

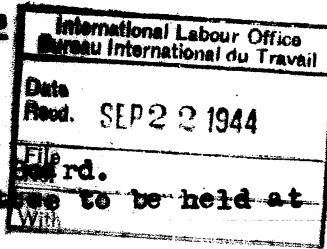
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**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE**  
**INDIA**

**Industrial and Labour Developments in May 1944**

**N.B. Each section of this Report may be taken out separately.**

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Assam:

The Assam Transport Leave Rules. ✓

The Government of Assam has on 24-4-1944 notified certain rules to regulate the holidays, sick and injury leave and pay admissible during leave, for the personnel of the Assam Transport organisation. These rules apply to all persons employed in Assam Transport who have no lien or suspended lien on a permanent post under Government. They provide for the grant of gazetted holidays (6 days a year to all employees), 'earned' leave (30 days leave with pay in 12 months of substantive employment for salaried staff and 10 days for daily rated employees), leave without pay on urgent private affairs (10 days and 30 days a year respectively for the monthly and daily rated employees) and sick and injury leave with pay up to a maximum of 30 days in 12 months of substantive employment, and without pay up to 60 days. Provisions are also made regarding payment of wages to daily rated staff during periods of sickness.

(Notification No. HMV.65/43/19, dated 24-4-1944, The Assam Gazette, dated 3-5-1944, Part II, pages 419-420). ✓

2

SOCIAL POLICY.

Third Meeting of Mysore Labour Welfare Board. ✓

The Third Meeting of the Mysore Labour Welfare Board was held at Bangalore on 1-3-1944, the Commissioner of Labour <sup>Mysore</sup> presiding.

After reviewing recent developments in labour welfare and labour legislation in Mysore and other places in India consequent on the recommendations of the Standing Labour Committee and the Plenary Labour Conference of the Government of India, the Board considered several subjects, such as, the establishment of an employment exchange in the Department of Labour for the registration and placing of skilled technical personnel after the war, the appointment of a sub-committee of the Board to investigate questions connected with wages, earnings and conditions of labour, and the introduction of amendments to the Mysore Labour Act and the Mysore Factories Act, and made suitable recommendations on these matters. The Board also discussed the question of the constitution of a sub-committee to consider the enactment of legislation on holidays with pay, compulsory provident fund, etc., for industrial workers. It was also unanimously suggested that the Department of Labour should ~~issue~~ issue a quarterly labour bulletin containing information relating to the administration of labour legislation and the provision of schemes for the welfare of labour.

(Mysore Information Bulletin,  
March, 1944 ). ✓

Fifth Meeting of Standing Labour Committee  
to be held at New Delhi on 27-6-1944. ✓

The fifth meeting of the Standing Labour Committee of the Tripartite Labour Conference will be held at New Delhi on June 27, 1944 and not towards the end of May as was originally intended (vide page 4 of our report for April, 1944). Among the items on the agenda for discussion are draft rules for collection of statistics of trade disputes, Standing Labour Committee for mines, compensation to workers who are refused leave in the interest of production and compulsory insurance of employers' liability under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

(The Hindustan Times, dated  
15-5-1944 ). ✓

Standing Orders for Large Industrial  
Undertakings, Government of India  
Consults Interests: Views of Bombay  
Chamber of Commerce. ✓

On 22-1-1944 the Government of India issued a draft order under Rule 81 A of the Defence of India Rules making provision for standing orders in industrial concerns employing 250 or more persons ~~and~~ that such standing orders should have statutory force. The draft order followed largely the provisions in Chapter V of the Bombay Trade Disputes Act, but in order to provide elasticity it did not refer to representatives of employees, qualified or recognised trade unions or the

Industrial Court. (This subject, it will be remembered, was discussed at the Fifth Labour Conference (Second Tripartite Conference), held at New Delhi in September 1943: vide page 9 of our August 1943 report).

Views of Bombay Chamber of Commerce.- The Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce has expressed the following views on the Government's draft proposals:

Whilst readily agreeing that suitable legislation for a set of standing orders was in the interest of both employer and employee, the Committee considered that labour legislation such as this was so far reaching that it was essential that employers should have ample time to consider the proposal. The draft as it stood appeared in certain respects to cut right across the procedure of adjudication which had been set up under the Defence of India Act and Rules, and the Committee therefore recommended that the orders should not be published until employers had had a fuller opportunity to discuss with Government the many apparent anomalies in the draft Notification. Since the order sought to impose on an all-India basis most of the provisions of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, it would seem that it was not of vital urgency to bring this order into force as far as the war effort was concerned, and the Committee preferred to see the matter introduced as a Bill and debated in the Assembly.

In the detailed criticism of the clauses, the Committee made out the following points: (1) The inclusion of clerical staff of industrial concerns in the proposed scheme is open to grave objection. It is considered that the Order should apply to all factories employing not less than 20 persons as defined in the Factories Act. It was chiefly ~~the factories employing less than 250 persons that were most backward~~ in their arrangements regarding apprentice training and regularisation of conditions of employment, and they should be brought into line with the more progressive industries; (2) Although it seemed the intention that standing orders should be accepted by all concerned for a period of six months from the date on which they came into operation, the Committee considered it essential that a stipulation should be included which would ensure that Provincial Governments should not accept during the period of six months the existence of any trade dispute on the subjects of the standing orders or scheduled matter and that any strike which might threaten as a result of the dispute on the subject of the standing orders or ~~such~~ scheduled matter in that period would be illegal. Alternatively, the procedure of adjudication should be amended, whereby the awards would be made binding for six or preferably twelve months; (3) The Committee recommends that the proposed Order should await notification until the Trade Union Amendment Bill, which covered recognition, (vide pages 1-2 of our November 1943 report), was enacted, since the case of the union which was not recognised by the employer or the employer who did not recognise any trade union was not covered ~~under~~ <sup>by</sup> ~~the Bill~~; (4) The Committee considers that 25 per cent should be the representation figure for unions and ~~could~~ <sup>could</sup> not approve the suggested percentage figure of 10 per cent.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during April 1944).

4

Reorganisation of Statistics of  
Trade Disputes in India on  
I.L.O. Model. ✓

It is understood that a proposal to revise the existing procedure for the collection of statistics of trade disputes is at present under the consideration of the Government of India. The idea is to put it on a uniform basis conforming, as far as possible, to the standards laid down by the International Labour Office in this behalf. As the Government thinks that uniformity as between provinces in the matter of formulation of rules for the collection of industrial and labour statistics is essential, it has prepared certain draft rules and forms for the guidance of provincial governments.

(The Hindu, dated 2-5-1944 ). ✓

# Conditions of Work.

5

## Welfare.

Labour Welfare in Indian Industries: Tata  
Institute to undertake Research. ✓

Under the auspices of the Bureau of Research and Publications of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, a research project will be undertaken during the summer months of 1944 on "Labour Welfare in Indian Industries". Personal visits will be paid to ~~the~~ big industrial centres in India to see what welfare work is actually being done and to collect material for the programme of welfare activities carried on in different parts of India. It is proposed to publish the findings along with constructive suggestions for the promotion of labour welfare.

(Indian Labour Gazette, May, 1944). ✓



6

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Development of Mica Industry: Government Decision  
to set up Inquiry Committee. ✓

Measures to stabilise India's mica industry in the post-war period and its immediate problems were discussed at a conference between representatives of the Central Government, the Bihar Government, associations of mica trade and spokesmen of mica labour held at Kodarma on 29-4-1944. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, the Government of India, presided.

Inquiry Committee.- In this opening address the Labour Member referred to the Central Government's intention to set up an enquiry committee for the investigation of the mica industry's long-term and ~~ultimate~~ problems. The proposal was unanimously welcomed by the representatives of the industry. Announcing the personnel of the proposed enquiry committee, Dr. Ambedkar said that it would consist of one whole-time chairman, two part-time members — one experienced in inland trade and the other experienced in export trade — and a whole-time secretary. There will be seven assessors with the committee, two representing the Government of Bihar, two representing Bihar dealers, one each representing the Madras and Rajputana mica trade, and one representing mica labour. In addition, the committee will be assisted by two technical advisers one of whom will be the Director of the Geological Survey of India and, the other, a representative of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research. Suggestions were made to the effect that the ~~Survey~~ committee might also go into questions of post-war reconstruction of the industry.

Immediate Needs.- Earlier, the conference discussed measures intended to meet the immediate needs of the industry. These included proposals regarding prohibition of purchase, sale or transfer of certain types of mica, vesting of District Magistrates and Provincial Governments with certain amount of discretionary authority in granting certificates, prevention of multiplicity of licenced agents, control of location of godowns for storage of mica and improvements in administrative machinery. It was indicated that the Central Government intended to amend the Mica Control Order, 1940, to provide for these at a very early date.

Case for Labour Welfare.- During discussions on the welfare of mica labour, existing arrangements as regards grain concessions, dearness allowance, housing conditions, water supply, medical facilities and wages were reviewed. The Labour Member enquired if there was ~~any~~ basic wage for mica labour and emphasised the need of providing them medical attention, housing facilities and water supply. As regards housing arrangements, it was stated that many houses were not required as most of the workers live in their villages. The Chairman secured the views of the industry on the proposal to impose welfare and development cess in the interest of mica labour. There was general agreement on this proposal.

According to a Resolution of the Government of India, Gazetted on 20-5-1944, the reasons for setting up the ~~Committee~~ <sup>Inquiry</sup> Committee are: (1) the 'extremely unsatisfactory' state of the organisation of the industry and trade that tends to encourage methods and practices detrimental to the healthy development of the industry; (2) 'wasteful and primitive' mining practices; (3) unsatisfactory marketing arrangements; and (4) need to study the technological problems connected with the industry so as to be ready to face post-war competition from abroad.

The problems to the study of which the Committee will pay parti-

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particular attention are: (i) immediate problems relating to the Mica Control Order, 1940, both in regard to war production and to the effect of the Order on long-term policy; (ii) the present system of marketing—both inland and abroad; (iii) standardisation of quality; (iv) possible competition from alternative sources of supply and substitutes; (v) ~~the~~ increased utilisation of mica in this country for the manufacture of finished goods; (vi) research, conservation and development; and ~~that~~ (vii) the desirability of setting up a suitable machinery to watch the interests of the mica trade and industry.

