Home Minister was necessary in respect of the following categories of meetings: those relating to food production and air raid precautions, religious services in places of worship, and public meetings held under the auspices of any local authority or convened or presided over by a member of the State Council. Meetings relating to the welfare of labourers at the instance of trade unions or others were not covered by the general exemptions. The general attitude of the planters in regard to the right of entry into estates of labour leaders was the same as in the previous year, namely, that there was no such right, but that if permission to enter is asked for, it would be granted at the discretion of Superintendents provided certain conditions are satisfied.

The result of the various factors mentioned above was that there were not many outward manifestations of trade union activities during the year, although conferences under the Seven Point Agreement continued to be held. There were no strikes of any magnitude or importance during the year. There were however stray cases of cessation of work, in only one of which 200 or more labourers were ~~involved~~ involved. The tendency on the part of employers to discharge labourers who were considered to be "undesirable" continued, but it was not difficult for the labourers concerned to secure employment elsewhere. One District Planter's Association put forward the view during the year that the existing machinery for the settlement of labour disputes, namely, the Seven Point Agreement, was no longer workable. Though the Central Planters' Association did not support this view, it made representations to the Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce against the present constitution of the Unions and their working. Towards the end of the year a conference was called by the Minister with representatives of the planting interests and labour organisations to consider the possibility of improving the Agreement. The main points discussed at the conference were:- (1) the alleged unsuitability of trade union representatives; (2) the taking up by Unions of what the planters regarded as petty cases; and (3) the participation of Unions in political activities, but no final decisions appear to

have been reached. As regards (1) Unions naturally resent what they regard as an attempt on the part of Superintendents to interfere with their right to choose their own representatives; and the Controller of Labour himself has, in his administration report for 1941, stated that on the whole trade union representatives displayed a greater sense of responsibility in dealing with labour disputes". As regards (2), discharge though petty from the employers' point of view, may in many cases be of vital importance to the labourers concerned. As regards (3), it has been pointed out that certain political activities are necessary for the improvement of the working condition of labourers and that in any case the Trade Unions Ordinance provides for the constitution of a political fund for the promotion of certain political objects.

New Conciliation Legislation.- Two Conciliation Boards appointed during the previous year to enquire into disputes arising from the discharge of certain labourers submitted their reports in January 1942. In both cases the Boards recommended the reinstatement of the labourers, but the recommendations were not accepted by the managements concerned. It is reported that the draft of the new Trade Disputes (Conciliation) Ordinance has been prepared, but that certain amendments to it are under consideration. Under the Essential Service (Avoidance of Strikes and Lockouts) Order, 1942, three cases of trade disputes were referred by the Controller of Labour to a District Judge for adjudication during the year. As regards the draft of the proposed Ordinance to provide for a special civil process for the eviction of estate labourers, it is understood that the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce has decided not to proceed with the Bill for the present. This decision seems to have been facilitated to some extent by the fact that Indian representatives were not altogether satisfied with the Bill, under which it would still have been open to an employer to resort to the criminal court if he chose to do so. There were 30 cases, involving 40 persons, of prosecutions for criminal trespass of labourers who continued to stay in their line rooms after discharge, and 6 were convicted.

The Officers of the Labour Department spared no pains to bring about amicable settlement of trade disputes and to establish personal good relations between the representatives of employers and employees at conferences held under the Seven Point Agreement.

Minimum Wages.- The following rates of minimum wages continued to be in force up to the 30th April, 1942:-

	Men. Cts.	Women. Cts.	Children. Cts.	
Up-country.	54	43	32	With issue price of rice not exceeding Rs. 4/80 per bushel.
Mid-country.	52	41	31	
Low-country.	50	40	30	

It was stated in the last report that following the publication of the Report of the Special Officer on the family budget of Indian Estate labourers, the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour had recommended a revision of the rates of wages so as to give a minimum wage of 57 cents a day for estate labourers in the up-country areas, with the issue price of rice at Rs. 4/80 per bushel and had also approved a scheme for the grant of earnings allowance varying with a cost of living index figure to be reported by the Labour Department keeping the price of rice constant. The question came up for the decision of the District Estate Wages Boards in January and after considering the varying recommendations made, the

Board of Indian Immigrant Labour approved an all round increase of the basic wage by 3 cents, and decided that the dearness allowance for men, women and children should be in the proportion of 5:5:3. By a notification in the Gazette, dated 31-3-1942, the following rates of minimum wages came into legal force on the 1-5-1942, viz.,

	Men. Cts.	Women. Cts.	Children. Cts.	
Up-country.	57	46	35	| With issue price of rice
Mid-country.	55	44	34	| not exceeding Rs. 4/80
Low-country.	53	43	33	| 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 steady increase in the rates of dearness allowance consequent on the rapid rise in commodity prices gave rise to a good deal of criticism of the whole scheme of the allowance by representatives of the planting community. It was alleged that the payment of the allowance leads to slackness and low out-turn, and it appeared from some complaints received from labourers that a few Superintendents were insisting on increased output owing to the increase in the money rates of wages. The basis on which the Labour Department was calculating the rates of dearness allowance was also questioned, and in July an informal committee, consisting of the Deputy Controller of Labour and 5 members of the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour, was constituted to advise the Labour Department from time to time in regard to the items of expenditure to be taken into consideration in working out the cost of living index figure on which the rates were based. The fact that the rates of dearness allowance remained unaltered from October onwards notwithstanding increase in prices was commented on by labour representatives and others. Meanwhile, the representatives of the planting community had been making repeated representations - (1) that the ratio 5:5:3 adopted in the rates of allowance for men, women and children was wrong and should be fixed at 5:4:4; (2) that the rates of dearness allowance for up, mid and low country areas should be in proportion to the minimum rates of wages for those areas; and (3) that ~~thaxr~~ as the labourer was entitled to 3 days work in the week, the number of working days in the month should be fixed at 24. At the end of the year it was understood that a special committee consisting of the Chief Secretary, the Financial Secretary, the Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce and the Civil Defence Commissioner had been appointed to examine the whole basis for the calculation of the dearness allowance as well as the war allowance for Government servants, and that representatives of employers and trade unions had been invited to give evidence before the Committee.

Wages Boards Ordinance.- No wages boards or district wages committees were constituted under this Ordinance during the period. A notification by the Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce containing a proposed order under Section 6(1) applying the provisions of Part II of the Ordinance to the tea and rubber industries was published in the Gazette, dated 27-3-1942. Another notification, that the Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce intended to apply the provisions of Part II of the Ordinance to the coconut trade, was published on 31-3-1942.

Workmen's Compensation.- During the year 1942 there were 31 cases of fatal accidents among Indian workmen and a sum of Rs. 17,730 was awarded and paid as compensation. The number of cases of permanent

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partial disablement among Indian workmen was 88 and the amount awarded Rs. 29,299/32. Compensation in respect of temporary disablement in non-fatal accidents is payable by the employer direct. Information regarding such cases and the amount of compensation paid to the injured in respect of them is not available.

Trade Unions.- The total number of registered trade unions among Indian labourers at the end of the year was 4 as against 9 in the previous year. The total membership was 108,482.

Housing.- Of the 785 estates inspected during the year, there were no over-crowded lines on 56%, and 84 had "slightly overcrowded" lines. Of the 108,385 line rooms inspected during the year, 83,069 were up to the Government requirements and 22,316 were found not up to the requirements. Superintendents are generally alive to the necessity of providing their labour force with improved line accommodation, but building programmes have mostly been suspended owing to the prohibitive cost of building materials under present war conditions.

Maternity Benefits.- The new Maternity Benefits Ordinance was in operation throughout the year, but there are still many labourers who are ignorant of its provisions and consequently fail to secure the cash benefits prescribed therein. The Controller of Labour has reported that 323 estates were certified by him, under section 5(1) of the Ordinance, up to the end of December 1942 as entitled to provide alternative benefits prescribed by the regulations made under the Ordinance. Of these, certificates issued in respect of 11 estates have since been withdrawn. ✓

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AGRICULTURE.

The Bengal Money Lenders (Amendment) Bill,
1943. ✓

On 28-9-1943, a Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly by a non-official member to amend the Bengal Money Lenders Act, 1940. It is pointed out that the main purpose of this amendment is to give better and more effective relief to debtors. The practical working of the Act shows that in the majority of cases no relief can be granted by the courts because of the technical difficulties created by the definition of the expression "suit to which this Act applies". It is invariably seen that the more intelligent section of the money-lenders had purchased valuable properties in execution proceedings for a fractional share of the decretal dues and allowed the balance to be barred by limitation without taking any steps in execution, whereas others in similar circumstances kept alive the decree and are now hit by the Money-Lenders Act. This has caused ~~heartburning amongst the~~ ^{the} class of money-lenders. In former case, the debtor too cannot get the intended relief. The Bill provides for settlement of these cases.

It has been held that a decree in a mortgage suit cannot be reopened for the purpose of granting instalments only. In these days of all-round economic depression and in view of the recent devastations caused by floods and cyclones, the granting of instalments should be treated as an appropriate relief. The proposed amendment seeks to grant this relief of paying decretal dues by easy instalments.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV-A,
dated 18-11-1943, pages 48 to 49) ✓

Provision of Warehouses for Agricultural
Produce in Bengal? Report of Board of
Economic Enquiry.* ✓

Reference was made at page 26 of our September 1940 report to the investigations begun by the Board of Economic Enquiry, Bengal, into the desirability and feasibility of establishing ware-houses for agricultural produce in Bengal. The Report of the investigations on the problem has now been published; a summary of the more important findings is given below:

Produce for which storage facilities are needed.- Storage facilities are now generally needed in this province for the following main agricultural produce:- (1) Jute; (2) Paddy; (3) Pulses; (4) Oilseeds; (5) Chillies; (6) Tobacco; (7) Ginger and some other spices; and (8) Potato, onions, and garlic. Of these, jute is an out and out commercial product

* Government of Bengal-Board of Economic Enquiry, Bengal: Report on the investigations made in connection with the enquiry about the desirability and feasibility of establishing warehouses for Agricultural produce in Bengal. By Nihar Chandra Chakravarty, M.A., B.C.S., Secretary, Board of Economic Enquiry, Bengal. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal, 1943. For official use only, Pages 41.

while the other commodities are grown partly for consumption and partly for sale, such sale also being mostly inter-district and scarcely extra-province transactions. This of course, does not take into consideration, the problem of storage of agricultural products imported from outside Bengal.

Classes of Persons who need storing facilities.- As regards the classes of persons who require storage facilities, these differ in cases of the different produce. The following description will give some idea of the classes of persons who handle and consequently require storing facility for the different produce:- ~~(i)~~ Jute. (1) Grower; (2) Village trader or Faria, Bepari or Paikar, Commission agent, Purchasing agent; (3) Merchant, Katcha Baler, Aratdar; (4) Pucca baler, Mills; and (5) Wholesalers, shippers and exporters. Paddy. (1) Grower; (2) Village trader (called Faria, Bepari, Paikar, etc.); (3) Wholesalers at growers' end; (4) Mills; (5) Exporters; and (6) Wholesaler at consumers' end. Other articles. (1) Grower; (2) Village trader, Faria; (3) Wholesaler at growers' end; and (4) Wholesaler at Consumers' end.

The types of existing godowns.- The existing stores or godowns of the province are of the following types:- (i) Big earthen jars, cane or bamboo pots; (ii) Platforms constructed with wooden planks or split bamboo in huts of growers under the thatched or corrugated iron roofs; (iii) ~~Maraish~~ ^(class of storage for katcha); (iv) Sheds (or rooms in sheds) constructed on katcha plinth with corrugated iron walls and roofs; (v) Sheds (or rooms in sheds) constructed with pucca plinth and occasionally pucca walls, but corrugated iron roof; and (vi) Pucca buildings or rooms thereof.

Estimated number of Pucca and Corrugated Iron Godowns.- It is not possible to make any dependable estimate of the number of godowns in the Province without a more detailed enquiry. It is however clear that, even apart from the godowns of well-to-do growers, there must be no less than about 4,000 pucca and corrugated iron godowns. With marketable production of jute alone at about 40,000,000 maunds per year, and taking the average capacity of each godown as 5,000 maunds, the estimated number of godowns would be in the neighbourhood of the number stated above on the basis of half the produce being godowned by the trade at a time. The capacity of the warehouses need not be included in this calculation as these belong generally to the balers, wholesalers and mills, to whom the jute produce comes only ultimately. Besides, some of the godowns are used for the storing of products other than jute, viz., pulses, oilseeds, tobacco, chillies, etc.

Estimate of average present cost of storage.- The rates of rent vary so much in different areas and in different years and also according to the type of godowns that it is difficult to give any general estimate for the province as a whole. Godowns and warehouses owned by the different classes of people also fetch rent at varying rates. From facts ascertained, it can however be stated that the average storage charges at present outside Calcutta are from 2 to 3 pies per maund per month for paddy (Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 per hundred bags per month) and 4 to 8 pies per jute and 5 to 6 pies for other commodities. These charges do not cover insurance of stock. These estimates do not, of course, apply to the growers' storage in the indigenous system which costs practically nothing at all.

Adequacy of storing facilities.- The Traders of all classes and the mills, balers and wholesalers have got fairly adequate storage facilities at reasonable charges. For mere warehousing as such, they do not feel any need for additional facilities to be provided by the State or ~~by~~ any other method. As regards ~~the~~ growers, they also do not feel ~~the~~ need of any facility for storage as such, so long as they sell and have to sell their produce as early after the harvest as is possible, as at present. Considered from the point of view of holding the produce for better markets, the growers, specially the poorer ones, have practically no facility except for paddy in the paddy growing tracts. As regards warehousing with a view to obtain credit on the pledge of produce, the grower and the petty traders have practically no warehousing facility at all.