(Unofficial Note dated 1-5-1944, issued by the Principal Information Office, Government of India, and Resolution No. MD-55 dated 15-5-1944, the Gazette of India dated 20-5-1944, part I, section 1, page 676 ). ✓

Working Class Cost of Living Index  
for Various Centres in India during  
October and November, 1943. ✓

The index number of the cost of living for working classes in various ~~selected~~ centres of India registered the following changes during October and November, 1943, as compared with September, 1943.

| Name of Centre | Base=100   | September 43 | October 43 | November 43. |
|----------------|--|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Bombay         | Year ending June 1934                                  | 245          | 248        | 248          |
| Ahmedabad      | Year ending July 1927                                  | 228          | 240        | ..           |
| Bhopalpur      | Year ending January 1938                               | 211          | 210        | 214          |
| Bangalore      | August 1939  | 356          | 273        | 280          |
| Bombay         | 1931-35  | 402          | 399        | 388          |
| Bombay         | August 1939  | 353          | 349        | 334          |
| Bombay         | Average cost of living for five years preceeding 1914. | 393          | 391        | 365          |
| Bombay         | Ditto  | 408          | 401        | 385          |
| Bombay         | Ditto  | 446          | 446        | 377          |
| Bombay         | Year ending June 1936                                  | 180          | 184        | 185          |
| Bombay         | Ditto  | 193          | 198        | 215          |
| Bombay         | Ditto  | 199          | 205        | 208          |

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India for October, 1943 and November, 1943 ). ✓

8

Textile Industry.

Progress of Silk Industry in Mysore. ✓

Declaring open the fifth Mysore Provincial Sericultural Conference held at Bangalore on 27-5-1944, Mr. N. Madhava Rao, Dewan of Mysore, ~~stated~~ <sup>gave</sup> the impetus that the war had given to the sericulture industry in Mysore and observed that foreign markets could be secured and held after the war only if the industry took care to understand their requirements and tried to meet them satisfactorily. The industry had to organise grading and standardising production and establish commercial contacts throughout the world, wherever silk was in demand.

Referring to recent developments in the industry, the Dewan said that, at the instance of His Majesty's Government and the Government of India, filatures containing about 1,500 basins capable of producing about 450,000 pounds of high-grade raw silk a year were being put up in Mysore. This would bring the total number of basins in the state to 1,800. This change-over from charka (spinning wheel) reeling to filature reeling was calculated to stabilise the industry during the post-war period. The present area under mulberry in the state was about 70,000 acres, showing an increase of about 20,000 acres since 1941-42. This area was capable of producing enough cocoons to produce half a million pounds of high-grade silk.

The industry had to be developed, stabilised and nourished, as it was of enormous importance to the British Empire and as India was the ~~only country in the Empire where sericulture could be developed to a large extent.~~ The production of high-grade silk in Mysore was expected to be of great service to the industry after the war.

(The Hindu, 30-5-1944 ). ✓

9

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation  
Act, 1923, in U.P. during 1942. ✓

According to a report published in the U.P. Labour Bulletin, October—December, 1943, on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in the United Provinces during the year, 1942, the average daily number of workers employed in registered factories in the province during the year was 232,524 compared to 224,316 in the previous year. About 99.3 per cent of those workers were adults. The increase in the number of workers was due to the registration of new factories in the year and to the employment of a greater number of workers particularly in factories producing essential war supplies, such as textiles, leather goods and munitions.

The total number of accidents in registered factories during the year was 3,774 as against 3,591 in 1941. Of these, 35 were fatal, 624 serious and 315 minor. Of the serious accidents all but 81 were reported, ~~the 81 injured persons being off duty for 81 days or more.~~ The number of accidents, among workers of lower wage categories was relatively higher and the highest was in the group drawing monthly wages between Rs. 10 and Rs. 15. The incidence of accidents per 100 workers was 1.62 as against 1.60 in 1941.

Compensation amounting to Rs. 1,63,890 was paid in 1,966 cases, as against Rs. 96,366 paid in 1,459 cases in 1941. Of the 1,966 cases, ~~there were 223 permanent disablements and 1,707 temporary disablements,~~ the amounts paid being Rs. 92,086, Rs. 53,307 and Rs. 18,497 respectively.

191 cases under the Act were disposed off during the year and 10 were left pending. The number of agreements registered for payment of compensation was 161 as against 135 in 1941. One more agreement was registered after modification, while six were not registered. Of the agreements registered, 137 were for permanent disablement and 25 for temporary disablement.

(The U.P. Labour Bulletin, October—  
December, 1943). ✓

10

MIGRATION.

Ceylon Indians' Problems. ✓

In the course of his presidential address at the Ceylon Indian Congress held at Hatton on 29-4-1944, Mr. Abdul Aziz, President of the Congress, set forth the following as the demands of Indians in Ceylon: (1) Indians with a total (not continuous) residence of five years in Ceylon should be given full right of citizenship; (2) Indians who have been there for a period of less than five years should be allowed to acquire citizenship rights on completion of five years; (3) those Indians who left Ceylon after 1-1-1939 and were prevented from re-entering Ceylon as a result of the ban on emigration imposed by the Government of India, should also be given the right to qualify for full citizenship rights on the same basis; and (4) Adult franchise should be given to all Indians who are in Ceylon on the date of the agreement that may be concluded on the Indo-Ceylon question.

Referring to Indian labour in Ceylon Mr. Aziz said <sup>that</sup> there were three problems which required settlement without delay. They were: (1) the right for the labourer to meet in his line whomsoever he wants to meet, a right which was now being refused; (2) ~~increase~~ <sup>increase</sup> of basic wages to Re.1 per day per adult worker and (3) the abolition of the Criminal Prosecution Law to secure the eviction of workers from estates and the substitution for it of civil remedies including arrangements for alternative accommodation.

~~Referring to other problems~~, Mr. Aziz complained that the Ministers had taken a discriminatory attitude against Indians in organising co-operative societies for the distribution of foodstuffs and had not taken steps to absorb the staff of traders thrown out of employment by the formation of these societies.

Ceylon Indian Merchants' Deputation to Viceroy.- Deputations on behalf of the Indian Mercantile Chamber of Ceylon and the Indian Textile Merchants in Ceylon met Lord Wavell, the Viceroy of India, on 11-5-1944. The two questions raised by the representatives of the Mercantile Chamber were the political future of Indians in Ceylon and the safeguarding of their commercial interests, present and future, in the Island. As regards the first, the deputation pointed out that the Government of India should take a more active interest in the political future of Indians in Ceylon and try to safeguard it sufficiently in any constitution that may be drawn up. In respect of commercial policies, it stated, the Government of Ceylon was pursuing a discriminatory policy which, in the name of war control and elimination of black markets in foodstuffs, was, in fact, trying to squeeze out Indians from trades which were formerly in their hands.

The other deputation also made similar representations against the policy of the Ceylon Government in regard to the import and trade in textiles carried on mostly by Indian Merchants.

( The Bombay Chronicle, 4-5-1944,  
and the Hindu, dated 12-5-1944 ). ✓

11

Employment Bill in South Africa:  
Indians' Objections to Provisions.

A deputation representing the Natal Indian Congress met Mr. Ivan Walker, Secretary of Labour, Union Government of South Africa, on 3-5-1944, about the provisions for soldiers and war workers in the Union's Employment Bill.

In a memorandum submitted to the Secretary, the Congress expressed the fear that the powers of the Minister of Labour under the Bill to control the employment of ex-servicemen might be detrimental to the Indian community in Natal. The memorandum said that the Bill was definitely a class legislation since it gave the Minister unlimited power to discriminate on any ground in specifying the number of any specified class of ex-servicemen who must be employed in any particular industry. The memorandum stated that, if the relevant section was not amended and protection was not given to the thousands of Indians now employed by local authorities, railways and industrial undertakings, they would find themselves in a precarious position as the section gave the Minister power to apply any method of differentiation and discrimination he deemed advisable. The deputation also asked that Indians should be represented on the Volunteers' Employment Board, and a volunteers' committee be established under the Bill.

(The Hindustan Times, 3-5-1944).

12

AGRICULTURE.

† Manufacture of Fertilizers: Government  
of India's Scheme. ✓

Schemes for the manufacture of about 350,000 tons of chemical fertilizers were discussed at a meeting attended by the representatives of six major Provincial Governments under the chairmanship of Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Supply Member, Government of India, <sup>at New Delhi</sup> on 29-4-1944.

There was general agreement at the meeting that Government-controlled units should be established for the production of fertilizers on a non-profit basis, and that these units should be large enough to ~~and~~ allow for the most economical cost of ~~production~~ production possible. The major part, if not all, of the capital would be provided by the Central and Provincial Governments and by Indian States willing to participate, and the fertilizer produced would be allocated to the various Governments according to their demands, as far as possible. The possibility of independent enterprise was not precluded, but it was considered necessary that substantial State-controlled enterprises should hold the first place. The arrangements for the distribution of the fertilizer to cultivators would be for the individual Governments to decide <sup>upon</sup> but the programme would aim at fixing a uniform all-India wholesale ex-factory cost for the fertilizer. It was stated ~~that~~ at the meeting that offers to supply the necessary plants had been received both from the United Kingdom and United States of America. The meeting decided to accept the offer made by the Secretary of State for India to send out a team of British experts experienced in the manufacture of fertilizers. The Government of India proposes to appoint a committee, including representatives of Indian State interests and suitable experts, to provide information and for discussion with the visiting team.

At a press-conference held at New Delhi about the middle of May, 1944, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar pointed out that the proposed scheme would be costing about Rs. 90 million. If the plant was set up the products would be on the market by the middle of 1946. India, he said, could absorb about two million tons of fertilizers a year. The manufacture of fertilizers, he stated was important not only as a war-time ~~measure~~ <sup>measure</sup>, but as a means of checking the rapid deterioration of soil fertility in India. The food problem would not end with the end of the war unless measures were taken to reinforce the soil.

( The Hindu, dated 2-5-1955 and  
The Statesman, dated 16-5-1944). ✓

† Plan for Increasing India's Food Production  
in Post-war Period: Dr. Burn's Note on  
Technological Possibilities. ✓

Production Targets. - An increase of 30 per cent in rice production and 50 per cent in wheat production in India is envisaged by Dr. W. Burns, former Agricultural Commissioner with the Government of India, who, as officer on special duty with the Education, Health and Lands Department Government of India, has prepared a note on the technological possibilities of agricultural development in the country. This note together with one on the economic background of post-war agricultural policy to be prepared by Sir Theodore Gregory, is designed to form the basis of an All-India policy for post-war agriculture. The increases forecast

by Dr. Burns should mean an annual production of about 30 million tons of rice instead of the present 24 million, and about 15 million tons of wheat compared with the present 10.3 million tons. The 30 per cent increase in rice ~~and~~ yield, according to Dr. Burns, will be made up of 5 per cent by the use of improved varieties of seeds, 20 per cent by increasing manure and 5 per cent by protection from pests and diseases. He declares, however, that there should even be no difficulty in increasing the present average outturn by 50 per cent. He considers that an increase of 20 per cent in the yield of jowar is possible; the average annual production of this <sup>crop</sup> at present is 6.6 million tons. Dr. Burns expects increases in several other cereals as well, and also in oil seeds, ~~and~~ tobacco, fruits and vegetables, cotton, jute, sugar-cane and potatoes.

Soil Improvement.- Two objectives must be held in view, according to Dr. Burns, in discussing the future. They are — abolition of the poverty of the cultivator and abolition of the poverty of the soil. Indian soils, he says, are at a stage in which, on the whole, there is neither increased nor diminished production, and judging from the results of over 5,000 experiments in India, it is probable that, in most parts, the soil has become stabilized at a comparatively low level of production. He refers to the different kinds of manure available, many of which, such as compost, both on the farm and from town refuse, are, he says, very inadequately utilized.

Mechanization.- Mechanization, Dr. Burns says, has already been useful and economical in the eradication of deep-rooted weeds, in clearing land originally under jungle, in making roads, bunds and channels, in anti-erosion work and on large estates where big areas have to be dealt with quickly and efficiently. Refuting the view that mechanization would give rise to widespread unemployment Dr. Burns points out that actually it would result in a large increase in the number of employments such as those connected with the production, maintenance, repair and transport of the machinery, and that, as such, the total number of men employed on land directly or indirectly would be maintained at more or less the same level as at present, although the numbers employed directly on land might go down.

( The Statesman, Dated 30-5-1944 ). ✓

Working of the Imperial Council of Agricultural  
Research in 1942-43. ✓

Schemes to increase production of foodgrains by intensive cultivation, ~~of~~ growing improved varieties <sup>and</sup> controlling insect pests and fungal diseases were financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research during the year 1942-43, according to its annual report published recently.

Rice Research.- The chain of rice research stations, started by the Council over a decade ago for the purpose of undertaking a variety of tests and experiments with the object of evolving high-yielding and better quality types of rice, yielded important results which have been made available for the guidance of paddy growers. Assam, the United Provinces and Kashmir may be mentioned as some of the areas where practical results have already been achieved. The Council further financed, during the year under review, a number of development schemes with the object of increasing the area under improved varieties of rice evolved at the various research stations. It is estimated that these



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improved varieties will yield about 10 to 20 per cent more than the local varieties; ~~they~~ will be introduced in a considerable area ~~soon~~.

Wheat Research.- In the case of wheat, investigations were carried out on breeding rust-resistant varieties and on estimating rust infection. These investigations are expected to minimise the huge loss which the wheat crop at present suffers on account of rust infection.

Pulses, Millets and Fruits.- A co-ordinated plan of investigation dealing with the botanical, agronomical and disease-resistance aspects of pulses and millets was adopted and a number of schemes initiated in some of the Provinces and States. Work on fruit and vegetable preservation, dehydration, canning and preparation of fruit juices continued during the year and has been of great utility for the industry.

Vegetables and Milk.- To meet the shortage of imported vegetable seeds the Council subsidised certain nurseries for seed production. The Council also undertook a comprehensive review of sugarcane research in order to develop, to the utmost, the potentialities of sugarcane cultivation throughout India. Schemes were also sanctioned to investigate the possibilities of cultivating drug plants in India. Investigations on the possibilities of guyule—a latex-yielding plant said to be suitable for rubber production—were made. Imported seeds from America and Russia have been sown in the Punjab, Sind, Jodhpur and at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute. The Council also devoted considerable attention to the problems of urban milk supply.

Manure and Live Stock.- Preparation of cheap synthetic manure from town refuse and other waste material was suggested to be tried simultaneously all over the country. A new method, known as the Bangalore process, was brought to the notice of the Central Food Advisory Council which recommended to the Government that adequate funds be sanctioned to enable staff to be trained and the process extended to a large number of centres in Provinces and States.

The Council introduced a scheme to try out artificial insemination among certain species of livestock. At a number of provincial veterinary research stations, work is in progress to evolve better breeds of wool and meat sheep. The problem of maintaining animals in health received close attention and the Council financed a number of schemes for the investigation of animal diseases and their control.

(Indian Information, 15-5-1944). ✓

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Reorganisation of Services: Inquiry Officer Appointed.

Mr. F.H. Rowland, I.C.S. (retired) has been appointed officer on special duty in the Home Department of the Government of India to enquire into the reorganization of services. Whether Mr. Rowland's inquiry will be a prelude to a general enquiry envisaged by the White Paper and the Joint Parliamentary Committee <sup>Public Service</sup> by the Government of India Act, 1935, or to post-war reorganisation of the Central services, including the ministerial staff, is still not known.

Post-war planning, now in progress, has shown the necessity of maintaining and strengthening of not only the services at present known as all-India services but also of organisation of some categories of the provincial services on an all-India basis. Then again, the Government of India's personnel has grown ~~beyond recognition~~ <sup>to a large extent</sup> and a re-settlement of the expanded personnel on the civil side is as essential as that of the demobilised personnel of the three defence services. In the absence of such a planned re-settlement large hoards of semi-trained literate personnel who have forced up their standard of living will be thrown on the market to swell the ranks of the unemployed and become a menace to post-war India and its orderly progress.

In the absence of definite information it is presumed that Mr. Rowland has been appointed to collect data and prepare a plan to enable the Government to tackle these problems.

(The Leader, dated 30-5-1944). ✓

CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

All India Handloom Board to be set up. ✓

The formation of an All-India Handloom Board is understood to be under the consideration of the Government of India. This is in accordance with a decision, <sup>passed</sup> at by a meeting held sometime back between representatives of the Government of India, members of the Handloom Committee of the Textile Control Board and representatives of Provincial and State Governments.

The functions of the Board will include: (1) recommendations to the Government of India as to what proportion of the yarn available from Indian production should be supplied to each Province and State interested in obtaining yarn for handloom weaving; (2) assistance to handloom weavers through recognised associations of Provincial or State authorities in obtaining dyes, chemicals and stores, etc., at fair rates; (3) consideration of the best means of marketing Indian handloom products; (4) directing research measures as well as consideration of measures to improve production. The Board will also assist in the administration of grant-in-aid to the industry from the Government of India.

As proposed at present, the Board will consist of 25 members of whom 15 will represent the Provincial Governments and handloom industry and four will be from Indian States. The remaining six will represent the mill-owning interests and the yarn trade to be nominated by the Textile Control Board. To maintain the closest contact with the Textile Control Board, it is suggested that the Textile Commissioner should be the Chairman of the Board.

To elicit opinion on the draft proposal, the Government of India has addressed Provincial Governments and Commercial organisations on the subject.

(The Hindu, dated 19-5-1944 ). ✓

Progress of Co-operation in Madras Province:  
Mr. W.R.S. Satyanathan's Survey. ✓

Some of the trends in the cooperative movement in Madras Province were ~~reported~~ <sup>discussed</sup> by Mr. W.R.S. Satyanathan, Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Government of Madras, addressing a meeting at Coonoor on 20-5-1944.

Referring to cooperative urban banks in the province, Mr. Satyanathan pointed out that there was a tendency in urban banks to follow in the footsteps of big joint-stock banks and eventually, under pressure of business, to forget that they were cooperative institutions. Warning them against this temptation he pointed out that cooperative urban banks were the real peoples' banks whose business was to give small loans not only upon personal security, but on the continuing guarantee bond system. In Madras, he said, there were 162 urban banks with a membership of nearly 125,000 and a share-capital of about Rs. 3.7 million. Their working capital was Rs. 25.8 million and the reserve fund was Rs. 2.5 million. Deposits of members exceeded Rs. 7.1 million, while those of non-members exceeded Rs. 11 million. Thus the members' own money constituted 42 per cent of their working capital. This was a most gratifying feature. Urban banks were now investing their funds in central banks. This appeared to him to be of profound importance, for, by tapping deposits from the comparatively richer residents in towns and investing surpluses in central banks, which in turn financed village cooperatives

of all types, the urban population contributed largely to the needs of the rural population not only in providing cheap credit, but, of late, in providing non-credit facilities such as consumers' stores, loan and sale societies, the provision of manure and seeds for growing more food and cottage industries of all types, notably for ~~movement~~ the weavers of the province. **IN**

The consumers' cooperation, he added, has developed to such an extent that there were about 1,200 stores with monthly sales in the neighbourhood of Rs. 8 million, so that in a year the sales to members and non-members was about Rs. 100 million, whereas four years ago the total annual sales amounted only to about Rs. 3 million. There were about 25,000 looms working for cooperative societies and a special vigorous drive was being instituted to develop cooperative industries in pottery, paper making, toy making, leather work, metal work, cigar manufacture and blanket making etc.

(The Hindu, dated 23-5-1944). ✓

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LIVING CONDITIONS.

Housing.

Schemes for Development of Suburban Areas  
in Ahmedabad.

According to a report appearing in the Times of India, dated 2-5-1944, a syndicate sponsored by the municipality has been formed in Ahmedabad to develop the vast ~~unutilized~~ areas near the textile mills and make them suitable for the occupation of the upper grade mill employees. At present the clerks and officers employed in these mills have to live at a considerable distance from the mills, and this entails heavy transport expenses, particularly because transport facilities are inadequate. An attempt to develop the mill area is therefore, being made by the municipality, which has drawn up the necessary schemes for the purpose.