Existing Needs and Facilities of Marketing Credit and Finance.- The position in respect of existing needs and facilities of marketing credit and finance may be summarised as follows: -

(1) The growers have practically no facility to obtain credit by pledging their produce except in some areas where there are small aratdars (professional salesmen), but in such cases ~~the~~ ^{the grower} has to pay high interest and a commission on the sale together with a number of small minor charges which do not in the long run make it profitable for him in most cases to take the assistance of the aratdar.

(2) The petty traders can obtain credit from the aratdars to the same extent and subject to the same disadvantages as the growers. Apart from this, they have to rely on their own credit to raise necessary loans from the local banks, loan offices or mahajans (money-lenders)

(5) The purchasing agents and petty commission agents do not require any warehousing facility and the money required by them ~~are~~ ^{is} obtained from the bigger merchants for whom they purchase.

(4) The bigger merchants, in places where there are suitable banks or branches of big banks, may have advances against the produce if they have good godowns which can be secured by locks and easily guarded by the banks. Merchants in other centres or ^{here} without such godowns have to rely on their own credit and goodwill for credit. As by far the larger number of merchants falls in the second category, they cannot be said to have adequate credit facilities.

(5) The balers, wholesalers, shippers and millowners have facilities of obtaining credit from the larger banks by hypothecation of the goods in their godowns to such banks. The higher the reputation of the firm, the greater is the facility. The comparatively less ^{known} ~~renowned~~ firms get less facilities. The Marwari merchants are also financed by the other rich businessmen of their community through Hundi (indigenous bank) and in other ways, an assistance which is not as frequently and easily available to the Bengalee merchants.

It follows from the above that the growers are in the greatest need of being provided with facilities of credit against pledge of produce. The petty traders and bigger merchants are next in importance as classes of persons requiring credit, while in the upper classes of ^{the} business world the facility is fairly if not wholly adequate. The fact that there is no law giving a clear title to the financier over the pledged produce

and the fear that produce pledged may theoretically be attached for a prior debt - has deterred the progress of produce pledge - financing in the past.

Views of Growers and Mufassil Traders re. Establishment of warehouses for Agricultural Produce.- The general trend of opinion of mufassil people concerned may be summarised as follows: (1) They generally welcome the idea of warehouses; (2) State warehouses or warehouses guaranteed by State are preferred; (3) Co-operative warehousing may be attempted as ^{an} experiment, but people are not hopeful about the success of such a venture. The credit against pledge of produce will, in such cases, have to be given by the Co-operative Department; (4) Local financiers would be willing to advance money on reasonable interest against goods ~~would~~ placed in warehouses under reliable control; (5) Grading of goods would not be essential for credit, but without grading the percentage of ^{the} value of the produce to be advanced as loan would remain lower than would be the case if goods were graded; (6) To give the benefit of warehouses to growers, these should be set up in areas within easy reach of the growers of all localities; and (7) If ~~the~~ local financial resources can be attracted to business, the resources of the Reserve or Scheduled Banks would not be much needed for agricultural marketing credit in the rural areas.

The report also discusses the problems connected with the grading and pooling of agricultural produce and the selection of localities for starting experimental warehouses.

(A copy of the report was sent to Montreal with our Minute :
D. / /45, dated -11-1945). ✓

Improvement of Bihar Irrigation:
35,000 Volts Electric Line Plan. ✓

A 35,000-Volt Electric line from Patna to Bihar-Shariff via Buktyarpur and from Bihar Shariff to Kangarsarai is the central feature of a scheme to improve the irrigation of south Bihar by tube wells. The power will be generated at Patna and distributed over subsidiary lines carrying 11,000 volts from which power will be tapped for local tube wells. Besides assisting irrigation of rabbi-growing areas, the line will be a component part of the electric grid system. A press note issued by the Government of Bihar says that Sir William Stampe, Irrigation Adviser to the Government of India, has been able to arrange with the British Government for the necessary priorities of supply of plant and materials, and in collaboration with him a scheme has been drawn up to which the Government of India, in view of the importance of all measures likely to increase the food supply, has offered financial assistance. For the purpose of implementing the scheme, the provincial Government have set up an Emergency Board under the ^{Bihar} ~~presidentship~~ ^{chairmanship} of the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department. In addition to the above scheme, plans are under consideration for the procurement of two or more mobile generating sets which would enable water to be pumped during the dry season from the sub-soil supplies, which ~~are~~ ^{exist} beneath the apparently dry river-beds of streams flowing from the Chota Nagpur plateau to the Ganges.

It is calculated that if the facilities provided by all these

schemes are utilised by the cultivators to the full, it should be possible to add 468,000 maunds of food grains to the production from these areas.

(The Times of India, 1-11-1945). ✓

NAVIGATION.Demand for Equal Treatment of Indian Seamen:
Memorandum by All India Seamen's Centre in
London. ✓

According to a Reuter's message from London, dated 9-11-1943, the All India Seamen's centre in London, which is associated with the International Transporters' Federation, has issued a memorandum demanding a square deal for Indian Seamen. The demands made by the Federation are: (1) shipowners and seamen's organizations should be required to agree upon the rate of wages which would achieve equality of treatment; (2) the convention on "placing" of seamen adopted by the International Labour Conference in 1920 should be ratified by the Government of India. This would end the present practice of bribery and corruption; (3) working hours should be regulated in accordance with the International Convention of October, 1936, overtime properly remunerated and holidays with pay arranged; (4) the scale of compensations should be made adequate and become operative forthwith; (5) a unified scheme of social security insurance should be introduced, covering accidents, sickness, unemployment, invalidity, old age and death; and (6) proper arrangements should be made for the accommodation of Indian seamen aboard and ashore with facilities for buying such articles as tobacco while ashore.

The memorandum declares that the argument that the cost of living is less in India no longer holds. There are about 40,000 Indians in British ships and the number may be expected to increase. They had no increase in wages since 1920. Many thousands have not seen the home country since the war began. Regarding the second demand, the memorandum says that in Calcutta three million rupees were paid annually in bribes to get jobs and shipowners had been of little help in trying to stop this illegal exploitation.

(The Hindustan Times, 12-11-1943) ✓

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES
AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Revised Leave Rules for Press Employees:
Government of India Notification. ✓

The Government of India has gazetted revised Leave Rules for (1) permanent salaried industrial employees below the grade of overseer and (2) permanent piece workers in the Government of India presses, whose service is classified as "superior" under the Civil Service Regulations.

Permanent Salaried Employees.— Earned leave at the rate of 1/11 th of the period spent on duty with power to accumulate or to take leave up to 90 days is granted. Leave on medical certificate up to 6 months may be taken; total leave on medical certificate during an employee's service is limited to 12 months. Extraordinary leave may be granted when no other leave is admissible or when the employee asks for this kind of leave; no leave salary payable during extraordinary leave. Leave cannot be claimed as of right, the Manager of the press having the right to refuse or revoke leave.

Injury leave at half pay rates may be granted to an employee who is injured in circumstances which would have given rise to a claim for compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, if he had been a workman as defined therein, whether or not clause (a) of the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 3 of that Act is applicable. Such leave shall not be deemed to be leave on medical certificate for the purposes of rule 3. It shall be granted from the commencement of disablement for so long as is necessary, subject to a limit of two years for any one disability and a limit of five years during an employee's total service, including service, if any, on the piece establishment. The salary payable in respect of a period of leave granted under this rule shall, in the case of an employee to whom the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923), apply, be reduced by the amount of compensation paid under clause D of subsection (1) of section 4 of that Act.

Permanent Piece Workers.— Leave on full pay will be granted to piece workers according to their service as shown below :-

Length of Service.	Leave admissible.
Less than 10 years	16 days in each calendar year.
10 years but less than 15 years.	23 days in each calendar year.
15 years and above.	31 days in each calendar year.

The leave will be non-cumulative, i.e., any leave not taken during the year will lapse without any monetary compensation. Gazetted holidays actually enjoyed may, at the option of the piece-worker, be counted against any leave admissible to him and if so counted, will be paid for. Leave on medical certificate on half pay may be granted up to six months when no leave on full pay is admissible. The total amount of leave on medical certificate admissible to a pieceworker during his service shall not exceed twelve months. Extraordinary leave may be granted when no other leave is admissible, or when, other leave being admissible, the piece-worker applies in writing for this leave. A piece-worker on extraordinary leave is not entitled to any leave salary.

Injury leave at half pay rates may be granted to a piece-worker

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who is injured in circumstances which would have given rise to a claim for compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, if he had been a workman as defined therein, whether or not clause (a) of the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 3 of that Act is applicable. Such leave shall not be deemed to be leave on medical certificate. It shall be granted from the commencement of disablement for so long as is necessary, subject to a limit of two years for any one disability and a limit of five years during a piece-worker's total service, including service, if any, on the salaried establishment.

(Notification No. F7(55)-R 1/43
dated 3-11-1943: The Gazette of
India Part I, Section 1, ~~dated~~
6-11-1943, pages 1208 to 1210). ✓

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CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Madras Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act,
1943. (Act XX of 1943) ✓

on 13-10-1943

The Governor of Madras promulgated the Madras Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Act XX of 1943). The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Act states that many co-operative societies in the areas transferred from Madras to Orissa have members who reside in the former Province. The Madras Co-operative Societies Act, 1932, contains no provision for the enforcement of awards obtained by such societies in Orissa against persons residing in the Madras Province. At the request of the Government of Orissa and as part of the reciprocal arrangement with that Government, the Madras Government examined the question of amending the Madras Co-operative Societies Act, 1932, in order to facilitate the enforcement of such awards. The Act incorporates necessary provisions for the purpose.

(The Port St. George Gazette,
Part XV-B, dated 26-10-1943,
pages 107 - 108). ✓

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LIVING CONDITIONS.

Housing.

Bengal Housing Bill, 1943: Non-Official
Legislation introduced. ✓

A non-official Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Assembly on 28-9-1943 to regulate the letting of small houses to working classes. The statement of objects and reasons points out that it has been a long-felt grievance of the tenants that owing to lack in respect of sanitation, ventilation, ~~and~~ regular repairs, ~~and~~ proper control of houses occupied by the working classes, the residents suffer from various difficulties ^{and} privations through diseases, especially of the respiratory organs.

The new measure is to apply to houses of a monthly rental not exceeding Rs. 20/- in Calcutta and Rs. 10/- in other areas in municipalities and industrial areas, and provides that local authority may make bye-laws in respect of such houses: (a) for fixing from time to time the number of persons who may occupy such a house and for the separation of the sexes therein; (b) for the registration and inspection of such houses; and (c) for enforcing drainage and promoting cleanliness and ventilation. ~~of such houses.~~

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part IV-A
dated 18-11-1943, pages 52 to
54). ✓.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Madras Prohibition (Suspension) Act,
1943. ✓

The Governor of Madras promulgated on 3-11-1943 the Madras Prohibition (Suspension) Act, 1943, to provide for the suspension of the operation of certain provisions of the Madras Prohibition Act, 1937, in the districts in which it is now in force and the revival of the Madras Abkari Act, 1886, in those districts. The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Act states that experience has shown that prohibition cannot be enforced in the absence of public support. In spite of the efforts of the prohibition staff and the enhanced penalties imposed by the Madras Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 1942 (Madras Act XXX of 1942), illicit distillation and kindred offences have increased enormously. Further, it is considered necessary to secure for the Government, by taxation, the profits now being made by the numerous dealers in illicit liquor.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, Part IV-F, dated 16-11-1943, pages 111 - 114)..

The repeal of prohibition has been criticised by Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Ex-Premier of Madras, whose Government initiated prohibition, as also by the press. The following editorial comments on the ~~measure~~ and a Government communique explaining ~~it~~ are reproduced from the Hindu of 17-11-1943: " It is a deplorable decision from every point of view. It betokens a contempt for public opinion which is scarcely veiled by the idle assertion that the public is really indifferent to the whole affair. . . . The increase in the number of illicit distillation and other prohibition offences is obvious, but no one who interprets it in a purely objective and scientific spirit will be so upset by it as the Government profess to have been. . . . The other arguments advanced by the Government are equally ~~obvious~~. Persons engaged in antisocial activities will hardly be deterred from their evil courses if they ~~are~~ ^{are led} persist sufficiently the Government will be forced to withdraw the wholesome laws and restraints that irk them. It is puerile to suggest that in the present food shortage, a licit supply of toddy should be welcome as an addition to their food resources which "should not be denied to the labouring classes". In the first place, whatever there is of value in the toddy is not now wasted, but is converted into food of other kind. Moreover, is it not the case that with this money, the poorer classes, whom the Government so unfortunately invite to spend on liquor, could purchase rice, millets and other food of immensely far greater dietic value? Surely, the money spent on toddy and saved from food will increase the evil of malnutrition. . . . The last argument based on the need to combat inflation is no less extraordinary. In so far as the new Act provides fresh luxuries to spend money on, it will constitute an accession of strength to the inflationary forces. The Government further ignore the fact that not all monetary reserve a person possesses is legitimately taxable. It is not fair to seek to tax the poor villager out of the few copper or nickel coins or one rupee notes he possesses. Is it the case that the Government propose to tax only the "profits now being made from illicit sales" which now "are escaping taxation"? Decidedly not. The contention that they have use for additional revenue is no justification for despoiling the poorest of the poor of their most meagre and precarious earnings".