It is pointed out that the only way to relieve the congestion in the city is to develop the mill areas. The development of Hani Nagar, suburb, gave relief to a part of the mill population. The remaining congested parts of the mill area may also be similarly relieved by the creation of new suburbs.

(The Times of India, 12-5-1944).

Accommodation of Central Government  
Employees in New Delhi: Rs. 20 Million  
Construction Programme Approved.

According to a press report, the Government of India is carrying out a Rs. 20 million programme of construction of residential quarters for its employees in New Delhi. Accommodation will be provided for about 700 officers, 4,000 clerks and 3,000 menial employees of the Central Government and about 2,000,000 square feet will be set apart for public offices. Most of the new buildings would be two-storied and some three-storied. Only hostel accommodation is planned for officers, and a substantial number of the clerical staff too is to be housed in hostels by organizing messes. Clerks' chummersies will accommodate menials on the second floor. A large number of separate clerks' quarters are also to be built. The aim of the new programme, which is expected to be completed by October, 1944, is that no Government officer should be without accommodation and that about half the number of clerks and menials at least should be housed in Government quarters.

(The Hindustan Times, 3-5-1944).

Workers' Organisations.

Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act,  
1926, in India during 1941-42. ✓

Registered trade unions in India increased from 727 to 747 and their membership rose from 513,832 to 573,520, according to the statistics published by the Government of India relating to the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, during the year 1941-42.

As compared with the previous year, the figures indicate increases in membership from 171,572 to 219,086 in the case of railways; from 54,867 to 155,007 in the case of textiles, from 20,036 to 56,628 in the case of seamen and from 25,036 to 27,564 in the case of docks and port trusts. There was, however, a decrease in the number of trade unions representing workers in tramways, printing presses, municipalities and engineering industries. The number of central trade unions, whose subjects are not confined to one Province, also dropped from 46 in the previous year to 25 in 1941-42.

The total income and balance in hand of the unions increased from Rs. 1,212,927 and 786,120 in the previous year to Rs. 1,767,446 and Rs. 1,226,900 respectively in 1941-42.

The number of Trade Unions which submitted returns decreased from 483 in the previous year to 462 in the year under review.

( Unofficial Note dated 20-5-1944,  
Issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India )

Miscellaneous.17th Session of All India Womens' Conference,  
Bombay, 7 to 10-4-1944.

The 17th Session of the All India Womens' Conference was held at Bombay from 7 to 10-4-1944 with Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya, as President. Mrs. Chattopadhyaya in her presidential address stressed the necessity for: (1) Organising a women social workers' training camp to give training them the necessary training in all social activities; (2) an energetic drive for recruiting women in nursing services, for improving the working conditions of nurses and for reducing the course of training; (3) a 5-year or a two-year plan to establish infant welfare centres and maternity clinics; (4) the appointment in each branch of the Conference of a special member in charge to watch civil liberties, traffic and atrocities against women, and to collect authentic information regarding these matters, which should be submitted to the central office; (5) encouraging cottage industries with provision for training classes for women; (6) a country-wide campaign for providing milk for children and in furtherance thereof, to have a 'Milk for Children Week' or 'All-India Milk Day', advocating such measures as rationing of milk, priority being given to children; (7) visual propaganda by posters, cinema slides, etc., to encourage women workers; and (8) a drive for recognition of female artistes and writers.

Resolutions bearing on most of the measures advocated by the President were adopted by the Conference. Several resolutions were passed on the conditions of work of women, especially in coal mines and factories. The Conference condemned the 'retrograde and reprehensible' step taken by the Government of India in lifting the ban on the employment of women workers in coal mines in violation of the obligations under the I.L. Convention on the subject, which India has ratified. The resolution added that there were no circumstances justifying the employment of women underground and urged the Government to restore the ban immediately. The Conference also accepted another resolution urging that all efforts should be made to help women workers to obtain their maternity benefits without fear of dismissal and suggested that the necessary amendments should be introduced in the Factories Act to meet this end.

(The Bombay Chronicle, dated  
11 and 12-4-1944).

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Poor Houses for Delhi. ✓

The Delhi Municipal Committee is taking steps to open a large poor use in the city. It also proposes to reopen the ~~few~~ poor houses that re recently closed due to lack of funds. About Rs. 770,000 has ready been collected for these ~~poor~~ purposes.

(The Statesman, 24-5-1944). ✓



Plan to Increase Number of Doctors.

A plan to turn out about 300,000 medical men in the course of 6 years has been adopted by the Health Survey and Development Committee set up by the Government of India (vide page 35 of our October 1943 report). Giving an outline of the plan Dr. B.C. Roy, Chairman of the Committee pointed out in the course of a statement issued early in May, 1944, that it might be necessary in the first five years to increase the number of technical and non-technical workers required to prosecute the scheme. Existing medical institutions would have to be enlarged and new ones established.

Better nutrition, wider education and a higher level of earning power would be necessary to enforce the scheme. There would be at least one medical man for each 1,000 of the population on the completion of the scheme where as the present ratio is about one to 10,000. A Public Health Directorate with a network of provincial auxiliaries would also be required. The scheme is to be developed and expanded every five years and the work completed in six stages.

(The Statesman, dated 5-5-1944).

The Public Health (Emergency Provisions) Ordinance, 1944. (Ordinance No. XXI of 1944).

With a view to make special provision for preventing the spread of diseases and providing and maintaining adequate public health services, the Government of India, has, on 20-5-1944, promulgated the Public Health (Emergency Provisions) Ordinance, 1944 (Ordinance No. XXI of 1944). The Ordinance empowers the appropriate Government (Central or Provincial) to order any local authority to take measures which in that Government's opinion are necessary for any purpose of the Ordinance. If a local authority fails to take such measures within the specified period the appropriate Government may authorize any person to take the necessary measures or complete them. Government may also appoint additional medical or public health establishments, assume the superintendence of all or any medical or public health services of any local authority, authorize any person to take over from any local authority the administration of public health services or supersede any local authority.

(The Ordinance No. XXI of 1944: The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 20-5-1944. Reproduced in the Bihar Gazette (Extraordinary), dated 27-5-1944, and The Hindustan Times, dated 22-5-1944).

Bihar Scheme for improving Medical Services in Rural Areas: Public Health Committee's Recommendations. X

A memorandum on the improvement of medical facilities in rural areas in Bihar has been adopted by the Public Health Committee of the Provincial Post-War Reconstruction Board. The Committee recommends that, in the initial stages, Government should encourage the opening of dispensaries in rural areas by private medical practitioners by granting them subsidies and other assistance. Even if progress under this scheme does not, within a few years, reach such a stage as would make the dispensaries self-supporting, the Committee suggests, that the Government should continue to maintain one medical practitioner in every five miles in villages. This would mean subsidising about 2,000 practitioners, of whom 400 may be medical graduates, 1000 licentiates and 600 practitioners of indigenous systems. The annual cost of the scheme when in full working order would be Rs. 1,404,000 as subsidies and Rs. 480,000 as equipment grants.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 29-5-1944). ✓

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EDUCATION.

National Education Scheme for India:  
Mr. John Sargent on Its Minimum  
Requirements. ✓

Speaking at a meeting of the East India Association in London on 25-5-1944, Mr. John Sargent, Educational Adviser, Government of India, dealt with the problems relating to any scheme of national education for India and emphasised that nothing less than what had been aimed ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> in the Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education (vide pages 32-34 of our report for January, 1944) could satisfy the requirements of the country.

Stressing the urgency of setting afoot a sound educational scheme he said that in tackling so immense a subject there is bound to be a tendency in the first few years to concentrate on practical results and rejoice in the production of statistics.

He pointed out, referring to the Central Advisory Board's scheme, that the acceptance of anything less than the minimum specified therein would mean that the Indian accepted a position of permanent inferiority in the society of civilised nations. "So far as the board's plan is concerned, there can be no half-way house between what is and what ought to be. All means expenditure on a scale which may frighten those who have defended the inertia on the ground that India is too poor to have what other countries enjoy. Difficulties in the way of implementing the plan are not simply or even mainly financial. There are many people both in India and outside who, seeing in a largely illiterate India the finest field for exploitation, will not welcome a disturbance of the labour market which the introduction of education on a wide scale is almost bound to create. Nevertheless, the free peoples of the earth are on the march towards the goal of social security, and not only humanitarian considerations and claims of social justice but also our practical interest and our credit before history demand that we do all in our power to help India fall in by their side".

He stated that the right solution to the question of education would prove a panacea for many other evils, including political discontent. There are a very large number of people in India ~~of~~ who would be ready to co-operate in any constructive effort for dealing with one of India's most urgent problems. Such collaboration, once established, might well spread beyond the education field.

(The Times of India, 27-5-1944). ✓

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME.Wages.Factory Wages in British India during 1941. ✓

At pages 41 to 42 of our report for December 1943, is reviewed the fluctuation in factory wages in British India during 1939 and 1940. The following details regarding condition of wages in 1941 are based on a note published in the May 1944 issue of the Indian Labour Gazette. In drawing inferences and comparisons between the different industries based on these figures, the note points out that the following important facts have to be borne in mind:— (1) these figures do not give either the wage rates or average earnings of individual workers; (2) the total of the wage bills of different factories in each group included factories with different number of working days, and (3) the total wages did not include dearness and other allowances paid in cash, but net the benefits got by the supply of foodstuffs at cheap prices, housing accommodation, etc. These three factors vary widely not only from region and industry to industry, but also from factory to factory of the same industry in the same region. As these variations were much greater in 1942, due to the disturbances (external and internal) during that year, figures for that year are not even approximately comparable with the other figures and so are not given in the Note.