Extension of Village Medical Aid Scheme
to Backward Classes in Bombay. ✓

An extension of the village medical aid scheme to assist the backward Classes has been decided upon by the Government of Bombay. The Surgeon-General has been asked to submit the necessary proposals. The decision has been made as a result of the recommendations of the Committee appointed to consider means of improving the condition of the Backward Classes. The Committee proposed that 400 to 500 chests of simple remedies for common ailments and diseases should be kept by school teachers in villages in backward areas. The Government has decided that, as it is not possible to extend the subsidised medical practitioners' scheme for the present, because of the paucity of medical practitioners, the village aid scheme should be expanded. This scheme has already proved useful in districts such as Khandesh and Broach.

The Director of Public Health has been asked to submit proposals for slum clearance, which the Committee regarded as very important for the health of all poorer classes. The Government, however, considers that no further progress is possible during the war in the provision of better village sites and houses.

As recommended by the Committee, the Government will consider making grants to voluntary agencies working for the uplift of the Backward Classes whenever the Backward Class Officer is convinced that such aid is justified on the merits of an agency's work.

(Press Note No. 1085 dated
3-11-1943 issued by the
Director of Information,
Bombay). ✓

1st Meeting of Health Survey and

Development Committee, 26 to 28-10-43. ✓

Reference was made at page 55 of our October 1943 report to the constitution of the Health Survey and Development Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Joseph Shore, ~~set up by the Government of India~~ to enquire into public health conditions in the country. The first meeting of the committee was held at New Delhi on 26, 27 and 28-10-1943. Sir Jogindra Singh, Member in charge of public health in the Viceroy's Executive Council, opened the meeting.

Viceroy's Message.— Lord Wavell, Viceroy of India, in a message to the meeting, remarked that India had traversed only a small part of the road towards national health, stressed the importance of slum clearance and rehousing, proper water supply and sanitary systems, anti-malaria work, maternity and child welfare work, and village medical services. He referred to India's poverty, "that heavy disability which lies upon all agricultural countries whose populations are large and whose individual holdings of land are small", and emphasised the need for exploring the possibility of improving the production of home-grown drugs and the need for the development of research organizations in addition to those already set up.

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Sir Jogendra Singh's Address.- Sir Jogendra Singh, in his opening address, said that it was inconceivable that in the future India should be content with the slow progress of the past. Public opinion ~~xxxxxx~~ would demand, a resolute, simultaneous, attack on three evils which went hand-in-hand --- want, ill-health and ignorance. For his part, he firmly believed that the best guarantee of future progress was to endow the rural population with increasing purchasing power, to trust the large agricultural population and place all the available money in their frugal and careful custody, to be drawn upon for their good when development plans were ready.

Subjects Discussed.- The Committee surveyed, in addition to the present state of public health, various aspects of the ~~the~~ subject of their enquiry including, (1) environmental hygiene, (2) nutrition, (3) chief diseases, (4) maternity and child welfare, (5) health education, (6) medical relief, (7) mental hygiene, (8) control of drugs trade and production of drugs, (9) health of industrial workers, (10) public health organisation and co-ordination, (11) medical research, and (12) professional education.

Nutrition.- Regarding nutrition, the following aspects were referred to ; (a) Malnutrition - deficiency diseases - unbalanced diets - remedial measures in cooperation with agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, irrigation, cooperative and education departments; use of synthetic vitamins; (b) under-nourishment; (c) nutrition departments in Provinces; (d) nutrition research; (e) propaganda; and (f) developmental plan of more adequate nutrition for the population; the establishment of permanent food departments - Central and Provincial - to coordinate measures for the production and distribution of food.

Industrial Health.- Under industrial health, the following points were discussed: (a) administration, central and provincial; (b) medical aid; (c) occupational diseases; provision for periodical examination; (d) accidents; (e) environmental hygiene in the factory; (f) housing; ~~(g) nutrition; (h) welfare services; (i) maternity and sickness benefits; (j) compensation for disablement; (k) provision for unemployment and old age; and (l) planned regional zoning of ~~ind~~~~ industry.

Sub Committees Appointed.- The committee's plan is to issue a comprehensive questionnaire and invite those who can help to give their views. Five sub-committees have been formed to cover some of the more important aspects of the whole problem.

Dealing with the problems which the Public Health Committee has to face, Sir Joseph Bore, in the course of a broadcast talk on 28-10-43, pointed out : "Malaria gives rise to the greatest economic problem with which India is faced. Financial losses to the individual and the family alone have been calculated at no less than Rs. 11.00 million annually. Comparing the figures of expectation of life for various countries, Sir Joseph said that over the period 1920-30 it had been calculated that for British India, for males it was just under 27 years, compared to 65 in New Zealand, 63 in Australia, 59 in the USA and 58 in England and Wales. The rate of infant mortality in 1937 was 31 in New Zealand, 38 in Australia, 54 in the USA, 58 in England and Wales and 162 in British India".

(The Hindustan Times 28-10-1943,
The Statesman dated 30-10-1943 and
communication from the Committee). ✓

Wages.

2 Months' War Bonus to Bombay Cotton Mill Workers:
Recommendation of Millowners' Association, Bombay. ✓

The Millowners' Association, Bombay, has recommended to its member mills in the Bombay City and Island to pay their workers a war bonus equivalent to one-sixth of their total earnings during the calendar year 1943. All operatives who are on the musters of permanent and badli workers on 31-12-1943, and who continue to be on such musters till the dates of payment, with the exception of those badlis who have worked for less than an aggregate period of 75 days in the year 1943, will be eligible to receive bonus. Eligibility to receive bonus has also been conferred on those permanent workers who were retrenched either as a result of an agreement following a notice of change under the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, or in pursuance of the Standing Order relating to the discontinuance of shift-working, or for reasons beyond the control of the management, provided such workers had put in not less than 75 days' work in the mill concerned during the calendar year 1943.

It has further been recommended that bonus be calculated on earnings exclusive of dearness allowance, and that, in the case of women who have been on maternity leave in the period referred to, the actual maternity allowance drawn be included in their wages for the purpose of calculating the bonus payable. Bonus, as stated above, will be paid to the workers in two equal instalments: first on the 22nd January and the second on 1-3-1944.

(Industrial Bulletin of the
Employers' Federation of
India, Bombay, 8-11-1943) ✓

Salary Scales of Government Servants in
Madras Reverted to 1933 Levels. ✓

The Government of Madras has, with a view to improving the prospects of Government Servants, passed orders that the scale of pay which was introduced in 1935 be now reverted to and that the scales as revised in 1938 be cancelled. The increased cost of reversion to the 1933 scales, it is officially stated, is practically negligible at the moment, because employees are to be put on the old scale at the stage corresponding to their present pay. The cost will gradually increase and ultimately reach Rs. 1.6 million after 25 years. If there is no stage on the old scale corresponding to his present pay, an employee goes on to the stage below, and will be allowed a personal pay to make up the difference. In some cases, it may be not to an employee's advantage to revert to the old scale immediately. He is given an option for a period of five years to change over at any time which may be most advantageous.

(The Hindu, 30-10-1943) ✓

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Demand of Bombay Textile Workers
for Standardisation and Increase
in Wages, Bonus, etc. ✓

Mr. G.D. Ambekar, Secretary, Rastriya Girni Kamgar Sangh, Bombay, a statement issued towards the middle of November 1943, points out that the textile industry of India, and especially that of Bombay, has prospered on the support of the general public through protection. The Bombay millowners have effected open and surreptitious cuts during the last 15 years in the already low wages of workers and imposed the same on them, without regard to their just claims or for public opinion. The absence of standardisation and in wages has accentuated the loss and suffering of these workers. The Textile Labour Inquiry Committee ~~recommended~~ recommended a standard, fair and suitable in the conditions existing at the eve of the war. But the Bombay Government have postponed this question to an indefinite future under one pretext or the other.

The outbreak of war and its prolongation have added to the miseries of the public and especially the worker. Whereas the Governments in countries like England and America have effectively limited the rise in prices to about 25 to 30 per cent, the Government of India has done nothing to check the rise which is now more than 200 per cent. On the contrary, the same war has created a boom in the industry and has profited the industrialist to an unprecedented extent. But the worker is not allowed an adequate share in the profits of the industry. The existing low wages paid at the ~~same time as~~ unprecedented boom period for the textile industry have made the introduction of standardization imperative as well as most opportune.

The Rastriya Girni Kamgar Sangh, in ~~its~~ meeting of ~~its~~ Board of representatives held on ~~xxxxxx~~ 17-10-1943, gave its serious consideration to the above situation and the conditions created by the war and has unanimously decided to present to the millowners four demands: ~~consisting of~~ (1) increase in basic wages; (2) standardization of wages; (3) 4 months' holiday wages as Bonus; and (4) weekly wages or suitable and adequate advances.

The Sangh proposes to proceed under the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act for these demands and is sending properly signed intimation and preliminary request to ~~the~~ Government Labour Officer.

(The Bombay Chronicle,
16-11-1943) ✓

Industrial Wages in the Punjab
during 1939-1943. ✓

The Board of Economic Inquiry, Punjab, had ~~recently~~ recently constituted an inquiry into industrial wages in Punjab province during the War-years 1939-43. The following information, summarising the results obtained, is taken from a pre-publication summary of the report of the inquiry issued in bulletin form (Bulletin No.3, November 1943 - Publication Summaries Series) by the Board of Economic Inquiry (the results given, ~~in~~ the bulletin points out, are provisional):

inquiry

Scope of Inquiry.- The ~~inquiry~~ dealt with the whole of the British

job and the report will relate to 187 non-government industrial establishments generally employing over fifty workers, and distributed follows:

Kind of Establishment.	Number.
A. Metallurgical and Wood	109
B. Textile	48
C. Printing Presses and Paper Products	10
D. Food Products	20
Total	<u>187</u>

The total number of trades recorded was 205, viz., for unskilled, workers 11 kinds, skilled workers 168, office staff 21, and administrative staff 5. Coolies predominated among the unskilled workers; clerks, accountants, storekeepers, persons and watchmen among the office staffs; and managers amongst the administrative personnel. Among the skilled workers the more important trades were of blacksmiths, carpenters, engine fitters, electricians, engineers, fitters, hammermen, mechanics, welders, oilmen, turners and weavers.

Wage Statistics.- Taking the total cash wages and allowances in August 1939 as 100, the following table shows the arithmetic average index at the end of 1940, 1941 and 1942, and upto August 1943, for each class of workers; ~~and~~ the modal and medial indices for 1943 are also shown:

Class of Workers.	ARITHMETIC AVERAGE INDEX. Modal, Medial,						
	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1943.	1943.	
.. Skilled ..	111	124	146	170	171	179	
.. Unskilled ..	109	126	160	207	183	190	
.. Clerical ..	107	121	144	170	171	173	
.. Administrative	109	128	150	199	152	168	
Overall industrial index (unweighted) of wages	<u>110</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>183</u>	<u>171</u>	<u>179</u>	
Percentage rise over previous year ..	10%	13%	19%	24.4%	..	..

The rise in some wages was appreciable, in one case the index rising over 700; consequently, the Modal index (i.e., the most usual index) has also been shown, as well as the Median (i.e., the middle entry when the indices are arranged in ascending or descending order).

Medial Wage Increases.- The index by itself, however, does not give a complete picture, since an increase in wages from 8 annas a day Re.1 or from Rs. 100 p.m. to Rs.200 will in each case show an index of 200, i.e., a hundred per cent. rise. In the next table a few examples are given of the "medial" wages in certain trades in 1943; i.e., when the wages in the trade were arranged in ascending order, the rate shown by the middle entry; half the other wages were below this rate and half above. The maximum wage in each trade, recorded in the inquiry, is also mentioned.

(For daily wages converted at 26 days to the month)

Trade.	Pre-war. Rs. 9/12 (Index) (100)	MEDIAL WAGE INCREASES.				Highest wage recorded. 1943.
		1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	
.Coolie	30/-	13/-	19/9	22/12	26/-	65/-
.Electrician.	30/-	35/-	40/-	55/-	60/-	136/-
.Turner.	32/8	42/4	48/12	74/12	78/-	100/-
.Fitter.	32/-	34/-	39/-	47/-	60/-	148/-
.Blacksmith.	30/-	..	..	44/-	59/-	124/12
.Weaver.	19/8	..	..	..	45/8	68/-
.Mechanic.	35/7	..	..	..	68/12	155/-
.Watchman.	15/-	..	16/14	20/-	24/-	44/-
.Clerk.	25/-	30/-	35/-	40/-	60/-	220/-
O. Manager.	100/-	..	..	..	175/-	1,200/-

Average (Arithmetic) Index.— The next table shows the average arithmetic index for each class of industry in the different years:

	SKILLED.				UNSKILLED.				
	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	
. Metallurgical.	114	129	154	181	110	128	165	206	
. Textile.	108	113	140	185	110	128	183	209	
. Printing Presses.	..	107	117	143	..	110	129	142	
. Food Products.	107	119	142	177	101	121	152	212	
<u>Average.</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>207</u>	
		CLERICAL.					ADMINISTRATIVE.		
. Metallurgical	109	126	150	182	109	136	164	230	
. Textile.	105	114	136	175	107	122	134	180	
. Printing Presses.	..	107	113	149	..	100	106	131	
. Food Products.	105	119	150	187	105	119	148	170	
<u>Average.</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>199</u>	
		GENERAL.							
. Metallurgical.	112	129	154	186					
. Textile.	107	118	142	185					
. Printing Presses.	..	107	113	145					
. Food Products.	106	119	145	183					
<u>Average.</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>183</u>					

Wage Indices for Lahore and Rest of the Punjab.— The wage indices for the Lahore District are now compared with those for the rest of the Punjab :

		ARITHMETIC AVERAGE INDEX.				Modal	Median.
Class of Worker.		1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1943.	1943.
KILLED:	Lahore ..	118	133	156	191	171	180
	Rest ..	109	120	142	174	171	179
UNSKILLED:	Lahore ..	105	124	163	208	185	195
	Rest ..	110	126	158	206	187	192
CLERICAL:	Lahore ..	107	120	143	176	150	139
	Rest ..	107	121	144	180	171	175
ADMINISTRATIVE:	Lahore ..	118	128	153	184	150	165
	Rest ..	103	127	148	205	153	169
AVERAGE:	Lahore ..	114	129	154	190	171	179
	Rest ..	108	121	144	180	172	180

The Bulletin points out: " A word of caution might be added about comparing these industrial wage-indices too closely with cost of living indices which presume the same standard of living as at the base period. The majority of the Punjab factory workers are from villages and so used to a simple life, but the only cost of living indices published are by the provincial Industries Department for five towns, the base being 1931-1935 when prices were very low owing to the agricultural depression; the domestic economy of all in these war days has however undergone any changes". ✓

Further Increase in Dearness Allowance of Bombay Textile Workers. ✓

Reference was made at page 40 of our March 1943 report to the grant of dearness allowance to Bombay Textile Workers when the cost of living index ranged between 205 and 213. The working class cost of living index numbers having risen from 225 in April 1943 to 245 in September 1943, the amount of dearness allowance payable has been raised from Rs. 25-13-0 for month of 26 working days when the index number is 214 to Rs. 33-3-0 when the index number is 245.

Towards the middle of September 1943, the Committee of the Millowners Association, Bombay, considered the question as to whether, and if so, what portion of the daily rate of dearness allowance applicable in the month should be paid to workers putting in less than a full day's work, and a recommendation was issued to member mills stating that, if the custom and usage in individual mills permitted, the workers should be paid half a day's dearness allowance for attendance in the morning up to half a day irrespective of the number of hours actually worked in the mill. It was also recommended that full day's dearness allowance should be paid to such of the workers who work for more than half a day.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of
the Committee of the Millowners' Association,
Bombay, during May - October
1943). ✓

35

Exemption of Excess Profits Tax in
Payment of Bonus to Workers; Maximum
Rate of Bonus raised to 3 months'
Wages. ✓

The Government of India is understood to have decided to exempt the bonus paid to workers totalling up to three months' wages from the payment of Excess Profits Tax, as against two months' wages permissible under the original provision. It is also understood that draft rules allowing payment of not more than three months' wages by way of bonus is being published shortly.

The C.P. and Barar Textile Workers' Federation had sent a representation, some time back, to the Finance Member, Government of India, that local mill-owners were willing to pay three months' wages as war bonus to textile workers provided they were exempted from the payment of Excess Profits Tax for the amount paid as war bonus. The Secretary of the Central Board of Revenue is learnt to have informed the President of the Federation about the above decision of the Government.

(The Hindustan Times 30-11-1943) ✓

Demands for Higher Wages of Menial Staff of
the Government of India. ✓

At a meeting held towards the end of November 1943, of the Imperial Secretariat Jamadars' and Peons' Association, attended by about 2,000 members, resolutions were passed urging that a reply might be given at an early date to the representation made by a deputation of the Association, which waited on the Home Member on 23-9-1943 with regard to their grievances arising from high prices. The meeting expressed the view that it was impossible for peons and drafties to support themselves on the present pay of Rs. 14 and Rs. 15 respectively with a dearness allowance of Rs. 8/8 per month. The resolutions also mentioned that members of the Association could not purchase most of the articles for which coupons were issued, as commodities were not available. The resolutions adopted request that arrangements might be made either for the supply of all articles of food, clothing, etc, at prewar rates with an addition of 50 per cent in pay of that menial staff should be paid at the rate of Rs. 60/- per mensem. It was also demanded that arrangements for the supply of air might be made immediately as the price of sugar had gone up, that new quarters should be built immediately as it was difficult to get accommodation on the rent of Rs. 3 now paid by Government, and that, till accommodation was available, at least Rs. 15 a month should be paid as house rent.

(The Bombay Chronicle, dated
27-11-1943) ✓

26

Employment.

Voluntary Employment Exchanges :
Government of India's Scheme. ✓

The following information about the Government of India's plans for the setting up of voluntary employment exchanges for technical personnel (this will later be followed by the establishment of such exchanges for skilled and semi-skilled personnel also) is taken from the November 1943 issue of the Indian Labour Gazette (published by the Department of Labour, Government of India) : -

When the National Service Labour Tribunals were established under the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, 1940, (vide pages 35-34 of our June 1940 report), it was the intention that they should gradually assume the role of employment exchanges for technical personnel. This they have been doing, but the statutory powers given to Tribunals to fix wages and terms of service and to compel an employer to give up an employee and an employee to take up employment in the national service have distinguished them from the voluntary employment exchanges commonly met with in other countries. The exacting needs of war made it necessary for the Tribunals ~~to have~~ to have these statutory powers and they have served their purpose. As the war progresses, it is now considered necessary to look ahead and begin to build up an employment organisation which will be in a position to deal with the registration and voluntary placement of the many skilled and semi-skilled workmen who will be thrown out of employment ~~of the many skilled and semi-skilled workmen~~ on the ~~requirements of employers~~ requirements of termination of hostilities. The Tribunals have gained much experience of the requirements of employers and the placement of labour and it is proposed therefore to use these organisations in the first instance for the setting up of voluntary employment exchanges for skilled and semi-skilled personnel. Employment exchanges for technical personnel will accordingly be established immediately at the following centres and for the time being will be placed under the control of the local National Service Labour Tribunals :- Calcutta, Bombay, and Ahmedabad, Madras, Cawnpore, Lahore, Nagpur, Delhi and Jamshedpur. An exchange may be opened also at Karachi. Later on branch exchanges will be opened at other centres in each area.

Objects and Method of Work.- (i) Each exchange will provide a place where information is collected and furnished to the public in respect of employers who desire to engage technical personnel and personnel who seek employment. (ii) Information obtained from employers regarding vacancies will be recorded on " order cards " for vacancies which will be maintained on the card index system. (iii) Information obtained from persons seeking employment will be recorded on individual card index envelopes which will be filed on the card index system. Each such envelope will form the file for the correspondence relating to the individual concerned. (iv) Employers will be encouraged to apply to the employment exchanges for any technical personnel they require and the exchanges will place suitable applicants in touch with employers. Employers will not be required to accept candidates sent to them by the exchanges if they do not wish to do so, but in such cases they will be required to give their reasons for not accepting the candidates. For this purpose each recommended candidate will be supplied with an identification card addressed to the employer to which a reply pre-paid card will be attached. On the pre-paid card there will be entries to enable the employer to state if the candidate has been employed and if he has not been employed the reasons therefor. (v) The exchanges will have no concern with

the wages and terms of service of the men they supply. These will be settled between the applicant for employment and the employer and once a man has been engaged the exchange will have no further concern with him.

Classes of Workers to be Covered.- Employment exchanges will deal with all classes of technical personnel as defined in section 2 of the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, but in the first instance the benefit of the exchanges will be extended only to unemployed technical personnel who were drawing a wage of Re. 1 per day or more when last employed. Men drawing up to Re. 1 per day will be rated as semi-skilled grade II, while those drawing more than Rs. 1-8-0 per day as skilled. The scheme will apply also to the supervisory grades of personnel but not to the managerial grades. Clear definitions will be framed giving the classifications of the different classes of technical personnel covered. Unemployed technical personnel will be encouraged to register with the employment exchanges but registration will not be compulsory.

Statutory Obligations of Employers.- (1) Though employers ^{are} not required to fill vacancies only by the acceptance of candidates sent by the exchanges, they are required to notify the exchanges of all vacancies for technical personnel in their establishments (other than those reserved for their own apprentices) as they occur and to furnish monthly reports to the exchanges as to how the vacancies have been filled. (2) Every industrial undertaking is also required to issue to any technical personnel discharged, dismissed or released by it or permitted by the Tribunal to leave their employment a service certificate prescribed by the National Service (Technical Personnel) Rules, or if the employee is already in possession of such a certificate to make such additions to the certificate as will bring it up to date.

Management.- Each exchange will be managed by a Manager who will be appointed by the Tribunal and who may be the Tribunal's Technical Inspector. The Manager should in any case have sufficient technical qualifications and experience to enable him to appreciate the requirements of industry generally and the special requirements of his particular locality, and it will be his duty to maintain close contact with employers and local bodies and assist them to secure the personnel they require. It will also be the duty of the Manager to deal sympathetically and tactfully with technical personnel who visit the exchange in order to register themselves. Each Manager will be assisted by a representative of the Army, a clerical staff, the strength of which will depend on the volume of work to be dealt with from time to time and where the activities of the exchange justify it by a Tradesman Supervisor who should be capable of carrying out trade tests in the main engineering trades. Where difficulties arise over the administration of an exchange they will be placed before a committee consisting of the Chairman of the National Service Labour Tribunal (President), the Manager and the Army representative (if any) for solution.

Employment Committee.- Each employment exchange will have attached to it a local Employment Committee of 2 representatives of employers, 2 representatives of labour, 1 representative of the Provincial Government and 1 Army representative. The Chairman of the employment Committee will be elected by the members themselves. The Employment Committee will advise on all matters affecting the working of the exchange, including the general aspects of the problem of placement of personnel. The Committee will not however concern itself with individual cases.

Central Exchange.- On the formation of local or provincial

employment exchanges, a central employment exchange will be opened in the Labour Department of the Central Government. The functions of this exchange will be to issue general directives when required and to co-ordinate the needs of the different provinces and ensure that no provinces are short of skilled or semi-skilled labour while there is a surplus in any other province. For this purpose it will be necessary for each employment exchange to send a weekly report to the central exchange giving a brief outline of the needs and surpluses of the area in its charge.

Miscellaneous.- Employment exchanges will deal with ex-Servicemen also. In order to look after the interests an Army Officer will work in the exchange with the status of Joint Manager of the exchange.

(Indian Labour Gazette,
November 1943). ✓

Recruitment, Training and Welfare in Ordnance Factories. ✓

According to a note published in the Indian Labour Gazette, November 1943 issue, recruitment of technical personnel for all Indian Ordnance factories is done by the Director of Factory Recruitment under the Supply Department of the Government of India. Recruitment covers all grades from officers down to chargemen and also men who are to be put under training.

Classes of Persons Recruited.- There are three classes of persons recruited:- (1) European British subjects are called up under the National Service (European British Subjects) Act, 1940 (XVIII of 1940), by the military authorities after having been declared available by the National Service Advisory Committees; (2) Indian British subjects are recruited through the National Service Labour Tribunals under the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance; and (3) personnel who do not come under either (1) or (2), e.g., foreigners and men over 50 years of age, are recruited by the Director of Factory Recruitment or by superintendents of factories. In addition to the recruitment explained above, workmen are also recruited by superintendents of factories direct.

The starting pay of individuals under the first two categories is fixed by the calling up authorities in the scale of pay decided upon by the Director of Factory Recruitment. The starting pay for the third category is generally fixed by the Director of Factory Recruitment.

Nature of Training.- The training scheme is designed to cover training of personnel for ordnance factories. The numbers placed under training are regulated by demands made by factories on the Director of Factory Recruitment. Normally, artisan trainees and supervision trainees are recruited by factories or the Director of Factory Recruitment, but the National Service Labour Tribunals can post ~~xxxx~~ men outside these classes or special training. In addition, men who have attained grade I semi-skilled standard, i.e., those who have passed out from training centres under the Technical Training Scheme of the Labour Department and artisan trainees are given up-grading training to skilled grade. The main divisions of trainees are: (1) Supervisor trainees; (2) Skilled and highly skilled trainees (to train them on progressively more difficult production

ork); and (3) artisan trainees (for work of a simple nature).

Since the inception of this scheme, the previous training arrangements which existed in the factories including apprentices, boy learners etc. have been absorbed in the present scheme. On date the following is the position in respect of training :-

	Completed training	Under training
Supervisors	955	766
Highly skilled and skilled men	2,015	2,314
Semi-skilled grade I	3,940	2,064

Terms of Service.- Wages are governed by the Schedule of Standard ages which provides for periodical increments and elevation to higher grades according to the degree of skill attained. The starting wages of technical personnel recruited by National Service Labour Tribunals are fixed by the Tribunals concerned.

~~Indian Ordnance Factories Workmen's~~ Workmen with over 3 year's service are eligible to subscribe to the provident fund at rates and conditions in force. Workmen are not generally eligible for pension or gratuity. Workmen living in Government lines and their families are given free medical attention in the factory hospital and dispensaries. Workmen may belong to labour unions recognised by Government. They are entitled to compensation for injury or disability under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The following ~~are~~ special benefits obtain during war:- (a) Dearness allowance at rates sanctioned by Government; (b) Bonus of one day's pay for each month's service during wartime will be paid at the end of the war; (c) In declared emergency areas workmen are entitled to a bonus of 20 per cent of their pay, 10 per cent to be paid at the time and 10 per cent after the war; and (d) Government ~~arrange~~ supply of essential foodstuffs at concessional rates either through the cooperative society stores or cheap grain shops.

Welfare.- Each Ordnance Factory is provided with a Labour Bureau under the charge of a Supervisor whose chief duties are :- (a) to ensure that rules for recruitment of men are strictly observed and that men on recruitment are rated in accordance with the Schedule of Standard ages; (b) to ensure that employment conditions in the factory comply with the Factories Act or Rules ; (c) to study welfare measures and economic conditions and put forth suggestions in the interest of the welfare of the factory workmen; and (d) to look after the comforts of workmen.