The average annual wages of workers coming under the payment of wages and in each group of industries during 1940 and 1941 are given in the following table:

| Industry.                 | Average daily number of workers in hundreds. |       | Average wages in rupees. |       |
|---------------------------|--|-------|--------------------------|-------|
|                           | 1940   | 1941  | 1940                     | 1941  |
| Textile .. ..             | 8,509  | 9,455 | 302.9                    | 314.0 |
| Engineering .. ..         | 1,153  | 1,528 | 345.0                    | 371.5 |
| Minerals & Metals .. ..   | 654  | 672   | 491.5                    | 476.1 |
| Chemicals & Dyes .. ..    | 560  | 657   | 229.6                    | 238.1 |
| Paper & Printing .. ..    | 532  | 485   | 360.3                    | 324.8 |
| Food, Stone & Glass .. .. | 509  | 582   | 175.3                    | 199.1 |
| Hides & Skins .. ..       | 166  | 210   | 327.1                    | 357.9 |
| Ordnance factories .. ..  | 499  | 604   | 408.5                    | 429.4 |
| Mints .. ..               | 32   | 41    | 462.7                    | 491.2 |
| Miscellaneous .. ..       | 237  | 343   | 261.0                    | 261.2 |

From this table it may be found that there was an increase in the number of workers in all industries, except paper and printing, in 1941 over 1940. But the rates of increase varied from industry to industry, mints, ordnance factories, hides and skins, engineering and textile mills showing higher rates of increase. The average wages in mints, ordnance factories and minerals occupy the first three places, and food, stone and glass and chemicals the lowest places. While the average wages in all other industries marked an increase in 1941 over 1940 there was some reduction in paper and printing, and minerals and metals. The rise in the average wages in those industries as also the fall in paper and printing is spread throughout almost all provinces.

(Indian Labour Gazette, May, 1944). ✓

Enhanced Dearness Allowance to  
Lower Paid Assam Government  
Servants.

The Government of Assam has on 15-5-1944 Gazetted a notification enhancing the scales of the dearness allowance of its lower paid employees. The following are the new rates:

"Khasi and Faintia Hills"

| <u>Scales of Pay.</u>                                   | <u>Dearness Allowance.</u> |
|---|----------------------------|
| (a) Government servants drawing pay of Rs. 30 or below. | Rs. 7 per mensem           |
| (b) More than Rs.30 but not more than Rs.80.            | Rs. 9 " "                  |
| (c) More than Rs.80 but not more than Rs.200.           | Rs. 11 " "                 |

"Rest of Assam"

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| (a) Rs. 30 or below.                          | Rs. 6 " "  |
| (b) More than Rs.30 but not more than Rs.60.  | Rs. 8 " "  |
| (c) More than Rs.60 but not more than Rs.150. | Rs. 10 " " |

These modifications will take effect from 1-5-1944, payable in June 1944.

A cash allowance of Rs. 2 per mensem will be granted with effect from 1-5-1944 to those Government servants who draw free rations in lieu of dearness allowance plus rice concession.

(Notification No.FG.25/43/62, dated 15-5-1944, The Assam Gazette, dated 17-5-1944, Part II, page 475). ✓

Dearness Allowance of Textile Workers:  
Ahmedabad Textile Association's Inquiry  
into its Effect. ✓

It is understood that the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, is instituting an inquiry into the effect on the life of textile workers in the city of the increase in their income due to the prevailing rates of dearness allowance. It has been alleged that their earnings having gone up considerably, the workers are left with large surpluses of cash in their hands which are being wasted for want of knowledge of ways of better living. The need for better living of workers with increased wages was ~~being~~ recognised by local labour leaders some time back, and attempts were being made to improve their standard of living. Great need for work in this direction is being felt now.

(The Times of India, 25-5-1944). ✓

Employment.

Working of the Skilled Labour Supply Depot, Gorakhpur. ✓

A Skilled Labour Supply Depot — the first of its kind in India — as established in Gorakhpur, United Provinces, in 1942, in pursuance of the Central Government's scheme to recruit skilled labour from surplus areas for export to other areas.

According to a statement submitted by the Depot Authorities to Mr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, during his visit to the Depot on 2-5-1944, the present strength of the Gorakhpur labour working on different projects was 43,787. These projects included railway construction, construction of certain strategic roads, quarrying work in coalfields and aerodrome construction. The labour supplied from the Depot included over 7,000 workers for quarrying work in coalfields. The Depot authorities expected that five thousand more workers could be supplied to collieries between May 15 and 30, 1944, thus bringing the total to 12,000. It was stated that the Depot had also supplied about 1,000 men for underground work in ~~collieries~~ collieries in Hyderabad State. In all, 26,699 labourers had been sent from the depot to different provinces since its inception in 1942.

All the labour recruited at the Depot is organised in gangs, groups and units — a gang consisting of 50 workers under a gang leader and formed into basic units of 500 to 800 under a unit commander. Labourers are provided with tools and equipments like spades, pick-axes, rowbars, hammer and chisels. Hatted accommodation is provided for the labourers at the Depot during their stay there in the interval between their recruitment and despatch to other areas. Each worker is provided with a mat, a blanket and other necessities of life. The Depot also arranges for medical officers to accompany the units where they were sent for work.

(Unofficial Note dated 4-5-1944, issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India ). ✓

Progress of Technical Training Scheme. ✓

The progress attained by the Government of India's Technical Training Scheme up to 30-11-1943 was reviewed at page 42 of our report for January, 1944. As against the 292 training centres open on that date, there were only 258 centres on 31-3-1944, the others having been closed down in accordance with the policy of consolidation and improvement. The position as it stood on the 31-3-1944, is detailed below:

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| No. of training centres .. .. .   | 258    |
| No. of seats .. .. .  | 38,939 |
| No. of persons under training .. .. .                                       | 28,391 |
| No. of persons passed out and appointed to various posts. <del>28,391</del> | 63,755 |

(Indian Labour Gazette, May, 1944 ). ✓

All India Elders' Utility League Formed. ✓

An All India Elders' Utility League has been formed ~~with~~ with its headquarters in Delhi. Its object is to enrol persons retired from government or private service, professions or business, and to utilize their mature experience for the social, economic and industrial welfare of India.

A meeting of <sup>a number of</sup> retired people was held recently at New Delhi, to constitute the League and to adopt the memorandum and articles of association. Explaining the objects of the League, Sir Shri Ram, the sponsor of the movement, stated that thousands of retired people wasted their talent and capacity and shortened their lives because they were forced to lead a dull and idle existence. He pointed out that, although Indianization of Government services had progressed considerably, no attempt had been made to mobilize <sup>the</sup> experience and knowledge acquired by government servants in all departments. Mentioning a few examples of what could be done by retired people, he said that a medical college with a hospital attached was being run by retired doctors in Lahore and that an attempt was being made by retired engineers to establish ~~a~~ <sup>an</sup> engineering college in the Punjab. A central organization was needed, he said, to take a census and keep a record of retired people and classify them according to their professions. The League would need provincial branches and district councils and would have to open centres in towns and villages throughout British India and Indian states.

~~The meeting adapted the memorandum and articles of association.~~ The manifold objects of the League will enable it to build public institutions, finance co-operative societies, banks and stores, ~~organise scientific research and act as managers, receivers and trustees of benevolent funds or trusts.~~ The organization will be non-official, non-political, non-religious and non-sectarian in character. Its efforts and labours will be devoted to the uplift of the country as a whole.

(The Hindustan Times, 31-5-1944) ✓

Emergency Recruitment for Civil Posts to be made from Among Army Officers. ✓

As a temporary measure to fill up existing vacancies in <sup>the</sup> civil service of the Government of India and the Provincial Governments, the Central Government, it is understood, has decided to make the necessary recruitment from among the emergency commissioned officers in the Defence Forces, British and Indian. They will be appointed for a year or two, and are liable to <sup>be</sup> called up for active service at any time. The usual rules regarding educational qualifications will not be relaxed.

(The Hindu, dated 31-5-1944) ✓

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Labour Welfare.

Advisory Committee under Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Ordinance, 1944, Set Up. ✓

The Central Government has set up an Advisory Committee to advise on matters arising out of the administration of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Ordinance, 1944 (vide pages 44-45 of our report for January, 1944). The Committee when fully constituted will consist of the Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India, the Coal Commissioner, the Labour Welfare Adviser and the Chief Inspector of Mines; one official each nominated by the Railway Board, the Bengal Government, the Bihar Government and the Central Provinces and Berar Government; five nominees of employers; two mining engineers; and a few representatives of interests other than the colliery owners or workmen employed in the coal mining industry. In addition, there will be five persons nominated by the Central Government to represent coal mine labour. Four of these ~~five~~ have already been nominated and the nomination of the fifth will be made shortly. The Committee will also include a lady member and her nomination too is expected shortly. Of the four persons nominated to represent colliery labour, two represent organisation affiliated to the Indian Federation of Labour and two from those affiliated to ~~the~~ the All-India Trade Union Congress.

(Unofficial Note dated 28-4-1944,  
issued by the Principal Information  
Officer, Government of India ). ✓

Safety Measures.

Safety of Seamen: Draft Rule to Provide  
for Life-jackets in Merchant Ships. ✓

Certain supplementary provisions, adopted by the Government of India to the Indian Merchant Shipping (Life Saving Appliances) Rules, 1944, were referred to at page 35 of our report for June, 1943. A draft amendment to the Rules has been notified by the Government of 6-5-1944. According to the amendment every ship of Class XIV, other than wooden ships of primitive build of under 60 tons gross tonnage, shall carry one approved life-jacket for each person on board. The draft is to be taken up for consideration on or after 15-6-1944.

(Notification No. 70-M.I.(14)/41  
dated 6-5-1944, the Gazette of  
India dated 6-5-1944, Part I-  
section 1, page 591 ). ✓



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Production.

Manufacture of Locomotives in India:  
Plans nearing Completion. ✓

It is understood that blue-prints for the conversion of the Railway Repairs Workshop at Kancharapara into one for manufacturing locomotives are ready and that as soon as the necessary machinery could be obtained from overseas, production may commence. It is learnt that it has also been decided to utilise the E.I.R. Workshop at Singbhum for the manufacture of boilers as a war measure and that orders have been placed for necessary plant and machinery, which the Secretary of State has agreed to include in the priority list. Negotiations are still in progress between the Government and Tatas who are expected to take over the manufacture of boilers and by the time the plant and machinery arrive, it is hoped, negotiations will have been completed.

It may be recalled that this ~~tax~~ question was raised in the Council of State by a resolution moved by Pandit Kunzru during the last Budget Session. The Railway Board and the Government of India seem to have done their part of the work and it now remains with the manufacturers in England ~~to~~ to supply the necessary plant and machinery.

(The Hindu, dated 20-5-1944). ✓

Production Bonus for Rubber. ✓

The Government of India has introduced a production bonus scheme under which bonus payments will be made for rubber ranging from ~~Rs. 11-1-9~~ Rs. 11-1-9 to Rs. 33-5-3 per 100 lb. over the existing price of Rs. 77-5 based on the production achieved during each quarter. The scheme comes into operation from 10-4-1944 and will remain in force up to 30-6-1945. The scheme fixes a basic annual production figure, divided into appropriate quarterly quotas. Bonus payments will be made in relation to the extent by which production in each quarter, and on a progressive basis, exceeds the base. If production falls short of the required increase on the base, no bonus will be granted.

(The Times of India, 29-5-1944). ✓

Control Measures.

The Wheat Flour (Use in Soap Making)  
(Prohibition) Order, 1944. ✓

The Government of India has on 24-4-1944 issued under the Defence of India Rules, the Wheat Flour (Use in Soap-Making) (Prohibition) Order, 1944, under which no person may make use of wheat flour in the manufacturing ture of soap.

(Notification No. CG 602(86), dated 24-4-1944, The Gazette of India, dated 29-4-1944, Part I, section 1, page 558 ). ✓

The Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Transport)  
Control Order, 1944. ✓

The Government of India has on 29-4-1944 issued under the Defence of India Rules, the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Transport) Control Order, 1944, under which all transport of cotton cloth and yarn between places in India by road, rail or sea may be carried on only with the ~~press~~ permission and under the direction of the Textile Commissioner, Bombay.

(Notification No. 3-Tex(A)/44, dated 29-4-1944, The Gazette of India, dated 29-4-1944, Part I, section 1, page 560 ). ✓

Anti-Hoarding and Anti-Profiteering  
Regulation in Hyderabad State. ✓

A Regulation to prevent hoarding and profiteering in essential commodities has been in force in the Hyderabad State since the beginning of 1944. Drafted more or less on the lines of the ~~Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943~~, (vide page 44 of our report for October, 1944), ~~of British India~~, the Regulation is applicable to all articles other than foodgrains and those in respect of which specific orders of exemption have been issued on behalf of Government. It provides for limiting the maximum quantities of stocks that may be held or sold at a time by any dealer or producer and also for fixing maximum prices or rates which may be charged. Ceiling prices of articles, according to Section 6 of the Regulation, usually permit a profit margin of 20 per cent over the landed cost of articles at sea-ports or the cost of production in the case of articles manufactured in India.

The appointment of a non-official consumers' committee to advise the Government on the working of the Regulation is under consideration.

(The Hyderabad Information, May, 1944 ). ✓

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Government's New Drive against Black  
Markets in Cloth. ✓

As a step towards the elimination of profiteering in cloth, the **Textile Commissioner**, Government of India, has on 24-5-1944 taken over the control of a few textile mills in Bombay. In addition, the distribution of cloth produced in seven other mills has been taken over by the Government. Similar action is being taken against cloth merchants who are detected to have dealings with 'black markets'.

(The Times of India, 26-5-1944). ✓

The Bombay Rents, Hotel Rents, and  
Lodging House Rates (Control) Act,  
1944, (ACT No. VII of 1944). ✓

With a view to regulate the supply of accommodation, whether residential or non-residential, furnished or unfurnished and with or without board, in certain areas in the Province of Bombay; and, in particular, to provide for controlling the rents or rates chargeable for such supply of accommodation and for preventing in certain cases eviction from the accommodation supplied, the Government of Bombay has promulgated the **Bombay Rents, Hotel Rates, and Lodging House Rates (Control) Act, 1944, (Act VII of 1944)**, being an enactment with certain modifications of the provisions contained in the **Bombay Rent Restriction Order, 1942**, the **Bombay Storage Accommodation Rent Restriction Order, 1942**, and the **Hotels and Lodging Houses Control Order, 1942**. In the statement of Objects and Reasons it is pointed out that in a recent case the Bombay High Court had held certain clauses of the **Bombay Rent Restriction Order, 1942**, which enabled the Controller and Collector to decide incidental disputes finally, as being in contravention of section 14 of the Defence of India Act, 1939, which requires an express provision to bar the civil courts' jurisdiction to decide such disputes. The same considerations would govern the other two Orders referred to above. It has, therefore, become necessary to enact a fresh law in the form of a self-contained Governor's Act in the matter of regulating the supply of accommodation. The present Act is intended to achieve the purpose and also to help maintain administrative continuity by providing for retrospective operation.

The Act having received the assent of the Governor General on 8-5-1944 is published at pages 104 to 119 of Part IV of the Bombay ~~Govt~~ Government Gazette dated 12-5-1944. ✓

The Bombay Tiles (Control of Distribution)  
Order, 1944. ✓

An Order to control the price and distribution of tiles in the Province has been issued by the Government of Bombay on 18-5-1944. The Order will be administered by the Controller of Structures and Building Materials, Bombay.

( The Bombay Government Gazette,  
dated 18-5-1944, Part IV-A, pages  
75-77 ). ✓

Amendments to Calcutta House Rent  
Control Order, 1943. ✓

Certain amendments have been made by the Government of Bengal in the Calcutta House Rent Control Order, 1943 (vide page 36 of our report for June, 1943). The amendments relate to ~~land~~ suits or proceedings by landlord for eviction of tenants on certain grounds and to repairs to houses and measures due by landlords for maintenance of supply or service. ~~They~~ provide that no proceedings may be entertained or orders executed by a court of law against a tenant in such cases, and also that the cost of any repairs ~~and measures~~ carried out by the tenant with the sanction of the Rent Controller may either be deducted from the rent or recovered from the landlord.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated  
22-5-1944). ✓

Price Control.

Coal Prices Fixed by Government. ✓

According to a notification published in the Gazette of India extraordinary, dated 27-4-1944, the Government of India has fixed the prices at which coal may be sold by colliery owners on or after 1-6-1944.

~~The prices, which have been fixed under the Colliery Control Order, 1944 (vide page 30 of our report for April, 1944), vary according to the area in which it is produced and the grades into which it has been divided for the purposes of price fixation. Generally speaking, coal has been divided into six grades for collieries in Bengal and Bihar, and the prices of these grades vary from Rs. 13 to Rs. 10 per ton. The trading has been done according to the ash and moisture contents. The maximum prices of coal for areas other than Bengal and Bihar will be : Rs. 11 per ton in C.P. and Berar, Rs. 29-12 per ton, in Baluchistan, Rs. 22 per ton in Punjab, Rs. 33-8 per ton in Assam and Rs. 11 per ton in Orissa.~~

The prices fixed are exclusive of loading charges, excise duty, cess or other impost leviable by the Central Government, the Provincial Government or any local authority, and the middle-man's commission. The Central Government intends that these prices should be enforced for a period of six months beginning on 1-6-1944. The prices may, however, be revised at any time.

(The Statesman, dated 2-5-1944). ✓

Non-Official Consumers' Council to be formed. ✓

The Government of India has decided to set up a Central Consumers' Council composed of prominent non-official men and women. The functions of the Council will be to advise Government on the types of consumer goods required by the public, on the working of price control measures and on suggestions regarding distribution and economy in the use of such commodities as are in short supply. The Chairman of the Council will be Sir Azizul Haque, Member, Industries and Civil Supplies and Commerce Department, Government of India.

(The National Call, 19-5-1944). ✓

+ Fishery Development in Hyderabad State ✓

It is understood that a scheme estimated to cost about Rs. 42,000 for developing fisheries is under the consideration of the Hyderabad Government. The scheme aims at the propagation of indigenous fishes with a view to making them available to the public at cheap rates. It also aims at giving facilities to agriculturists to carry on fish breeding. One of the proposals made in the scheme is that private pisciculturists should be given Rs. 2,000 each to start with. In return, the pisciculturists would supply a certain quantity of fishes to the Fisheries Department every year and allow the Department to conduct any experiment on any of the farms owned by them.

(The Hindu, dated 9-5-1944). ✓

Schemes to Bring Down Vegetable Prices in Bengal. ✓

Mr. Saiyed Muazzemuddin Hosain, Minister for Agriculture, Government of Bengal, replying to a question in the Bengal Legislative Council, on 6-5-1944, stated that, in order to meet the shortage in the supply of vegetables in the province, the Government had, in 1943, sanctioned a scheme for the purchase and distribution in urban areas of vegetable seeds, both Indian and English types, at a cost of Rs. 215,210. A separate scheme for the cultivation of only English vegetables in rural areas had also been sanctioned by Government at a cost of Rs. 25,000. He added that for 1944 Government had adopted a scheme for the purchase and distribution of summer vegetables and had also under consideration a proposal for encouraging cultivation of cold weather vegetables.

(The Hindustan Times, 10-5-1944). ✓

+ Govt. of India's Plan to increase Production of Fish. ✓

To supplement the food requirements of urban areas, the Government of India has decided to launch schemes to increase the production and supply of fish as part of the "Grow More Food" campaign, says a press note issued by the Government towards the close of May, 1944. Dr. Bainsi Das, Director of the Zoological Survey of India, has been appointed Fisheries Development Adviser, Government of India, to help Provincial Governments to prepare suitable schemes of development and to co-ordinate the plans on an all-India basis. Besides technical assistance, the Central Government will also give financial assistance to the extent that such assistance is considered necessary to put the development schemes into early operation.

(The Times of India, 29-5-1944). ✓

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The Bombay Growth of Food Crops Act,  
1944. (Act No. VIII of 1944). ✓

Reference was made at page 35 of our report for April, 1944, to the legislation contemplated by the Government of Bombay to enforce increased sowing of food crops in the Province. Under the Bombay Growth of Food Crops Act, 1944, (Act No. VIII of 1944), gazetted on 20-5-1944, the Government may prescribe for each district the proportion of the area of any cultivator's holding which should be cultivated with 'scheduled' food crop, the usual proportion being the same as was ~~in~~ cultivated with food crops during the preceding year. The object of the Government is to increase the acreage under food crops and bring down that under non-food crops like cotton and ~~tobacco~~ tobacco. 'Scheduled' food crops number 5 in all, and include grains like rice, wheat, jowar, bajra and barley, and pulses like gram, peas and lentil.