As regards amenities, in each factory a canteen is maintained for the supply of tea and refreshments and in some factories cooked food is also supplied to workmen and other employees on payment. Free supply of food rations and beverages of stimulating and nutritive value is made to all workmen employed on night shift work. Many factories have their own cooperative society and in some cases these societies run stores for the benefit of the members. Facilities for recreation and outdoor games exist in all old factories and provision for the same is being made in new factories. In factories situated in isolated positions cinemas have been provided. A post of Propaganda Supervisor has been created in all factories and radio and loudspeaker equipment has also been provided, by means of which broadcasts of the news and other matters of interest are made daily to the workmen.

Government's Suggestion of Provision of
Canteens for Mill Workers: Views of Mill-
owners' Association, Bombay.

Towards the middle of July 1943 the Employers' Federation of India forwarded to the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, copy of a communication from the Government of India, Department of Labour, in which the attention of industrial employers had been drawn to the advantages which would accrue from providing canteens to workers at their place of work. The employers' Federation, while fully appreciating the difficulties involved in implementing this recommendation on account of different conditions prevailing in this country, expressed the ~~unfavourable~~ view that every effort should be made to afford workers whatever facilities were possible in the way of food and supplies, and suggested that an earnest effort might be made by the employers to start canteens in their establishments, and, where such canteens already existed, to enlarge their activities so as to provide not only tea and light refreshments, but also principally food to such of the workers who might be willing to take advantage of the facilities offered.

The question of establishing canteens in mills had been considered by the Committee of the Association on several occasions in the past and certain mills ~~had~~ had on their own initiative established such institutions. It was not, however, possible for all mills in Bombay to establish canteens for the following reasons: (1) Some mills in ~~Bombay~~ had no space whatever within their premises either for cooking or for serving food to their operatives. (2) A standard food suitable to the tastes of people representing various communities, castes and ~~grades~~ working in the mills was difficult to evolve. (3) Cooking would also present difficulties, e.g. Mahomedans usually insisted on separate arrangements, being non-vegetarians; and Bhayyas, especially Brahmans, preferred to take food cooked by themselves. Utensils and serving vessels would be another problem and last but not the least was the problem whether cooks of different communities would be available in sufficient numbers. Another difficulty which had arisen in recent months was in connection with the supply of cereals required for the use of these canteens. Two or three mills had to close down their canteens as grain was not available, and one mill which was providing cooked food to about thousand workers was finding it very difficult to carry on, as requisite quantities of rice, etc., were not available. The Committee, therefore, suggested that arrangements might be made by Government to ~~help~~ help these employers who desired to run canteens by supplying them with the requisite quantities of grains.

(Excerpt from the Proceedings of
the Committee of the Millowners'
Association, Bombay, during
May - October 1943). ✓

Establishment of Co-operative Societies in
Mills: Recommendation of Millowners' Asso-
ciation, Bombay.

Early in September 1943 the question of encouraging the formation of co-operative credit societies among workers of member mills was considered by the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, which felt that at present employees in mills ~~xxx~~ were receiving high wages, and dearness allowance and that this was the most appropriate

time for mills ~~must~~ to provide the requisite facilities to their employees to save a portion of their earnings and/or to redeem old debts contracted by them at high rates of interest. The following recommendations were, therefore, issued to member mills:- (1) Mills, which had not so far established co-operative societies for their workpeople, should take the earliest opportunity to do so; (2) Mills, which had co-operative societies, should ask the managing committees of such societies to make it a point to investigate the bonafides and other details with regard to applications for loans; and (3) Mills should emphasize the desirability of thrift and take steps to start a "Thrift Fund" and persuade members of the co-operative societies to contribute small sums every month.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Mill-owners' Association, Bombay, during May - October, 1943). ✓

War Finance:

Imports of Consumers' Goods to Fight Inflation: Government's Decision. ✓

In order to check inflationary tendencies, the Government of India is arranging increased imports of bicycles, drugs and other consumers' goods and the increased supplies thus made available will be controlled in regard to distribution and price.

(The Times of India, 12-11-1943). ✓

Compulsory Saving imposed on Cane Growers in U.P. ✓

The Governor of the U.P. has issued an order directing every occupier or manager of a factory and every purchasing agent to make a deduction at the rate of two annas per maund, calculated to the nearest quarter of a rupee, from the price payable to a cane-grower, and pay the amount to him in defence savings stamps. If the amount exceeds on any occasion Rs.10/-, the manager or occupier of a factory or the purchasing agent shall take for each Rs.10/- an application in the form prescribed by the Postal Department from the grower for investment in the national saving certificate and shall give an acknowledgement for the same and shall pay the balance in defence savings stamps. In the case of a cane-growers' co-operative society, they shall keep the amount so deducted in deposit and intimate the same to the society concerned.

(Notification No.3030-S/XII C-139-3 dated 20-11-1943: The Government Gazette of the United Provinces Extraordinary dated 20-11-1943). ✓

This measure has been ~~was~~ ^{criticised} on the ground that such compulsory saving confined to cane growers alone will affect ~~the~~ the production of cane and drive growers to raise other crops in the case of which no restrictions have been put on returns. ✓

42

Control Measures.

Bombay Rent Restriction (Second Amendment)
Bill, 1943. ✓

The Government of Bombay has published the draft of a Bill which proposes adopting to make house rent control more effective. It has been noticed that some tenants have taken advantage of the shortage of accommodation and sublet their premises with a view to unfair gain. This practice is on the increase and has led to undesirable consequences. In these days of shortage of accommodation, there is no justification for allowing tenants to retain any right to premises which they do not require for personal occupation, and it is undesirable that they should be permitted to make a profit which is forbidden to landlords. It is proposed to amend the Bombay Rent Restriction Act, 1939, to achieve this end in view.

(The Bombay ~~Gazette~~ Government
Gazette Supplement dated
27-10-1943). ✓

Commodities Specifically Controlled under
Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention
Ordinance, 1943. ✓

Reference was made at page 44 of our October 1943 report to the adoption of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943. Under that Ordinance, the Government of India has directed producers or dealers in the following commodities to declare their existing stock and to maintain records of sale and purchase transactions: (1) vegetable ghee, (2) bicycles, (3) imported shoes, boots and footwear of all kinds, (4) fountain pens, (5) optical lenses, (6) imported surgical instruments, (7) razor blades, (8) toilet articles, such as shaving sticks, safety razors and tooth pastes, (9) woollen cloth and hosiery of other than Indian manufacture, (10) imported foodstuffs, (11) all imported silk goods, and (12) cigarettes. In the case of imported articles, the dealers have to declare landed cost also.

(Notifications Nos. D/3A, B & C -
CG(C.S.) dated ~~22-10-1943~~ and
1/2/43 CG(C.S.) dated 9-11-1943 ✓
22-11-1943
The Gazette of India, Part I,
section 1, dated 23-10-1943, and
13-11-1943. Pages 1160, ~~and~~ 1231 ✓
and 1277) ✓

The Drugs Control Order, 1943.

The Government of India Gazetted the Drug Control Order on 11-11-1943 in order to control the prices of all drugs (pharmaceutical chemicals, patent medicines and other articles specified in Schedule A attached to the Ordinance). Manufacturers, importers, whole-sale dealers and retailers of drugs are to be licenced and whole-sale and retail prices ~~to be controlled~~ controlled.

(Notification No.475 C.S.(B)
(1)/43 dated 11-11-1943: The
Gazette of India Extraordinary
dated 11-11-1943, Pages 701-808) ✓

43

Coal Rationing for All: Measures
for Raising Output. ✓

It is understood that a scheme of coal rationing for all consumers has been sanctioned ^{by the Government of India} and is being put into effect. This has involved a careful examination of the requirements of all industries, as well as of demands for export, bunkers and railways and the demands of domestic consumers.

The scheme, it is pointed out, is based on the minimum essential demands of consumers, the transport available and the amount of coal which can be raised and distributed. The total output available for distribution has been taken at about 25½ million tons. This is a larger quantity than has been distributed before, but the demands, not only of industries but of railways and ships, have increased owing to war production and increased war movements.

It is gathered that the need of utilizing all the coal that can be raised has resulted in the abandonment of the earlier proposal of shutting down some of the smaller collieries whose output is too small to justify the use of wagon transport. Even so, doubts are expressed whether the quantity of coal required can be raised, but certain steps have been taken to increase the output, which it is hoped may assist the situation. One of the most important is the employment of women in mines underground.

Recently the regulations were relaxed to enable the use of women labour in the C.F. and Bihar. Colliery owners, it is stated, demand not only a continuance of this relaxation, but its extension to Bengal and Bihar. The official viewpoint, however, is that the Government must be satisfied that mine owners have adopted all possible measures to make employment in mines attractive enough to draw an adequate supply of labour. For instance, doubt is expressed whether welfare facilities provided in mines are adequate. The Government have directed the Chairman of the Coal Stowing Board to ascertain whether adequate provision exists for housing, medical aid, educational facilities, etc. The Government have also suggested to mine owners to make arrangements to provide not only grain but other articles at concession rates to workers.

It is likely that the Viceroy will pay a visit to the coal area shortly to see things for himself.

(Statesman, 4-11-1943). ✓

Diversion of Industrial Output for
Civilian Use: Government of India's
Decision. ✓

Apart from the measures already taken by Government, such as the control of new capital issues, the acceleration of excess profits tax payments, restrictions on speculative trading, bonuses, commissions and holding of stocks, and the anti-hoarding and anti-profiteering ordinance, it is understood that the question of releasing a greater share of industry's output for the civil markets has been under the consideration of various departments of the Government of India.

All Government indentors, including the defence services, are under a duty to subject their demands from industry to even closer scrutiny than before and to re-evaluate reserves, where forward planning programmes may be impeded by sudden demands placed on grounds of urgent operational necessity. The army is taking all steps to minimise such demands so that the longest possible notice and period of delivery can be given. It therefore becomes more possible to plan production in such a way that civil requirements are also provided for, and these measures will go forward consistently with India's responsibility to supply the needs of her armed forces for the battles yet to be fought.

The agriculturist will benefit by a greater release of certain types of steel, such as usable defectives, through provincial and trade channels, at controlled prices, which will help to expand manufacture in small-scale industries of agricultural implements. Similar steps are being considered for other consumers' goods along with the question of control of prices at factories, based on the prices of some of the raw materials whose distribution the Supply Department is able to control.

Army salvage and repair establishments are coming into operation and substitute stores are being tried in place of those which use raw materials or goods in short civil supply. Salvage organisations will explore all methods of reconditioning stores with a view to their use by the army once more. They will also consider sale of salvage to factories where the raw material can be extracted and refabricated. In other cases, they will consider outright sale to civil markets of rejected or obsolete stores.

(Times of India, 8-11-1943). ✓

The U.P. Gur (Movement) Control Order. ✓

The U.P. Government has gazetted the Gur (Melasses) (Movement) Control Order, 1943, prohibiting movements of Gur by rail without Government's permission.

(Notification No. 19114/C.S. dated 13-11-1943: The Government Gazette of the United Provinces, Extraordinary, dated 13-11-1943). ✓

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Production.

Manufacture of Farm Implements in
Madras : Government's Scheme. ✓

In order to enable rural fabricators and agriculturists to obtain their supplies of iron and steel for the manufacture of agricultural implements and for other village industries, the Government of Madras has accepted the following proposals of the Deputy Iron and Steel Controller, Madras Circle, subject to such modifications as may be found necessary later on in the light of actual experience. According to the scheme formulated, the Deputy Controller will select established dealers at different centres for the distribution of defectives and cuttings at his discretion and also on the recommendation of a local gazetted Officer of the Revenue Department as to their bona fides. Each applicant requiring defectives and cuttings will be supplied on indent from controlled stock holders specified by the Deputy Controller. An official competitive agency will also be set up with a view to preventing stocks being passed on to the black-market. The Agricultural Demonstrator in each taluk (and the District Agricultural Officer in the case of a taluk where there is no Agricultural Demonstrator) will be allotted a sufficient quantity of defectives and cuttings to meet the agricultural demands for locally fabricated articles in his area. Agriculturists can obtain their requirements direct from the Agricultural ~~Department~~ Demonstrators. ✓

(The Hindu 31-10-1943) ✓

Sugar (Temporary Excise) Duty Ordinance,
1943. ✓

The Governor General promulgated the Sugar (Temporary Excise) duty, Ordinance, 1943, on 10-11-1943 imposing an excise duty of annas 13 per hundred on sugar, to enable the price of sugar-cane to be raised to a level which will make it worthwhile for growers to cultivate cane.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 10-11-1943).

The Eastern Economist, Delhi, comments that the duty now imposed is quite inadequate, as the maximum price of cane under the present scheme 12 annas per maund, even if paid in full, would fail to give returns to the grower comparable to those from the cultivation of other crops.

(The Eastern Economist, ~~1943~~
19-11-1943). ✓

Progress of India's Chemical Industry:
Need for Research Stressed by Sir. S.S.
Bhatnagar. ✓

The need for co-operative research in the Indian Chemical Industry and the formation of research associations in India was emphasised by S. S. Bhatnagar, Director, Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India. ~~xxxxxxx~~

of India, presiding over a conference of manufacturers of chemical and pharmaceutical products and representatives of Universities and Research Institutions held in Bombay on 8-11-1943. He pointed out that the research association idea was principally to help small firms. "I hope I shall succeed", he said, "in persuading the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies to give a lead, and help in the formation of research associations in India for several industries and particularly for the chemical industry in this country".

Earlier in his speech, he said that India now manufactured or shortly would manufacture sulphuric acid about 20,000 tons, caustic soda about 4,500 tons, soda ash about 56,000 tons, chlorine about 2,800 tons, chloro-sulphuric acid about 15 tons and formaldehyde about 60 tons a year. The figures were not very inspiring when compared with those of other countries, but there was some ~~solace~~ solace in the fact that most of these things were not made at all in this country before the war.

Resolution on Cooperative Research.- The conference passed the following resolution:- "This conference firmly believes that, having regard to the vast resources of the country to develop chemical and pharmaceutical industries, it is essential that all possible efforts be made for organising these industries on scientific lines. With that end in view, this conference resolves that an extensive and intensive research be undertaken by the co-operative efforts of chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturers on the one hand and the universities and research institutions on the other. This conference, therefore, asks the Indian Chemical Manufacturers' Association to take immediate steps to appoint a committee for this purpose and prepare a comprehensive ~~scheme~~ scheme for establishing, as early as possible, a co-operative industrial research association as suggested by Dr. Sir S.S. Bhatnagar in his presidential address."

(The Hindu 8-11-1943). ✓

Wheat Position in India: Discussion at Wheat Conference. ✓

Interesting problems were discussed by the Wheat Conference which met at New Delhi in the last week of October 1943. Research ~~is~~ evolved ~~ing~~ varieties of wheat which could successfully resist yellow and brown rust, but not yet black rust. The damage from rust ~~is~~ estimated at anything between 10 and 20 per cent of the entire crop, so that the evolution of new varieties which could withstand all the three kinds of rust would automatically add to India's wheat crop to an appreciable extent. An interesting discovery which has been made is that wheat grown on rainfed lands is superior to that grown on irrigated areas in regard to both milling and baking. For reasons as yet undiscovered, Rehtak (adjoining Delhi) and Rawalpindi seem to produce the best varieties of wheat.

One important problem which engaged the attention of the Conference was the accuracy of agricultural statistics in the provinces, with particular reference to wheat. If official reports are to be believed, there has been a startling deterioration in the fertility of the soil,

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as the following figures of average production of wheat per acre shows: In the U.P. the average was maintained at 1,050 lbs. from 1896 to 1927, then it dropped by successive stages to 1,000, later to 900 and later still to 883 lbs. - almost two-thirds of the average maintained for 30 years since 1896. In the C.P. the average was 600 lbs. from 1906 to 1922, but has since gradually dropped to 430 lbs. In Bombay the average from 1896 to 1937 was 575 lbs., but is now 394 lbs. In Bihar the average which was 984 lbs. till 1937 has now fallen to 839 lbs. In Sind the average increased from 1,066 lbs. to 1,366 lbs. but has now dropped to 894 lbs. In the Punjab the average has varied between 760 lbs and 856 lbs., the latest figure being 809 lbs. If these figures are correct, it means that India's wheat production per acre has diminished by about 30 per cent. No one, however, in authority in Delhi is willing to accept them as even remotely correct. It is maintained that the introduction of improved varieties of wheat should have produced favourable results and there is no general deterioration in the quality of the soil - except possibly in certain parts of the Punjab where salts have come up to the surface in recent years. Nevertheless, there is no disposition to regard these statistics which, after all, are produced by the departments concerned in the provinces, with complacency. There may therefore be a detailed enquiry in sample districts in one or two provinces. If the results of such an enquiry should disclose a wide disparity between the actual position and the official reports, the problem may be examined comprehensively at a later stage.

(The Hindu 2-11-1943). ✓

Review of the Work of Utilisation Board
of the Geological Survey of India . ✓

Reference was made at page 33 of our May 1942 report to the appointment of a Utilisation Branch of the Geological Survey of India. The work done by the Utilisation Branch ~~at the meeting~~ was reviewed at a meeting of the Utilisation Branch Advisory Committee held at New Delhi on 22-11-1943, with the Hon. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the chair. Prof. Hill, M.P., who is in India to advise the authorities on the problems of post-war scientific research, was also present at the meeting. It was stated that while prospecting of lead-zinc ores in Newar State would continue, the project had been dropped as a war measure. A hydro-electric survey of the area, with a view to investigating the possibilities of developing cheap power, was suggested. A statement covering the history, initial exploration, development and the results of Kehi Sultan sulphur operations and programme for further operations with regard to these deposits was laid before the Committee. The views of the Committee were also obtained on the arrangements made by the Government for training mining personnel for the operations of the Utilisation Branch.

The Committee were further informed of the suggestions received by the Government of India from scientific bodies, universities and directors of cognate scientific departments of Government, regarding India's mineral resources. Sir S.S. Bhatnagar proposed that a symposium on the subject might be arranged at the time of the coming session of the Indian Science Congress in which both official and non-official scientists might participate.

(The Hindu, 23-11-1943). ✓

Food.

Price of Feed-Staff in Bengal:
Committee Appointed to Check
Excessive Profits. ✓

The Government of India has appointed a committee to satisfy themselves that there is no excessive profit in the prices charged for wheat products in Bengal. The committee consists of Mr. Justice H.B.L. Sengupta, Regional Commissioner, Food, Eastern Region, and Mr. A.L. Cooke, Chief Cost Account Officer, Supply Department.

The terms of reference of the committee are :- (1) to enquire (a) whether the profit accruing to the flour mills from the production and sale at an-~~all~~ statutory prices of wheat products made from wheat purchased from the Government of Bengal is reasonable, having regard to such variations in output and other conditions as may from time to time arise, and if not, what adjustment ought to be made so as to secure a reasonable rate of profit in the interest of the public and all parties concerned (b) whether the profit accruing to retailers in the sale at statutory retail prices of wheat products purchased from the mills is reasonable. (2) To make recommendations as to the proportions in which atta, flour and bran should be produced by mills in Calcutta out of wheat bought from Government, and the respective prices at which they should be sold to the public.

It is explained that the Government of India has had under consideration measures to ensure that the retail cost of wheat and wheat products should sold to the public in Bengal is reasonable, and that no undue element of profit is included in these prices. It has been recently announced that the Government of Bengal has reduced their selling price of ~~whole~~ wheat to millers by Rs. 1-4-0, and the Government of India is satisfied that the reduced selling price fixed by the Bengal Government of Rs. 12-12-0 per maund of ~~whole~~ wheat sold to the flour mills in Calcutta is reasonable.

(Times of India 8-11-1943). ✓

Conserving Nutritive value of Rice:
Bombay Rice Mills Licensing Order. ✓

The milling of rice in Bombay Province has been brought under control by the Bombay Rice Mills Licensing Order. The production of rice in Bombay Province and the quantities imported are short of requirements ; so it has become necessary to take every possible step to conserve and make the best use of supplies. The Government of Bombay , therefore has issued an order, having effect from 9-10-1943 requiring all rice mills to be licensed.

One condition of the licence granted will be that paddy shall be under-milled. This reduces to the maximum extent possible the wastage of food in the process of milling, and increases the nutritive value of the rice. The Governments of Madras and the Central Provinces and Berar have already adopted similar legislation.

(Bombay Information dated
13-11-1943). ✓

Bengal Rationing Order, 1943. ✓

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The Governor of ~~Bengal~~ Bengal promulgated on 2-11-1943 the Bengal Rationing Order, 1943, which extends to the whole province, but comes into force only in areas specified by the Government. The Order deals with the arrangements for the distribution and supply of rationed articles.

(Notification No. 1616 D.C.S. dated 2-11-1943. The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated 4-11-1943, pages 1599 to 1604). ✓

Bihar Rationing Preparatory Measures Order, 1943. ✓

The Bihar Government issued on 10-11-1943 under Section 81 of the Defence of India Rules the Bihar Rationing Preparatory Measures Order, 1943, which applies to ^{the} whole province, but comes first into force in certain specified areas only. The Order relates to the collection of information necessary to introduce rationing in those areas.

(Notification No. 14958 P.C. dated 10-11-1943: The Bihar Gazette (Extraordinary) dated 11-11-1943). ✓

Bombay Government's Order Limiting Number of Guests for Feeding at Functions. ✓

The ~~Bombay~~ Government has in exercise of the powers conferred by subrule (2) of Rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules issued an Order on 19-11-1943 that in connection with any entertainment or function, religious, social or otherwise, in 19 specified Municipal areas, no one should serve food to ~~50~~ ^{more than 50} or more persons without the permit of the Magistrate of the area.

(The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary, dated 20-11-1943, Page 2603). ✓

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War Transport.

Control of Coastal Shipping: Government Explanation:
Criticism of Indian Interests. ✓

The announcement, in a Press Communique dated 11-9-1945, of the control measures over vessels on the Indian Register has given rise to the impression that Indian-registered ships would be placed at a disadvantage as compared with those on the British Register. The Government of India has explained in a communique issued on 1-10-1945 that there is no ground whatever for this apprehension. The reason why the Control measures do not extend to the ships on the British Register is that all such ships have already been requisitioned by His Majesty's Government and operate under the direct control of the Ministry of War Transport. They are, therefore, already under a measure of control which is far more stringent than the control which will be exercised through the licensing measures announced by the Government of India.

Object of the Control.- These control measures do not mean any reflection on the shipowners from whom the Government of India has received wholehearted co-operation not only in the carriage of priority cargoes, but also in various other ways. Experience has, however, proved on the railways that a system of uniform and centralised control over transport is essential, and this must be extended to cover all ships employed on the coast in order to ensure that the right cargoes are carried at the right time in the interests of the prosecution of the war and of the maintenance of supplies essential to the life of the community. Following the appointment of the Controller of Indian Shipping, arrangements have, therefore, been completed for the co-ordinated employment of tonnage running between Karachi, Calcutta and intermediate ports. As ships on the British Register are controlled by the Ministry of War Transport and those on the Indian Register by the Controller of Indian Shipping, it is now possible to ensure that all cargoes belonging to or sponsored by Government moves by sea in priority, and that goods for essential civil consumption, such as foodstuffs, are carried wherever required. For this purpose, all available ships on the Indian and British Registers will now work under a joint control as a combined fleet.

Coastal Shipping Committee.- The organisation to handle the arrangements under the new system is as follows: The Ministry of War Transport Representative and the Controller of Indian Shipping at Bombay will constitute a Committee to be known as the Coastal Shipping Committee, with power to co-opt such other officers as may be necessary, for example, the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, the Sea Transport Officer, Bombay, the Country Craft Organisation Officer, and the Controller of Supplies. This Committee will allocate, by mutual agreement, the priority cargoes between the various ships under their control, taking into account the available country craft capacity, which must always be used if it thereby releases steamers for duties unsuitable for sailing vessels.

At other ports, there will be local Committees consisting of the Ministry of War Transport Representative and the Principal Officer of the Mercantile Marine Department in the case of Karachi, Madras and Calcutta, and the Administrative Officer in the case of Cochin and Vizagapatam, with power to co-opt such other officers as may be necessary, such as the Port Food Movement Officer, etc., to implement the decisions of the Bombay Committee and to deal with local cargo offering.

The Coastal Shipping Committee will supply the Government of India

with forward estimates of the tonnage likely to be available each month, against which cargoes sponsored by Government Departments will be first allocated. In addition to Government cargo there will be offering general cargo from all directions. As instructions regarding such cargo cannot be issued from Delhi, the Coastal Shipping Committee will have full discretion regarding its allocation in order of priority, following such general directions as may be issued by the Central Priorities Committee.

("Indian Information", dated
15-10-1943)..

Indian Criticisms: (1) Mr. Walchand Hirachand's Criticism.- Criticising the above arrangements, Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Chairman of the Scindia Steam Navigation Co, declared: " It is contended, that the ships on the British Register are already 'under a measure of control which is far more stringent than the control exercised through the licensing measures announced by Government'. The misleading nature of claim is evident, when it is realised that those ships on the British Register under the so-called 'stringent control' have not only been freely and fully placed by the British Ministry of War Transport at the disposal of the ~~various~~ British shipping companies, to carry their quota of the coastal trade - control or no control notwithstanding - but they are also encouraged in every way to further dominate the coastal waters, at the cost and serious disadvantage of Indian ships. The appointment of the Indian Shipping Adviser was made mainly with a view to enable Indian shipping to carry cargo, according to its quota, and Indian shipping has been compelled to fall short of its quota by thousands and thousands of tons. The Government of India, has not helped Indian shipping companies to maintain their position in the trade, and carry their quota, as so definitely and repeatedly promised. To impose further control, under such unequal and unjustifiable circumstances, on Indian shipping alone, by means of licensing measures, amounts to discrimination in favour of ships on the British Register, at the cost and sacrifice of national ships. The Government should bring all ships, whether on the Indian register or on the British Register, plying in coastal waters, under the control of the Controller of Indian Shipping, appointed by it, and responsible only to it, and then impose equal measures of control on all of them - bearing their respective quota obligations in mind - for utilising them in the most efficient manner possible, for the prosecution of the war, and for "the maintenance of supplies essential to the life of the community".

(Bombay Chronicle, 4-10-43).

(2) Protest of Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay.- The Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, has sent on 20-10-43 a telegram to the Government of India to the effect that it cannot endorse the conclusions reached by Government in its communique dated 1-10-43 and demanding that all ships, whether on the Indian register or on the British register, must be brought immediately under control of Controller of Indian Shipping in conjunction with representatives of Indian commercial community and Indian shipping interests.

(Bombay Chronicle, 26-10-43)..

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Foreign Railway Experts Invited by
Government of India to advise the
Indian Railway Administration. ✓

Mr. R.J. M. Inglis, Divisional Manager of the London and North Eastern Railway Company, and Col. J.A. Appleton, formerly General Manager of the New York zone of the Pennsylvania Railroad, are shortly to pay a visit of a few months' duration to India at the invitation of the Government of India in order to place their experience and advice at the disposal of the Indian Railway administration.