The Act having been assented to by the Governor is published at pages 122-125 of Part IV of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 20-5-1944. ✓

Government's Warning to Cultivators: Cotton lands to  
Switch Over to Food Crops.

The Government of India has, on 20-5-1944, issued a warning to cultivators pointing out the imperative necessity of diverting surplus acreage under short-staple cotton to the cultivation of food crops like jowar and bajra.

The final cotton forecast, published, discloses a marked reversion in the past season to cotton, largely at the expense of food crops, says Press communique. The extent of the reversion to cotton is estimated at 1,100,000 acres, two-thirds of it being in areas exclusively or predominantly given up to the cultivation of short-staple varieties. The Government of India, therefore, considers that of the 10 <sup>75</sup>/<sub>100</sub> million acres under short-staple cotton last season, 3 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> million acres, or roughly 30 per cent, ~~will~~ should, in the forthcoming season, be ~~produced~~ producing food crops. The principal alternative crops to short-staple cotton are jowar and bajra. To protect the interests of producers, Government has decided to announce its willingness to accept from the crop of 1944-45 all jowar and bajra of fair average quality offered for sale in the main assembling markets of the U.P., C.P. and Berar, Madras, the Punjab, Sind and Ajmer-erwara, at prices of Rs. 5-8 and Rs. 6 a maund respectively, should prices fall. Government considers that no guarantee can be given in respect of the transport and marketing of short-staple cotton. ✓

(The Times of India, 22-5-1944).

Famine Inquiry Commission to be Appointed. ✓

The Government of India, it is understood, is taking steps to appoint a commission to inquire into the famine in Bengal and elsewhere in accordance with the terms of the resolution adopted by the Council of State in November, 1943. The resolution asked that "at a suitable date an inquiry should take place to examine the whole question of the food shortage in India and in particular Bengal. The inquiry should be conducted by a suitable body of the type of a Royal Commission ..... Its terms of reference should cover a full examination of the present food shortage and the making of recommendations to prevent the recurrence of the existing distress".

It is learnt, that the scope of the inquiry will not be confined to Bengal, but will include all other areas in India which have been affected. ✓

affected in more or less degree, by <sup>the</sup> serious food situation. <sup>Thus,</sup> Orissa, Malabar, and Travancore and Cochin States and a ~~few~~ few other places may also come within the scope of investigation by the Commission. It will be invested with the fullest authority to gather evidence, so that the inquiry may be comprehensive and thorough. It is expected to be completed within six months.

(The Statesman, dated 17-5-1944 and The Hindu, dated 28-5-1944). ✓

Bengal Government's Measures to Relieve Distress. ✓

Some of the measures under the consideration of the Government of Bengal for relieving distress in the province due to food shortage were outlined at page 63 of our report for December 1943 and ~~page~~ page 53 of our report for March, 1944. Among the steps already taken by the Government, in this direction are the following : (1) country boats damaged as a result of the Government's denial policy are being reclaimed or repaired. Many hundreds of boats a week are being repaired and put back into the hands of the owners, and in addition, a large-scale programme is being carried out to construct many thousands of new country boats. Free grants and loans are given to fishermen to purchase or prepare nets, etc.; (2) Agricultural loans to the extent of Rs. 5 million have been sanctioned for the purchase and distribution of cattle. Doles and agricultural loans for rabi and aus cultivation are given, where necessary; (3) A Bill has been introduced in the Bengal Legislature to provide for the restoration of agricultural lands sold by the poorer classes during the distress period; (4) Work houses, numbering 112, and homes for destitutes, numbering 92, are functioning in the province to feed the homeless and to enable destitutes to earn a living or supplement incomes by means of cottage industries; and (5) One quasi-permanent orphanage, 11 subsidized non-official orphanages and 71 temporary orphanages and over 1,850 milk canteens for children, expectant mothers, etc. have been opened.

(The Statesman, dated 17-5-1944). ✓

The Bengal Food Crops Production Control Order, 1944. ✓

The Government of Bengal has, on 29-4-1944, issued, under the reference of India Rules, the Bengal Food Crops Production Control Order, 1944, under which the Competent Authority appointed by the Government for the purpose may require of owners of waste lands and arable lands not under cultivation to cultivate their lands with food crops like paddy, wheat, ~~maize~~ maize, millet and pulses and vegetables.

(Notification No. 1384 Agri.- dated 29-4-1944, the Calcutta Gazette dated 4-5-1944 Part I, pages 570-71). ✓

First Report on Progress of Reconstruction Planning  
in India ✓

The First Report on the progress of Reconstruction Planning, issued by the Government of India very recently, described the progress in reconstruction planning which has been made at the Centre upto 1-2-1944 and indicated some of the problems which the various Policy Committees are considering at present, or would have to consider at some later stage. Further reports will, it is hoped, be published periodically and will indicate the progress made from time to time not only at the Centre, but also in the Provinces and States.

The Report which has been prepared by the Reconstruction Secretariat contains a good deal of argument, discussion of policy and views on the financial and other problems involved. The object of the Report is to give information and to evoke public interest in the problems of reconstruction and it is pointed out that the Report should not be regarded either as an expression of the approved policy of the Government of India or of any of its Departments.

The Report opens with the Atlantic Charter as <sup>the</sup> background against which it is drafted, and also recalls certain measures of international cooperation like the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture and the U.N.R.R.A. It next deals with some socio-economic problems emerging directly from the war and the ~~existing~~ present conditions, and ~~then discusses~~ discusses the main long-term problems of post-war reconstruction, the machinery set up at the Centre to deal with the problems of reconstruction, as also the recent decision to appoint development officers responsible to the appropriate Department of the Central Government for the preparation of an all-India industrial development plan as a basis for discussion by the appropriate Committee concerned, are also referred to.

Section III of the report deals with plans for resettlement and re-employment of ex-service and other personnel. Statistical data regarding industrial labour and technical personnel have begun to be collected for information which would enable the Government to estimate the number of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers likely to be rendered 'surplus' to the present production requirements as a result of the cessation of war orders. The Army authorities have made considerable progress in evolving a scheme of Vocational Training of Indian recruits in respect of industrial as well as agricultural occupations during the post-war period. A beginning to promote technical and urban re-employment through the establishment of employment exchanges has already been made. There are also proposals to re-employ ex-personnel in Government service and to re-settle demobilised men of land. The Military Reconstruction Fund which is financed by per capita contributions by Government is intended to be used for the permanent benefit of enlisted masses. It now amounts to about Rs. 50 million and may exceed twice

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Government of India Reconstruction Committee of Council First Report on the Progress of Reconstruction Planning, 1st March, 1944. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, New Delhi, 1944. Pages 51.



Work of Country Craft Organisation. ✓

Reference was made at pages 47-48 of our report for February, 1943 to the setting up of a Country Craft Organisation by the Government of India to give relief to railways by diverting to country crafts the traffic of goods between ports on the west coast of India. The scheme is reported to have worked out satisfactorily during the 1943 season, that is, between February and May, 1943, the imports into all the ports having gone up compared to the imports during the corresponding season in 1942. In the 1943 season, 13,751 tons of goods were imported by country craft into Sind, 96,812 tons into Bombay, 35,259 tons into the Konkan and 39,624 tons into Malabar, as against 9,602 tons, 95,785 tons, 25,768 tons and 28,852 tons, respectively, in the corresponding months of the season of 1942.

(The Times of India, 9-5-1944). ✓

this amount if demobilisation does not actually begin for another two years.

After discussing in Section IV the Government policy regarding disposals, contracts, and Government purchases, and the machinery set up for these purposes, the report deals with plans for the development of transport and communications after the war — civil aviation, railways, roads—and discusses future road-rail relations. Irrigation projects and the development of electric power are next covered, along with estimate of plant and machinery for electrical development and plans to train up necessary technical staff for the purpose. Section V discusses what the Indian trade policy should be in the post-war period and also deals with India's international monetary policy. Food for industrial planning, the acquisition of capital goods and organisation of scientific research are stressed and the steps taken to promote these are also described.

The future of Indian agriculture, forestry and fisheries, especially the relation between India's food resources and requirements and technological possibilities of development are next surveyed in section III. As regards forestry, the objects of post-war forest policy, rehabilitation of existing reserved forests, prevention of floods and erosion, and a five-year plan of fisheries development are the main features of this section.

In the last section, development of social services like education, public health, labour welfare and legislation are discussed. Sargeant's education plan, now approved by the Central Advisory Board, is summarised in the report; reference is also made to the Health Survey Committee, the Development Committee and the functions of other such sub-committees which have been set up. In the field of labour legislation and welfare, the report recalls the appointment of the committee on social security, the early introduction of a sickness benefit scheme and the setting up of machinery to improve labour statistics service.

( A copy of the report was sent to Montreal by air-mail along with our Minute D.1/ /44 dated May, 1944 ). ✓

#### Post-War Development of Forests. ✓

The more important aspects of the development of forests in India in the post-war period were dealt with by Sir Herbert Howard, Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, at a press Conference held in New Delhi early in May, 1944. Explaining a note on the subject submitted by him to the Reconstruction Committee, Sir Herbert pointed out that the most important problem of India's post-war forest policy is the supply of small size housebuilding timber, agricultural timber and fuel so that the burning of cowdung as fuel may be stopped. He accepted the estimate that the quantity of cowdung which was now being burnt as fuel would, if saved, be sufficient to manure 15 per cent of India's total cultivated area. He had pointed out in his note that if the Indian peasant were given supplies of small timber and fuel in his immediate neighbourhood, the fields could be given the easiest and the cheapest manure available. If sufficient staff could be made available the provision of such "village forests" for the use of agriculturists could, according to Sir Herbert, be achieved in about ten years. Part of the problem was the evolution of a suitable type of oven for the burning of wood instead of cowdung, which, he said, Sir Herbert, was under examination.

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Sir Herbert's plan aims at increasing the area under forest to about 20 to 25 per cent of the land in each province. That would mean the creation of 700,000 square miles of new forests in British India to be added to the 106,000 square miles at present dedicated to forests, representing 13 per cent of the total area of British India.

Replying to the question how far the post-war forest policy was designed to meet industrial needs, such as the production of newsprint, Sir Herbert pointed out the danger of looking too far ahead in these matters. It would be wise, he said, to start with growing trees that could be put to general utility purposes. Sir Herbert mentioned that although wood suitable for the manufacture of newsprint grew in certain parts of the Himalayas, it ~~transport~~ grew too far away to be economically transported and used.

( The Hindu, dated 4-5-1944 ).

#### Post-war Power Development Plans FOR BIHAR. ✓

One of the salient features of the post-war reconstruction plan for Bihar, the first progress report of which has been published recently, is the contemplated improvement in the Bihar Grid Scheme and the proposed Sone Valley Power Development Scheme. The new schemes, if successfully developed, would pave the way to vast industrial and agricultural development of the province by making available cheap electrical power.

The Grid Scheme aims at utilizing the very low grades of coal at the colliery site for power generation purposes, the coal otherwise being of little utility. The capacity immediately proposed under the scheme is 50,000 kilowatts involving 11,440 circuit miles. It is estimated to cost roughly, between Rs. 44.1 million and ~~Rs.~~ Rs. 53.2 million and is intended to be self-supporting, taken as a whole.

The projected Sone Valley Power Development Scheme contemplates the utilization of the monsoon 'run-off' at present going to waste in the river Sone and its tributaries by the creation of three dams in the valley of the Sone. It is estimated to generate about 166,000 Kilowatts of electric power throughout the year. The control imposed on the flow of the Sone would also augment the supply of water available for irrigation in Bihar and may considerably help navigation in the lower reaches of the Ganges in Bengal.

(The Hindustan Times, dated 17-5-44)

#### Social Security in Hyderabad State: Labour Investigation Committee Set up. ✓

With a view to safeguarding the interests of labour in Hyderabad State, various proposals are now under the consideration of the Nizam's Government. For the present it has been decided to set up an Advisory Committee for safeguarding labour interests. The membership of the committee will range between ten and twenty. Half the number of members will be Government officials and the other half will consist of an equal number of representatives of employers and labour. Preliminary negotiations relating to the formation of the Committee have already been taken up.

It is hoped that the Committee will start functioning very soon.

Besides this, another Committee too has been appointed by the Government to investigate into the conditions of labour in the State. The terms of reference of the Committee are :

(a) to collect data relating to wages and earnings, employment, housing and social conditions of labour and, in particular, of industrial labour in the State; and

(b) to investigate and report on the following matters:-

(1) the risks which bring about insecurity; (2) the needs of labour, by various classes, to meet such risks; and (3) the methods most suitable for meeting such risks; and (4) housing and factory conditions.

(The Indian Social Reformer, dated 13-6-1944, and The Hyderabad Information, May, 1944 ). ✓

New Department of Planning and Development, Govt of India.  
Sir Ardeshir Dalal Appointed Member in Charge.

In view of planning for post war development having reached a stage which Government considers it requires the attention of a Member of the Executive Council who is free from ordinary departmental responsibilities, the Governor General has decided to establish a new Department for Planning and Development. Sir Ardeshir Dalal of the Tata Iron and Steel Company and one of the signatories to the Bombay Plan (vide pages 45 of our report for February, 1944), has been appointed Member in charge of the new Department.

Defining the aims of the new Department, Sir Ardeshir Dalal said in the course of a press interview: "The object of the new Department of Planning and Development is to co-ordinate the various activities regarding post-war planning and reconstruction which are now going on in the various Departments of the Government of India as well as under the Provincial Governments."

He added: "The objective of the Bombay Plan, namely, the raising of the standard of living of the people, has been accepted by the Government of India. The Bombay Plan is not a detailed blueprint but a very general sketch of the objects to be achieved and the means to achieving them. The Government of India have also made headway with their plans in several directions such as education, transport etc. It will be the aim of the new Department to work out the various plans in detail with the co-operation of the Provincial Governments, and, if possible, of the States, and to co-ordinate them into a general plan suited to the requirements of the country. The Bombay Planners themselves claimed no finality for their plan. The Government of India will do their planning keeping the objectives of the Bombay Plan before them as they are similar to their own. The authors of the Bombay Plan hold that in order to carry out fully and successfully a National Government is necessary, as the plan implies an amount of regimentation, control and interference with the traditions and habits of the people which only a National Government, backed by the goodwill and support of the people, can undertake."

"There is, however, a considerable amount of preliminary work to be undertaken such as the training of the required personnel, the establishment of various educational and scientific institutions, etc. Nearly two million men will be demobilized and arrangements for settling them must be taken in hand at once. Roads and other public works must be undertaken at an early date from that point of view. All this is urgent work and cannot wait on political events. It has to be done by the existing Government and it is necessary to see that it is carried out under right lines so as to pave the way for the National Government and when it comes into power."

(The Statesman, dated 1-5-1944 and The Hindustan Times, 4-5-1944). ✓

Central Glass and Silicate Research Institute Planned. ✓

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India) has decided to establish a central glass and silicate research institute to investigate problems relating to the ceramic industry—glass, pottery, porcelain, enamels, refractories, etc.—says a press note dated 23-5-1944, issued by the Government of India.

A committee to prepare plans for the establishment of the institute has been constituted with Sir. S.S. Bhatnagar, Director of the Council, as chairman. At its last meeting in Calcutta, the committee decided that before drawing up plans for the institute, it would be necessary to collect information on the present position of the industry and its future requirements. A note describing the various items under which information is desired has been prepared and is being circulated to manufacturers, consumers and importers of these goods and to scientific and technical institutions.

(The Times of India, 25-5-1944). ✓

Post-War Economic Planning for Mysore: Government appoints Officer for Preparation of Plans. ✓

The preparation, on the lines of the plan drawn up by the Mysore industrialists, of a plan for the economic development of the State, it is understood, is engaging the attention of the Government of Mysore. Mr. Krishna Rao, Commissioner of Development and Planning, has been entrusted with the preparing of the plan under the auspices of the Central Committee of the Mysore Economic Conference.

A sum of Rs. 10.35 million has been provided for the several post-war reconstruction funds in the State Budget for the year 1944-45, which was recently presented to the Mysore Representative Assembly.

(The Hindu, dated 28-5-1944 and The Hindustan Times, 30-5-1944). ✓

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Auxiliary Industries in Ahmedabad to  
Organise. ✓

It is learnt from press reports that an attempt is being made in Ahmedabad to organise and localise the various industries allied to the textile industry that have received great fillip from the war. It may be expected that the textile industry that has made considerable progress during the war will continue progressing during the depression that might follow the cessation of hostilities, but the small industries that have sprung up or have been revived during the war will probably not survive long after the war unless they are properly financed and supported by the textile industry on which they are dependant for their existence. The primary object now aimed at is to organise the small factories manufacturing spare parts needed by textile machinery, to combine and co-ordinate them more or less on the lines of the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives, so as to organise the manufacture of all the machinery needed by the textile and other big industries in the city.

(The Times of India, 25-5-1944). ✓

Post-war Industrial Development of India:  
Engineering Association's Suggestions. ✓

The following suggestions have been made to the Government of India in the course of a representation by the Engineering Association of India on post-war industrial development:-

- (1) Electrification of railways near about Calcutta, from power generated in Bihar and Bengal collieries from low grade coals;
- (2) Reduction of rates for long distance haulage of essential raw materials;
- (3) Revision of specification for special steels required by railways as well as for structural steel for bridges etc., with a view to utilising the special alloy steels that can be made in the country mostly from materials available here;
- (4) Provision of special transport facilities for non-ferrous metal industries;
- (5) Construction of its own railways wagons by the steel industry so as to reduce transport charges;
- (6) Production of coal gas and producer gas in coal fields for use in neighbouring industrial areas;
- (7) Construction of lighter wagons from alloy steel;
- (8) Transference of technical education from the Provincial to the Central Government for purposes of co-ordination;
- (9) Opening of labour colleges or training trade union officials;
- (10) Institution of suitable administrative machinery for concentrated industrial and mining areas; removal of Bihar out of the province of Bihar of an administrative unit under an Engineer-Governor;
- (11) Cessation of grant of bauxite license to foreign ~~monopolist~~ monopolist interests intending to corner Indian bauxite;
- (12) Manufacture of steel containers for exporting vegetable oils so that the oil seeds themselves need not be exported as is being done at present;
- (13) Substitution of aluminium cables which may be made in India for imported copper cables for transmission lines in hydroelectric schemes.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 5-5-1944). ✓

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India's Representation at the World  
Monetary Conference.

The Government of India having received an invitation from the resident of the United States to send a delegation to the World Monetary Conference of the United Nations to be held in the United States beginning on 1-7-1944, a delegation consisting of the following members has been nominated: Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member, Government of India, Sir D. Deshmukh, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Sir Theodore Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India, and Sir Shanmukham Chetty, and Mr. A.D. Shroff, non-officials. Dr. Madan will be the secretary.

(Industrial Bulletin of the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, 5-6-1944). ✓

GENERAL.

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India Joins U.N.I.O. ✓

The Government of India was a party to the resolution recently adopted in London by representatives of the United Nations for setting up the United Nations' Information Organisation. Mr. S.N. Dutt of the House represented the Government of India. The resolution stresses the need to develop further the means of co-operation in the essential fields of keeping public opinion throughout the world informed about matters of common interest to the United Nations.

(The Times of India, 18-5-1944). ✓

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List of the more important publications received in this Office  
During May, 1944. ✓

in Conditions. -

Statistical Leaflet No. 2, Tenth Issue (1942-43). Indian Central Cotton Committee. "Stocks of Indian Raw Cotton held in India by the Mills and the Trade on 31st August, 1943". Price 4 as. Obtainable from the Secretary, Indian Central Cotton Committee, Post Box No. 1002, Bombay.

in Reconstruction. -

Government of India, Reconstruction Committee of Council. First Report on the Progress of Reconstruction Planning. 1st March, 1944. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1944.

People's Plan for Economic Development of India, by B.N. Banerjee, G.D. Parikh, V.N. Tarkunde, Members of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee of the Indian Federation of Labour. 1944. ✓