(The Hindu 12-11-1943). ✓

Textile Industry:

Reasonable Depreciation for Textile Industry
In War-Time: Committee Appointed to Decide. ✓

According to a press note issued by the Government of India in the third week of ~~November~~ November 1943, the Government has decided to appoint a Committee to examine whether the textile industry is justified in asking for an increased rate of depreciation, as a result of increased use made of machinery for war work. The Committee will consist of the following:- Sir John Sheehy, Chairman, Mr. C.W. Ayers, Sir Frederick Stones, Mr. M.K. Velledi, Mr. D.M. Passmore ; and Mr. J. B. Greaves.

(The Vanguard, 21-11-1943). ✓

Compensation for War Injuries:

War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1943,
to come into force on 16-11-1943. ✓

Reference was made at page 32 of our August 1943 report to the adoption of the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1943. The Government of India has now notified that the Act comes into force on 16-11-1943.

(Notification No. L.Wis 828 dated
16-11-1943: The Gazette of India
Part I, Section 1, dated 20-11-1943
page 1258).

As the Act provides for compulsory insurance of the employer's liability with the central Government, the employers will be required to make applications for insurance. It is understood that the employers will be required to make these applications after 1-1-1944, and before 31-1-1944. Arrangements are being made to inform the employers in good time about their liabilities. It is expected that the machinery to administer the Act will be set up about the middle of December, 1943.

(The Leader 23-11-1943). ✓

Post-War Re-equipment of Indian Industries:
Government Gathering Information. ✓

Reference was made at page 61 of our October 1943 report to the decision of the Government of India to collect data about the capital re-equipment which will be needed by Indian industries when the war ends. According to a Press Note issued by the Government subsequently, the Government is addressing a circular letter to chambers of commerce, industrial associations and manufacturing firms likely to be interested, asking them to inform Government, without delay, of the capital goods they will require for delivery from overseas within two years after the end of the war, to replace worn out machinery and for the normal development of industry.

Orders from all over the world for heavy plant and machinery are already being placed in the chief manufacturing countries which are likely to be in a position to make deliveries after the war, and it appears inevitable that the production of capital goods will be insufficient to meet all demands. Unless therefore early action is taken, it may be impossible for industrialists to secure their requirements. The Government of India, the note points out, has no desire to interfere with any arrangements that industrialists may already have made, and wishes only to assist them to obtain goods which they may be unable to secure by their own unaided efforts.

The Government of India will also, in the near future, be inviting the voluntary co-operation of industrialists in furnishing replies to a questionnaire on post-war industrial reconstruction. The questionnaire is intended to elicit information on the basis of which plans can be formulated for the future of Indian industry.

(Industrial Bulletin of the
Employers' Federation of
India, Bombay, dated
1-11-1943). ✓

India's Post-war Trade Policy: Discussion
at Meeting of Consultative Committee of
Economists. ✓

~~Discussions on~~ India's post-war trade policy, with particular reference to the question of concluding a multi-lateral trade agreement, the finance and structure of industry, and the general policy that should be followed in respect of capital goods and State aid to industries were some of the subjects discussed at the third meeting of the Consultative Committee of Economists, ~~which was~~ held at New Delhi on 12 and 13-11-1943, Sir Azizul Haque, Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies, presiding.

Indian Trade Policy.- The Committee discussed the problem of Indian trade policy in the post-war period. The discussion mainly centred on the question how far it was desirable for India to participate in any unilateral trade agreement and if so what reservations should be made to safeguard her interests. The consensus of opinion was in favour of a multilateral trading system, with suitable provisions for safeguarding the growth of Indian industries. Some of the speakers were of the view that failing a multilateral trade agreement, India might have to ~~xxxxxx~~

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protect her industries by entering into bilateral treaties mainly with the Sterling Bloc. It was generally agreed that the sterling assets, which according to some members had been accumulated at considerable sacrifice to the population, should be utilised for building up the capital equipment of the country.

There was general agreement of the desirability of continuing the system of controls of exports and imports and of further extending the system, with necessary modifications to suit the conditions of the immediate post-war period. Some of the speakers advocated the creation of a central authority to direct the economic development of the country and to co-ordinate the activities of the various bodies concerned with tariff and controls.

Disposal of Sterling Balances.- The question of disposal of sterling balances was also discussed. The Finance Member, who participated in the discussion, expressed the view that the wisest policy for industrialists in this country would be to look ahead and see that the resources now coming into their possession were duly conserved through the building up of suitable reserve to meet the capital needs of the post-war period. ~~xxxxxx~~ Such a policy, if resolutely pursued, he pointed out would tend to moderate the inflationary process during the war. Some of the speakers advocated the extension of State enterprise as being the only logical conclusion to the kind of economic planning envisaged for the post-war period. Other members favoured the continuance of the system of private enterprise with adequate supervision and control by the State.

With regard to the capital requirements of Indian industries in the post-war period, the view was expressed that foreign capital might have to be imported on a considerable scale, even after allowing for the existence of sterling assets. In this connection, the desirability of instituting some system of allocating priorities to the various competing demands for imported capital goods was emphasised.

Improvement of Agriculture.- On the subject of the long-term adjustment of Indian agriculture to Indian and world trade, the general view of the Committee was that it was impossible to think of industrialisation on an adequate scale without taking simultaneous measures to enhance the purchasing power of the rural population, and that, for this purpose, it was essential to take steps to secure an all-round agricultural improvement. Development of mixed farming, improved marketing of dairy products and the better utilisation of cattle resources were among the subjects discussed in this connection.

(The Hindu 14-11-1943 and
Vanguard 17-11-1943). ✓

Inaugural Meeting of Post-War Reconstruction
Advisory Committee of Bengal. ✓

Reference was made at page 59 of our October 1943 report to the setting up in Bengal of a Post-war Reconstruction Advisory Committee. Hon. Khawaja Sir Nazimuddin, Premier of Bengal, opened the inaugural meeting of the Committee, on 9-11-1943. The Hon. Mr. K. Sahabuddin, the Chairman of the Committee, welcomed its members and outlined the problems the Committee had to tackle.

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Sir Nazimuddin's Speech.- In his opening speech, Sir Nazimuddin explained the nature of the work lying before the Committee. After assuring that the entire Governmental machinery and ~~also that~~ his colleagues would be at the service of the ~~members~~^{Committee}, Sir Nazimuddin said that he sometimes dreaded the termination of the war because of the grave problems which would have to be faced, problems such as unemployment and slump. ~~He~~ emphasized the need for being fully prepared to meet that situation so that Bengal might not be caught napping. He hoped that the members of the committee would suggest steps which would bring prosperity to the province.

Sir Sahabuddin's Speech.- The Hon'ble Sir Shabuddin, addressing the Committee, said: "Reconstruction is the order of the day. Even in England and the U.S.A. where war is more of a reality, steps have been taken to plan for reconstruction. Here in India also the earlier feeling that all effort must be concentrated on the prosecution of the war and that for the duration all long-term schemes must be laid aside has given way to another, namely, that if we are to win the peace we must plan ahead and prepare for all the problems which we have been constrained to shelve because of the war, and others more important, which the hopes and aspirations born of the sacrifices made in war, make it incumbent upon us to face on the cessation of hostilities and the return to peace".

Referring to some of the post-war problems that will arise, he referred to the huge problems of unemployment and of labour welfare. ~~that will arise.~~ The number of combatants from the province, ~~through~~ though not considerable, have to be resettled at the end of the war. The main problem, however, will be to re-absorb into industry all the technical labour, now employed in War factories and the final re-employment of numbers of middle class youths now employed in the services required for the prosecution of the war. Middle class unemployment has always been attended with risks of political turmoil in Bengal. Ways and means for finding employment for these people have to be considered in advance. As regards industrial workers, the Government has been successful so far in averting labour unrest, but there is need for early steps being taken to adopt a genuinely forward policy to ensure their welfare. "Some welfare schemes like sickness insurance, holidays with pay, provident funds, old-age pensions are already under examination by the Government of India. Much more in that direction remains to be achieved. I have in mind not only a minimum wage for workers in the major industries, but security of service, housing and a suitable machinery for speedy settlement of labour disputes. Above all, what is wanted is an entirely new outlook upon the part that these workers are to play in our national life. They are in a very real sense builders of our industry. The earlier this is recognised, the more change there is for harmonious relations between workers and employers and the stabilization and prosperity of ~~all~~ industry."

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 11-11-1943
and The Vanguard, 14-11-1943).*

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Planning for Road Development:
Sir Kenneth Mitchell's Presidential
Address at Eighth Indian Road
Congress, Gwalior, 4-10-1943.

Sir Kenneth Mitchell, I.S.E., Controller of Road Transport, Government of India, presiding over the Eighth Session of the Indian Roads Congress held at Gwalior on October 4, referred in the course of his address to the need for post-war planning of road development in India. Regarding the existing shortcomings and of road transport, he said that the greatest defect has been failure to apply the best available skill, experience and energy to ~~the~~ the improvement of the roads upon which so largely depend the social and material welfare of the rural population. Village roads and the humbler district roads have not only not progressed, but have deteriorated with the increasing traffic of more money crops, more people, and more travel arising from security and general awakening. ~~There are hundreds, probably thousands, of large villages at some distance from any roads supposedly maintained by public authority, and many miles from any modern road, and there is general neglect of the link between the village and the public road. The people in these villages are the primary producers of crops and revenue. Every maund of exportable foodstuff, cotton, etc., originates in the village and starts its journey to market along the village or unmetalled district road, and the service which the people get from these roads is quite inadequate. Then, village roads, especially in Bengal and Bihar, which are maintained by Union Boards, are not linked to district roads maintained by public authority. The village roads must for some time more remain unmetalled, but a general campaign of widening, straightening, legal reservation of the land and the provision of culverts, is necessary.~~

Post-war Plans.- (1) Village Roads. Among the various factors which affect roads, the kind of traffic using them is very important, and this factor can be controlled to ensure greater longevity of roads. Among the post-war plans for industry, there are two things, the bullock cart and the various forms of locally made inefficient water-lift, which merit the attention of the progressive industrialist, affording at once a new industry and better machines for the agriculturist, ~~and~~ This might for a time damage the hand labourer in the village, but it would be to the long-term interests of rural economy that it should be served by more efficient machines. If the carts using the roads had pneumatic tyres, not only could the community be given many more good roads for the same money, but the better roads and carts would enable greater loads to be carried with less exhaustion of bullock power. The use of rubber tyres on carts would, for instance, open up immense possibilities for the simple brick-paved road. With many diversities of marketing trade practice, it is difficult to generalise, but it is probably true that in the majority of cases the producer can carry his crop to the market in his own cart at no cash cost to himself. To restrict this work to rubber-tyred bullock carts would mean that he would often have to pay someone else to do it. But the price might be a small one to pay for the incalculable benefit of better roads all round. Sir Kenneth suggested an enquiry into the facts, i.e. how many rubber-tyred carts would be needed.

~~As regards themselves, he said that~~ the need for permanent improvements, and capital outlay on making a permanent alignment with adequate width, proper grading, drainage and culverts, is clear. Soil stabilisa-

tion is not quite so simple. But, in the long run, the essence of the matter is proper maintenance, and that, in the case of village roads, is a matter of free labour by the villagers themselves, managed by their panchayats or like bodies. This idea is objected to by some as a reversion to something akin to begar (~~free~~ labour). There are, however, several severely practical reasons for it. In the first place, any lowest cost road depends on the clay content of the soil as the binder, and proper maintenance requires not a regular labour force or haphazard earthwork, but prompt treatment at the right time when the soil is neither too dry nor too wet. Three or four men, with a pair of bullocks and a simple wooden drag, ~~them~~ can then in a few hours restore camber and fill ruts and consolidate the whole, so as to keep the road in shape for weeks. At other times, little or nothing can be done. This work surely is for the man on the spot, village road maintenance could be better done at less cost by the villager than by anyone else. Moreover, ~~the~~ ~~work~~ ~~of~~ ~~initial~~ ~~improvement~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~lay-out,~~ ~~grading~~ ~~and~~ ~~location~~ ~~of~~ ~~culverts,~~ the work of initial improvement also should be undertaken by the villagers by free labour. The demands for increased expenditure, both first cost and recurring, for all schemes of post-war development will be so immense that self-help will be necessary, ~~whenever~~ wherever it is possible. A drive to get the villagers to improve their own roads themselves, accompanied by a real programme to improve the district roads at public expense, should be attempted. The engineers would help, but the drive, encouragement and general supervision would be best left to the people dealing with rural uplift, village sanitation, consolidation of holdings, etc.

(2) District Roads. It is on district roads, or the great mileage of roads lying in ~~class~~ between the trunk and intertown routes on the one hand and the village road on the other that the rural population most depends. It is normally in the charge of rural local bodies, but has been very badly neglected. In planning for the future, two things should be studied: the adequacy of the system in accessibility and in condition. By accessibility, he meant that no village of 1,000 population and over should be more than half a mile from a public road. Condition depends on the equation of the specification to the traffic. The present general condition of this extensive system of district roads, some metalled, many more unmetalled, seems to be a barrier to every other plan of rural uplift or improvement. The problems are of great variety, calling for different treatments. But what is a common cause of the present state of affairs, common to nearly all Provinces and districts, is an administrative misfit. He felt that placing roads under local Self-Government has not produced any good results. One reason often advanced for the failure is financial, that district boards have not the money, nor the taxing capacity, to discharge properly all the expanding functions that have devolved upon them, in education, public health and all the rest, as well as roads. This is probably true, although even the money budgeted for roads could ~~often~~ have been better or more wisely spent. Still, it must be accepted that the financing of post-war development and the overtaking of years of neglect will be quite beyond the existing and potential resources of local bodies, and probably also the maintenance of the resulting improved system. Moreover, the problem with this class of road is maintenance more than the occasional finding of large sums for development. The large sums for post-war development will come, if at all, from sources other than local rates, and if maintenance is later neglected, those large sums, are practically wasted. Therefore, provincial Governments should take direct responsibility for development and maintenance of roads.

Much of the deterioration in present efficiency is due to the status and conditions of service of district board engineers which are not such as to make for efficiency. Deprived, as ~~usually~~ they often are, of any support and guidance from official professional superiors, they are always in danger of stagnating and dare not experiment or try to get out of the grooves bounded by conservatism and the vested interests of ~~the~~ contractors. One reason for the generally poor conditions of service of district board engineers seems to lie in the accountant's device of relating establishment charges to cost of works and repairs. In its application to road maintenance, it is dangerous, since it elevates, as it were, the man who spends most and degrades the man who saves most by close application of scientific low-cost methods. There is also the practical aspect of the use of machinery. As time goes on, more and more of the district road work may be done by machines. The maintenance of these machines and provision of the mechanical engineering staff by independent district boards is uneconomical. ~~But~~ The Province has in fact become a suitable area for road management, and the isolation of district management is no longer necessary.

The first step towards the improvement of district roads is to transfer them to expert Provincial Highway Departments, which would absorb the efficient district board engineers and level up standards of efficiency all round.

Development Plans.— The ~~first~~ future district road development must be planned and pressed forward in two stages. First, whether and where an extension of mileage is necessary. This can be planned districtwise. The second and more complex question is the engineering estimation, based on actual traffic counts or estimates, of what has to be done to improve the system to present-day needs. These improved specifications, as well as earth road improvements, can then be approximately priced per mile and the whole picture reviewed without the preparation of detailed estimates. The latter should then be put in hand for the most urgently needed improvements first. It is, ~~in~~ ^{an} immense task that should be taken up at once.

(3) All-India Highways.— The great all-India Highways and the ~~main~~ Provincial intertown roads have already been developed to standards relatively far in advance of the others. But they are still far below the standards necessary in modern times, and the war has revealed many ~~such~~ weaknesses or missing links, particularly in the all-India Highways. The future will tax the capacity of all available means of transport. Both these classes of road involve much the same engineering, administrative and money problems. In the future development of these roads, engineers will be called upon to apply the highest development of the science and art of road making and maintaining. In large scale planning it is necessary to approach costs from the long-term scientific angle, rather than from that of what is cheapest in first-cost.

Sir Hanneth's Suggestions.— It was suggested that the future importance of traffic segregation should be ^{revised} retired and the need for a full examination of the possibilities of this should be ^{going} coming before any large schemes of development go too far. Motor transport will increase, but the bullock ^{will} remain the prime mover of agricultural and other short-haul transport for many years. The ^{plan} should be on that basis. The bicycle is multiplying and will multiply rapidly, and provision ~~should~~ should be made also for herds of cattle, flocks of sheep and goats, in some Provinces strings of camels, and everywhere

the pedestrian, Elaborate segregation will obviously not be possible everywhere. But where traffic is dense - particularly on the approaches to towns - to put all this mixture on to one common carriageway by mere widening and mere widening of the original metalled road, is to perpetuate inconvenience, congestion, and risk of accidents. It will also often be far more expensive to make and maintain a great width of all-purpose surface than to provide each class with what is best suited to it. The trunk or main road of the future will require much more land width than is always available. There is also very great need for enactment or amendment of highway legislation generally, and for more effective remedies than now exist against encroachment on the road lands. This is allied to the question of taxation of "betterment value" of land due to road improvement. The principle is accepted in many countries, but its application to agricultural land values in India is limited by the smallness of holdings, and it is already supposed to be taken into account at the time of settlements. The case of large estates on permanent settlement is different, as also is the sale of agricultural land for industrial development arising out of the improvement of roads, or for which road expenditure has to be increased. In the latter case, in particular, the sudden appreciation in value should be tapped. Ribbon development must likewise be controlled.

(Indian Information, 1-11-1943). ✓

Post-war Scientific Research:
Prof. A.V. Hill in India
at invitation of Government of
India. ✓

Prof. A.V. Hill, Secretary of the Royal Society, who is at present at Delhi in response to the Government of India's request to the Society to send a representative to advise the authorities on problems of post-war scientific research, explained the purpose of his mission at a press conference in New Delhi on 24-11-1943. Prof. Hill stressed the need for establishing greater contacts between Indian and British Scientists. Speaking about India's large number of highly trained scientific workers, he remarked: "If some arrangements could be come to by which India would maintain in the United Kingdom a small scientific mission just like what America and the Dominions do, and if Britain could maintain a similar mission in India, we should be able to do something which would be of great use not only for the war but for co-operation after it". He was of opinion that the great long-term problems of India are biological ones related to agriculture, health and population.

Prof. Hill is expected to be in India for about four months. He will visit different universities and research institutions.

(The Times of India, 27-11-1943). ✓

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Future Development of Indian Industries:
Government of India issues Questionnaire. ✓

Following the meeting of the Policy Committee on Post-war Trade and Industry in New Delhi last month (vide page 61 of our October 1943 report), an industrial questionnaire has been issued to all Chambers of Commerce, and Industrial Associations, as well as to over 330 individual manufacturers, by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India. The questionnaire calls for facts and figures regarding 52 different industries in India and for opinions on their future development. The Government is also collecting all information on the subject available from official sources.

The returns, it is understood, will help to form as complete a picture as possible of India's industries as they are today, as they have developed in the past few years and as they are likely to find themselves on the cessation of hostilities, with a view to the formulation of plans for the future of industry on an all-India scale.

(The Statesman, 26-11-1943). ✓

Agricultural Work for Demobilised Soldiers:
Dr. MacLagan Gerrie's Scheme. ✓

Dr. MacLagan Gerrie, of the Indian Forest Service, in a paper read before a meeting of the Crops and Soils wing of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, at Baroda towards the end of November 1943, dealt with the scope for absorption of demobilised soldiers on the land. He estimates that, with large-scale planning and in concert with Central and provincial Governments, the army, the returned soldier and soil conservation specialists in the provinces, some 170,000,000 acres of barani land (land dependent on rains alone and not on irrigation) and waste land could be brought into full cultivation. (India at present has some 260,000,000 acres under food crops). Dr. Gerrie recalled that in the Tennessee Valley (U.S.) a central authority, with autocratic control "literally worked miracles in improving the status of what was in 1934 a bankrupt and down-at-heel agricultural community". The chief point of his scheme is to ask for the co-operation of the army-the engineer-in-chief's machinery companies, pioneer companies, and other army units. Confining his proposals to non-irrigated lands, Dr. Gerrie estimates that out of 13,000,000 acres of barani cultivation and 14,000,000 acres of uncultivated waste in the Punjab, possibly 16,000,000 acres are capable of higher standard of land use, but only after a great deal of terracing, ridging and subsoil ploughing. With "current fallow" and land under intermittent cultivation, ~~for~~ totalling together to 5,000,000 acres, he estimates that there is an overall total of improvable land of 21,000,000 acres in the Punjab alone. Similarly in the U.P. and C.P. and the drier parts of Bombay and Madras and in the broken country of Bihar, taking ten per cent. of the net sown area, half of the current fallow, half the non-available waste and ten per cent. of the village forest land, he calculates that a total of 140,000,000 acres for British India and 30,000,000 for Indian States of improvable land exists.

(The Times of India dated
30-11-1943). ✓

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India's Post-war Reconstruction:
Government's of India's Plans.

According to the special correspondent of the Times of India in New Delhi, it is expected that the Government of India will take a decision before the coming new year to determine the major plank of its post-war reconstruction policy and ~~the~~ prints will be ready by the end of June 1944. Realising probably that at the present pace of progress plans will not mature by the time of the war is over and that the absence of clear guidance has been a handicap, the Viceroy took the opportunity in the middle of November 1943 of consulting the Provincial Governors. The main policy will be determined shortly by the Viceroy's Executive Council and by provincial Governments in the light of the Delhi discussions. It is gathered that the need is not felt at present of creating a department for post-war reconstruction or placing a separate member of the Executive Council in charge of this work. The Government ~~is~~ appears to have divided post-war problems under three main heads - industrial growth, economic development and social reconstruction. It is pointed out that the financial resources of India and the taxable capacity of the people prevent simultaneous progress in the three spheres and that Government must first decide which of these it should encourage first.

Agricultural Reconstruction.- It is argued that industrialists have made their pile and can be left to fend for themselves, except that ~~Government can guide and assist them financially.~~ As for social reconstruction it is felt that religious and communal differences and deep-rooted social practices make it difficult for the Government agency to ~~plan and execute social reforms.~~ Moreover, such a task would need gigantic resources, whereas India's economic strength is unable yet to meet the bill for universal education or the national health scheme. The country must be developed first and enriched to enable the people to bear the cost of social changes. The sphere thus left for Government initiative is of economic development, which means broadly that production from land be increased and communications developed. Thus agricultural progress becomes the foundation stone of the proposed economic drive. In order that the farmer be encouraged, it is necessary to ~~stabilise~~ stabilise commodity prices at a higher level than ~~pre-war level~~ to place in the cultivator's hand the wherewithal to improve implements and stock and use fertilizers, which would be manufactured in India and would be subsidised by Government. In addition, Government will stimulate development by furthering irrigation, increasing hydro-electric power and improving communications, embracing road, rail, waterways, air, posts and telegraphs, and telephones.

Industrial Development.- Thus State enterprise will mainly be in the sphere of public works, and the slogan of advocates of this view is "Ruffassil before urban". There is another school of thought composed largely of industrialists and public men who are members of various advisory committees on post-war reconstruction. They wish industrialisation and social reconstruction to go hand in hand and would have the State adopt this as its major plank. According to this group, what industry needs is rehabilitation of equipment and machinery for heavy industry. It fears that if agriculture is treated as an industry then industry proper may be relegated to a secondary place. It is pointed out that the foundation of ~~the~~ economic framework must be healthy and that it will be futile to develop communications unless it can be utilised by industry. It is stated that ~~the~~ considerable profits made by industry

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(The Statesman, 26-11-1943). ✓

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(The Times of India dated
30-11-1943). ✓

has been made at the expense of industrial equipment, and that, after the war it will be necessary to replace worn-out machinery and introduce new machinery and new technique.

It is suggested that the present tempo of taxation borne largely by industry and rich business and justified by national emergency will have to be adjusted to enable industries, firstly, to face foreign competition, and secondly, to produce cheap consumers' goods to provide freedom from want. It is further argued that if attention is concentrated only on the agricultural side, India may be losing the lead already given to an appreciable percentage of the population, who have, during the war, received valuable lessons in artisanship in various trades. So, as part of the educational programme there must be intensive development of the present day's industrial education.

Finance.— Common ground between the two schools of thought is that commodity prices and wages should be at a higher level than pre-war so that direct taxation of incomes, including agricultural income, may provide funds for meeting the interest on development loans. If money can be lent for war against fellow men, it should be forthcoming for war against ignorance and poverty, more particularly as this expenditure will yield results in five or ten years in case of public works, and in a generation in case of universal education and national health.

It is calculated that the present administrative organisation cannot easily spend more than Rs. 500,000,000 a year on capital works and as cheap money should continue to be available for at least three years after the hostilities cease, a borrowing programme of Rs. 2,500,000,000, spread over five years should be easy of fulfilment as the first instalment. As most of the provinces will face a series of deficits after the war, the main burden of finance will devolve on the Centre. But whoever raises loans the greatest need is to integrate the programmes of the Centre, the provinces, and States.

(The Times of India dated
29-11-1943). ✓

Price Control:

Cost-Price Stores to be established in Delhi
for Central Government Servants.

Cost-Price Stores for civilian employees of the Government of India are being opened in Delhi on the lines of the stores for military personnel, which have been functioning for some time. A store will be opened in the Secretariat building for gazetted Officers of the Civil Secretariat. Another store will be opened in Connaught Place for lower ministerial staff and peons. A similar store may be opened in Civil Lines, Delhi, for Central Government employees who work and reside there.

(The Statesman, 28-10-1943). ✓

List of the more important publications received in this office during
November 1943

ns of Work

Administration Report of the Controller of Labour for 1942. November 1943. Printed at the Ceylon Government Press, Colombo. 1943. Price 85 cents.

Conditions

"India and International Currency Plans" by V.K.R.V. Rao, University Professor of Economics, Delhi. S. Chand & Co., Delhi. Price Re.1/8/- . 1943.

Bulletin No. 1. Thirty-ninth. Department of Statistics. Statistical Abstract of the Baroda State from 1932-33 to 1941-42. Published by Authority. Baroda: Printed at the Baroda State Press. 1943. Price Re.1-2-0.

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Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for the year 1942. Published by the Manager, of Publications, Delhi. 1943.

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Board of Economic Enquiry, Bengal. Report on the investigations made in connection with the enquiry about the desirability and feasibility of establishing warehouses for Agricultural produce in Bengal, by Secretary, Board of Economic Enquiry, Bengal. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. 1943.

Conditions

Census of India, 1941. Vol. XX, Gwalior:- Part III - Village Statistics. By Ranglal, B.A., Census Commissioner, Gwalior State. Gwalior: Printed at the Alijah Darbar Press, Lashkar. 1943. Price Rs.12/=. (In Hindi).

Health

Government of Bengal. Thirty-seventh Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission for the year 1942. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. 1943. Price Anna 1 or 2d.

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Reports on the Administration of Municipalities in the Province of Bombay for the year 1941-42. (Including Statistical Statement for the City of Bombay.) Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press. Price As. 12 or 1s.3d. 1943.